



Alaska National Parks Wildland Fire Information

Noatak National Preserve & Kobuk Valley National Park June 6, 2012 @ 2:00 PM

Lightning occurrence typically peaks in June. Some lightning strikes have occurred across Alaska this fire season but yesterday the 4092 strikes recorded were impressive albeit not unusual. Visit <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>, click on *Historical Lightning* and select June 5 at 6 AM as the starting date and June 6 at 6 AM as the ending date. A lightning strike map will appear. Some strikes started a new wildfire in Noatak National Preserve and in Kobuk Valley National Park.

Noatak Grand Canyon Fire – ref#157

- Located 63 miles northeast of Noatak, 94 miles northwest of Ambler and south of the Noatak River in Noatak National Preserve
- When detected the fire was 1 acre. It since has grown to 200 acres.
- When located the fire was 100% active and burning adjacent to the 1994 OTZ NE 85 fire.
- Alaska Fire Service will monitor the fire by mapping it from the air and documenting fire behavior observations.

Kitlik River Fire – ref#171

- Located 78 miles east of Noatak and 62 miles northwest of Ambler in Kobuk Valley National Park
- 20 acres
- When observed the fire was creeping with 3 foot flame lengths and surrounded by snow.

Fires in the boreal forest and on the tundra are a natural process. After fire, cotton grass and willow re-sprout and are beneficial to small mammals and grazing animals. Animals adapted to the arctic have coexisted with fire for thousands of years.

For more fire information, visit <http://www.nps.gov/noat/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm> and <http://www.nps.gov/kova/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm>

For More Information,

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