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## Alaska National Parks Wildland Fire Information

### Noatak National Preserve July 9, 2012 @ 2:00 pm

Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service and National Park Service fire managers balance the risks and benefits of wildfire. Fire is a natural process in the far north. However when it threatens life, property, or sensitive sites, it must be managed appropriately. If fire threatens life or property, a variety of strategies are employed. Fire managers may put the fire out, take defensive actions around sensitive features and structures, or contain a portion of the fire. Another part of the fire might be allowed to take its natural course. Throughout the fire's duration, all of these strategies could be employed. Fire managers strive to do the right thing, in the right place, at the right time.

Six fires are currently burning in Noatak NP. Information below highlights significant fire events from July 6-9. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/noat/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm> for detailed and current fire information and maps.

#### *Fire Updates...*

##### **Uvgoon Creek Fire #1 – ref#318**

- Located 23 miles northeast of Noatak in a 1999 burn, 3.5 miles south of Noatak River
- 7,144 acres as of 7/7
- National Park Service and BLM Alaska Fire Service fire managers are working together to ensure sensitive sites that lie to the west and south of the fire are protected, firefighters stay safe, and where feasible, the fire is allowed to take its natural course.
- On 7/6 the fire moved several miles to the west. Due to the continuous vegetation between an active portion of the fire and sensitive sites, eight smokejumpers parachuted from an airplane to the fire that day to begin structure protection. Jumpers took advantage of cooler weather on 7/7 and beat out the fire along its southwestern side. Additional sensitive sites are about 10 miles to the southwest and outside the preserve boundary.
- Cool, wet weather is forecasted for today and tomorrow it is forecasted to slowly dry out again. Fire managers and smokejumpers will watch the fire's progression closely and reassess additional management actions as needed.

##### **Kungiakrok Creek Fire – ref#321**

- Located 38 miles northeast of Noatak and south of Tulugak Lake
- 12,855 acres as of 7/7
- Smokejumpers continue to protect structures and two sensitive sites and minimize fire growth to the northeast. A significant amount of heat remained on the fire's western side.
- The fire continues to burn west toward Uvgoon Creek Fire and may eventually join it.



***New Fire...***

**Uyon Lakes – ref#335**

- Located 78 miles northeast of Noatak, 68 miles northeast of Kiana and just south of the Noatak River
- 450 acres as of 7/8
- Alaska Fire Service will monitor the fire by mapping it from the air and documenting fire behavior.

***For More Information,***

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- Morgan Warthin, Regional Fire Communication and Education Specialist, [morgan\\_warthin@nps.gov](mailto:morgan_warthin@nps.gov), 907.644.3418

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