

BLM Thanks News Media for Assistance in Fire Prevention

Gentlemen:

My staff and I want to thank the Tundra Times staff for their part in conveying our fire prevention message to the public during the past fire season.

The wild fire potential in Alaska has been increasing over the past years due to the increase in tourism and other activities in the state so fire prevention is becoming increasingly urgent. Last year unfortunately we experienced a very

dry season as is evidenced by the large fire acreage burned. BLM took action on 170 fires resulting from 783,435 acres being burned over. This compares to less than 3,000 acres consumed the year before. Last year the first reported fire occurred April 10 and the last fire of the season occurred October 9. Usually the fire season ends by the middle of August. In 1966, man-caused fires accounted for 68% of the total. This sounds like a disproportionate amount but it is an improvement.

Our effort to alert the public to the fire prevention problem and needs would have been largely ineffective had it not been for the assistance of the news media in the Fairbanks area. We greatly appreciate your excellent participation and cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Krumm
Manager, Fairbanks District
and Land Office