

# BLM Asks Funds

The Bureau of Land Management is asking Congress to appropriate \$19,950,000 in supplemental funds for firefighting with about \$10 million of this to go Alaska.

Ed Hastey, BLM assistant director of administration, gave these figures at a Senate Appropriations Interior Subcommittee budget hearing, chaired by U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens.

This supplemental request is in addition to the regular Fiscal 1975 budget of \$4.8 million. The original firefighting budget is always made low because it is difficult to anticipate expenses for the coming year.

Hastey cited a particularly high fire incidence in most western states because of last year's dry summer, but said that Alaska had only a slightly higher than average fire season.

He said 869 fires burned 663,000 acres of BLM land in Alaska last year.