

BLM crews fight Canada fires

Seven more fire fighting crews from the Bureau of Land Management have been sent to fight fires raging out of control in Northwest areas of the Canadian Alberta Province, according to a BLM spokesman.

Six of the seven crews are Native manned. One other crew is of smoke jumpers.

The seven crews, from Noorvik, Allakaket, Tanana, Iliamna, Nondalton and Huslia are all manned by Alaska Natives, according to Fern Orton of the BLM.

They will join 14 other BLM fire fighting crews sent to Canada two weeks ago.

The BLM assistance marks

the first time that American fire fighting crews have been sent out of the country to fight fires in other areas, she said.

The crews were requested because the numerous fires in Canada jumped an additional 50,000 square acres last Wednesday, said Orton. She said the fire is now estimated to be burning 170,000 to 200,000 square acres.

Crews sent two weeks ago are from Kalskag, Chevak, Minto, Fort Yukon, Alakaket, Northway, Tanacross, Kaltag, Nulato, Ruby, Kiana and McGrath.