

# **Board will reconsider Moose Hunting Closure**

In response to a request by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Federal Subsistence Board will meet next week to reconsider its decision to close federal public lands along the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area within one-half mile of the Koyukuk River from forty miles above its mouth to the lower end of Three-Day Slough to moose hunters who are not residents of Unit 21 (D), Huslia or Ruby. The State bases its request on a concern that it will be difficult to manage the moose population in the area due to differences between state and federal regulations.

The Board will meet from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on August 29 in the Gordon Watson Conference Room at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office on 1011 E. Tudor Road in Anchorage.

tion list for crews up river of the village of Ruby.

The AIFCC coordinates fire management efforts by the Alaska Fire Service and the state's Division of Forestry.

There are over 18,000 fire fighters and support personnel battling the Outside fires, with more being called into action as the fires burn out of control.

With so many fire fighters in the field, the economic impact will be significant for rural communities. Each crew will bring back about \$65,000 to the community for each 21-day stint on the fire lines.

With 45 fire crews working and 10 more on their way, this means over \$3.6 million into Alaska's economy, most of it in rural areas.

"It can have quite the economic impact," said Barry.

The crews are dispatched on a rotational basis, according to Dave Kirk with the Alaska Fire Service.

Occasionally a village can't get a crew together due to a potlatch or a large construction project, according to Scharf.

The crews have the option, if the need exists, to join back in the rotation for a chance to fight fires for another three weeks.

The 10 crews being called up today and tomorrow will be sent to Pendleton, Ore., according to Kirk.

Once in Oregon, the teams will be sent to whichever fire needs men the most under the discretion of regional fire center.

There are only two type 1 fire crews in Alaska. These crews are the "hot shots" that are employees of the Forest Service. When not working fires they do other work which may include trail maintenance or other tasks.

"(The hot shots) are the first ones out of here," said Barry.

Alaska has had a reported 649 fires that have burned over 600,000 acres.

This is the worst fire season in six years with over 4.7 million acres burned as of Aug. 27.

This year is well above the five-year burn average of almost 1.93 million acres, according to information provided by the NIFCC.