

State Forest Fires Rage

The Bureau of Land Management Fire Control Center reported two new fires Thursday. The Noatak fire, with a total of 10 acres, is located near Noatak and is unmanned.

Another new fire, the Trooper fire is 25 miles west of Livengood on the Manley Road and has consumed 250 acres. It is manned with 506 firefighters.

The Fish hook blaze, near Ft. Yukon, has burned 117,000 acres and is considered out of control. 19 men are positioned on one end of the fire, with 75 firefighters protecting Ft. Yukon on that side of the blaze. No immediate threat is seen to Ft. Yukon or Chalkyitsik.

Under direct attack is the Big Denver fire, totalling 305,000 acres and manned by 220 firefighters. Other fires under attack include the "98" fire, where 18 men are working to secure all cabins along the Salcha River at the 2500 acre blaze; the King fire manned by 240 fighters and covering 3400 acres; and the Little Overflow fire which has consumed 3200 acres

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and has a total manpower of 240 men.

There are eight fires that are considered to be out or in the mop-up stages. 4,130 acre Bluff Ridge fire is manned by 303 men and is in the final mop-up. The Pipeline fire, patrolled at 75 acres, is considered to be out.

The 600 acre Clearwater fire is in the mop-up stages. It covers 600 acres and has a total manpower of 143. The Flats fire, fought by 16 BLM smokejumpers, is being mopped-up. At one-quarter of an acre, the Irac blaze is in the mop-up stage attended by four men.

Manned by 30 military personnel and one BLM advisor, the 30 acre Radar fire is expected to come under control today.

A joint effort involving U.S. and Canadian fire fighters at Border City is considered to have put out the blaze at that location. 450 men from the Yukon Firefighters and Forest Service, as well as the Tanacross area, were involved in the effort.

Several unmanned fires have attained large blaze classifications. The Ute Creek fire now covers 125,000 acres. The Ladua fire has consumed 57,000 acres and is expected to join the 2,000 acre Edge Creek fire.

Reindeer Creek and Holonda fires have both reached the 5,000 acre size. 10,000 acre Montauk Bluff fire is also unmanned, as is Dirty fire which covers 4,000 acres.

Also unmanned are the Blair Lake military fire, acreage unknown; The Todatontin fire, 1,000 acres; Never fire, acreage unknown; the Kanute fire, acreage

unknown; the Reindeer Creek fire, 5,000 acres; Chandalar Island, acreage unknown; Nolitna Creek fire, 2,000 acres; Shannon Hill, 2,000 acres; Killik River, acreage unknown; the Bear fire, 3,500 acres; and the Crooked Creek fire, 500 acres.

Hockley Hill, 500 acres; Rich-top fire, 2,000 acres; and the White Creek fire, 700 acres; are also reported as unmanned. The BLM Fire Control Center stated that there were 9 other unmanned fires, with acreage unknown.

Three fires were listed as completely out. They are Dome Creek, Stover Creek, and the Second Nenana fire.

The BLM reports 74 per cent of its manpower committed, amounting to 1,306 firefighters and 57 supporting men. The Fire Control Center stated that 42,315 acres had been burned in the 24 hour period ending Thursday morning.

The ESSA Weather Bureau cites the numerous fires as the cause of the smoke situation in the interior of Alaska. The so-called "greenhouse effect" has brought about more moderate temperatures during the daytime.

"The only real effect would be caused by the smoke itself and by relatively stable conditions located in a system stagnated by stable air . . . There is nothing to carry the smoke into the higher atmosphere which has caused reduced visibility," the weather bureau reported.

The situation is expected to continue. Neither the BLM, nor the ESSA foresees any immediate break.