



FIRE NEWS

BLM Alaska Fire Service

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Multiple Prescribed Burns Planned for Fort Wainwright Yukon Training Area

Ft. Wainwright, AK — The Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—Alaska Fire Service will soon be conducting prescribed burns on behalf of the U.S. Army-Alaska and the Bureau of Land Management-Fairbanks District. Burning may be initiated any time between April 28 and May 31, 2012, when parameters defined in the approved prescribed fire plans exist.

The U.S. Army-Alaska has projects planned in the Yukon Training Area (YTA) and in and around Fort Wainwright. The purpose of these prescribed burns is to reduce the dead and dry vegetation in the ranges and reduce the potential for a wildfire to ignite during live-fire military training exercises. The YTA burn units are located east of Eielson Air Force base, and south of Two Rivers. Those units include:

- 4,000 acres in the Stuart Creek Impact Area,
- 4 acres in the Infantry Squad Battle Course and
- 200 acres in the Digital Multi-Purpose Training Range.

Within the Fort Wainwright cantonment area, the Alaska Fire Service will implement a 10-acre project near the Ammo Bunkers. The other Fort Wainwright project is the 2,000-acre Small Arms Complex, just south of Fort Wainwright along the Richardson Highway, which is burned annually to maintain range conditions.

The BLM Fairbanks District and the US Army-Alaska will complete a multi-year habitat enhancement program to improve habitat for ruffed grouse and other species when the final 35-acre unit is burned this spring. The prescribed burn will encourage the growth of young aspen stands, which provide cover for the grouse. That unit is also located within the YTA.

The prescribed burns will only be ignited when the burning conditions are optimal and air quality will not be affected. Smoke from the prescribed burns may be visible in Fairbanks and surrounding areas, but is not expected to linger.

For more information about prescribed fires, contact the Fire Information Office at the Alaska Fire Service at (907) 356-5511, the Alaska Fire Service Dispatch at (907) 356-5554, or visit the BLM Alaska Fire Service website at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>.

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