



MEDIA RELEASE

BLM Alaska Fire Service

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Release No. AFS03292013b
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March 29, 2013



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Alaska District

Chena Lakes Area Prescribed Fire

Fairbanks, Alaska — The Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will conduct prescribed fires within the Chena Lakes Flood Control Project from April 1 to June 1.

The purpose of the prescribed fires is to: remove grass thatch and help prevent the invasion of woody plants on the floodways, which diverts floodwaters from the Chena River into the Tanana River; reduce the amount of woody vegetation to better impede the infiltration of impounded water to maintain the silt bed. A secondary goal is to improve habitat for moose and other wildlife by promoting new growth of willows and blueberries. The smaller fires will also break up the continuity of fuels to reduce the risk of a large wildfire.

Nearby areas include: Northwest of Eielson Air Force Base, east of North Pole, and west of Moose Creek. The fuels to be burned consist of short to tall grass with light to minimal brush component piles that are less than four inches in diameter.

Fire will only be ignited when suitable weather conditions exist and air quality will not be affected. Smoke may be visible from the Eielson Air Force Base area, Fairbanks, Moose Creek, North Pole and Alaska Hwy 2 but are not expected to linger because of the types of fuels being burned and the diligent coordination with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Alaska National Weather Service.

The coordination starts a week prior to and the day of implementation to ensure weather conditions will meet objectives and air quality impacts are minimal and within standards of Federal (Bureau of Land Management and Environmental Protection Agency), State, and Borough Guidelines.

For more information about the prescribed fire, contact the Alaska Fire Service Public Affairs Office at 907-356-5511, or the Alaska Fire Service dispatch at 356-5554.

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The Bureau of Land Management - Alaska Fire Service provides wildland fire management services on an interagency basis for lands managed by U.S. Department of the Interior agencies, lands conveyed to Alaska Native Corporations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and lands withdrawn for use by the U.S. Army-Alaska.