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Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve Fire Update

Release Date: July 28, 2019

Contact: Joint Fire Information Center: (208)274-3316

Chetaslina and Long Fire Update: No Growth Observed on Fires

COPPER CENTER, AK – No growth was observed on the Chetaslina (#606) or Long (#484) fires with minimal if any smoke. Minimal rain was measured in the area on Saturday with additional rain expected for today.

National Park Service Fire Management staff in Alaska manage large and long-duration fires by balancing the risks and benefits of fire. There are four main fire management options: Critical, Full, Modified and Limited.

Over 91 percent of lands in Alaska parklands fall within a Limited Fire Management Option area where fires may be actively monitored by fire managers for the benefit and long-term ecological health of the land. This means that fire managers continually monitor the fire and ensure no values are at risk while the fire creates the necessary mosaic pattern needed for our ecosystems' vitality.

The fire managers from the Valdez-Copper River Area Division of Forestry and the National Park Service continue to balance the risk and benefits of the fires burning within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve while keeping firefighter and the public's safety as the number one priority.

Below is an update for the two fires actively burning in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve:

Chetaslina Fire (#606) – This fire is now estimated at 2,129.5 acres, experiencing minimal growth after several days with no change in fire behavior or perimeter. The Remote Area Weather Station (RAWS) showed precipitation in the area ranging from .5 to 1 inch in the last 24 hours and 2.5 inches of rain on Thursday. More rain is expected in the area Saturday.

Long Fire (#484) – This 150-acre fire experienced no growth. The Remote Area Weather Station (RAWS) showed precipitation in the area ranging from .5 to 1 inch in the last 24 hours and 2.5 inches of rain on Thursday. More rain is expected in the area Saturday.

For statewide wildfire information, visit: <https://akfireinfo.com/>.

For additional information, please contact the Fire Information Center at (208) 274-3316 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/wrst/index.htm>.

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