

## Fire Behavior Forecast

FORECAST NUMBER: 4	TYPE OF FIRE: Wildfire
PROJECT NAME: Statewide FB forecast	OPERATIONAL PERIOD: DAYSHIFT 6/14-16/2010
DATE ISSUED 6/14/2010	TIME ISSUED: 1700
UNIT: Alaska AICC	s/ Brenda Wilmore FBAN

**WEATHER SUMMARY:** *A low pressure system in the Bering Sea has set up very moist southerly flow on the west coast. Wetting showers are expected to move to the northeast. High pressure ahead of the system brought a temporary reprieve from the showers in the central interior Monday and moderate southerly flow across the Alaska range tonight and Tuesday will bring drier conditions and stronger winds to areas along the north side of the Alaska range. Low pressure will move across the state again late Tuesday or Wednesday.*

### OUTPUTS

**GENERAL Fire Behavior Indicies:** Most of the RAWs across the state have received some level of precipitation over the last few days. The southern interior has received the most rainfall with several stations reporting more than two inches. This has significantly decreased the indicies in the surface and adjacent moss layers, FFMC, DMC, and DC. Warm dry weather associated with the high ridge over the eastern half of the state Monday and Tuesday will begin to dry the top moss layers and increase FFMC and DMC values. However, this will be a short-term trend and indicies are expected to stabilize or decrease below critical levels under the low pressure influence beginning Tuesday PM.

The dry band south of the Brooks range running east from Bettles to the ALCAN border is still the most likely area for new ignitions. RAWs in this area did report small amounts of ppt over the weekend but the showers were likely scattered and associated with wet lightning. Both day and nighttime RH's have increased enough in this area to stabilize the FFMC at or slightly below a value of 90. DMC and BUI values remain high indicating a deep fuel bed is available for ignition in this area. These values will likely stabilize later this week when the low moves east and settles across the state.

**GENERAL Fire Behavior:** Green-up is complete in most of the interior. This appears to be moderating fire behavior somewhat. Fires spreading into old burn scars are not spreading as readily as was observed in late May. Due to the past winters low snowpack, litter in the hardwood stands maybe fluffier than normal and may carry fire more readily in this post-green-up stage than was historically observed.

In black spruce stands, as the FFMC climbs above 90, winds greater than 10 mph may initiate intermittent crown fire in areas where the BUI is <80, and continuous crown fire where the BUI is >80. Resistance to control has moderated through much of the state and should continue to improve under the current weather forecast.

**AREAS to WATCH:** The dry band that is persisting south of the Brooks range. Campbell Creek in the Anchorage area, and Skilak Lake area on the Kenai.

### SAFETY

**SAFETY:** The fuels and weather conditions in late May supported large fire growth and deep burning. Although fire spread has ceased in most areas, the amount of perimeter available to hold heat is extensive. There is a high probability that many of these fires will become active again if the weather after the next week or two returns to a warmer drier flow. Watch for multiple days of drying (FFMCs >90, RHs <20, windspeeds >5mph) to increase fire behavior.