



# Department of the Interior Recovery Investments

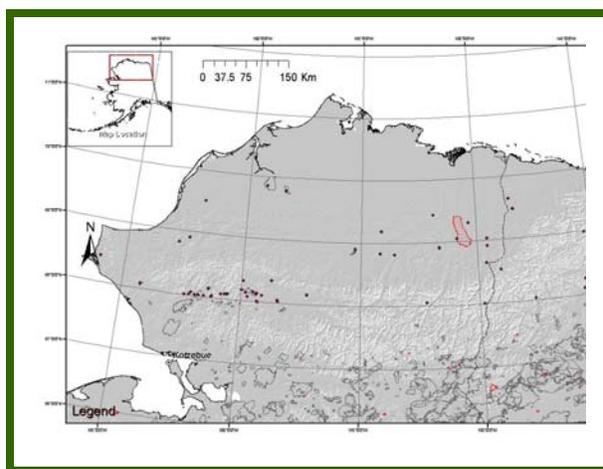
*Investing in America's Economic Recovery*



## Anaktuvuk River Megafire Project

### Need

This monitoring project will assess recovery and change due to climate warming and wildfire on plant communities important to arctic and subarctic wildlife. BLM staff will work with the North Slope Borough and University of Alaska partners to quantify the impact of recent changes to fuels and climate change on fire behavior and wildlife habitat within the 256,000-acre area burned by wildfire in 2007. As warmer, drier weather prevails, both lightning and large fires are becoming more frequent on Alaska's North Slope. The lasting impact of fire on caribou winter range or migratory paths is an emerging issue that may require modifications to existing fire management plans.



### Recovery Act Funding

Due to the remoteness of the study area on Alaska's North Slope, the only means of access is by helicopter. A week of helicopter operations and support logistics will be contracted through stimulus funding.

### Benefits

The documentation and assessment of the speed of change and the magnitude of impacts caused by tundra wildfire on plant communities important to wildlife in arctic and subarctic areas will provide information critical to making land and resource management decisions. Information from this project will influence fire management planning for arctic, western and eastern interior Alaska.



### More Information

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