A Smokey Summer at Yellowstone

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After several years vacation from fire suppression, Larry Allen of SRM’s Arizona Section was re-activated for the nation’s worst-ever fire season. Following are one range man’s impressions of the fires in and around Yellowstone National Park.

(above) A North Carolina fire crew gets a taste of fire fighting Rocky Mountain style.

(facing page, top) A moose takes refuge in the creek at Big Springs, Idaho. (bottom) The Wolf Creek Fire did not slow down much when it reached the grass and sagebrush.

(left) Bulldozers were used effectively to construct fire lines where terrain and environmental constraints allowed. (right) Heading in.
A group of farmers from southern Idaho brought in irrigation systems to protect towns and structures from spot fires.

A firefighter calls home, while three bison listen in.

Equipment at a staging area on the Targhee National Forest.
At times the smoke column was too close for comfort at West Yellowstone.
Most structures survived at this picnic area on the Gibbon River, but the atmosphere was drastically altered.
North Fork Fire approaches West Yellowstone Airport.

faith the snows came.