

2015 may set record for worst fire season



The Washington Fire in June threatened the town of Markleeville. Photo Copyright 2015 Carolyn E. Wright

By Darryl Fears, Washington Post

The nation is closing in on its worst wildfire season in recorded history, with nearly 9.8 million acres already burned – the equivalent of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and part of New Hampshire going up in flames.

Two large fires and more than 160 smaller ones remain active, and more fires are expected to be reported before the month ends. Together, they're likely to push the 2015 total past the record 9.87 million acres burned in 2006.

The extent of scorched earth reflects a warming trend that has made the United States considerably drier, scientists and fire

expects say, with less mountain snowpack particularly in Alaska and the southwest.

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