

# Russ deForest

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I am an entirely opportunistic amateur photographer. Once in a while, one is in the right place at the right time with an opportunity to capture a striking image. Lightning caused wildfires are both a natural part of the Boreal forest ecosystem and part of an amplifying climate feedback. They also have immediate and wide ranging impacts to air quality.



**The 30 Mile Fire, Yukon Territory, 8.5 X 11.3 in, Photo, 2024**

On a recent paddling trip on the Yukon River between Whitehorse and Dawson we were approaching the 30 Mile Fire. As we neared the wildfire winds picked up and we pulled off on a gravel bar. Throughout the evening there were many opportunities for striking images as the fire evolved. Pillars of smoke contrasting with blue sky gave way to a smoke filled sky filtering the late evening subarctic sunlight. This image was taken at approximately 10 PM.