

A photograph of a forest with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a warm, golden glow. The trees are tall and thin, with some branches in the foreground. The light is bright and creates a strong contrast with the dark shadows of the trees.

*Extraordinary efforts of  
firefighters during the 2008  
June Fire Siege resulted in  
much smaller areas burned  
over a much shorter time,  
reduced threat to communities,  
significantly improved in air  
quality, and reduced direct  
impacts to ecosystems.*

# Appendix I: Complex Summaries

## Fire Summary Statistics Explanations of Categories

### Incident Number

A number assigned to the fires or complexes to allow tracking of the fires.

### Number of Fires

Total number of fires included in the complex.

### Major Fires, Containment Date, Size

Listing of the major fires in the complex, with the date they were declared contained and the final acreage. Major fires generally include the fires over 1,000 acres at time of full containment, small fires are not included. Fires starting as multiple ignitions that burn together are mostly included as a single fire under the final name.

### Total Acres

Total acres burned in the complex, or fire.

### County

County or counties in which the complex or fire burned.

### Affected Communities

Communities that were directly threatened by the fires of the complex. This does not include long distance smoke dispersal.

### Agency in Command

Agency or agencies that were in command. There can be more than one if there is a unified command.

### Teams Assigned

A listing of the fire suppression teams that were assigned during the fire.

### Reported Start Date

Date and time (if available) when the fires of the complex were initially reported.

### Containment Date

Date that the complex or fire was declared fully contained, or the date of the final fire report.

### Firefighters Assigned

The maximum number of firefighters assigned to the complex or fire.

### Structures Destroyed

Total number of structures destroyed by the fires in the complex.

### Fatalities

Total number of fatalities directly caused by the fires in the complex.

### Fuels

General description of the type of fuel that burned.

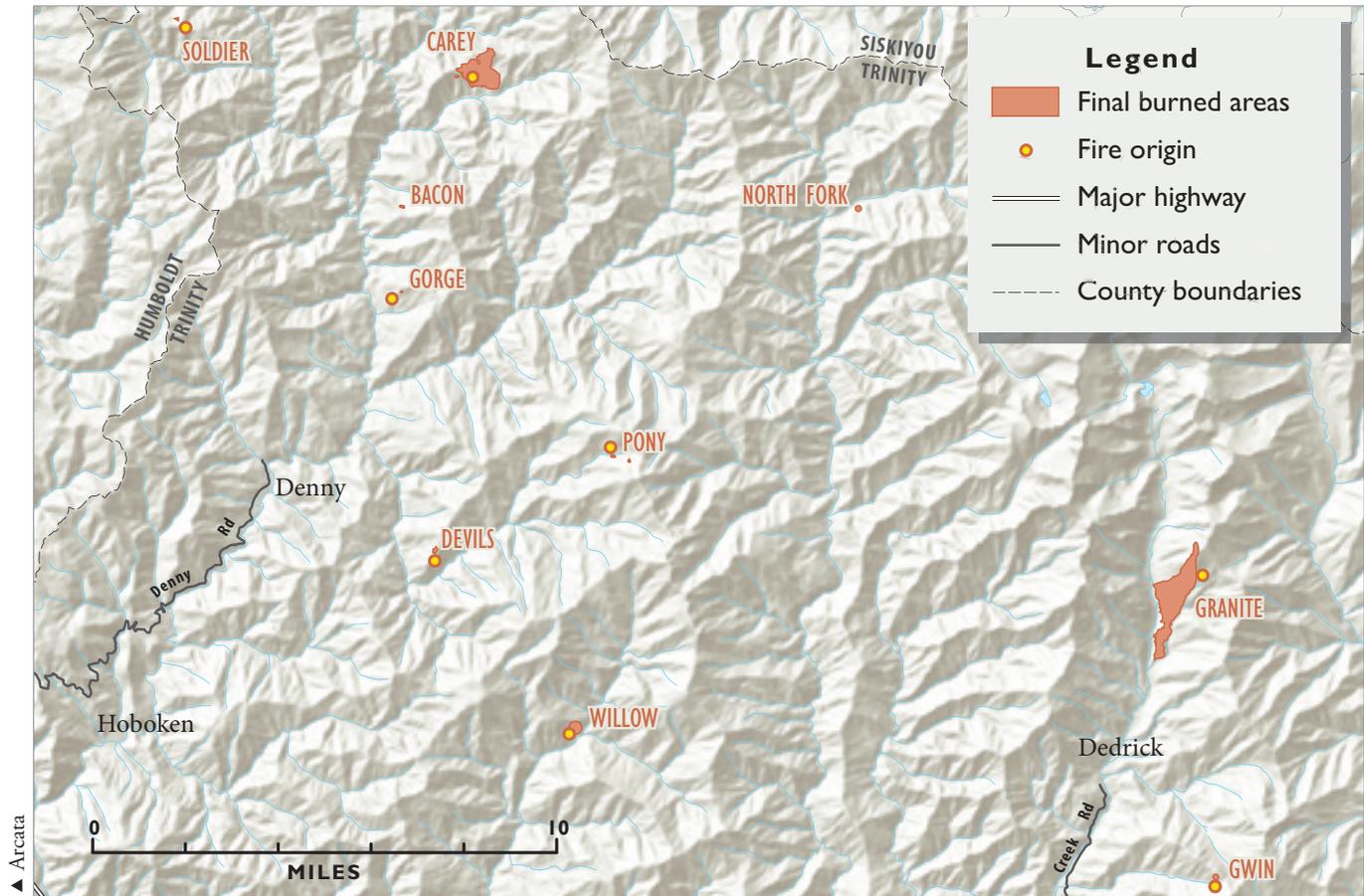
### Cause

Cause of the initial ignition of the fires in the complex.

### Fire Costs

Preliminary, estimated cost of the direct fire suppression generally from the fire reports.

# Alps Complex



**STATISTICS**

**Complex Fire #:** CA-SHF-001079  
**Number of Fires:** 15  
**Major Fires/Containment Date/Acres:**  
 Carey 3,689 ac 9/1  
 Granite 542 ac 7/20  
*Buckhorn, Clem, Denny transferred to the Iron complex 7/4*

**County:** Trinity  
**Affected Communities:** Brooks Ranch, Buckhorn Ranch, Denny  
**Agencies in Command:** USFS  
**Teams Assigned:** Great Basin Team (T1) – see Iron Complex for additional teams  
**Start Report Date:** 6/21/08 9:28 a.m.

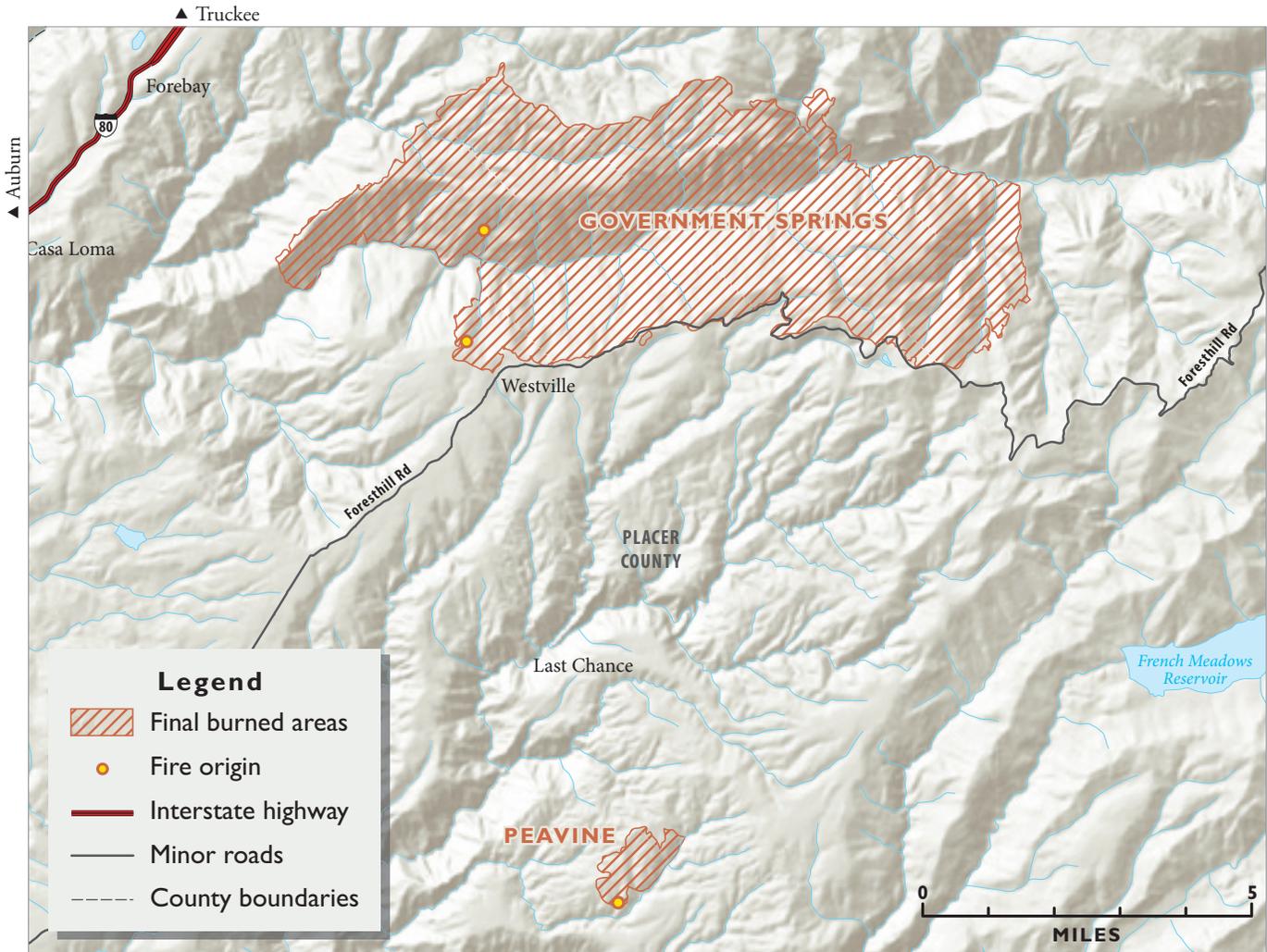
**Containment Date:** Unknown - Final report 7/11/08 when fires @ 90% containment (reporting continued under Iron/Alps Complex)  
**Total Acres:** 1218 ac at end of separate reporting – see Iron Complex; 4,139 acres per Iron Complex

**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$1,991,000  
**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 100  
**Structures Destroyed:** 0  
**Fatalities:** 0 under Alps Complex (CA-SHF-001079)  
**Fuels:** Timber with brush  
**Cause:** Lightning

The fires in the Alps Complex burned within or near the Trinity Alps Wilderness in the Shasta Trinity National Forest. On July 3, the Buckhorn and Clem Fires burned together and are reported as the Buckhorn Fire. On July 4, the Buckhorn Fire transferred into the Iron Complex and by July 10, the entire Alps Complex was managed by the Iron Complex. The last report for the Alps Complex was filed on July 11, and from that point forward, all of the Alps Complex Fires became

part of the Iron Complex. The Carey Fire eventually became a primary concern of the Hoopa Valley Tribe, which has tribal interests on USFS lands west of the Carey Fire. Although no injuries or fatalities were reported for the Alps Complex, the Buckhorn Fire (which transferred to the Iron Complex on July 4) is the site of the tragic helicopter crash on August 5 which resulted in 9 fatalities and 4 hospitalizations.

# American River Complex



**STATISTICS**

**Number of Fires:** 10  
**Major Fires/Containment Date/Acres:**  
 Government Springs 7/9 19,990  
 Peavine 7/5 551  
**County:** Placer

**Affected Communities:** Foresthill, Baker Ranch, Michigan Bluff, Blue Canyon, and Robinson Flat  
**Agencies in Command:** USFS  
**Teams assigned:** USFS, Rocky Mtn T-1 team (Summerfelt); T-1 IMT (Muir), T-3 (Suarez)

**Start Report Date:** 6/21/2008 at 2:00 p.m.  
**Containment Date:** 7/30/2008  
**Total Acres:** 20,541 acres  
**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$23,950,980

**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 992 on 7/12  
**Structures Destroyed:** 2 residential  
**Fatalities:** 0  
**Fuels:** Timber, and brush  
**Cause:** Lightning

The American River Complex started during the June 21 lightning storm as 9 small fires in the American River drainage in Placer County. Within 24 hours, 5 fires were contained and the other 4 threatened the communities of Foresthill, Baker Ranch and Michigan

Bluff. With moderate to rapid fire spread, the Peavine Fire was expected to double in size and the Government Springs Fire to triple. The Westville Fire was expected to merge with the Government Springs Fire. Smoke affected the community of Foresthill.

## American River Complex (continued)

June 24, the American River Complex grew to 1300 acres and was 5% contained. Firefighters discovered and contained the Hardclimb Fire and Red Fire. After an extensive search, eight hikers/miners missing in the North Fork area were located and evacuated. The Peavine fire, at 200 acres, burned in the Peavine Creek drainage and threatened the Placer Grove of Giant Sequoias. The 1000 acre Government Fire established in an accessible area of the North Fork of the American River drainage burned the municipal watershed and threatened recreation cabins and archaeological/historical sites. The Westville fire, at 50-75 acres, influenced by the Government fire, had the potential to be several thousand acres.

By June 26, competition for resources with other fires in Northern California delayed the team's ability to achieve suppression objectives on the American River Complex. All assigned resources were committed to the Peavine Fire, with expected containment in 5 days. The Government Springs and Westville Fires remained mostly unstaffed and continued to grow unimpeded. Red Flag warning for dry lightning, caused firefighters to anticipate erratic and unpredictable fire spread due to downdrafts and new starts. A cabin was destroyed by the Government Springs Fire, more were threatened.

By June 29, the complex was at 3,697 acres and 10% containment. Good progress was made on the Peavine fire with a scratch line completed. The focus of fire-fighting efforts turned to the Government Springs Fire, which became a race between suppression resources and the fire." If resources were not able to hold the fire in the Willmont Saddle and Sawtooth Ridge areas,

there would have been concern that the fire could have grown substantially and threaten the community of Blue Canyon, the Union Pacific Railroad, the Interstate 80 corridor, and Tunnel Mills Spike Camp. (The economic impact of shutting down the rail line is estimated at about \$1,000,000 per hour.)

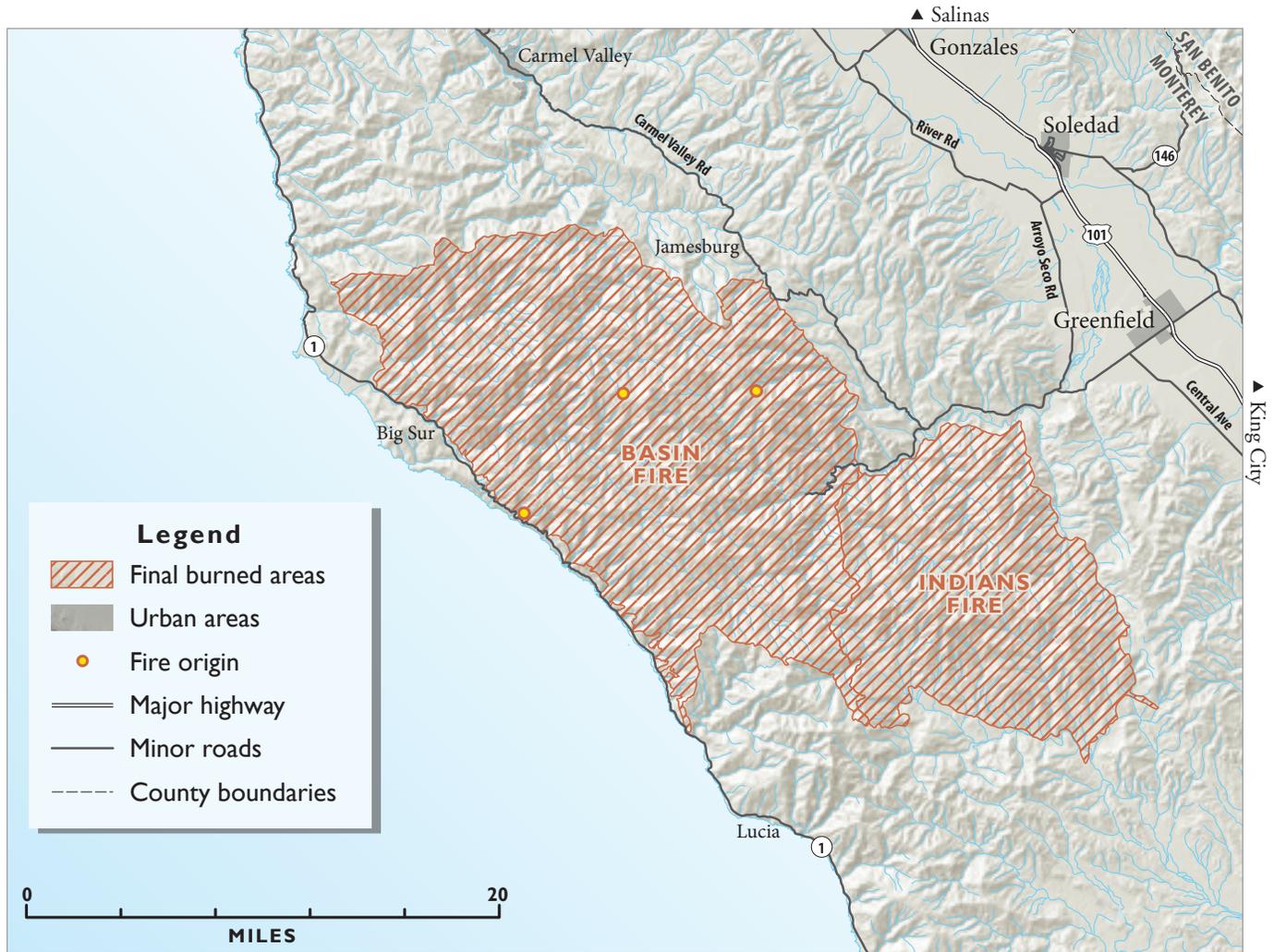
On July 3, Union Pacific Railroad brought a fire train to protect the tracks. July 6 fire activity increased as the inversion lifted, which forced the movement of resources to to areas with highest values at risk. A second residence was destroyed. The Westville Fire developed a major convection column on July 9, crossed the American River and merged with the Government Springs Fire. Smoke affected communities in the I-80 corridor from Truckee to Reno. Many roads, trails, campgrounds, and other recreational facilities remained closed. The American River Complex burned 10,826 acres and was 25% contained.

By July 11, the American River Complex had grown to over 18,000 acres and was 20% contained. An inversion settled over the area that moderated fire activity. Firefighters made progress with line construction, mop-up, cold-trailing, and hot-spotting. Smoke trapped beneath the inversion again adversely affected air quality.

On July 15, the complex was 18,799 acres and 50% contained. The Peavine fire was contained at 551 acres. Favorable weather and topographic alignment allowed crews to continue effective suppression actions on the Government Springs/Westville fire. California National Guard task force "Shovel" joined the effort on July 12.

The American River Complex was fully contained on 7/30/2008 at 6:00 p.m.

# Basin Complex



**BASIN COMPLEX**  
**Incident Number:** CA-LPF-1649  
**Number of Fires:** 3  
**Major Fires:** Basin and Gallery Fires  
**County:** Monterey  
**Affected Communities:** Big Sur, Carmel, Lucia, Carmel Valley, Rodeo

Flats, Partington Ridge Tanbark, Pine Valley and Chews Ridge.  
**Agencies in Command:** Unified command with USFS, CAL FIRE, Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade and Monterey County Sheriffs Office

**Start Report Date:** 6/21/2008  
**Containment Date:** 7/27/2008  
**Total Acres:** 162,818 acres  
**Estimated Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$77,496,454

**Firefighters Assigned:** 2,115 on 7/21  
**Structures Destroyed:** 26 residences, 32 outbuildings  
**Fatalities:** 0  
**Fuels:** Chaparral  
**Cause:** Lightning

## Basin Complex (continued)

The Basin Complex included three fires started from the June lightning event – the Basin, Gallery, and Logwood (a single tree lightning strike). Within 24 hours, the fires burned 2000 acres and posed an immediate threat to homes in Partington Ridge. Mandatory evacuations were issued from the Ventana Inn, in Big Sur south to Julia Pfeiffer Day Use Area. Around 500 residences were threatened.

By June 23, the Logwood fire had merged with the Gallery fire. The Gallery fire was 6350 acres with 10% containment. The Basin fire was 2150 acres with 0% containment. Three residences and 2 outbuildings were destroyed, and another 11 structures were destroyed by the following morning.

Governor Schwarzenegger visited the incident on the morning of June 25. Heavy fuel loads were more flammable due to sudden oak death. On June 26, the Basin and Gallery fires merged. Poor visibility from smoke and low clouds limited aircraft operations, and evacuations remained in place in the Partington Ridge area. The Basin Complex continued to burn in extremely steep and rugged terrain with heavy fuel loading. The incident was divided into the West Zone and the East Zone with two incident commanders in unified command.

By July 2 the Basin Complex was 61,275 acres, 3% contained; over 2000 structures were threatened. In the West Zone the fire made major runs to the south

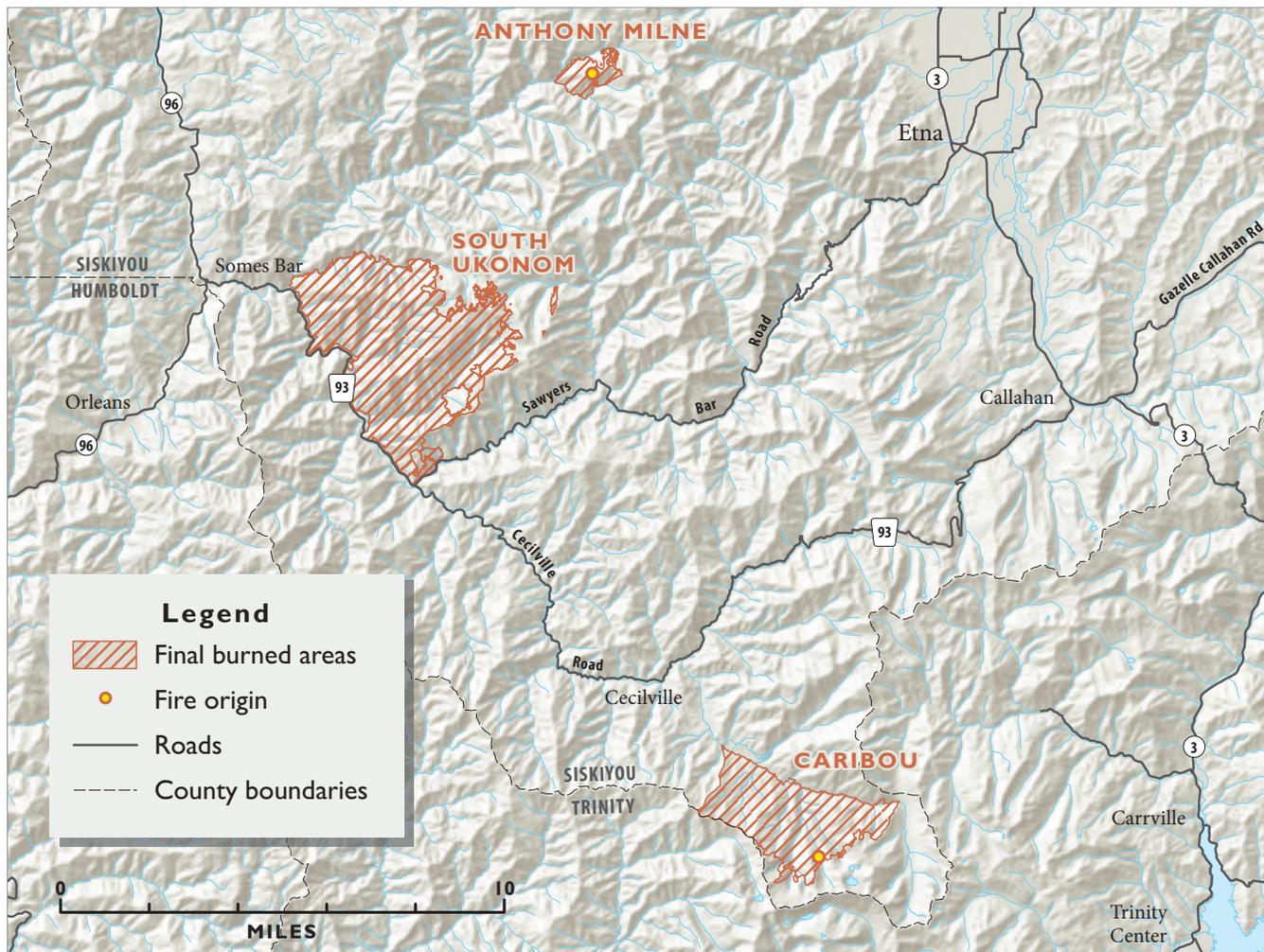
and north. A mandatory evacuation and road closure was in effect for the entire community of Big Sur and both sides of Highway 1 from Lime Kiln State Park North to Andrew Molera State Park. The evacuation in Big Sur displaced 1500 residents, 500 homes and 20 businesses. An evacuation advisory was in place for residents of the Palo Colorado Canyon area. The East Zone prepared for structure protection in the Cachagua areas.

On July 4, the fire continued to be very active on the northwest and south flanks, and threatened Big Sur, Carmel and Lucia. The fire jumped the southern containment line and crews worked to hold a secondary dozer line with limited resources.

On July 11, a Red Flag Warning expired. Increased humidity allowed firing operations on the north containment line to continue. The Basin Complex was at 113,827 acres and was 41% contained. Twenty-six residences and 32 outbuildings were destroyed, and 5 residences and 4 outbuildings were damaged.

On July 25, voluntary evacuations for many residents were lifted as crews continued to improve containment lines and conduct mop up operations. US Forest Service Chief Abigail Kimbell visited the East Zone of Basin Complex. The complex had burned 162,818 acres which made it the 7th largest fire in California's recorded history.

# Bear Wallow Complex



## STATISTICS

**Number of Fires:** 2 original; 3 at peak when South Ukonom added on 8/15

**Major Fires/Containment Date/Acres:**

Caribou	9/23	
Anthony Milne	9/23	1,779
South Ukonom	9/23	(85%)

**County:** Siskiyou

**Affected Communities:** Summerville, Caribou Ck, Glacier View Ranch,

Anthony Milne Camp, and Wooley Creek

**Agencies in Command:** USFS

**Teams assigned:** Central Sierra T-2, (Johnson); Northern CA T-2, (Swartzlander); T-2 IMT, (Beckman); and NIMO team, (Gage)

**Start Report Date:** 6/21 at 4:00 PM

**Containment Date:** 9/26

**Total Acres:** Bear Wallow – 50,820

acres (includes South Ukonom)

**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:**

\$17,766,414 (includes Anthony Milne, Caribou, South Ukonom and North Ukonom fires).

**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 668 on 8/7 with only the two fires; 680 on 9/14 after going to the Theater of Operations.

**Structures Destroyed:** 0

**Fatalities:** 0 for the Bear Wallow Complex; 2 reported under the Klamath Theater.

**Fuels:** Mixed Timber, brush, slash, and litter

**Cause:** Lightning

## Bear Wallow Complex (continued)

The Bear Wallow Complex started on June 21 by dry lightning. The complex included the Caribou Fire which was about six miles southeast of Cecilville and the Anthony Milne Fire in the Marble Mountain Wilderness. With fires burning at low intensity and in remote areas, fire behavior analysts and fire monitoring crews were brought in to assess the situation to help determine minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST). MIST options included the use of natural fire barriers such as rocky outcrops or sparsely vegetated landscapes for containment areas. These strategies can minimize firefighter exposure to the risks associated with steep, inaccessible terrain and can provide a suppression cost savings. The Anthony Milne and Caribou Fires were managed using the confine and contain strategy. Fires from the Ukonom complex continued to burn toward the Milne fire.

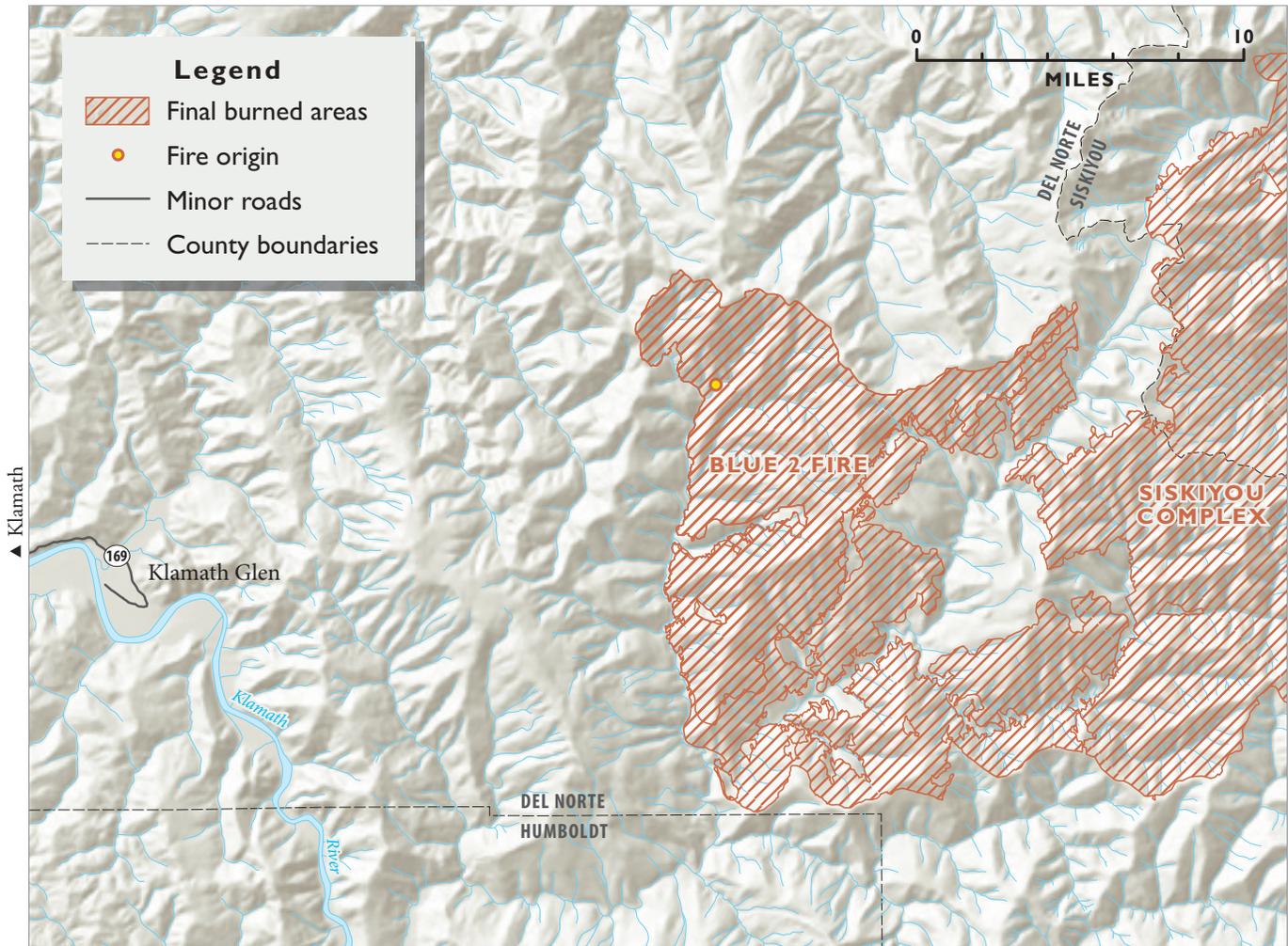
On July 23rd, the Caribou fire made a significant run and spread to the east and west, and burned approximately 1200 acres. Residents along the South

Fork of the Salmon River and the community of Summerville were under a voluntary evacuation with structures threatened. Fire crews focused on building a direct line to secure the northern edge of the fire and building indirect dozer lines along the border of the Trinity Alps Wilderness. The Trinity Alps Wilderness and approximately 16 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail were closed due to fire activity. Meanwhile, the Anthony Milne fire continued to burn with low intensity within its perimeter and was monitored by aircraft.

By August 8, the Bear Wallow Complex was 13,994 acres and 51% contained. On August 20, a Fire Use Incident Management Team resumed command of Anthony Milne Fire (1779 acres), the Caribou Fire (12,973 acres), and the southern portion of the Ukonom Fire (29,730 acres) which was managed collectively as the Bear Wallow Complex.

By September 11, the Bear Wallow Complex, at 48,551 acres, was moved into the Klamath Theatre.

# Blue 2 Fire



**STATISTICS**

**Complex Fire #:** CA-SRF-001224  
**County:** Del Norte  
**Affected Communities:**  
 Klamath, Klamath Glen  
**Agencies in Command:**  
 USFS

**Cooperating Agencies:**  
 Karuk, Yurok, Hoopa and Tolowa Tribes; CAL FIRE.  
**Start Report Date:** 6/20 2000hrs.  
 Originally called Blue Fire (CA-SRF-001057) then went to Ukonom Complex (CA-SRF-001126) and

then to Blue 2 Fire. Blue 2 Fire merged into Siskiyou Complex (CA-KNF-002975)  
**Containment Date:** 12/31 –  
**Total Acres:** 17,540 acres  
**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:**  
 \$11,813,267

**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:**  
 397 on 7/29  
**Structures Destroyed:** 0  
**Fatalities:** 0  
**Fuels:** Timber, brush, old fire scars and hardwood litter  
**Cause:** Lightning

## Blue 2 Fire (continued)

Lightning ignited the Blue 2 Fire, originally called the Blue Fire (CA-SRF-001057), on June 20 near the headwaters of the Crescent City Fork of Blue Creek, east of Klamath. The fire burned heavy timber in very steep and rugged terrain. On June 26, the Blue Fire, at 225 ACRES and 5% contained, was incorporated as part of the Ukonom Complex (CA-SRF-001126).

On July 6, the Blue fire was separated from the Ukonom Complex and renamed the Blue 2 as it transitioned to a new management team. At 1,090 acres and 8% containment, the Blue 2 threatened critical cultural and spiritual sites of the Yurok, Karuk, and Tolowa tribes. Major traditional spiritual activities within the fire area posed additional safety concerns.

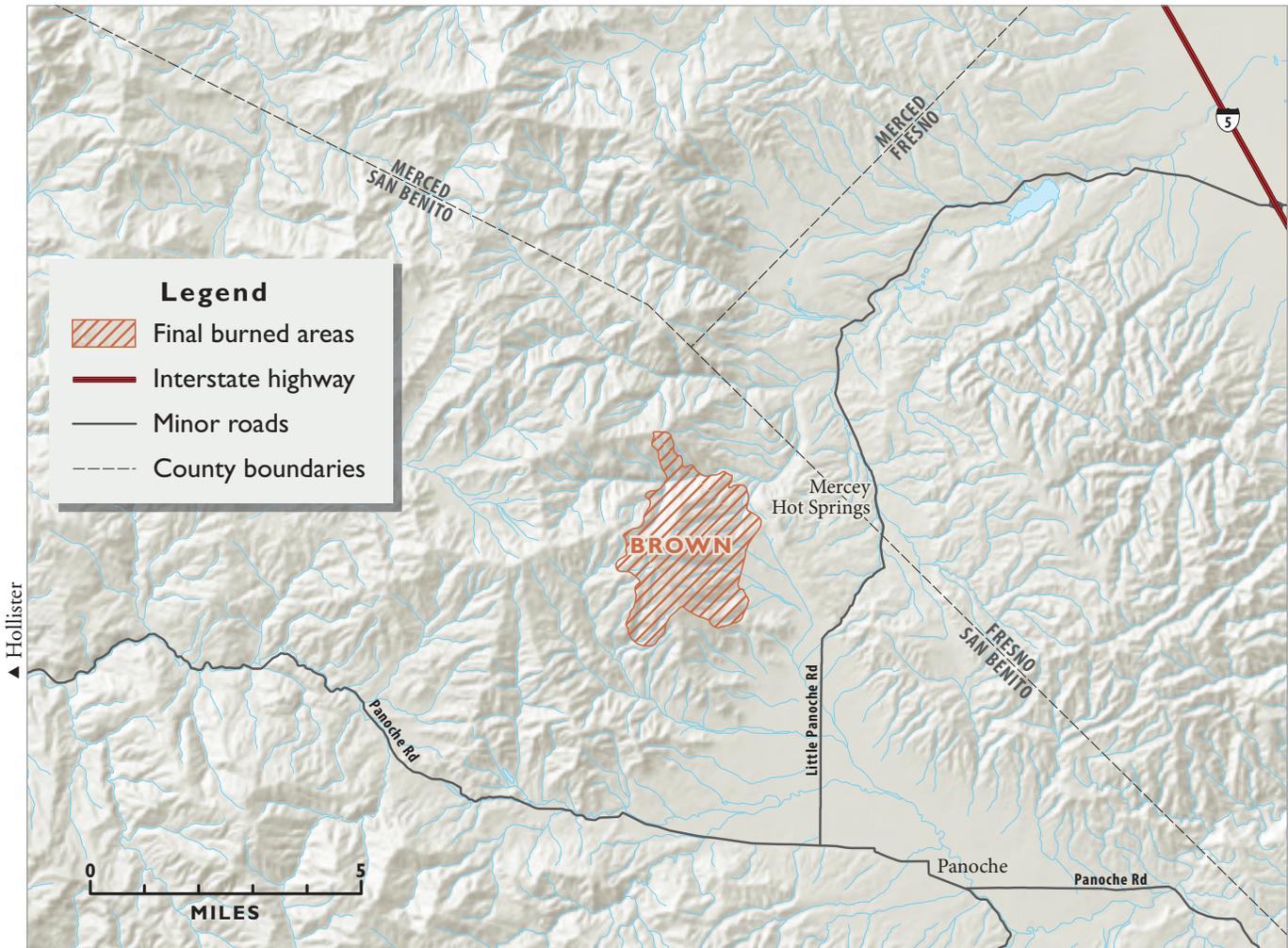
Additional Forest closure orders were implemented on July 11. Firefighting resources were loaned to local ranger district for initial attack and traffic control when new starts caused the temporary closure of US Highway 199 at Hiouchi. The Red Mountain communication site was at risk. Valued at \$25,000,000, the communication equipment was critical to local fire and other emergency operations.

Other values at risk included: numerous heritage resources (National Historic Register eligible), extremely sensitive Native American cultural and spiritual lands, Threatened and Endangered species habitat, anadromous fisheries habitat, old growth timber, the Wild and Scenic River corridor, and forest recreation use.

By July 17, the Blue 2 fire had burned 4,426 acres and was 16% contained. Major fire control problems continued to include remote access, extremely steep rugged terrain, falling snags and rollouts. Structure protection for the Red Mountain communication site including fuel reduction, wrapping and sprinkler systems was completed. Trail and road closures were in effect. Important Native American cultural areas in the fire vicinity continued to be a concern.

By July 29, the Blue 2 Fire was 5,424 acres and 25% contained. Half of the fire had burned in the Siskiyou Wilderness and was expected to burn into September. On August 13, the Blue 2 incident was transferred to Siskiyou Complex (CA-KNF-002975) at 9,728 acres and 69% containment.

# Brown Complex



**STATISTICS**

Number of Fires: 3  
 Major Fires: Brown Fire  
 County: San Benito

**Affected Communities:**  
 Panoche and Antelope  
**Agencies in Command:**  
 CAL FIRE's San Benito-Monterey Unit (BEU)

**Start Report Date:** 6/21  
**Containment Date:** 6/23  
**Total Acres:** 3,350 acres  
**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:**  
 \$150,000

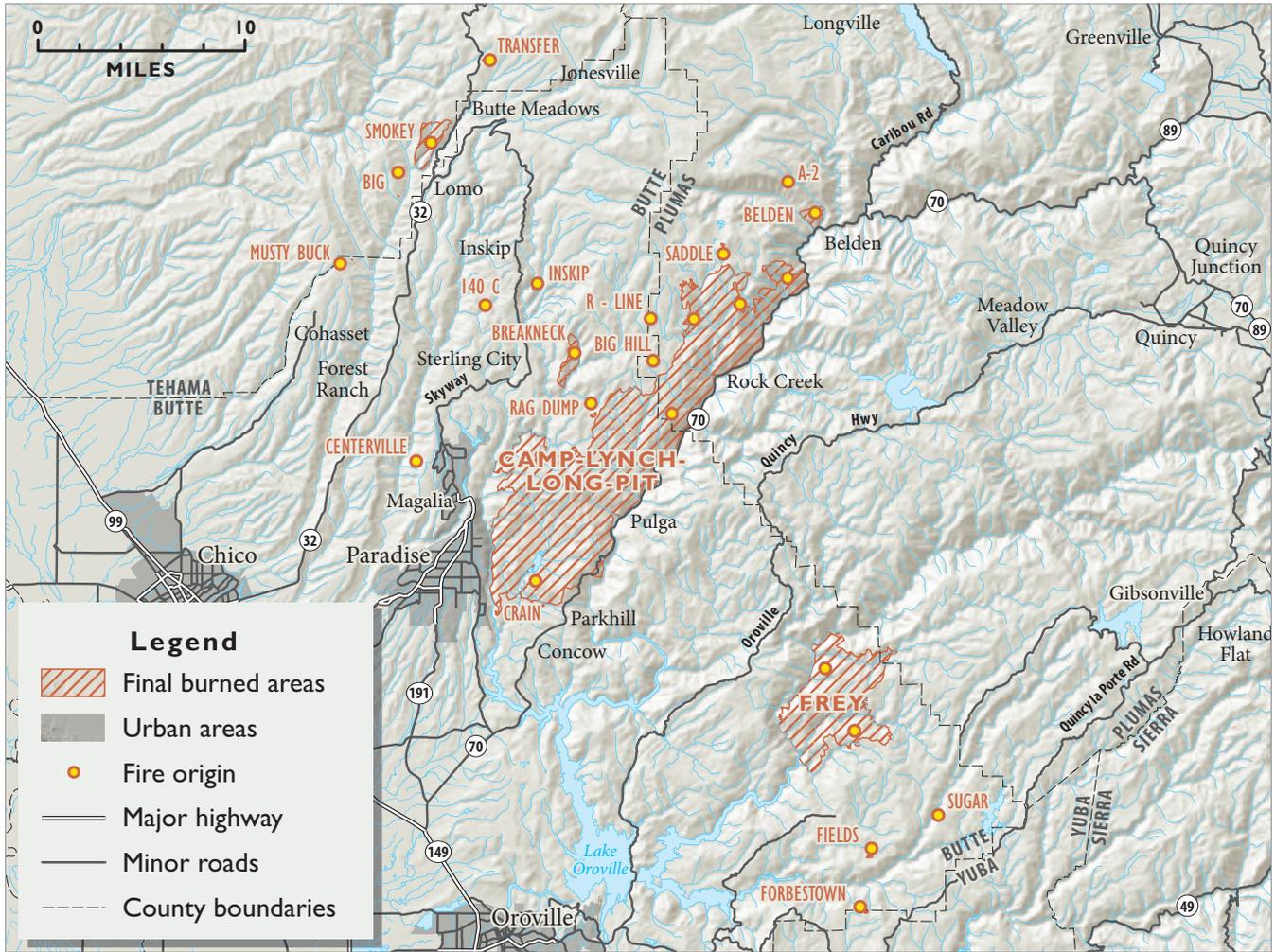
**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 80  
**Structures Destroyed:** 0  
**Fatalities:** 0  
**Fuels:** Grass and brush  
**Cause:** Lightning

Lightning started three fires in Southeastern San Benito County on June 21st, 2008 around 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The first fire was about a hundred acres of grass, the second fire was about 250 acres of grass, and the Brown Fire burned about 3,000 acres of mixed grass and brush. At the time very few

resources were available due to the large number of new fires.

Initial attack forces remained engaged on these fires through containment without reinforcements, as these fires burned in remote, sparsely populated areas with minimal threat to life and property.

# Butte Lightning Complex



## STATISTICS

Number of Fires: 41

Major Fires/Containment Date:

Rim	7/2
West	7/6
Camp	7/29
Smokey	7/7
Breakneck	7/12
Frey	7/21
Hwy 70 Fires	

County: Butte

Affected Communities: Butte Meadows, Jonesville, Jarbo Gap, Concow, Yankee Hill, Cohasset, Forest Ranch, Paradise, Magalia, Sterling City, Belden, Coulenc

Agencies in Command: CAL FIRE's Butte Unit (BTU): CAL FIRE ICT # 9 (Lewin & Morris) and ICT #5 (Streblow)

Start Report Date: 6/21 1400 hrs.

Containment Date: 7/29/08

Total Acres: 59,440

Direct Fire Suppression Costs: \$94,825,683

Firefighters Assigned at Peak: 3,290 on 7/12

Structures Destroyed: 117 total (106 residences and 11 outbuildings)

Fatalities: 2

(1 civilian in Concow area and 1 off-duty FF assigned to the incident)

Fuels: Timber, logging slash, brush, and grass

Cause: Lightning

The Butte Unit fully contained most of its 41 lightning fires early in the siege. Many of the fires were located in the rugged Feather River Canyon and significantly impacted Highway 70, the Union Pacific Railroad, and the PG&E electric power generation and transmission facilities along the river.

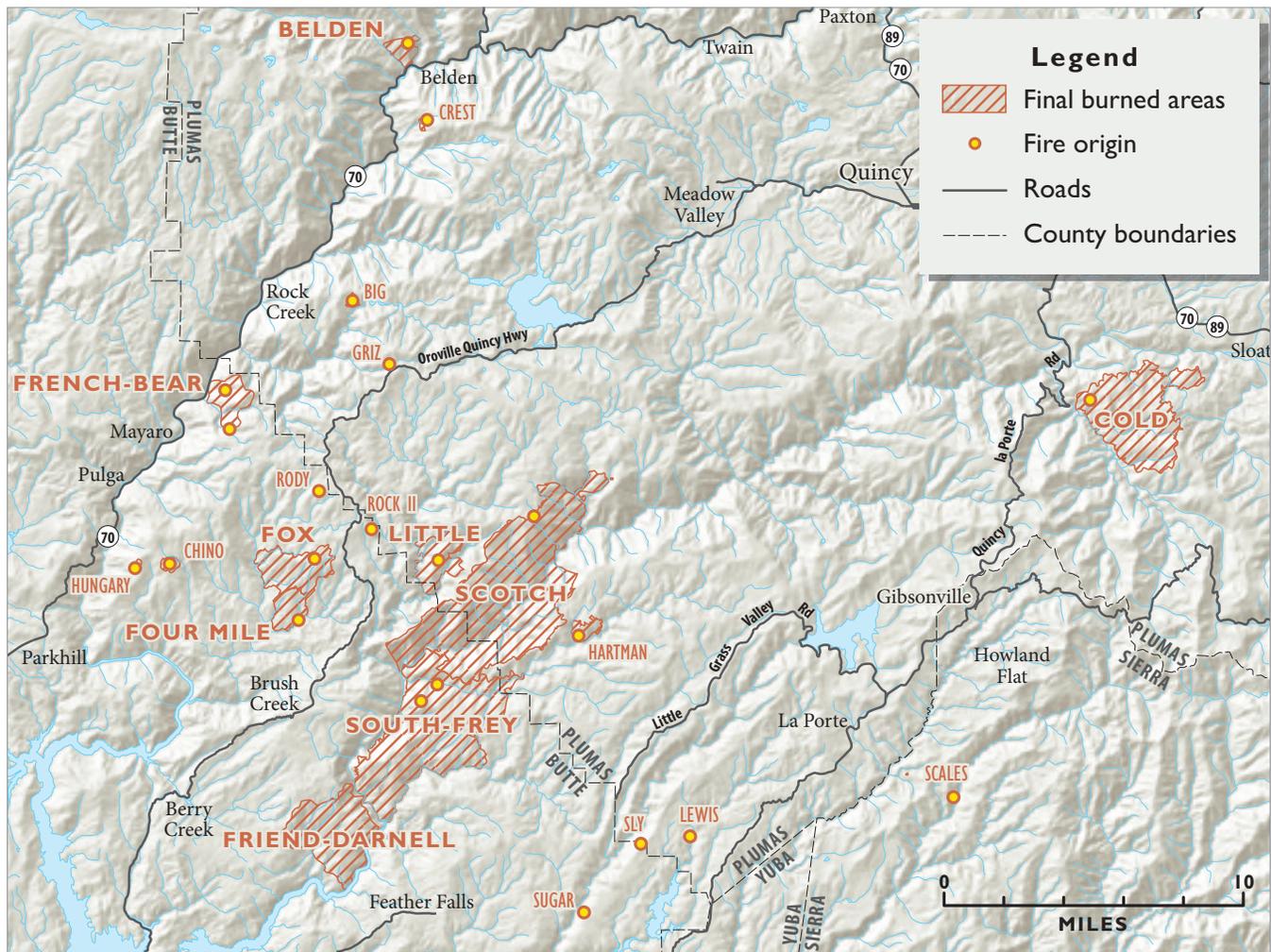
The Camp Fire was the primary concern, as it posed the greatest threat to highly populated areas, including the Town of Paradise, and the communities of Concow, Jarbo Gap, Yankee Hill, Magalia, and Paradise Pines.

One of the biggest problems was the presence of strong, gusty down-canyon winds that frequently occurred at night in the Feather River Canyon. These winds, accentuated by a Foehn wind event, caused the fire to jump Highway 70, and push the fire into Concow. During this run the fire traveled 8 miles, reburned through several fires that had been previously declared contained, and merged 17 fires into one fire called the Camp. Approximately 50 residences were destroyed and 1 civilian life is lost.

Active fires that burned on the adjacent Canyon Complex (Plumas National Forest), threatened to merge with the Butte Complex fires and damage populated areas. This necessitated the redeployment of fire engines for structure protection to the Canyon Complex. Fires were swapped between complexes which increased management and controlled effectiveness; the Feather River Canyon was used as a dividing feature. Another complication arose when a new fire started between the two complexes, which presented a danger to people between the three fires.

The Rim, West, and Smokey fires were contained by July 6th while the Saddle and Breakneck fire complexes were contained one week later. Another gusty wind episode on July 21 caused the Camp Fire to spot across containment lines and burn into standing dead trees from a previous fire, which delayed containment. The Frey Fire and the Camp Fire Complex were not fully contained until nearly the end of July.

# Canyon Complex



**STATISTICS**

**Number of Fires:** 50 with Frey Fire (from Butte complex) on 6/29; 42 after giving some fires to Butte Complex  
**Major Fires:** Cold Fire, Hartman, Little, South, Frey, Belden, Scotch Fire, Bear

**County:** Plumas  
**Affected Communities:** Feather Falls, Sly, Bald Rock, Cromberg Garden, Zumwalt Flat, Brush Creek, Berry Ck., Belden, Greenhorn, Sloat, Spring Garden, and Millsap Bar  
**Agencies in Command:** USFS

**Teams assigned:** IMT#3 T-1 (Pincha-Tulley); PNW3 T-1 (Pendleton)  
**Start Report Date:** 6/21 at 1:30 p.m.  
**Containment Date:** 11/3  
**Total Acres:** 47,680 acres  
**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$45,501,474

**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 1,538 on 7/13  
**Structures Destroyed:** 3 (1 residential and 2 outbuildings)  
**Fatalities:** 0  
**Fuels:** Timber, logging slash, brush and grass  
**Cause:** Lightning

The Canyon Complex started by lightning on June 21 in the Feather River Canyon of Plumas County. About 50 fires were scattered throughout steep, inaccessible terrain. This complex generated national and congressional attention due to its proximity to a Herger-Feinstein Quincy Library Group Pilot Project Area.

On June 24, the Plumas National Forest issued a Fire Emergency Area Closure for the area. The Plumas County Sheriff issued advanced notifications for possible evacuations to residents in the vicinity of the Cold Fire; a precautionary evacuation of animals was also underway for the communities of Spring Garden, Greenhorn and Sloat. A Canyon Complex/Plumas National Forest Multi-incident Coordination Plan was established to facilitate the sharing of resources. Incident management teams established boundaries between Butte and Canyon Complexes and agreed to share resources and coordinate aircraft use.

By June 25, the Complex had burned 5,291 acres and was 5% contained. Priority fires were the Cold Fire (4,079 acres), Hartman Fire (120 acres), Little Fire (50 acres), South Fire (100 acres), and Sky High Fire (100 acres). There were 17 additional uncontained fires at approximately 742 acres. Thirteen fires were contained for 320 acres, and 7 fires were not located due to limited access and heavy smoke which limited air reconnaissance. The complex was divided into North and South Zones.

The Complex grew to 12,158 acres on June 29 and remained 5% contained. Increased fire activity on the

Cold, Pit, and South fires caused rapid fire growth while progress was made on the Hartman, Fox and Four Mile Fires. The Quarry/Island was unstaffed because of safety concerns with surrounding fires on the Butte Complex. The Crest Fire remained unstaffed and was patrolled by air. A new human-caused fire near Sloat Staging was contained.

On July 1, the Canyon Complex transferred the Pit, Quarry, Island and Granite Fires to the Butte Complex, and assumed responsibility for the Frey Fire. A total of 20 fires were contained for 1,392 acres of which 3 were staffed and the remaining were air-patrolled. An additional nine fires were uncontained for 10,851 acres of which 8 were staffed. Priority fires were the Cold (5,319 acres), South (1,251 acres), Frey (1,250 acres), Little (736 acres), and Scotch (260 acres). There were 12 reported fires not located. Fires remained active, particularly at night with strong, gusty down-canyon and down-slopes winds. Firefighters who rappelled from helicopters into the Belden Fire were removed due to intensified fire behavior. Fires threatened 83 residences, 13 commercial properties, 2 outbuildings, power stations and the railroad. The Plumas Forest Area Closure remained in effect.

On July 8, a thermal trough settled into the area and brought triple digit temperatures, single digit relative humidity and increasing fire spread. The Belden Fire was first priority and was jointly staffed between the Canyon Complex and Butte Complex. Precautionary and advisory evacuations were in effect for Belden. Highway 70 was closed east of Belden to Rush Creek.

## Canyon Complex (continued)

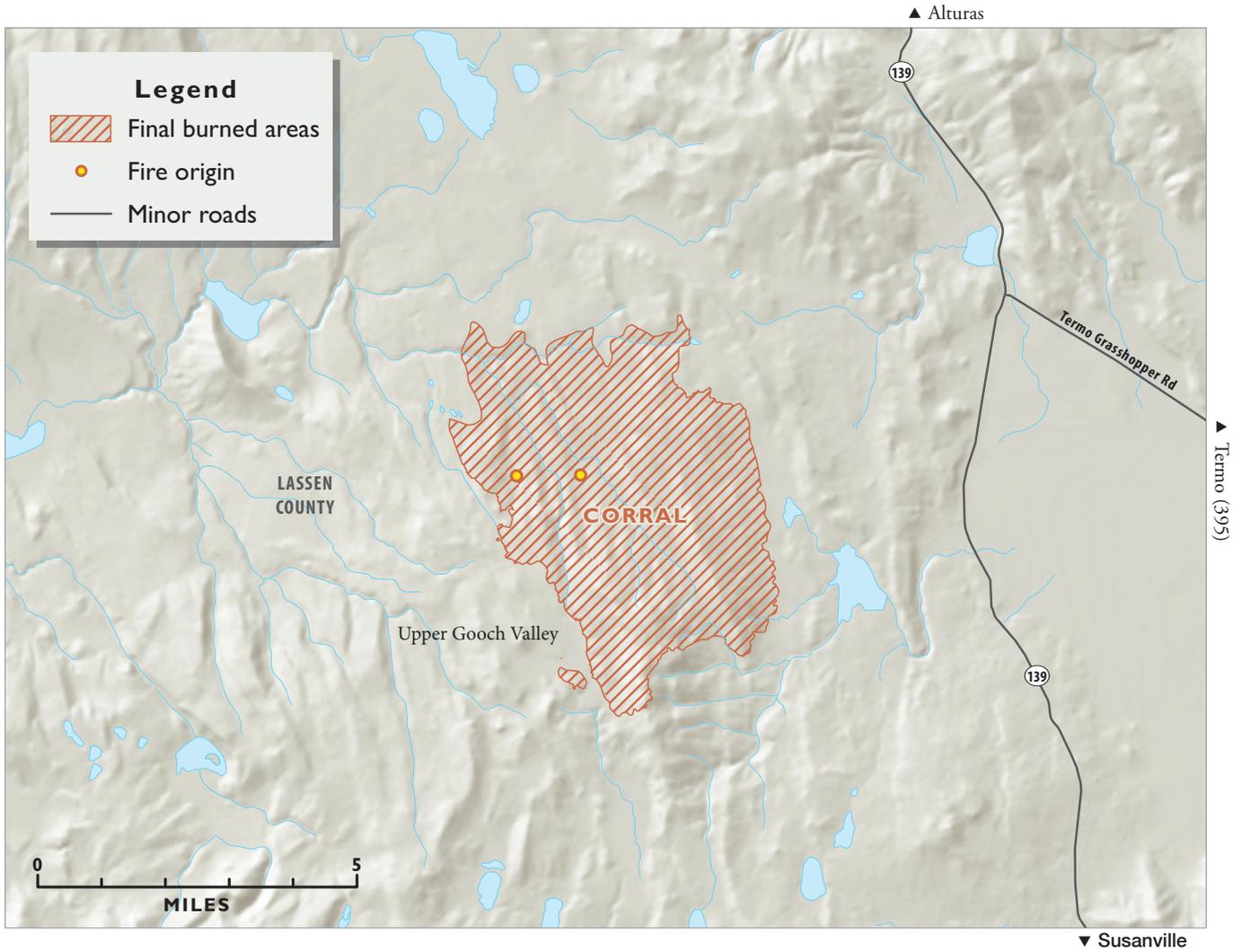
The South Fire, Frey Fire and Little Fire had significant fire spread. Evacuations were issued for an 8 square mile area with mandatory evacuation for Berry Creek and voluntary evacuation Brush Creek. Shelters were established in Oroville and Chico. Bald Rock Road was closed east of Highway 119. One residence was destroyed and 1,500 residences, 21 commercial properties, and 9 outbuildings were threatened.

By July 10, the Canyon Complex reached 25,019 acres and 57% containment. Under Red Flag Warnings, uncontained fires were active and spread outside portions of their perimeters. The Scotch Fire produced several large columns. Two outbuildings were destroyed and 1,500 residences, 15 commercial properties, and 850 outbuildings remained threatened. Evacuations were in effect east and south of Lake Madrone, and north and south of Bald Rock Road. Bald Rock Road east of Highway 119 and Highway 70 east of Belden to SR89 were closed.

Moderate weather conditions tempered fire behavior by July 14. The Canyon Complex (the Belden Fire was moved to the Butte Complex) was at 31,326 acres and 61% containment. Residents returned to homes in the Berry Creek area, Highway 70 re-opened, and the Cold Fire was contained. Priority fires were Friend-Darnell (3,871 acres; 75% contained), South-Frey (11,678 acres; 65% contained), Scotch (5042 acres; 5% contained), Belden (478 acres), and Little (897 acres; 30% contained).

By July 24, the Belden and Frey Fires were delegated back to the Butte Complex, and the Canyon Complex was at 37,753 acres and 90% containment. The complex remained uncontained into September due to active fire in steep, inaccessible terrain.

# Corral Fire



**STATISTICS**

County: Lassen  
 Affected Communities: Gooch Valley  
 Agencies in Command: CAL FIRE

Teams assigned: CAL FIRE's Lassen-Modoc-Plumas Unit (LMU) using federal T-1 IMT (Larsen)  
 Start Report Date: 6/23 8:00 p.m.

Containment Date: 7/7/2008  
 Total Acres: 12,434 acres  
 Direct Fire Suppression Costs: \$3,600,000

Firefighters Assigned at Peak: 397  
 Structures Destroyed: 0  
 Fatalities: 0  
 Fuels: Timber, brush, and grass  
 Cause: Lightning

## Corral Fire (continued)

The Corral Fire was reported on June 23rd as one of approximately 50 fires in the LMU June Lightning Complex, but was separated from the Complex and given its own fire name. Approximately 25 miles down a gravel road from Highway 139 and the CAL FIRE Grasshopper Fire Station in Lassen County. The fire spread from a lightning strike in eastside pine by a Southwest wind. By 3 a.m. the fire was well established in downed heavy fuels. The structure threat was minimal due to the remote location. The fire burned on Lassen National Forest and private commercial timber property.

Within 24 hours the fire grew to 500 acres, while the winds diminished and humidity increased. On June 26th, the winds increased again, humidity fell and spot fire activity increased. By the end of the day the fire was over 2,200 acres with spotting a mile away. The following day, the weather moderated allowing containment lines to hold and mop up started.

Favorable conditions did not last. On June 28th a thunder cell collapsed and peak wind gusts of 50 MPH caused rapid rates of spread, frequent spotting and the loss of established control lines. Resources disengaged and retreated to safety zones as a precautionary measure. The closest air tanker bases (Chester and Chico) were smoked out which increased flight turn around times. New lightning fires were quickly contained by resources and were reassigned from the Corral Fire. The Dixie Fire was the only new fire from the thunderstorm. By the morning of June 29th the

Corral Fire reached 10,000 acres and burned commercial timber in the Upper Gooch Valley.

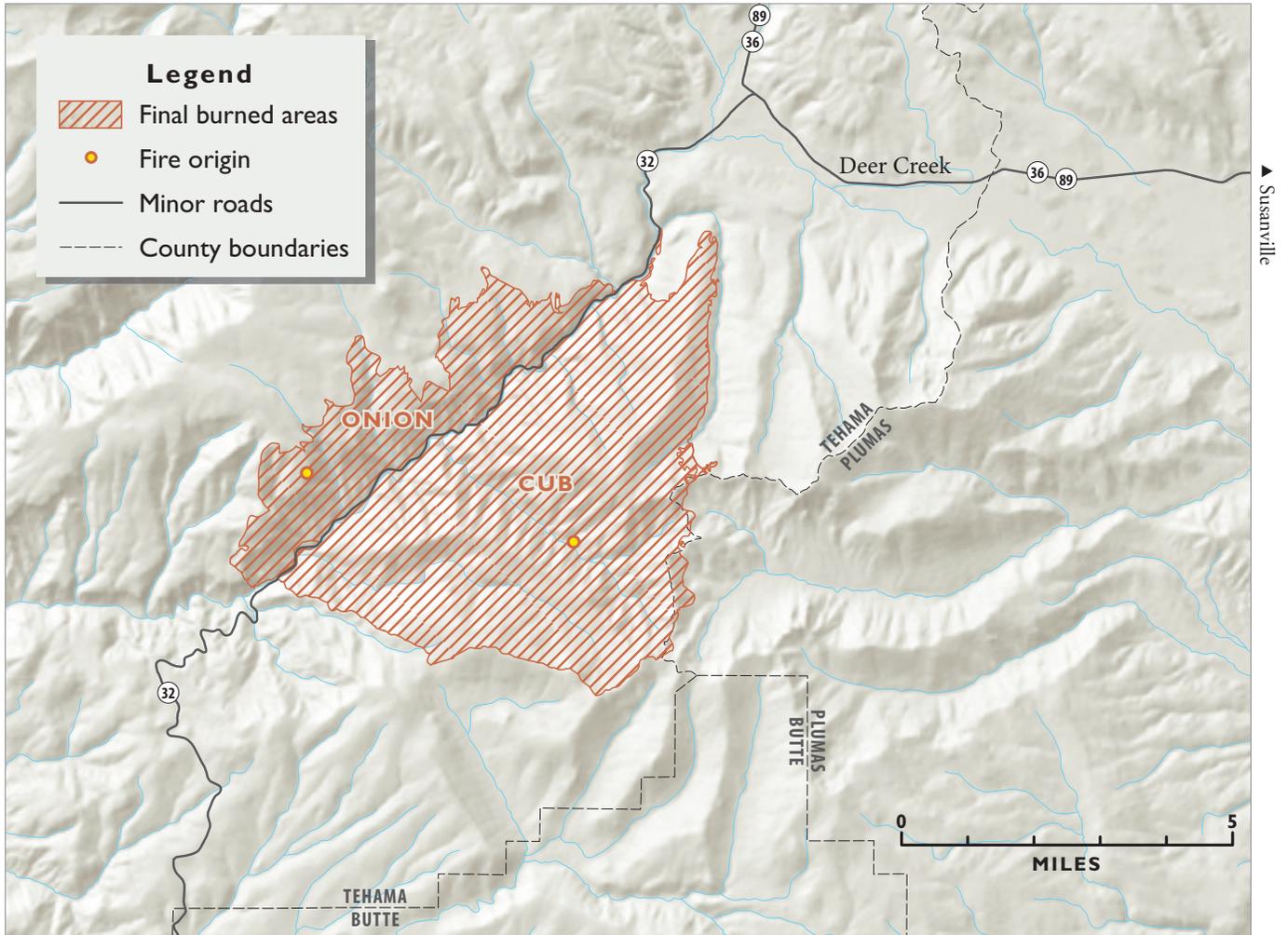
At an estimated 15,000 acres on June 30th, afternoon southwestern winds and extremely low fuel moistures combined and continued to drive rapid rates of spread and spotting in the pine timber, shrubs and grasslands until nighttime temperature and humidity recoveries allowed for fire line construction.

On July 3rd, The Incident Commander predicted containment by July 7th only if needed resources on order arrived as expected. By July 6th there were over 20 engines, 7 dozers, 7 crews, 10 water tenders and 300 personnel were committed. Besides California, personnel working on this incident came from states including Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Idaho, Louisiana and Montana.

A 4th of July Parade was held at Incident Base. Resources including the vendors participated and were treated to a simulated fireworks display. Chemical light sticks and vehicle emergency warning lights provided the visual effects. The great attitudes and imaginations of all of the participants made for an enjoyable celebration.

On July 7th, the Corral fire was 100% contained at 12,434 acres. The burned area included 6,598 acres of Private land, 4,747 acres of National Forest, and 1,089 acres of BLM land.

# Cub Complex



**STATISTICS**

**Complex Fire #:** CA-LNF-2713

**Number of Fires:** 4 fires

**Major Fires/Acres:**

Onion Fire 4,782 acres

Cub Fire 4,936 acres

**County:** Tehama

**Affected Communities:** Chester, Lake Almanor, Butte Meadows, Jonesville, Chico

**Agencies in Command:** USFS

**Teams Assigned:** Type 2: Blue Mountain Team (Batten), Type 1:

Southern Area Red Team (Ruggiero), Type 2-NorCal Team II (Kaage)

**Start Report Date:** 6/21 1500 hrs

**Containment Date:** 7/20 0600 hrs

**Total Acres:** 7/22 – 19,718 acres

**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$21,000,000

**Firefighter Assigned at Peak:** 1,230 – 7/11/08

**Structures Destroyed:** 0

**Fatalities:** 0

**Fuels:** Timber

**Cause:** Lightning

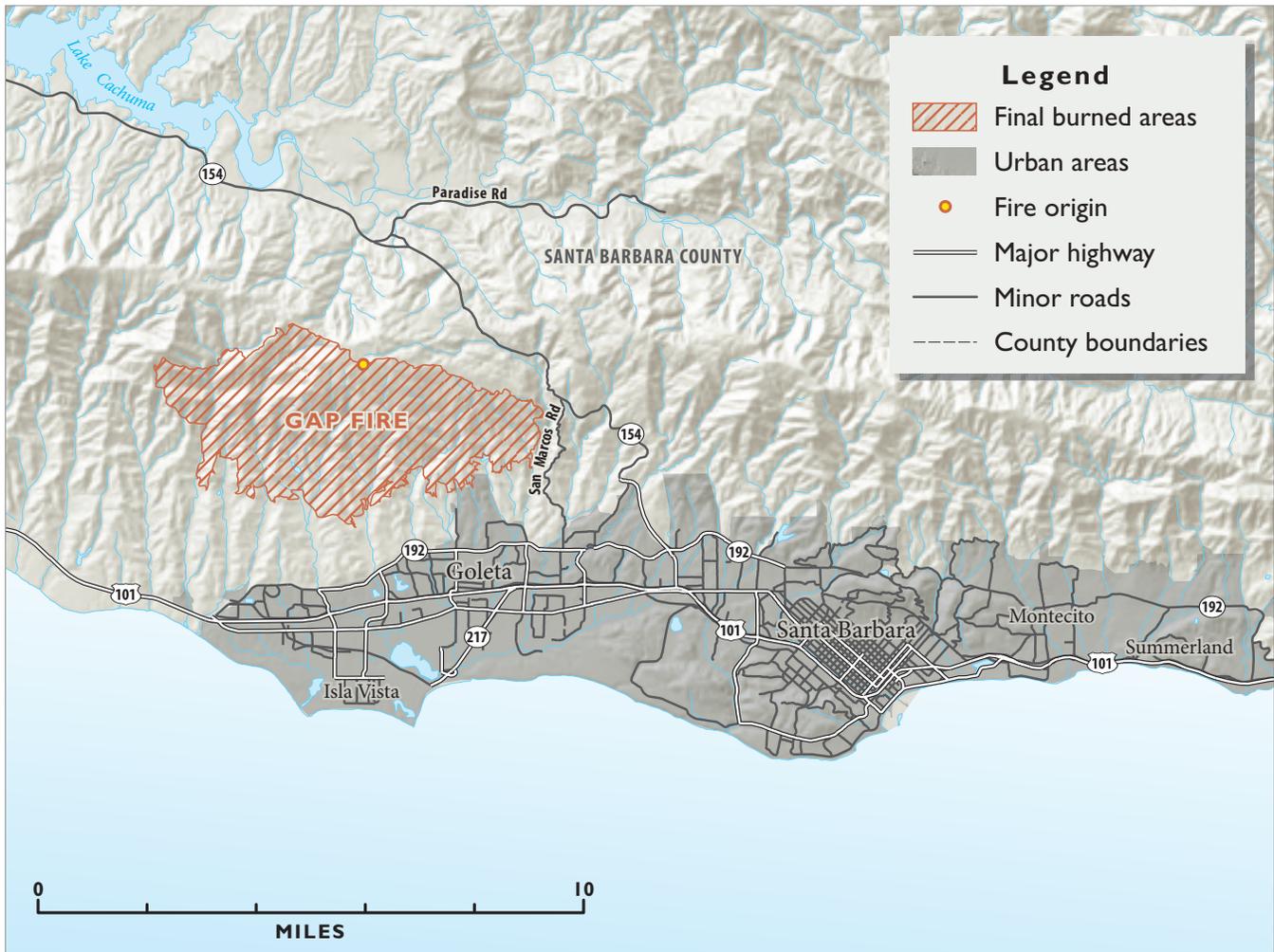
## Cub Complex (continued)

The Blue Mountain Team from Oregon took command of the Cub Complex on June 23, and initially focused attention on the Onion Fire, which was closest to the road system. Two other fires discovered in the complex (Mill and A-17) were suppressed at less than 10 acres. By June 27, the Cub Fire remained unstaffed at 1100 acres. On June 29, all resources were assigned to the Onion Fire. The Southern Area Red Team assumed command of the Cub Fire on July 2, and command of the Cub Complex, including the Onion Fire, on July 3. By July 4, there are 917 personnel assigned and a shift of resources from Onion Fire to Cub Fire occurred. By July 10, NorCal Team II assumed command of the Cub Complex. The Onion Fire was contained, and a major burnout operation was planned and successfully

led to the containment of the Cub Fire on July 20. On July 14, Highway 32 was re-opened to controlled traffic.

The Cub Complex had a wide range of impacts, most notably the closing of Highway 32, the primary route between Chico and Chester. The Cub Complex fires were located in Tehama County, with primary structure threats in Butte County which threatened the communities of Butte Meadows and Jonesville. The most significant smoke impacts were in Plumas County, and affected the communities of Chester and Lake Almanor. A forest closure to protect public safety during the fire included several campgrounds, numerous fishing sites, and a section of the Pacific Crest Trail.

# Gap Fire



## STATISTICS

Number of Fires: 1  
 Major Fires: Gap Fire  
 County: Santa Barbara  
 Affected Communities: Santa

Barbara, and Goleta  
 Agencies in Command: USFS, Santa Barbara County Fire Department  
 Teams assigned:  
 Los Padres National Forest (LPF)

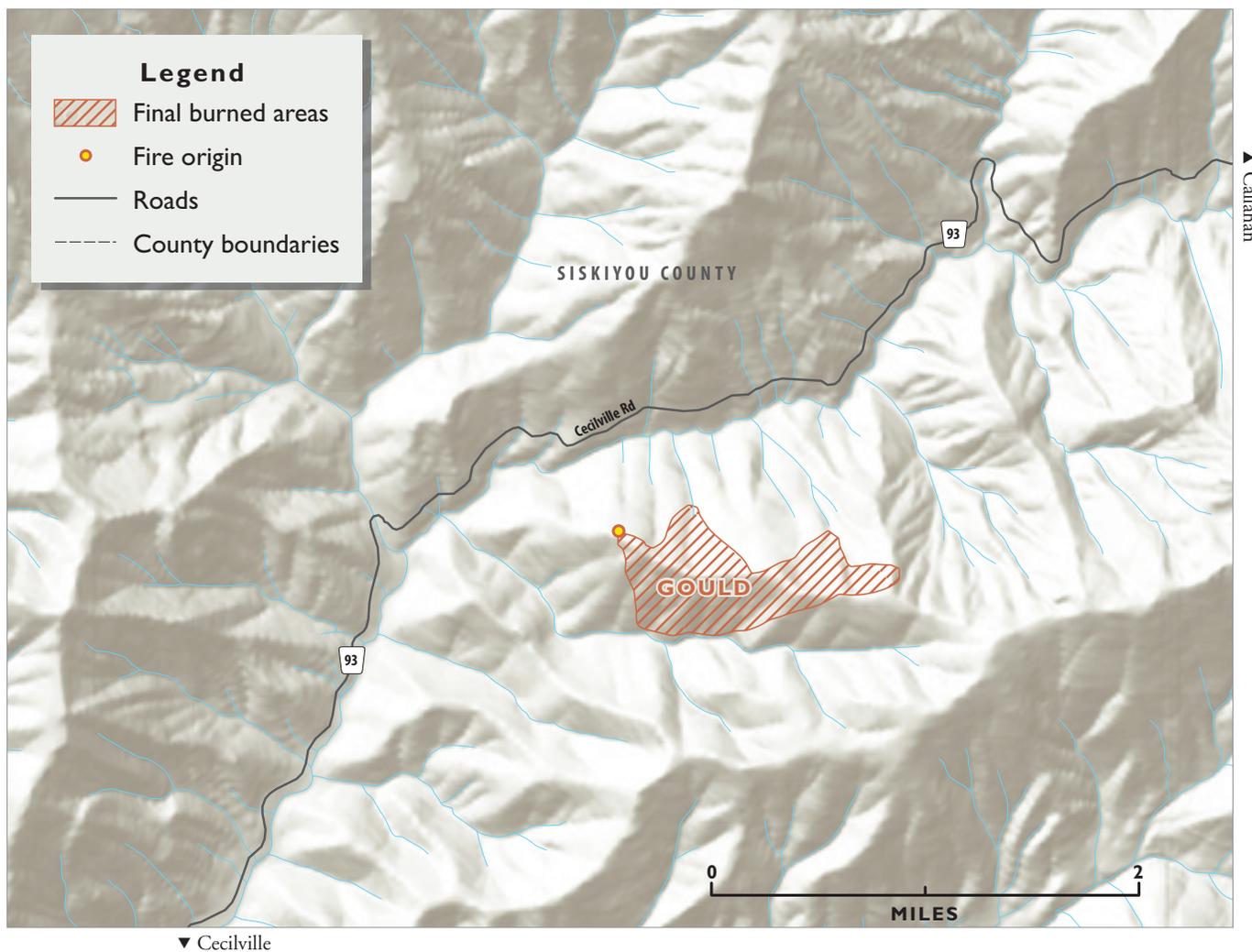
Start Report Date: 7/01  
 Containment Date: 7/28  
 Total Acres: 9,443 acres  
 Direct Fire Suppression Costs: \$20,970,000

Firefighters Assigned at Peak: 1,387  
 Structures Destroyed: 4 outbuildings  
 Fatalities: 0  
 Fuels: Heavy brush

The Gap Fire burned on steep slopes above the cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta. Dense fifty-year old brush and extremely difficult terrain proved to be significant challenges to firefighting personnel. During the initial operational periods, the fire was driven downhill by Sundowner winds and burned to the edges of Goleta and Santa Barbara. It was necessary to mobilize

multiple strike teams of Type 1 engines to provide sufficient resources for structure protection; this was done with the assistance of OES who worked within the Master Mutual Aid System. After 2 days, the winds subsided and fire fighters began to work the mountainous terrain and fully contain the fire.

# Gould Fire



**STATISTICS**

Complex Fire #: CA-KNF-002970  
 County: Siskiyou  
 Affected Communities: None listed

Agencies in Command: USFS  
 Teams assigned:  
 Alaska Type 3 (Lennon)  
 Start Report Date: 6/21/2008

Containment Date: 6/29/2008  
 Total Acres: 229 acres  
 Direct Fire Suppression Costs:  
 \$678,000

Firefighter Assigned at Peak: 74  
 Structures Destroyed: 0  
 Fatalities: 0  
 Fuels: Mixed conifer/hardwood with slash and brush

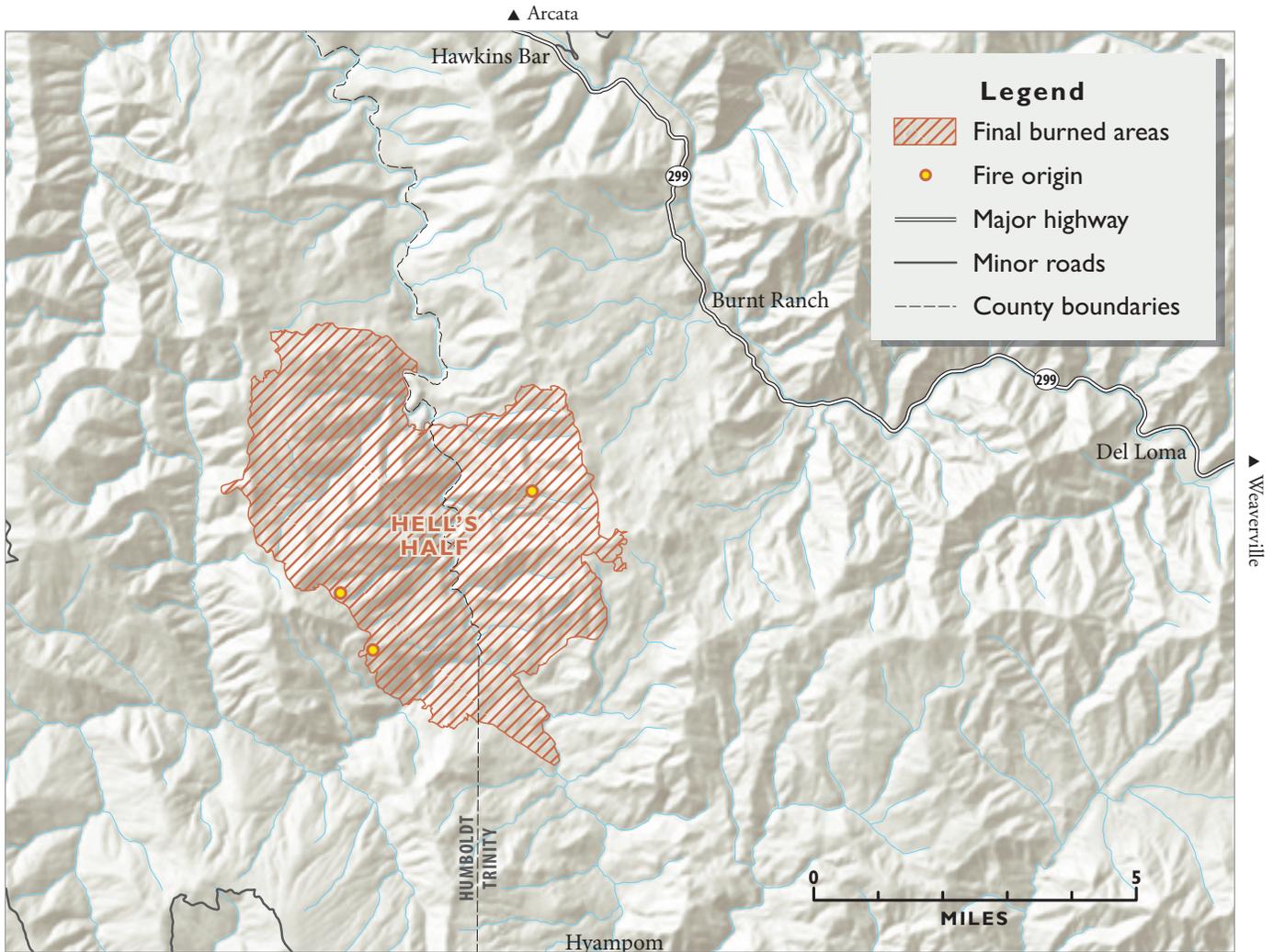
The Gould Fire was caused by a lightning strike at midnight on June 21. Located approximately 45 miles southwest of Etna in Gould Gulch, the fire burned nearly 200 acres on June 24 and triggered the transition to a type 3 incident management team.

By June 26, crews continued to make steady progress, and completed a 40-acre burnout. The Gould Fire was

close to containment, but the potential for problems due to the extremely steep terrain and potential reburn of some incompletely burned areas remained. The presence of bears and rattlesnakes was also a concern.

By June 29 the Gould Fire was 100 % contained at 229 acres. The Gould Fire was declared controlled on July 2.

# Hells Half Complex



## STATISTICS

**Number of Fires:** 11  
**Major Fires:** Grouse, Half, Sims, Gary, Sugar Loaf, Packsaddle  
**County:** Humboldt, Trinity  
**Affected Communities:** Burnt Ranch, Hyampom, Manzanita

Ranch, Upper Mill Creek, MacDonald, and Underwood  
**Agencies in Command:** USFS  
**Teams assigned:** USFS T-3 (Johnson), T-2 IMT (Secrest), T-1 IMT (Quesinberry)

**Start Report Date:** 6/20 at 5:44 p.m.  
**Containment Date:** 7/29/2008  
**Total Acres:** 15,146 acres  
**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$14,080,104  
**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 665 on 7/21

**Structures Destroyed:** 1 (seasonal residential)  
**Fatalities:** 0  
**Fuels:** Timber and conifer reproduction  
**Cause:** Lightning

## Hells Half Complex (continued)

Hell's Half complex started as multiple lightning starts on June 20, 2008. The complex consisted of fire locations on both sides of the South Fork of the Trinity River in Humboldt and Trinity Counties. On the east side of the river was the Half Incident. The fire made a major run from its mid-slope position to the top of the ridge, reached the Shasta-Trinity National Forest boundary and was unstaffed. There were several fires west of the river with the potential to merge and burn an estimated 9,000 acres of forest and which threatened the community of Hyampom.

By June 26th, total acreage was estimated at 1450 acres. Of the original 17 fires, 8 had been contained. Plantation loss on 6/23 was significant. The fires on the west side (Sims, Grouse, Gary, and Sugarloaf fires) merged and were called the Grouse Fire. They were 30% contained. The Half Fire was 0% contained and continued to be monitored. A Fire Weather Watch was issued for Friday evening through Sunday evening.

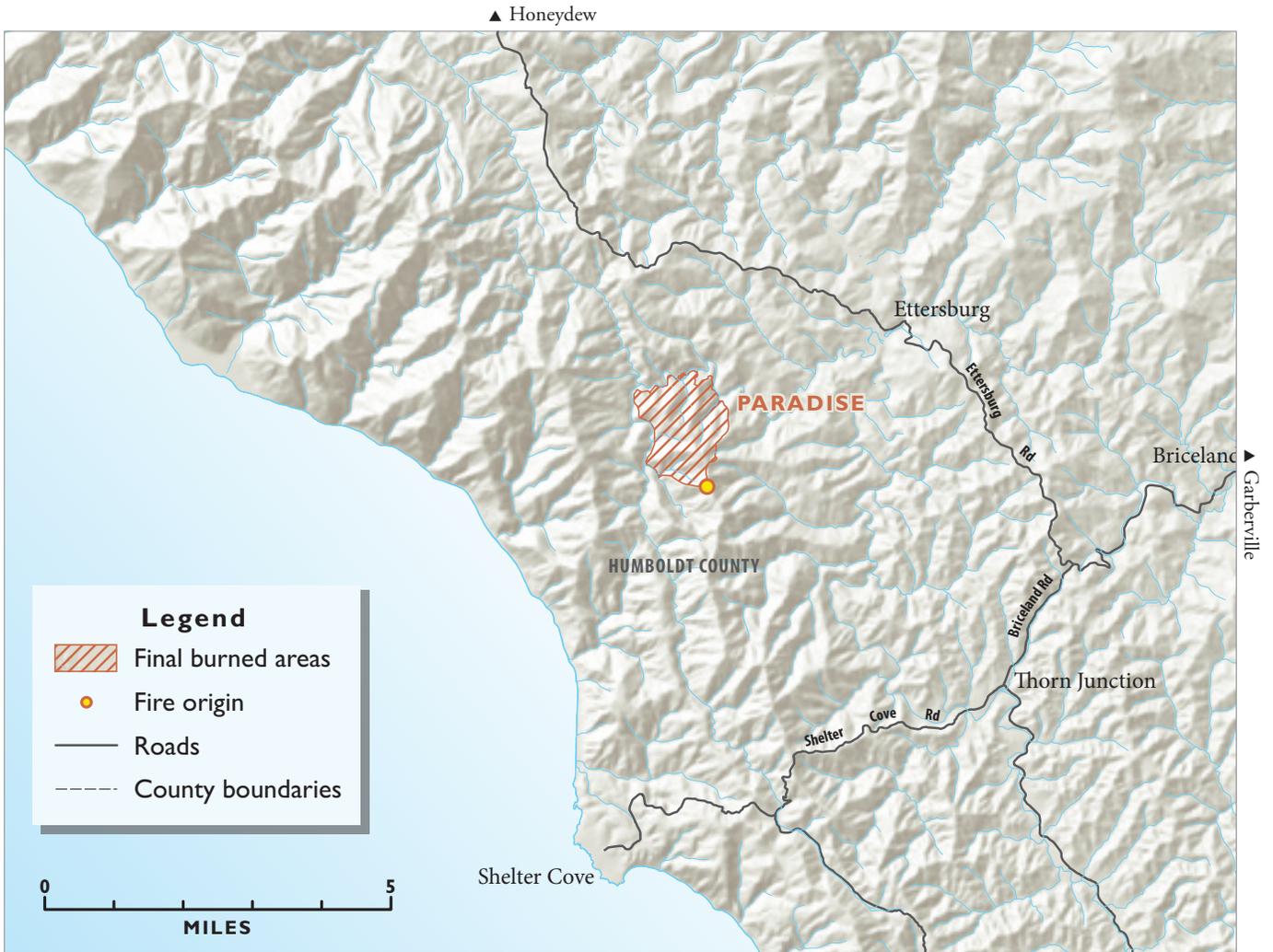
Both fires continued to grow to the south and east, and threatened residences and infrastructure. The Half Fire spread within one-mile of structures and moved onto the Shasta Trinity National Forest. The Grouse fire was within a mile of the Route 6 powerline corridor. A population protection plan was drafted in coordination with Trinity County Sheriff and local volunteer fire departments.

On July 10, record heat and critically low humidity created extreme burn conditions and the Grouse and Half fires merged. The Grouse and Half Fires were renamed the Hell's Half Fire. The Grouse Fire made a crown run of over a mile to the south and destroyed one seasonal residence in the Grouse Creek area. Over 4,000 acres burned, and by the morning, the Hell's Half Complex was reported as 7,858 acres and 29% contained. Five residences in Big Slide and 50 residences in the West Hyampon area were evacuated. The transmission line along Grouse Creek was de-energized leaving approximately 300 residences without power. Competition for resources continued to hamper fire-fighting efforts.

On July 15, 7 engines were re-assigned to the Iron Complex. The Hell's Half Complex was 10,424 acres and 40% contained by July 18th. Fifty-six residences in the Big Slide and Hyampon West areas were still under evacuation and 15 occupied dwellings and outbuildings in the Dry Lake area were under mandatory evacuation. Although the power line near Grouse Creek was re-energized on the 13th, it continued to be threatened.

The Hell's Half Complex was 100% contained on July 28.

# Humboldt Complex



**STATISTICS**

**Complex Fire #:** CA-HUU-003384  
**Number of Fires:** 60  
**Major Fires/Containment Date/Acres:**  
 Paradise Fire 7/14 950  
**County:** Humboldt  
**Affected Communities:** Shelter Cove

**Agencies in Command:** CAL FIRE, Briceland Volunteer Fire Department  
**Teams assigned:** CAL FIRE's Humboldt-Del Norte Unit (HUU), Briceland Volunteer Fire Department, T2 IMT (Joseph), T1 IMT (Quisenberry)

**Start Report Date:** 6/21 12:01 a.m.  
**Containment Date:** 7/14/2008  
**Total Acres:** 1,325 acres  
**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$9,000,000  
**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 1325  
**Structures Destroyed:** 0

**Fatalities:** 0  
**Fuels:** Timber including old growth redwood, heavy slash, timber reproduction, and grass  
**Cause:** Lightning

## Humboldt Complex (continued)

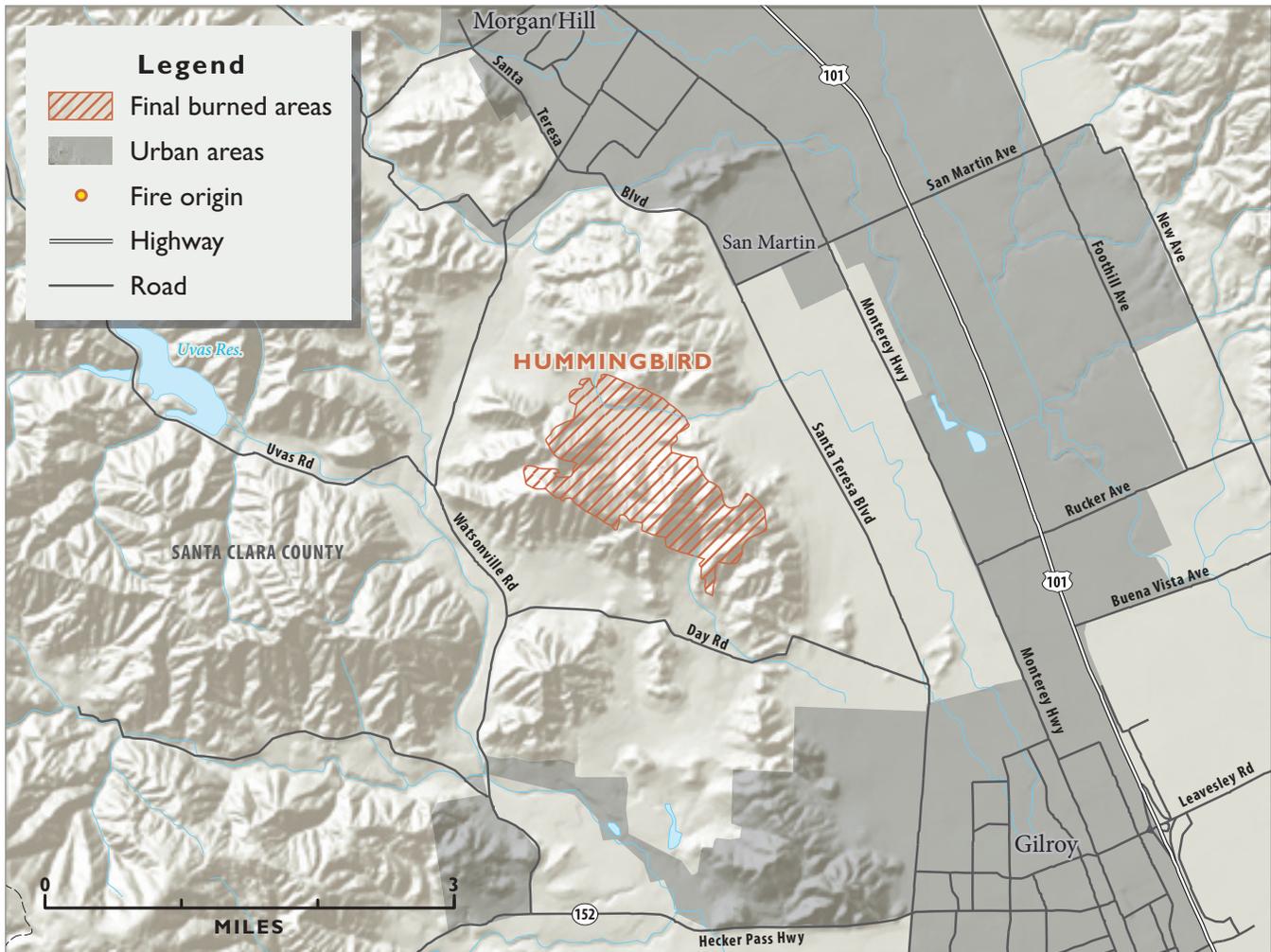
On the night of June 20, lightning ignited scores of fires hundreds of square miles of remote and rugged terrain. Although resources were stretched thin, the most of the fires were extinguished within the first 2 days, 5 fires remained significant threats: High, Larabee, Redcrest, Lone Pine, and Paradise. The most parlous of those emerged as the Paradise Incident. Named for its location on Paradise Ridge in the King's Range on Bureau of Land Management preserve, it threatened the seaside community of Shelter Cove. First on the scene of the fire was the Briceland Fire Department. As other fires drained fire suppression resources from CAL FIRE, the Paradise Incident was left in the capable hands of the volunteers well beyond its initial attack phase. Where other volunteer fire companies acquiesced to California's Fire Department immediately upon availability of an incident commander, the Paradise IC remained Diana Totten of Beginnings Fire Department for many days after its ignition, a move prompted by Operations Chiefs. It was a definite success story of local government participating with CAL FIRE.

As resources became more available and other smaller fires in the region were quelled, personnel including OES engine companies, conservation camp crews and air resources pooled into base camp. It was no surprise that some fire fighters, tired from a season that started at the beginning of May, were confused to come off of the Humboldt Incident in Paradise to the Paradise Incident in Humboldt.

The steep topography of Paradise Ridge yielded a low rate of injury considering the level of difficulty the terrain had to offer. The helitack program did a short haul rescue of a bee sting victim and local government extracted injured fire fighters out of a jagged ravine in the early morning hours who suffered from falling boulders.

All in all, it was a call of duty above and beyond by all cooperators to contain the Paradise Incident to 1,000 acres where it had the very real potential of consuming the 60,000 acres of the King's Range. The nearly evacuated sea park community of Shelter Cove was left unharmed. Many heroes emerged from the three week long siege during a highly unusual early summer storm.

# Hummingbird Fire



## STATISTICS

County: Santa Clara  
 Affected Communities: Morgan Hill, San Martin, and Gilroy

Agencies in Command: CAL FIRE  
 Start Report Date: 6/21 3:33 p.m.  
 Containment Date: 6/23  
 Total Acres: 794 acres

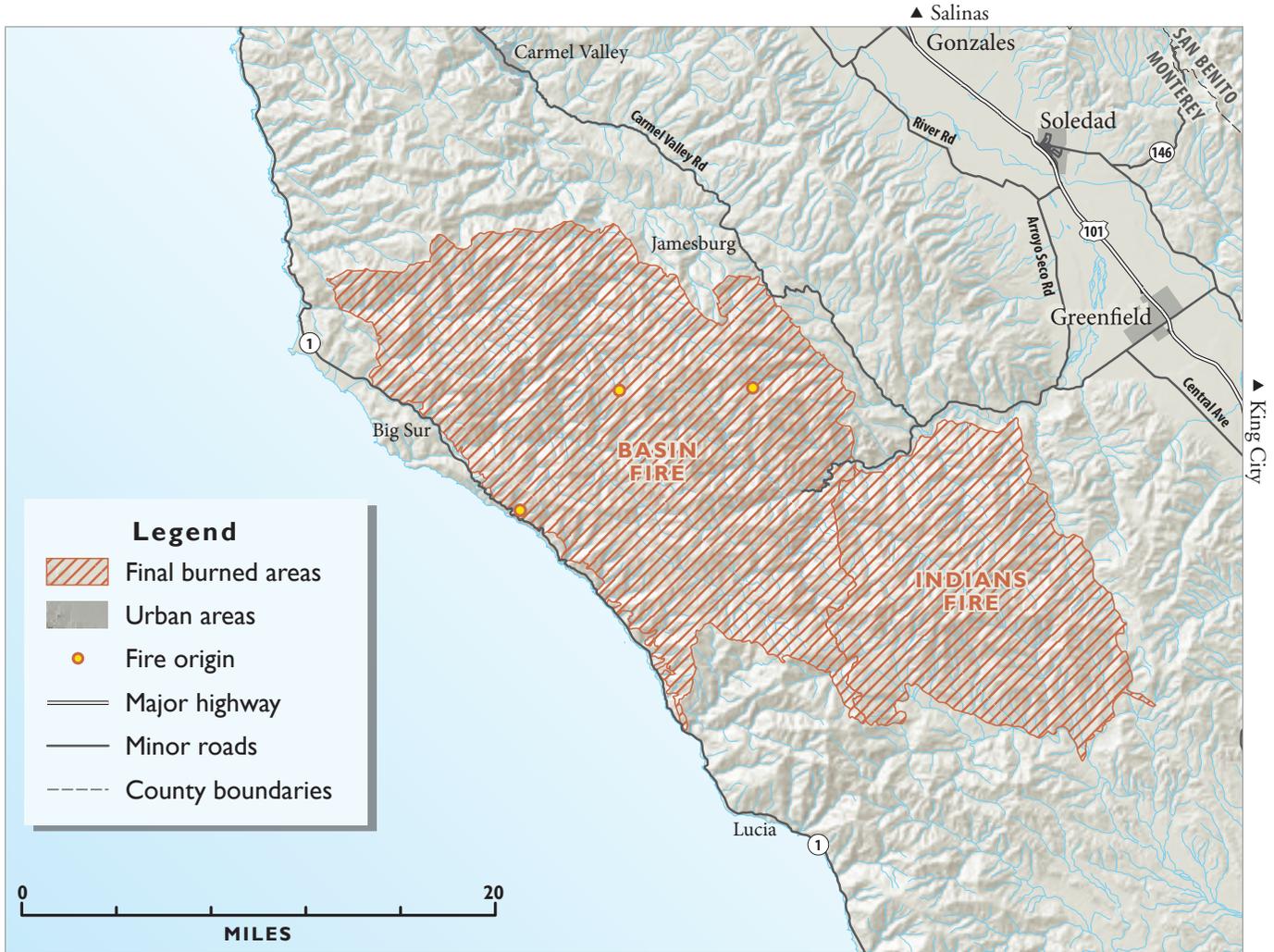
Direct Fire Suppression Costs: \$213,963  
 Firefighters Assigned at Peak: 201  
 Structures Destroyed: 0

Fatalities: 0  
 Fuels: Grass, and oak woodland  
 Cause: Lightning

The Hummingbird Fire was started by lightning on June 21 at a time when available resources were limited by other lightning fire activity. It was located southwest of the community of Morgan Hill and west of San Martin and Gilroy, and threatened approximately 1,200 residential structures, multiple ranches and farms, and livestock. Local government engines and water tenders

assisted the CAL FIRE resources, and provided 160 of the approximately 200 fire personnel assigned. On June 21, evacuation orders were issued for residents in the immediate fire area. The forward progress of the fire was stopped late on June 22 and evacuation orders were lifted. Excess equipment and personnel were released. The Hummingbird Fire was declared contained at 794 acres on June 23.

# Indians Fire



## INDIANS FIRE

**Incident Number:** CA-LPF-1491

**County:** Monterey

**Affected Communities:** Santa Lucia Summer Tract, Rancho Siesta, Coleman Canyon, and Pine Canyon

**Agencies in Command:** Unified command with USFS, CAL FIRE, and Fort Hunter Liggett  
**Teams Assigned:** Unified command with USFS IMT-2 (Molumby, IC), CAL FIRE (Hutchinson, IC), and Fort Hunter Liggett (Crum, IC).

**Start Report Date:** 06/2008 12:36 p.m.  
**Containment Date:** 7/10  
**Total Acres:** 81,378 acres  
**Estimated Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$42,500,000

**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 1944 on 6/15  
**Structures Destroyed:** 15  
**Fatalities:** 0  
**Fuels:** Grass/Chaparral/Timber  
**Cause:** Human

The Indians Fire started on June 8 in the Ventana Wilderness, and displayed extreme fire behavior and spotting. By June 11, 10,800 acres were burned with 13% containment. One residence was destroyed and one residence damaged. Twenty residences remained threatened, which forced the evacuations of Forest Service summer cabins in the Santa Lucia Tract. A portion of Los Padres National Forest in Monterey County was closed. Another residence and 13 outbuildings were destroyed as the fire spread north and east. More than 1300 structures were threatened. A spike camp, for 200 to 300 personnel was established at Greenfield High School

When the lightning event struck Monterey County on June 20th, the Indians Fire had been burning for over two weeks, reaching 52,200 acres with 55% containment. Incident resources assisted the Monterey

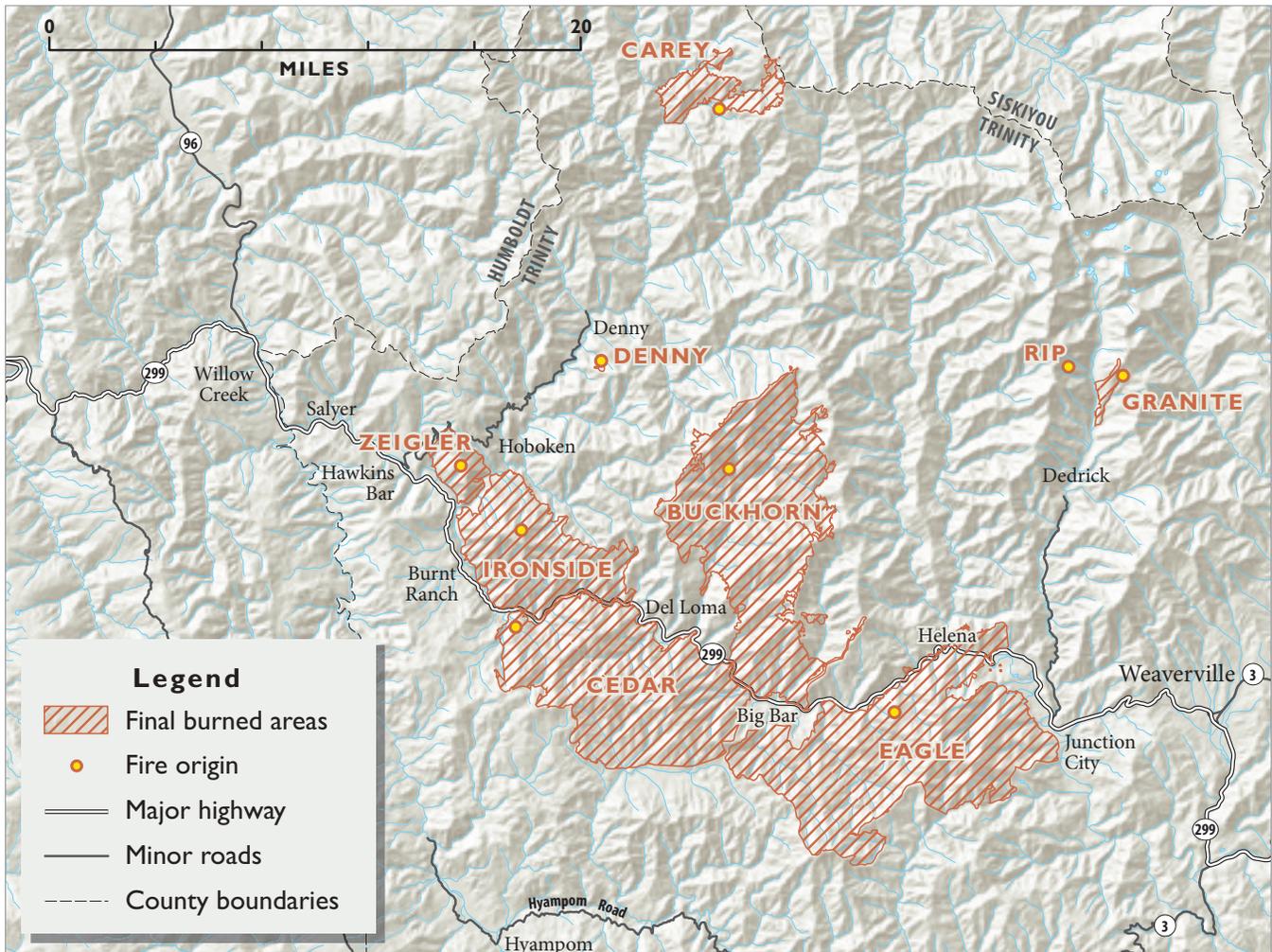
Ranger District with initial attack on the Gallery Fire and Bear Basin Fire. A voluntary evacuation for upper Pine Canyon and an evacuation advisory for lower Pine Canyon and Thompson Canyon were in place.

On June 29, firefighters continued firing operations in the Arroyo Seco drainage as weather conditions allowed, and provided tactical and logistical support to the Basin Complex. The Indians Fire was at 60,845 acres and was 89% contained.

Full containment was reported on July 10.

Approximately 10,000 of the Indians Fire total of 81,378 acres were unburned interior islands.

# Iron Complex



## STATISTICS

**Number of Fires:** 36  
(With addition of Alps Complex fires total of 48 fires).

**Major Fires/Containment Date/Acres:**

Buckhorn Fire	9/4	28,909
Eagle Fire	9/1	32,059
Ironsides	7/23	12,720
Cedar Fire	7/30	25,398
Ziegler Fire	7/22	2,221

**County:** Trinity

**Affected Communities:** Fisher Ranch, Haglund, Coopers Bar, Del Loma, Cedar Flat, Big Flat, Hawkins Bar, Helena, Weaverville, Brooks Ranch, Denny, Burnt Ranch, 5 Waters Ranch, Canyon Creek, Big Bar, Junction City, Corral Bottom

**Agencies in Command:** USFS

**Teams Assigned:** T-2 (Swartzlander); T-1 (Broyles), T-1 IMT#4 (Opliger), T-2 (Kaage), T-1 CIIMT #2

(Molumby); Type 3 IMT (Cowie); T-3 team (Brabender)

**Start Report Date:** 6/21 0928 hrs.

**Containment Date:** Unknown  
Final report 9/4/08 when fires @ 98% containment

**Total Acres:** 105,805 acres on 9/4 includes Alps Complex fires; Iron Complex fires alone is 101,456 acres

**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$73,974,917 combined; Iron Complex is \$71,983,917

**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 2008 on 7/23

**Structures Destroyed:** 2 (1 residence and 1 outbuilding)

**Fatalities:** 10

**Fuels:** Timber, brush & grass

**Cause:** Lightning

The Iron Complex became the site of some of the most tragic events of the 2008 California Fire Siege – the death on July 25 of an 18 year-old firefighter assigned to an engine due to a fatal tree falling accident; and on August 5, a helicopter crash killed 9 people and critically injured 4 others.

The Iron Complex burned north and south of Highway 299. The complex included a group of remote wilderness fires, which at times were managed separately from the Alps Complex. Difficult terrain limited accessibility of the fires and contributed to the smoke impacts on communities and air operations. Closures of Highway 299 heavily impacted the transportation corridor between Redding and Eureka.

Extensive burn out operations were conducted during the Iron Complex. The need to burnout 23.5 miles of indirect line on the Eagle, Zeigler, and Cedar Fires was identified on July 1.

Periodic projections through the early days of the Complex assessed where the fire was likely to spread. Fire behavior analysis was also done in response to a request from the Hoopa Valley Tribe concerning movement of the Carey Fire west toward tribal interests on USFS lands.

Many communities were evacuated, including Big Bar and Junction City, which were evacuated multiple

times. Early in July, an evacuation plan was developed for the Incident Command Post in Junction City which later became threatened by the Eagle Fire.

Several special teams were used during the Iron Complex. Taskforce “Shovel” was a California National Guard team of 240 is deployed for 3 weeks, engages in mop-up, suppression damage repair and rehabilitation. A Serious Accident Investigation Team and an Occupational Health and Safety Team were on the scene to investigate the circumstances of a tree-falling fatality. Later, a National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) Team managed the series of investigations prompted by the helicopter accident (Iron 44 incident), including another Serious Accident Investigations Team, and the National Transportation Safety Board, and Law Enforcement. The NIMO Team also worked with the families and in planning the memorial services. Two Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Teams (CISD) provided services to incident personnel who experienced the tragedy of the Iron 44 incident.

In September, the community of Junction City hosted a memorial service for the residents of Trinity County commemorating the lives that were lost during the Iron Complex. Engraved bronze plaques in Junction City preserve the memory of their sacrifice.

# June Lightning (LMU) Complex

## STATISTICS

**Number of Fires:** 50

**Major Fires:**

Popcorn/Peterson and Corral

**County:** Lassen

**Affected Communities:**

Little Valley, Pittville

**Agencies in Command:**

CAL FIRE, USFS, BLM

**Teams Assigned:** CAL FIRE's

Lassen-Modoc-Plumas Unit,

USFS Lassen National Forest,

BLM Susanville District

**Start Report Date:** 6/21

**Containment Date:** 6/25

**Total Acres:** 50

**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 362

**Structures Destroyed:** 0

**Fatalities:** 0

**Fuels:** Timber, brush, grass

**Cause:** Lightning

By the evening of June 21st, the Lassen Modoc Plumas Unit (LMU) reported a total of 26 lightning fires. Twenty of the fires were unstaffed because of poor access and limited available equipment. Over night, the conditions did not improve and the next morning dawned with 45 total fires, 30 of which were unstaffed. Limited firefighting resources were available due to the heavy commitment on multiple lightning fires in other areas.

By June 22, 2008, there were a total of 52 fires burning on CAL FIRE direct protection lands in the LMU. All but 2 of these fires were eventually contained at less than 100 acres. The 2 major fires (Popcorn and Corral) both required Type 1 incident commanded organizational structures. The heavy commitment of CAL FIRE Incident Command Teams in other areas necessitated the use of Federal Incident Management Teams (IMT) on these State fires.

The Popcorn Fire originated on the Shasta-Trinity Unit, spread onto LMU on June 22 and LMU assumed command. The fire, burning in the Popcorn

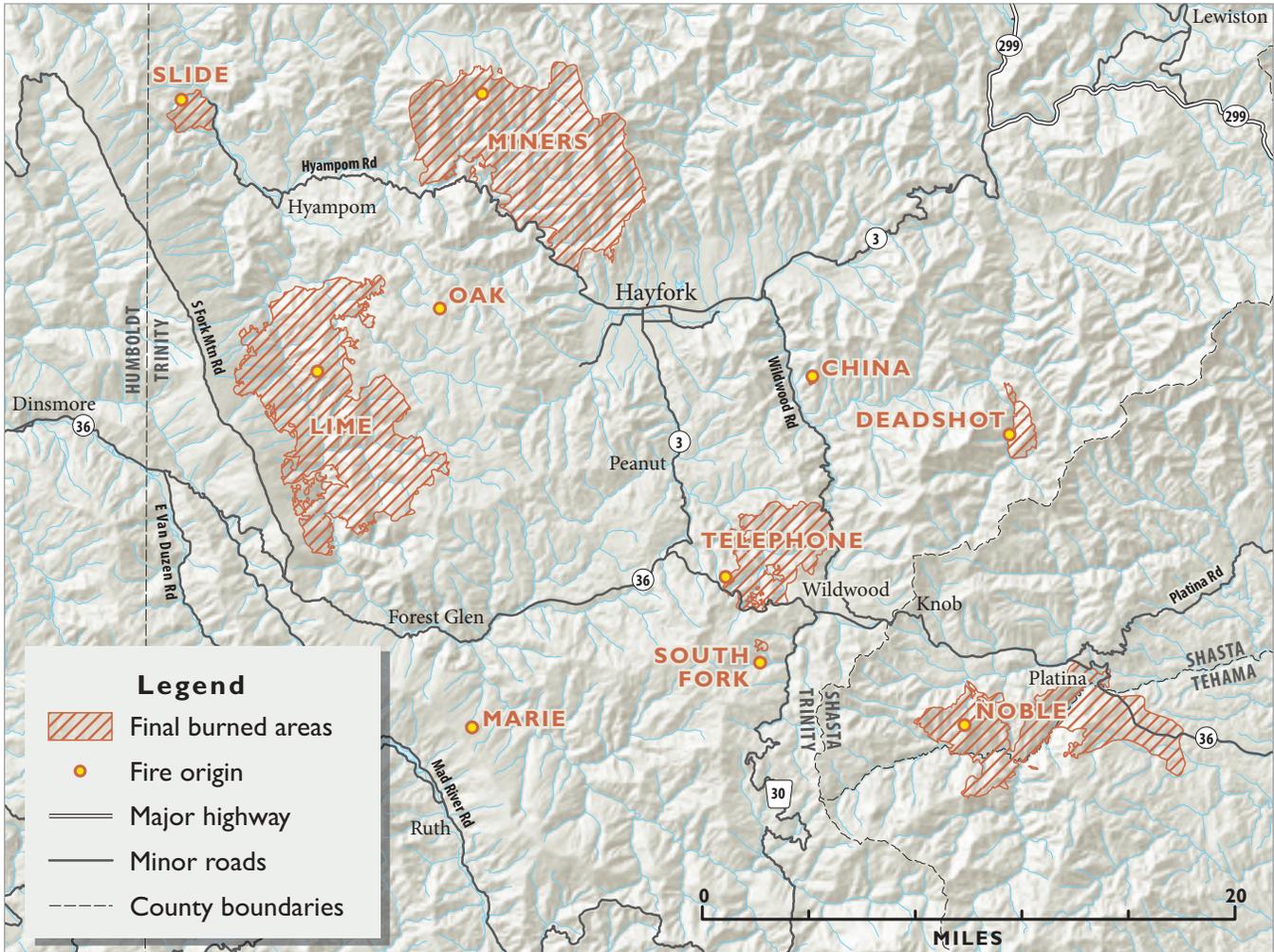
Wild and Scenic Area, was an immediate threat to the Pitt River Power transmission lines. Precautionary evacuations were in progress and helicopters, engines and crews were identified as critical resource needs. This fire was the number 1 LMU priority.

By June 23 at 1800 hours, fire fighting personnel were having good success with 44 of 52 total fires contained. Reconnaissance aircraft flew the unit looking for hold-over (undetected/unreported) fires from the prior days lightning. A new fire was discovered late in the afternoon in Gooch Valley (Corral Fire).

Separate reporting of Popcorn Fire and Corral Fire began June 24. No new fires were reported after the discovery of the Corral Fire. All of the remaining fires in the LMU June Lightning Complex were being mopped up and patrolled. Excess resources and personnel were reassigned to the Corral Fire.

The LMU June Lightning Complex was declared 100% contained on June 25 with a total of 50 acres burned.

# Lime Complex



**STATISTICS**

**Number of Fires:** 72

**Major Fires/Containment Date/Acres:**

Noble	7/11	12,870
Slide	6/26	1,547
Telephone	7/12	6,643
Deadshot	7/1	1,070
Miners	8/14	24,370
Lime	8/14	24,984

Iron	—	—
Trough	7/21	3,690
<b>County:</b>	Trinity	
<b>Affected Communities:</b>	Wildwood, Hayfork, Hyampom, Platina, Harrison Gulch	
<b>Agencies in Command:</b>	USFS	
<b>Teams Assigned:</b>	IMT T-2 (Kaage), T-1 IMT#4 (Opliger), Southwest	

<b>IMT T-1 (Hughes); AK IMT T-1 (Wilcock), SoCal T-2 IMT (Woychak)</b>
<b>Start Report Date:</b> 6/20 1650 hrs.
<b>Containment Date:</b> 8/12/08 with 64,502 acres burned
<b>Total Acres:</b> 99,585
<b>Direct Fire Suppression Costs:</b> \$59,329,698

<b>Firefighters Assigned at Peak:</b> 1,628 on 7/22
<b>Structures Destroyed:</b> 5 (1 residential, 1 commercial, 3 outbuildings)
<b>Fatalities:</b> 0
<b>Fuels:</b> Timber, Chaparral
<b>Cause:</b> Lightning

## Lime Complex (continued)

The Lime Complex fires started with a series of lightning strikes on June 20 and 21. The fires were initially divided into three Branches: North (Slide Fire), Hyampom and South (Telephone, Deadshot and Noble Fires) Branches. On June 25, crews were pulled off of the Deadshot Fire when a fire on a neighboring jurisdiction compromised the road system. Crews on the South Peak Fire withdrew as fire intensity increased and the fire spots crossed the canyon. On June 26 the entire complex transitioned to CIIMT 4 (Opliger). Two spike camps were established.

June 26 the Iron Fire made a major run. Early on, the community of Platina was evacuated, and an evacuation center was established in Redding. Wildwood was under a voluntary evacuation order, with another evacuation center located in Weaverville. By June 29, 8 days into the incident, 31 out of 72 fires within the complex were contained. Highways 36 and 3 were impacted by the fires and smoke and temporary closures of Highway 36 were necessary. Fires on the Six Rivers National Forest and Mendocino National Forest affected operations on the Lime Complex. Coordination between Lime Complex, Iron Complex, and other nearby fires was critical for planning burning operations.

The Martin Mars flying boat was used effectively on the Iron fire. National Guard Taskforce “Pick”, made up of 200 guard members, conducted holding and mopping operations on the Telephone Fire. On July 7, AK IMT T-1 (Wilcock) assumed command and on the next day the Yolla Bolly complex came under the Lime Complex. On July 10, the Lime and Iron fires made large runs.

From July 8 to July 22, the Lime Complex assumed command of the Yolla Bolly Complex. On July 15, the Thomes, Slides and Vinegar fires merged, creating a larger Vinegar Fire.

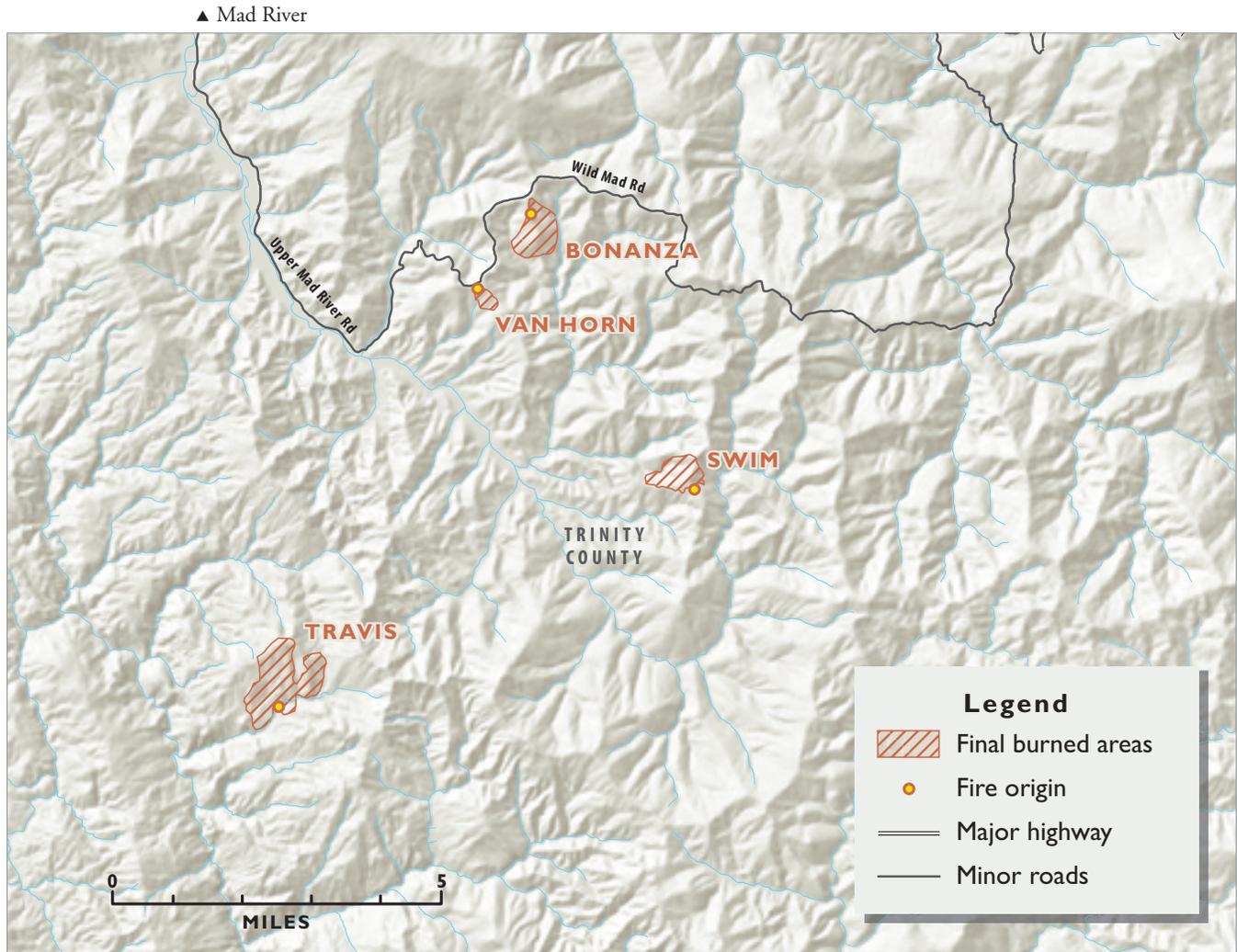
July 11, a plume-dominated fire on Yellow, Iron, & Wilderness fires caused expansion and the Iron, Wilderness #2, Wilderness #3 & Harvey Fires merged and were called the Iron-Harvey. Coordination with Iron Complex allowed fire fighters to complete burnout operations between the Eagle and Miners Fires. The Thomes, Slides, & Vinegar fires merged to be called the Vinegar Fire A, significant crown ran on Miners Fire July 16 moved the Miners Fire toward heavy blow-down fuels.

The small number of structures that were lost included the Lymedyke Lookout, a commercial structure, and a motor home burning on the Lime Fire near Friend’s Place.

July 22, South West T-1 IMT (Hughes) assumed command The Yellow Fire, Vinegar Fire, Trough Fire, and Grouse Fires are moved to the Yolla Bolly Complex. Northern Rockies T-1 (Larson) assumed command of Yolla Bolly Complex.

A departure Ceremony for CNG Task Force “Pick” was held on July 29. A new Spike camp was established at Forest Glen to support resources on the Lime Fire. On August 5, Southern California T-2 IMT (Woychak) assumed command. The Lime Complex was fully contained on August 12 with 64,502 acres burned.

# Mad Complex



## STATISTICS

**Number of Fires:** 36  
**Major Fires/Containment Date/Acres:**  
 Travis 6/28 1,700  
 Bonanza 7/3 1,370  
**County:** Humboldt, Trinity

**Affected Communities:**  
 Three Forks and Mad River  
**Agencies in Command:** USFS  
**Teams Assigned:** T-3 (Hays), T-3 (Liba); Ak T-3 (Lenon), T-4 (Howard), T-4 (Rudney)

**Start Report Date:** 6/20 4:00 PM  
**Containment Date:** 7/12  
**Total Acres:** 3,705 acres  
 (on 6/22 which was the last acreage reported under this incident #)  
**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:**  
 \$6,900,000

**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:**  
 388 on 7/4  
**Structures Destroyed:** 0  
**Fatalities:** 0  
**Fuels:** Timber and grass  
**Cause:** Lightning

## Mad Complex (continued)

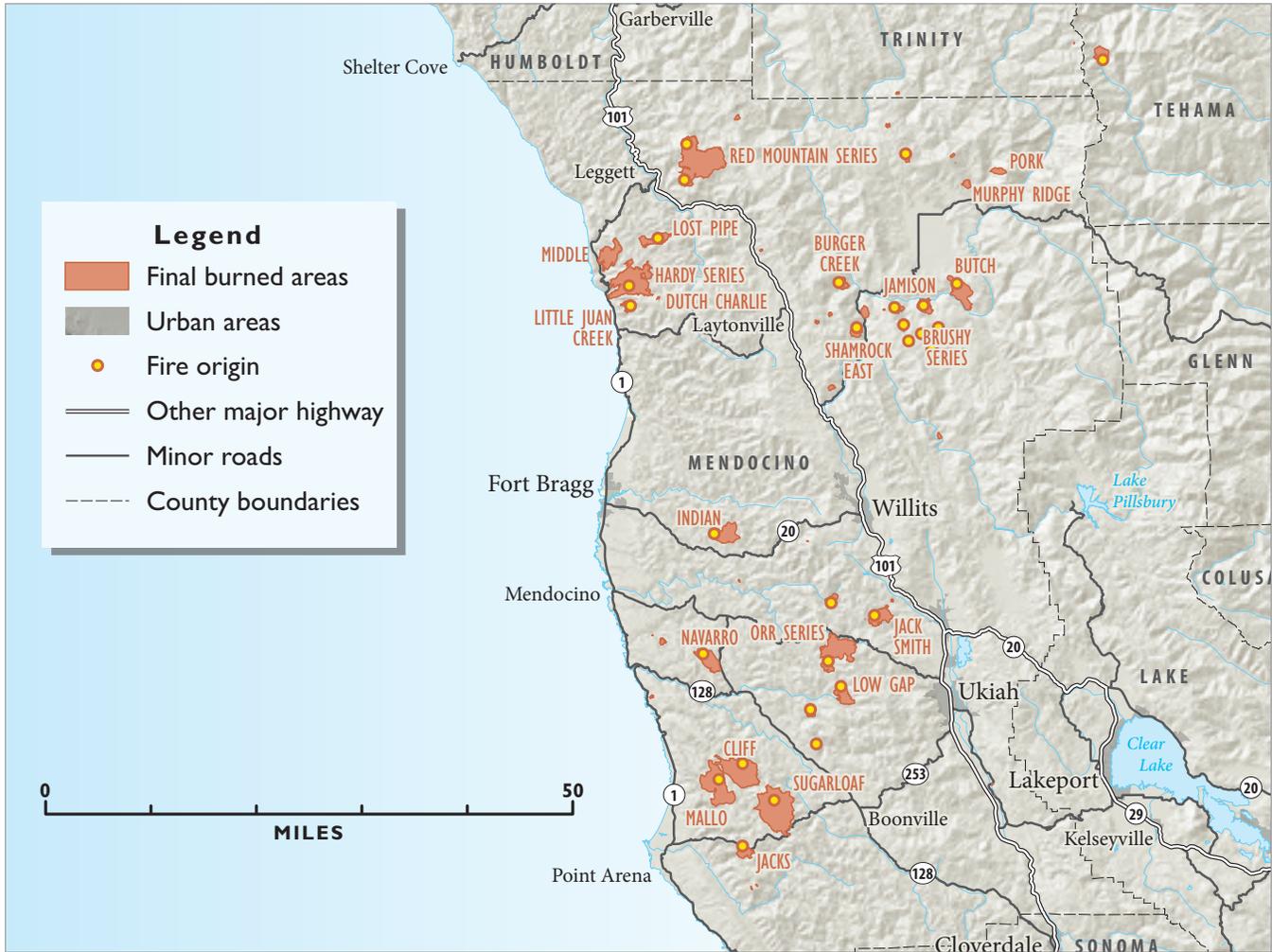
The Mad Complex consisted of 35 fires dispersed throughout the Mad River Ranger District of the Six Rivers National Forest. The fires started during the lightning storm on June 20th and threatened approximately 75 residences scattered throughout the district. Due to competition for resources, several fires in wilderness areas remained unstaffed. On July 1 the Creek, Waterspout and Spring fires merged and were then called the Waterspout I Fire.

Crews made good progress on a majority of the fires and by July 3, 26 fires were 100% contained with 8 fires unstaffed. The Bonanza fire, which burned in steep terrain continued to be a factor and unstaffed fires from adjacent complexes threatened to expand into the district.

By July 7th, the complex was reported as 3,705 acres and 90% contained due to three uncontained fires in the wilderness area. The remaining 32 fires were 100% contained. Crews were actively patrolling 34 fires. The Trough Fire from the Lime Complex burned into the Mad Complex area.

On July 13, the Mad Complex was close to being fully contained and command was transferred back to the local district. Four of the larger fires: Travis, Bonanza, Waterspout I, and Van Horn, continued to have interior burning. Starting July 10, some of the Lime Complex personnel were logistically supported by the Mad Complex Incident Command Base. On July 16, the Lime Complex assumed responsibility of the Mad Complex.

# Mendocino Lightning Complex



## STATISTICS

**Number of Fires:** 129

**Major Fires/Containment Date/Acres:**

Navarro	6/27	1,853
Indian Fire		2,209
Orr Fire		3,416
Jack Smith		1,538
Low Gap		1,347
Red Mtn Fire		7,515
Cliff	7/17	4,658
Mallo	7/17	4,466

Sugarloaf Fire	7/17	7,079
Hardy	7/17	5,581
Lost Pipe	7/17	1,199
Butch Fire		1,749
Travis		1,176
Middle	7/17	2,067
<b>County:</b> Mendocino		
<b>Affected Communities:</b> Foster Creek, Greenfield Ranch, Chicken Ridge, Orr Springs Road, Hearst, Cherry Ck, Running Springs,		

Rockport, Fort Bragg, Ukiah Valley, Cummings, Legget, Signal Ridge, Sky Ranch Estates, Howard Ck.  
**Agencies in Command:** CAL FIRE's Mendocino Unit (MEU)  
**Teams assigned:** CAL FIRE ICT # 4 (Waterman)  
**Start Report Date:** 6/20 1800 hrs.  
**Containment Date:** 7/17/08  
**Total Acres:** 54,819

**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$66,000,000  
**Firefighter Assigned at Peak:** 2,290 on 7/16  
**Structures Destroyed:** 2 total (1 residence and 1 outbuilding)  
**Fatalities:** 1 on 7/3 – Mendocino County local government v olunteer firefighter  
**Fuels:** Timber, brush, and grass  
**Cause:** Lightning

## Mendocino Lightning Complex (continued)

While the Mendocino Unit was able to contain most of its 129 lightning fires within a few days after the storm, about a dozen became large, damaging fires that took several weeks to contain. Long duration fires included the Mallo, Cliff, and Sugarloaf fires in the rugged, heavily forested coastal area between Boonville and Point Arena. The Navarro Fire to the north actively burned in coastal Redwood forest. These fires burned a significant amount of commercial timberland.

A second major group of large damaging fires was concentrated along the coast north of Fort Bragg, where the Middle, Hardy, Lost Pipe, and Little Juan Creek fires burned in valuable redwood timber. Several of these fires are on the lands of Mendocino Redwood Company, which took aggressive independent firefighting action until CAL FIRE could obtain enough suppression resources to staff them.

A third group of major fires was located west of Ukiah, where the Orr Series Jack Smith, Horse, and Low Gap fires had the potential to merge into one giant fire. This could have posed a significant threat to the heavily populated Ukiah Valley. Evacuation plans for the Ukiah area were developed in conjunction with Mendocino County authorities, but large-scale evacuations did not become necessary. These fires

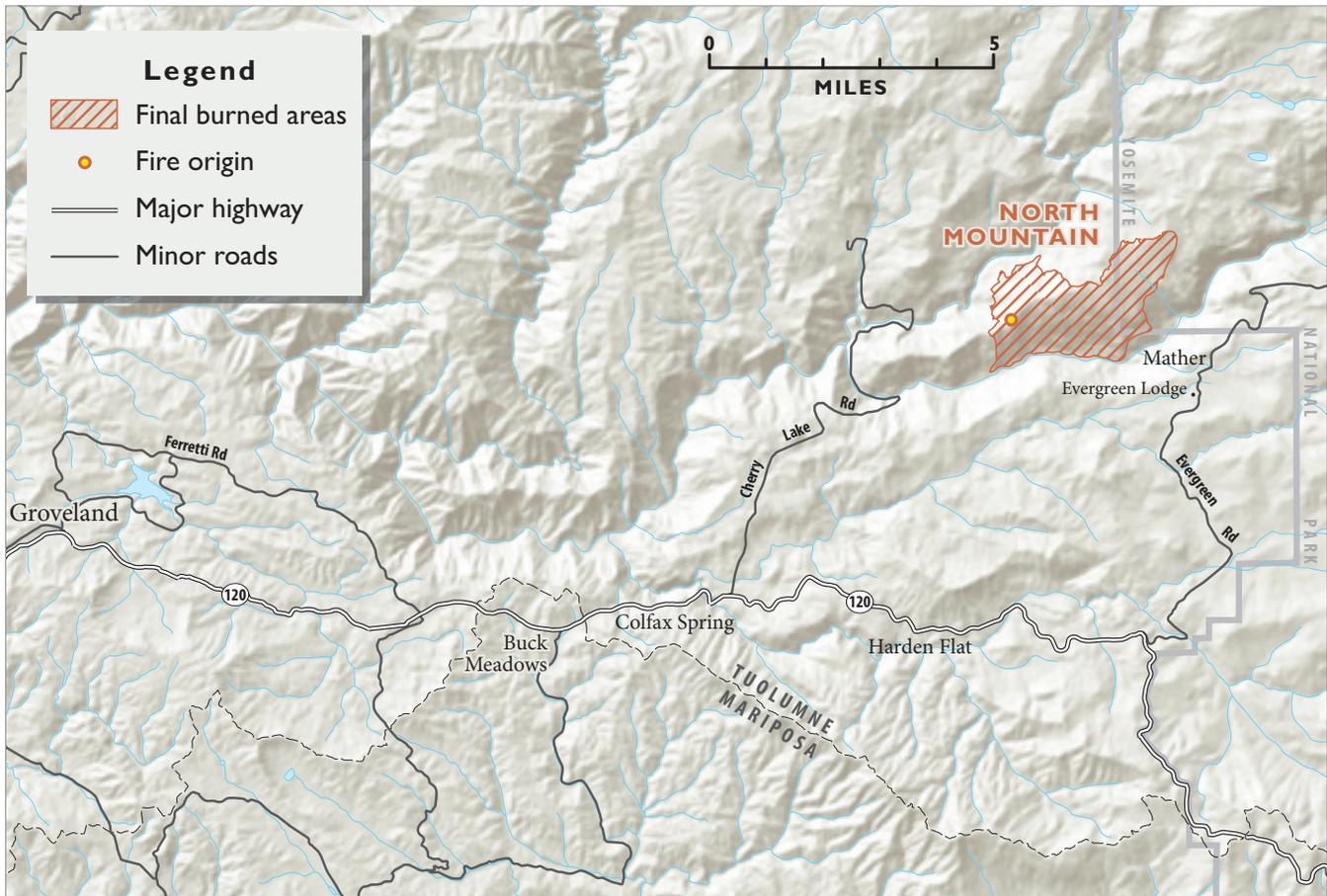
threatened Montgomery Woods State Park, and Orr's Springs Resort where some evacuations took place.

Several other large fires, including the Red Mountain, Indian, Butch, Jamison, and Travis Fires were located in remote, rugged, difficult to access, mountainous terrain. It took a while to gather enough suppression resources to contain these fires. The Red Mountain Fire was particularly troublesome, burning with high intensity on several days and threatens a high-value international fiber optic communications cable.

The geographic scope of this complex provided a significant organizational and logistical challenge for the MEU and CAL FIRE's Incident Command Team #4. Creative tactics, determination, hard work and cooperation between state and local agencies and the large, private landowners proved a winning combination in the long run.

The fires burned commercial timber, valued at more than \$65 million, but only 2 structures were destroyed. Sadly, a volunteer firefighter from the Anderson Valley Volunteer Fire Department lost his life fighting these fires.

# North Mountain Fire



## STATISTICS

**Complex Fire #:** CA-STF-1063  
**County:** Tuolumne  
**Affected Communities:** Yosemite National Park, Camp Mather and

the Evergreen Lodge  
**Agencies in Command:** USFS  
**Teams Assigned:** Type 2 (Woychak),  
 Team Type 3 (McMenimen) Start  
**Report Date:** 06/21 3:48 p.m.

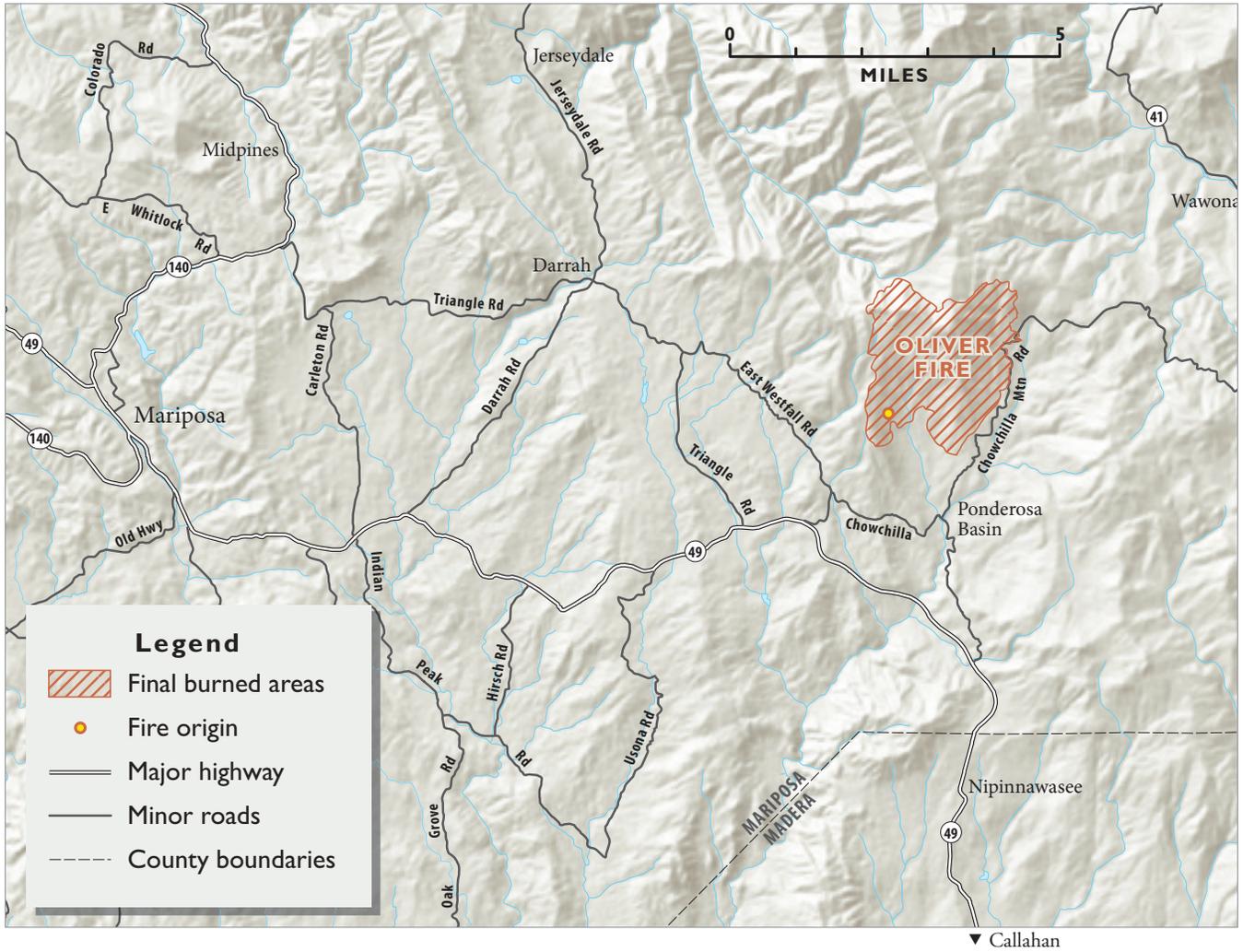
**Containment Date:** 07/03  
**Total Acres:** 2,889  
**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:**  
 \$6,250,000  
**Firefighter Assigned at Peak:** 529 6/28

**Structures Destroyed:** 0  
**Fatalities:** 0  
**Fuels:** Chaparral, Heavy Brush and Timber  
**Cause:** Lightning

The North Mountain Fire was started by lightning, on June 21 and was reported at 3:48 p.m. The fire burned heavy brush and timber in steep, inaccessible terrain, northeast of Groveland in Stanislaus County. Of critical concern was the large number of poison oak cases affecting fire fighters. A large-scale treatment for crews was conducted at the Base Camp Medical Unit. By June 29th, the fire was 35% contained at 2,697 acres. The fire continued moving east up the

Tuolumne River into Yosemite National Park. Structure and evacuation contingencies remained in place for Camp Mather. There were large groups of children at Camp Mather that required extended evacuation times due to limited access, narrow roads, and a shortage of buses. On July 4th, aided by four Marine CH 46 Helicopters, the North Mountain Fire was contained at 2,889 acres.

# Oliver Fire



**STATISTICS**

**Complex Fire #:** CA-MMU-008107  
**County:** Mariposa  
**Affected Communities:** Ponderosa Basin subdivision, Wawona (within Yosemite National Park), Cedar Valley and Fish Camp

**Agencies in Command:** Unified command with CalFire, Mariposa Co. Fire Department, Mariposa Co. Sheriff, and California Highway Patrol  
**Start Report Date:** 06/21/ 5:10 p.m.  
**Containment Date:** 07/05

**Total Acres:** 2,789  
**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$12,217,857  
**Firefighter Assigned at Peak:** 1,324 on 6/29  
**Structures Destroyed:** 0

**Fatalities:** 0  
**Fuels:** Mixed timber, heavy brush, jackpots of heavy fuels and downed fuels.  
**Cause:** Lightning

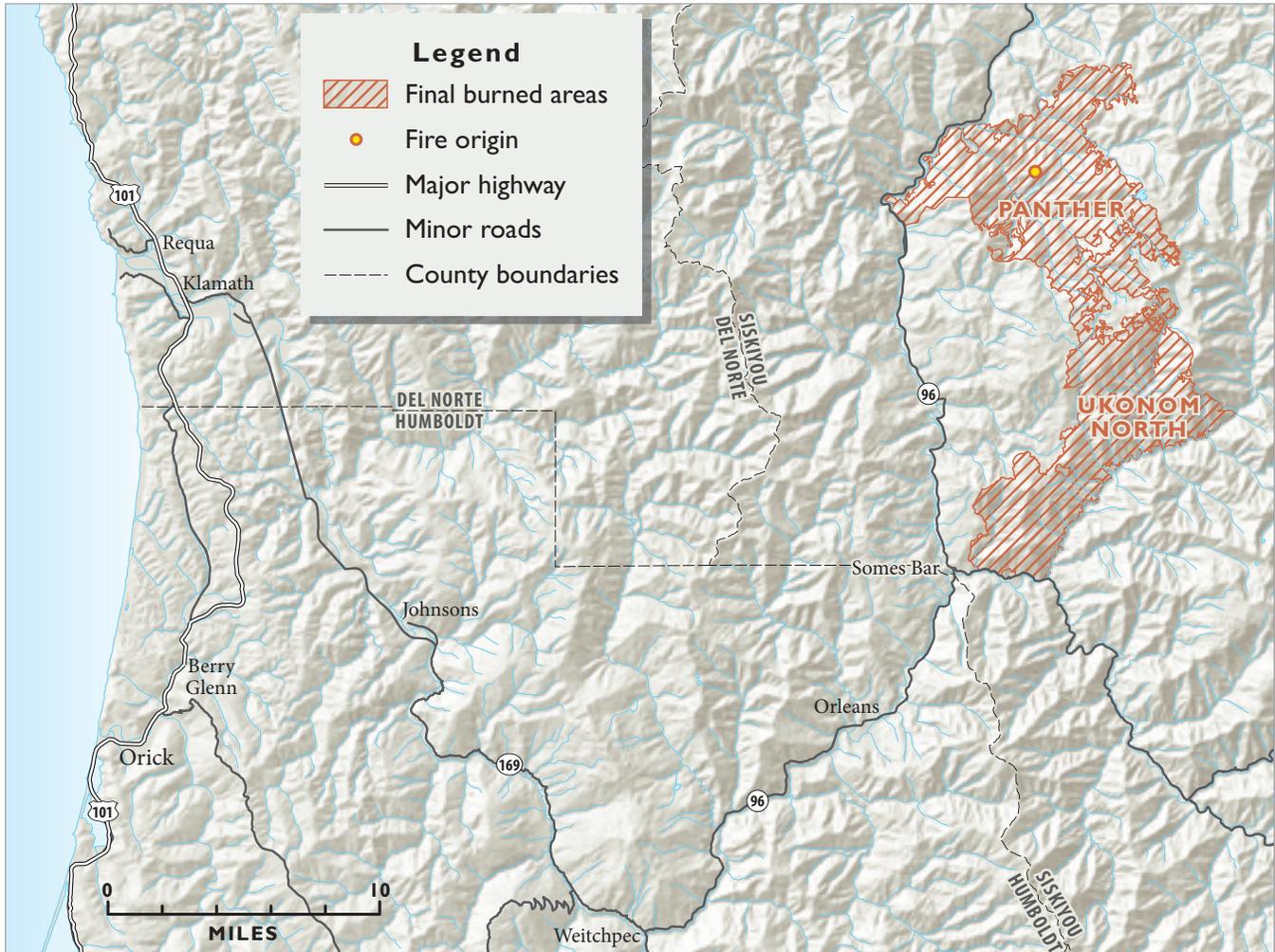
On the evening of June 21, the Oliver Fire was ignited by lightning and reported north of Ponderosa Basin in Mariposa County. When the CAL FIRE team took command on the 24th, the fire was at 1,400 acres and 15 percent contained. The fire burned in timber, moved toward the Ponderosa Basin subdivision and threatened 200 residences and 225 outbuildings. Evacuations were underway.

On June 25, with a weather warning for possible outflow winds associated with thunderstorm development in the Sierras, the fire continued to burn in steep, inaccessible terrain with heavy fuels. It burned 2,200 acres, 750 to 800 acres of timber and threatened more than 100,000 additional acres of timber.

Watershed values at risk include the Devils Gulch drainage, which is a major tributary to the Wild and Scenic Merced River. A Forest Service Resource Advisor worked with the team to identify historical sites within the fire area.

Crews continued to make progress through June 30 with line construction and improvement while large unburned islands continued to have activity. Only a few areas resulted in slow, difficult progress for crews. On July 2, the evacuation warnings for the residents in the Ponderosa Basin were lifted as containment lines continued to hold. The Oliver Fire was fully contained on July 5.

# Panther Fire (Non-siege Fire)



## STATISTICS

**Number of Fires:** 2 fires total (beginning 8/16 when Ukonom North added to Panther)

**Major Fires/Containment Date/Acres:**

Panther	9/26	24,954
North Ukonom	9/23	23,154

**County:** Siskiyou

**Affected Communities:**

Structures along Klamath River  
**Agencies in Command:** US Forest Service, Klamath National Forest  
**Teams Assigned:** USFS: T-3 (Baker); 7/27, CIIMT 5, (Dietrick); 7/29, T-1 (McGowan); 8/12, Great Basin IMT T-2 (Harvey); 9/13, NIMO, (Gage under Klamath Theatre); T-2 IMT (Kaage); IC T-3 (Cherry).

**Start Report Date:** 7/22 12:21 AM

**Containment Date:** 10/8/2008

**Total Acres:** 9/26 – 53,149 acres (includes North Ukonom acreage)  
 10/8 – 72,344 acres

**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:**  
 Panther Only \$16,270,273; and Ukonom Fire (Combines North and South) - \$25,757,622

**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:**

864 on 8/11  
**Structures Destroyed:** 0  
**Fatalities:** 1 on 7/27  
**Fuels:** Timber, brush, snags  
**Cause:** Lightning  
**Jurisdiction:** US Forest Service, Klamath National Forest

Ignited by lightning, the Panther Fire was reported on July 24 in a steep inaccessible area 15 miles south of Happy Camp. Spreading at a slow rate, with some individual trees torching, early fire reports indicated possible containment by the end of the month.

On July 26, Chief Daniel Bruce Packer, 49, of Lake Tapps, Washington, assigned as a Division Group supervisor suffered fatal injuries which resulted from thermal burns and smoke inhalation after he deployed his fire shelter when the fire activity suddenly increased. Rolling material drove the fire down the slope towards Ukonom Creek and the Klamath River. Large standing snags, left by 1987 King Titus Fire actively burned. 30 residences and 60 outbuildings were threatened.

By August 2, the Panther Fire grew to 7,115 acres with no containment. Crossing Ukonom Creek, the fire burned toward the Ukonom Lookout and to the northwest of Ten Bear Mountain. The smoke column was clearly visible from Highway 96. A Fire Weather Watch was issued for thunderstorms and dry lightning from August 5th through 6th.

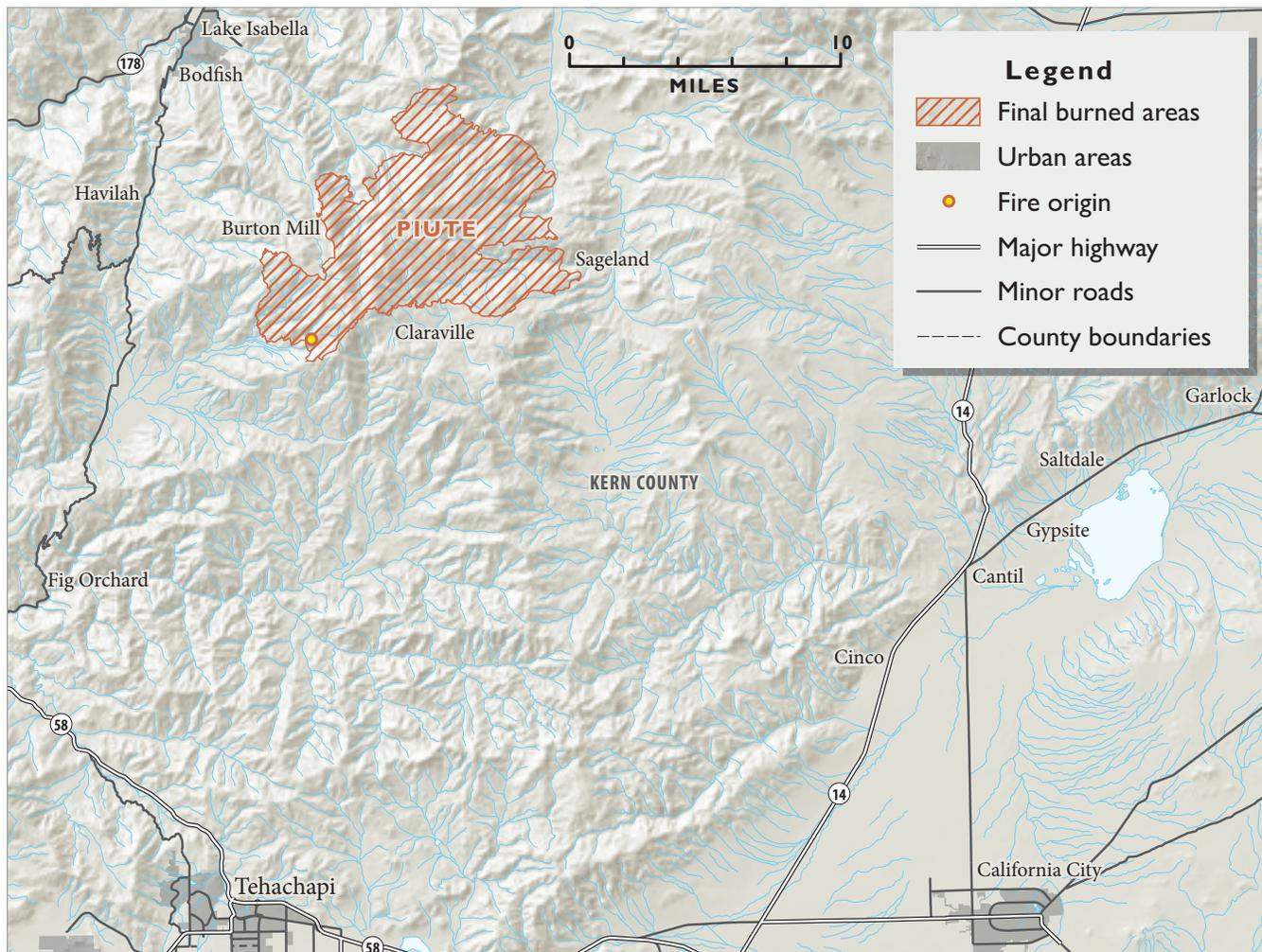
On August 15, favorable weather conditions allowed firefighters to make good progress as they secured fire lines and conducted mop up activities. The Panther Fire was 60% contained and 23,214 acres. The Panther Fire was managed along with the North Ukonom Fire by one incident management team.

As the Panther and North Ukonom Fires continued to burn east into the Marble Mountain Wilderness area, containment objectives were met on the fireline outside of the wilderness area on August 20, 2008. The fires within the wilderness area were closely monitored as they continued to burn naturally. Meanwhile smoke impacts along Klamath River corridor restricted recreational activities and close various sites along the river.

By September 11, at 49,029 acres and 75% contained, the management of the Panther was transferred to the Klamath Theater as fire managers awaited the autumn rains.

On October 2, a southerly wind caused a big run with long-range spotting and the fire-expanded several thousand acres. Over 2 inches of rain came on October 4.

# Piute Fire



## STATISTICS

**County:** Kern

**Affected Communities:** Bodfish, Lake Isabella, Erskine Creek, and Thompson Creek

**Agencies in Command:** USFS, BLM, Kern County Fire Department  
**Teams Assigned:** Type 2 (Smith), PNW T-1 (Hoff) and T-1 (Molunby)  
**Start Report Date:** 6/28/2008

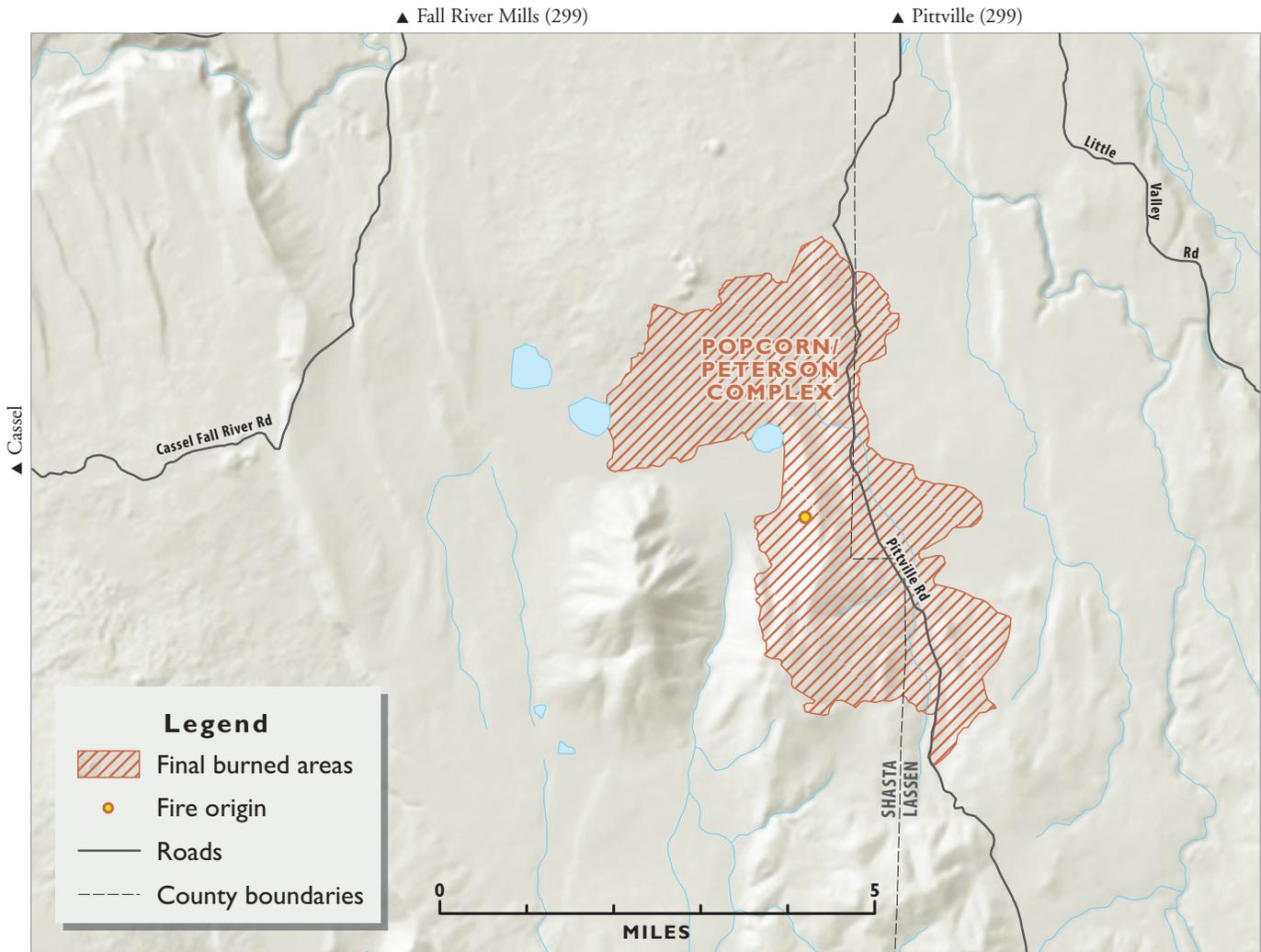
**Containment Date:** 7/25/2008  
**Total Acres:** 37,026 acres  
**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$25,000,000  
**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 1,633

**Structures Destroyed:** 6 residences, 45 outbuildings  
**Fatalities:** 0  
**Fuels:** Timber, brush and grass  
**Cause:** Lightning

The Piute Fire started in a remote area to the southeast of the communities of Bodfish and Lake Isabella. Extremely dry fuel burned with high intensity; the fire was channeled by the terrain in several directions simultaneously. Within 24 hours, the fire grew to over 2,000 acres and was well established in steep and inaccessible canyons. The fire was pushed in all

directions by continuously shifting winds, and plagued firefighters for several days. On the night of July 13th, a severe rainstorm passed over the fire and required crews to be pulled off the line for safety. Several roads led into the fire were damaged or closed by flooding. However, the higher humidity and improved weather enabled crews to get the upper hand. The Piute Fire was fully contained on July 25.

# Popcorn/Peterson Complex



## STATISTICS

**Number of Fires:** 3  
**Major Fires:** Popcorn, Peterson, H-1  
**County:** Shasta and Lassen  
**Affected Communities:** Little Valley and Pittville

**Agencies in Command:** Unified Command, USFS, CAL FIRE  
**Teams Assigned:** Type 1 Southern Red Team (Ruggerio)  
**Start Report Date:** 6/21 4:00 PM

**Containment Date:** 6/30/2008  
**Total Acres:** 7,842 acres  
**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$2,649,044  
**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 404

**Structures Destroyed:** 0  
**Fatalities:** 0  
**Fuels:** Timber, brush, and grass  
**Cause:** Lightning

## Popcorn/Peterson Complex (continued)

The Peterson Complex was composed of three fires: the H-1, Popcorn Fire and Peterson Fires, all located twelve miles east of Cassel. The fires started during the lightning storm on June 21st and burned in timber, brush and grass on steep southern aspects.

The Popcorn Fire originated in Shasta County under the SHU Burney Battalion LCA, and quickly burned onto the Lassen - Modoc Unit (LMU) and was included in the LMU June Lightning Complex. On June 23 the Popcorn Fire was separated from the LMU June Lightning complex and was reported as a separate incident.

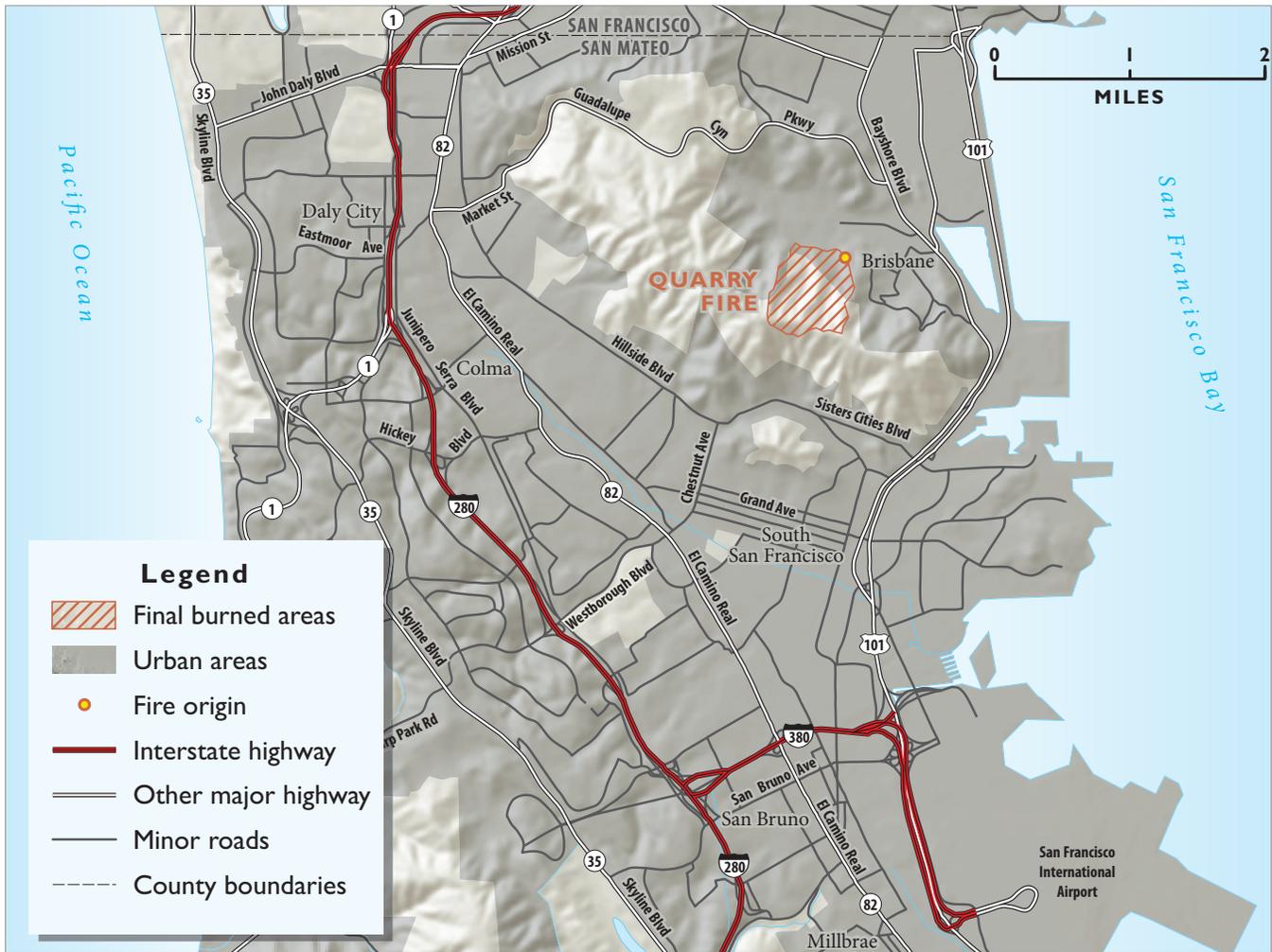
The Peterson Fire was reported by the Lassen National Forest. The Communities of Little Valley and Pittville were threatened and under precautionary evacuation. As predicted, the 3,000 acre Popcorn Fire and the 1,200 acre Peterson Fire merged.

When the Popcorn Fire merged with the Peterson Fire on June 24, unified command with CAL FIRE and USFS was established. On June 25, the Type 1 team under unified command with CAL FIRE transitioned and the fires were moved to a new incident number (CA-LNF-002725) named the Peterson Complex.

The fire damaged and threatened a PG&E power line, which was shut down. The fire also posed a threat to the railroad lines and an endangered trout species. Spot fires continued to hamper containment strategies for many days. On June 28, Red Flag warnings were in place for a threat of dry lightning. Resources from the Peterson Complex were made available as the team prepared to transition the Complex to a type 3 organization under the Forest.

The Peterson Complex was 100% contained at 7,842 acres on June 30th. The morning of July 1, the fire transitioned management back to the LNF.

# Quarry Fire



**STATISTICS**

County: San Mateo  
 Affected Communities: Brisbane  
 Agencies in Command: CAL FIRE

Teams Assigned: CAL FIRE San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit (CZU)  
 Start Report Date: 6/22 7:33 PM  
 Containment Date: 6/23/2008

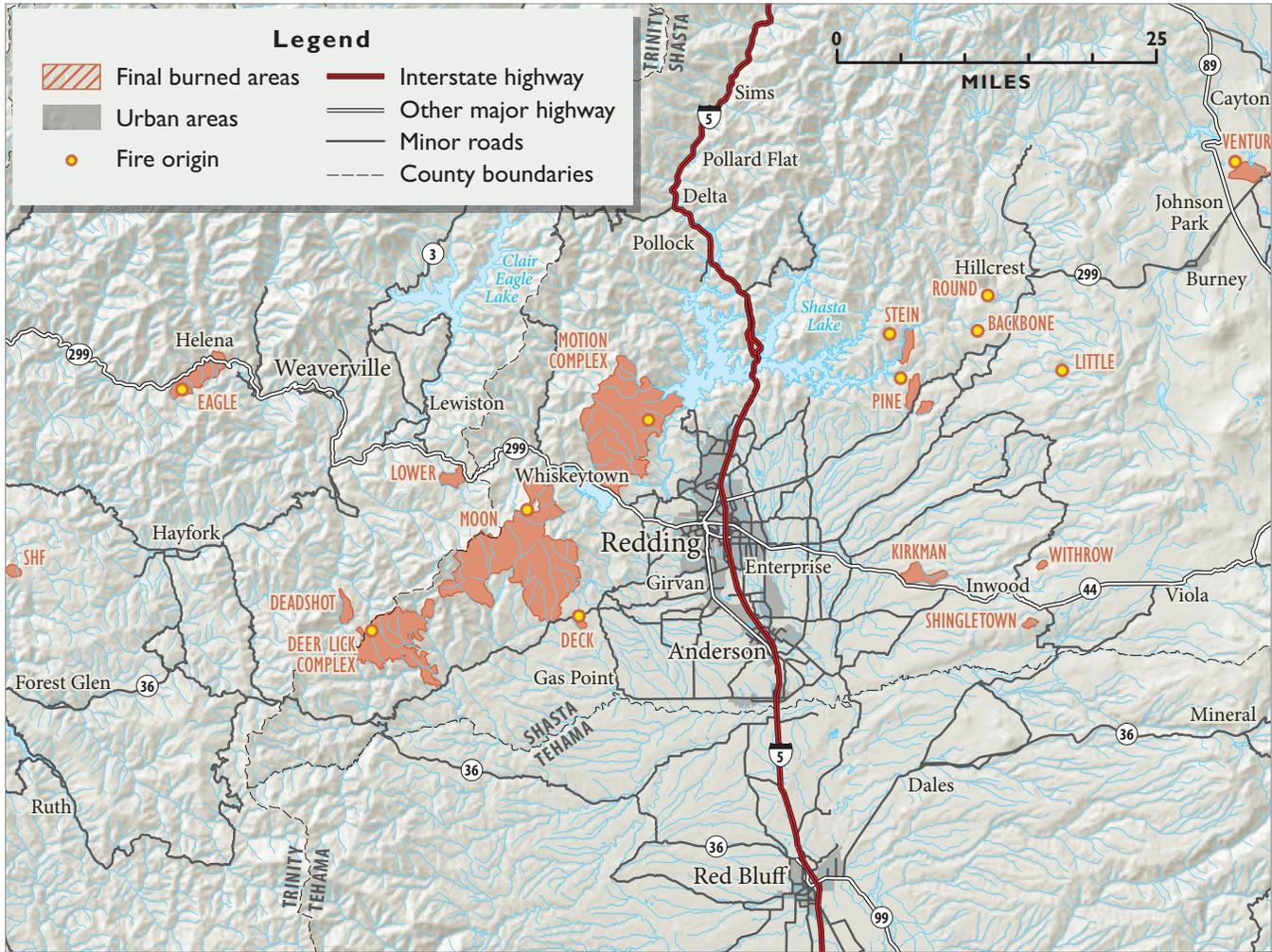
Total Acres: 300 acres  
 Direct Fire Suppression Costs: Unknown  
 Firefighters Assigned at Peak: 87

Structures Destroyed: 0  
 Fatalities: 0  
 Fuels: Grass and brush  
 Cause: Under investigation

The Quarry Fire started June 22, threatening 450 structures. A major high-voltage transmission line was over the fire. An additional concern for the firefighters and public was the proximity of the fire to San Francisco International Airport. The air traffic in and out of the airport impacted firefighting aircraft

supporting ground resources. Smoke from the fire had the potential to impact national and international flights. By the morning of June 23rd, the fire had grown to 300 acres but was 85% contained. Evacuations were lifted and full containment was achieved by June 24th.

# Shasta Lightning Complex



## STATISTICS

**Number of Fires:** 158

**Major Fires/Containment Date/Acres:**

Moon	7/21	29,031
Motion	7/26	28,336
<i>(Merged with Democrat – contained 7/3)</i>		
Deerlick	7/15	12,701
Pine fire	6/27	3,000
Kirkman	6/27	2,500
Venture	6/26	1,500

**County:** Shasta & Trinity CAL FIRE's Shasta-Trinity Unit

**Affected Communities:** Douglas City, Weaverville, Junction City, Lewiston, Keswick, Iron Mtn. Road, Shasta Dam, French Gulch, Whiskey Creek, Centerville, Igo, Ono, Rainbow Lakes, Platina, Jones Valley, Oak Run, Whitmore, Montgomery Creek, Burney and Shingletown

**Agencies in Command:** CAL FIRE ICT #10 (Kerschen)

**Start Report Date:** 6/21 0500 hrs.

**Containment Date:** 7/25/08

**Total Acres:** 86,500

**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$56,171,112

**Firefighter Assigned at Peak:** 2,779 on 7/16

**Structures Destroyed:** 22 total (6 residences and 16 outbuildings)

**Fatalities:** 0

**Fuels:** Timber, Oak woodland, brush and grass

**Cause:** Lightning

The storm entered Western Trinity County at approximately 1730 hours on the afternoon of June 20th. By 6:30 a.m., June 21st, the command center begins receiving reports of fires. An initial report of 40 confirmed fires was released.

By June 23rd the lightning subsided but reports of new fires continued. A total of 158 fires were started by the lightning event with all areas of the unit (western Trinity and Shasta County) with active fires. All of the unit's engines and fire crews were assigned and personnel were called back to staff the reserve and camp fire engines. This left the Unit with one available Shasta County Fire engine and one CAL FIRE engine for additional initial attack fires and medical emergencies. Assistance from local fire agencies was requested until additional CAL FIRE resources were moved in to the area.

CAL FIRE assumed command on June 23rd. Given the priority of life and property protection over natural resource values, the strategy for the complex was to attack the small fires first, and concentrate scarce resources such as aircraft on the fires on the east side of the Sacramento Valley that posed threats to more populated areas, particularly the Whitmore and Shingletown communities. Located uphill from heavy brush fuels, the homes concentrated in these scenic woodland and timber settings were particularly vulnerable. An additional concern was to keep the two main eastbound highways (44 and 299) from Redding open, if possible.

This strategy resulted in all but 5 of the 158 total fires being contained by June 27th. The Stein Fire was contained on July 1st and the Lower Fire was

contained on the Fourth of July, which left only three fires uncontained.

Unfortunately, the three remaining fires (the Deerlick, Moon, and Motion Fires) were well-established and in very difficult terrain. At the end of the second week, temperatures exceeded 110 degrees with unusually strong northerly winds. This weather pattern caused the greatest single increase in fire behavior for the entire incident.

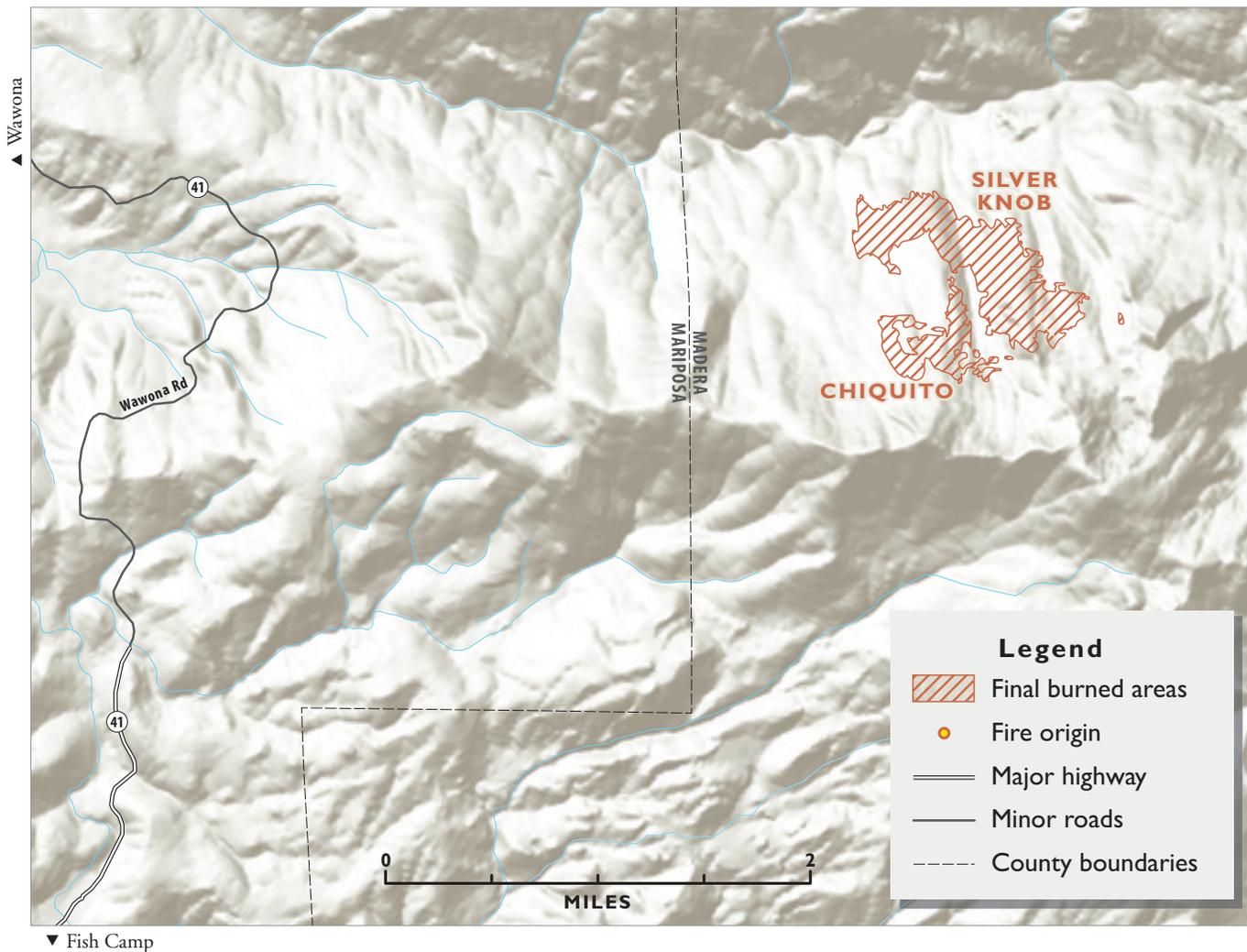
The Motion Fire burned in the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area west of Lake Shasta. This fire posed a significant threat to the Western Power Grid electric generation and transmission facilities at Shasta Dam.

The Moon Fire burned in the vicinity of the small communities of Igo and Ono, west of Redding and eventually merged with the fires burning in the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. On July 9, high temperatures, low RH, gusty, erratic winds drove the Moon Fire into the populated areas of these communities, and firefighters spent an exciting, but exhausting afternoon and evening of house-to-house fire combat.

The Deer Lick Fire was located in the remote, rugged mountainous terrain along the Trinity/Shasta county line. This fire was not an immediate threat to any populated areas, but was in terrain requiring large numbers of hand crews, which were in extremely short supply for a long time.

After several weeks of intensive effort, the Deer Lick Fire was contained on July 15th; the Moon Fire was contained on July 21st; and the Motion Fire was contained on July 26th.

# Silver Complex



## STATISTICS

**Number of Fires:** 6

**Major Fires:**

Silver Knob and Chiquito Fires

**County:** Madera and Mariposa

**Affected Communities:** Bass Lake,

North Fork, and Fish Camp

**Agencies in Command:** USFS

**Teams Assigned:**

Sierra National Forest

**Start Report Date:** 6/21

**Containment Date:** 7/2

**Total Acres:** 1,161 acres

**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:**

\$3,360,000

**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 529

**Structures Destroyed:** 0

**Fatalities:** 0

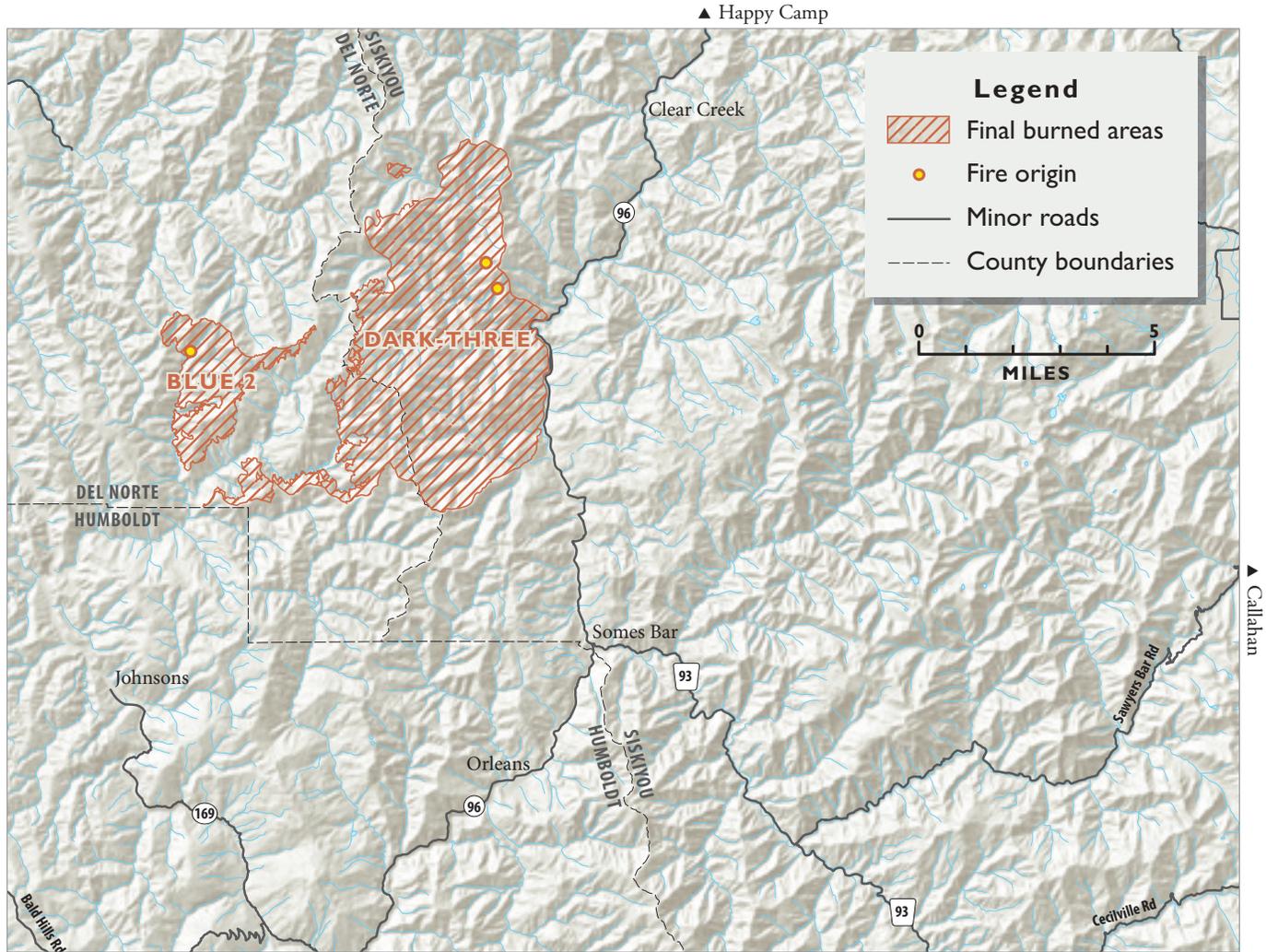
**Fuels:** Brush and timber

**Cause:** Lightning

The fires burned in steep inaccessible terrain and required significant air support for successful containment. One of the fires in the complex, the Oliver Fire, was separated from the complex to

facilitate its control. The Silver Complex was managed by a NIMO Team. Given its remote location, the Silver Complex had minimal impacts on the public, residences or infrastructure.

# Siskiyou Complex



## STATISTICS

**Number of Fires:** 6 fires total (5 original; with Blue 2 fire added on 8/13)

**Major Fires:** Mill Fire, Dark-Three Fire, Jackass Too, Headwaters, Blue2

**County:** Siskiyou

**Affected Communities:** Structures along Klamath River, Dillon Creek

Campground, and Sacred Native American sites

**Agencies in Command:** USFS

**Teams Assigned:** USFS – 6/22 ORCA IMT-2, (Paul); 7/6 NorCal IMT 1, (Swartzlander); 7/21 CIIMT 5, (Dietrick); 8/2 Alaska T-1, (Wilcock); 8/19 ORCA IMT-2, (Paul); 9/1 IMT T-3, (Bowers); 9/13,

NIMO, (Gage under Klamath Theatre).

**Start Report Date:** 6/21 2:00 a.m.

**Containment Date:** 9/26

**Total Acres:** 9/26 – 88,069 acres

**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** Siskiyou (\$44,566,566); Blue 2 (\$21,725,190); Combined (\$66,291,756)

**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 1,522 on 8/3

**Structures Destroyed:** 0

**Fatalities:** 1 (grader operator injured on 9/5 succumbed to injuries on 9/11)

**Fuels:** Timber, brush

**Cause:** Lightning

## Siskiyou Complex (continued)

The Siskiyou Complex Fires were started on June 21 by lightning around 2:00 a.m. Located 20 miles southwest from Happy Camp, the Siskiyou Complex, they didn't immediately threaten structures or private land. The 5 fires that were initially included in the complex, Mill, Dark, Three, Jackass Too, and Headwater were located in very rugged, steep terrain with few roads and contain stands of large trees.

By June 26, the Siskiyou Complex was estimated at 5,000 acres and 12% contained. The Mill, Three, and Dark Fires merged and were then referred to as the Dark-Three Fire. Structures were threatened, and Highway 96 and Dillon Creek Campground were closed. Significant cultural and religious sites of the Karuk and Yurok tribes were at risk. The high elevation fires, the Jackass Too and Headwater fires, remained smaller than 100 acres.

By July 12, the Jackass Too fire merged with the Dark-Three fire for combined total of 32,453 acres and 16% containment. Red Flag conditions for low relative humidity, hot temperatures, and gusty winds, initiated very active fire behavior, especially in areas where the wind aligns with steep slopes. The fire jumped the south containment lines in excess of 1,000 acres and

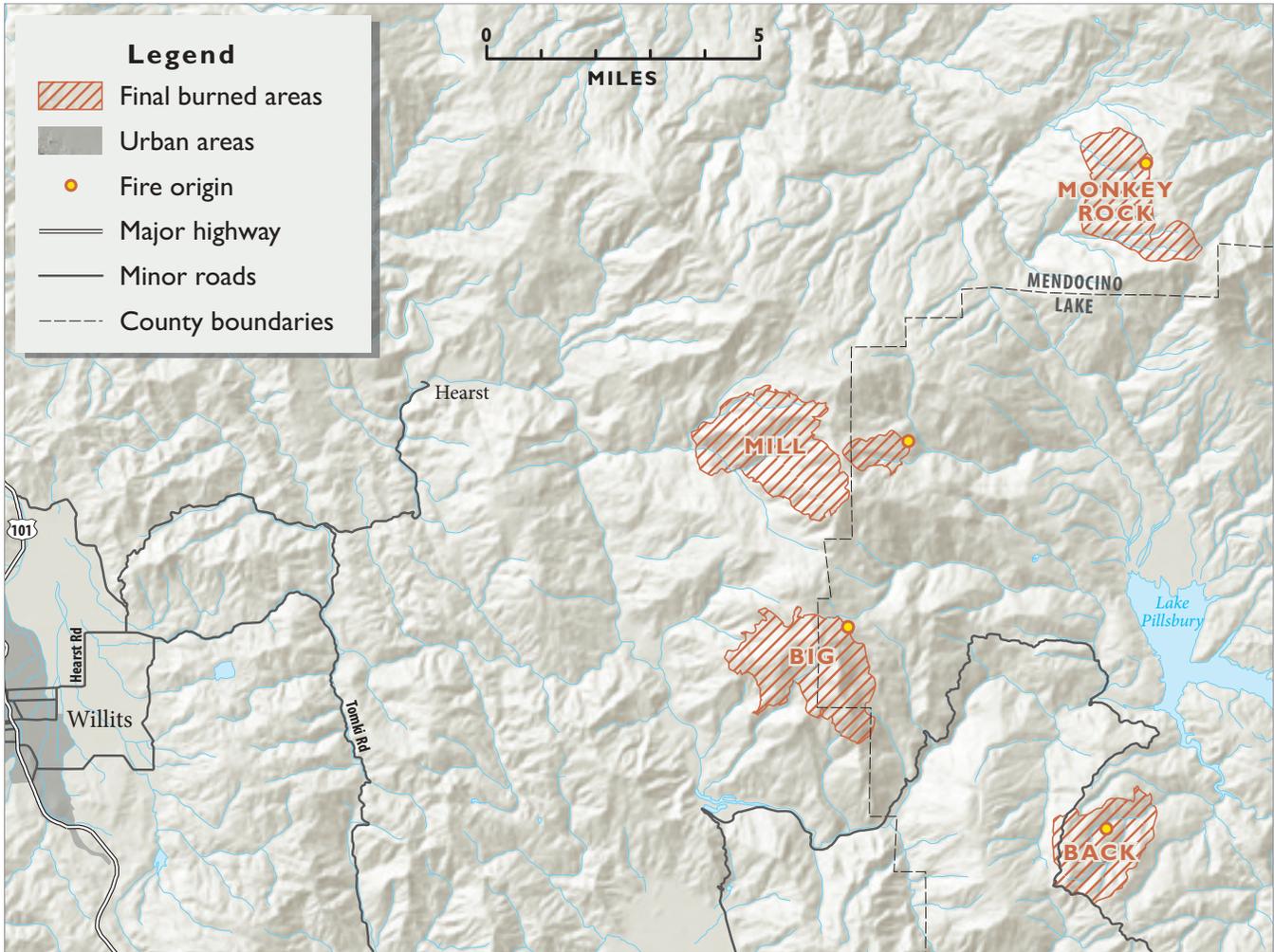
direct line construction was initiated. Firefighters prepared indirect contingency lines for firing operations along Lonesome Ridge Road west to Blue Creek, which had the potential to expand the fire to the projected 88,150 acres. The Headwaters fire was 231 acres and 0% contained. It was converted from a fire managed for resource benefit to a suppression fire.

By July 23, the Siskiyou Complex was 54,559 acres with 36% contained. Very little fire growth was observed as established containment lines continued to hold. Firefighters completed firing operations near the Klamath River and prepared for firing operations from No Name Creek south towards containment lines along Bean Ridge. Firefighters continued to build a contingency line along the southern edge of the complex toward the Blue 2 Fire.

On August 13 the Siskiyou and the Blue 2 Complexes were managed under a single containment strategy and the combined acres for the Siskiyou and Blue 2 fires were estimated at 72,571 acres and 72% contained.

On September 11 Curtis Hillman, a road grader operator injured on August 25, succumbed to his injuries.

# Soda Complex



## STATISTICS

Number of Fires: 4

Major Fires/Containment Date/Acres:

Big Fire	7/5	2,193
Back Fire	6/29	1,567
Monkey Rock	7/14	1,829
Mill Fire	7/26	3,034

County: Lake, & Mendocino

Affected Communities: Upper Lake, Potter Valley Rd, Lake Pillsbury

Agencies in Command: USFS; Unified Command w/ CAL FIRE on 7/15

Teams Assigned: T-2 team (Heinz); T-2 Team #3 (Fiorella); CAL FIRE Team (Bradley)

Start Report Date: 6/21 1255 hrs.

Containment Date: 7/26

Total Acres: 8,652 acres

Direct Fire Suppression Costs: \$17,538,075

Firefighters Assigned at Peak: 890 on 7/22

Structures Destroyed: 4

(2 residential & 2 outbuildings)

Fatalities: 0

Fuels: Brush, oak woodland, grass & timber

Cause: Lightning

## Soda Complex (continued)

The Soda Complex originally included the Mill Fire and Monkey Rock fires (CA-MNF-000645) that were started by lightning on June 21. On June 25, Northern Rockies IMT was assigned to the Soda Complex and the Big and Back Fires were incorporated. The Mill Fire entered the Sanhedrin wilderness on July 1. The Monkey Rock Fire that was burning completely within the Yuki Wilderness, though not staffed, was monitored by air.

On July 11, the firefighters were forced to disengage from the Mill Fire due to conflicts with marijuana growers. Conflicts continued and by July 13, armed and uniformed law enforcement officers were needed to mitigate threats against fire crews to provide for safety on the fireline due to illegal marijuana cultivation in the fire area.

On July 14, Unified Command was established for the Mill fire. Air resources from the MEU complex

assisted with containment of a sloop over. Unified Command with USFS and CAL FIRE was established on July 15 and remained in effect until July 25.

There were 7 injuries reported on the Soda Complex. On June 26, a contract crewmember burned the palm of his hand during suppression of the Back Fire. On the evening of June 27 a crew member's eye was injured. On June 28, a vender's delivery vehicle had an accident and the driver received medical attention. On July 9, a crewmember sprained his back and received a doctor recommendation for 4 days of light duty. Injuries were also reported on July 16, July 18, July 19, but were not described.

The primary values at risk in the Soda Complex were 7 structures adjacent to the Mill Fire, various heritage sites, spotted owl activity centers and wilderness values. The Soda Complex was fully contained on July 26 at 8,652 acres.

## TCU Lightning Complex

### STATISTICS

Number of Fires: 12  
Major Fires: None  
Affected Communities:  
Big Trees State Park

Agencies in Command: CAL FIRE  
Teams Assigned: CAL FIRE's  
Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit (TCU)  
Start Report Date: 6/21  
Containment Date: 6/22

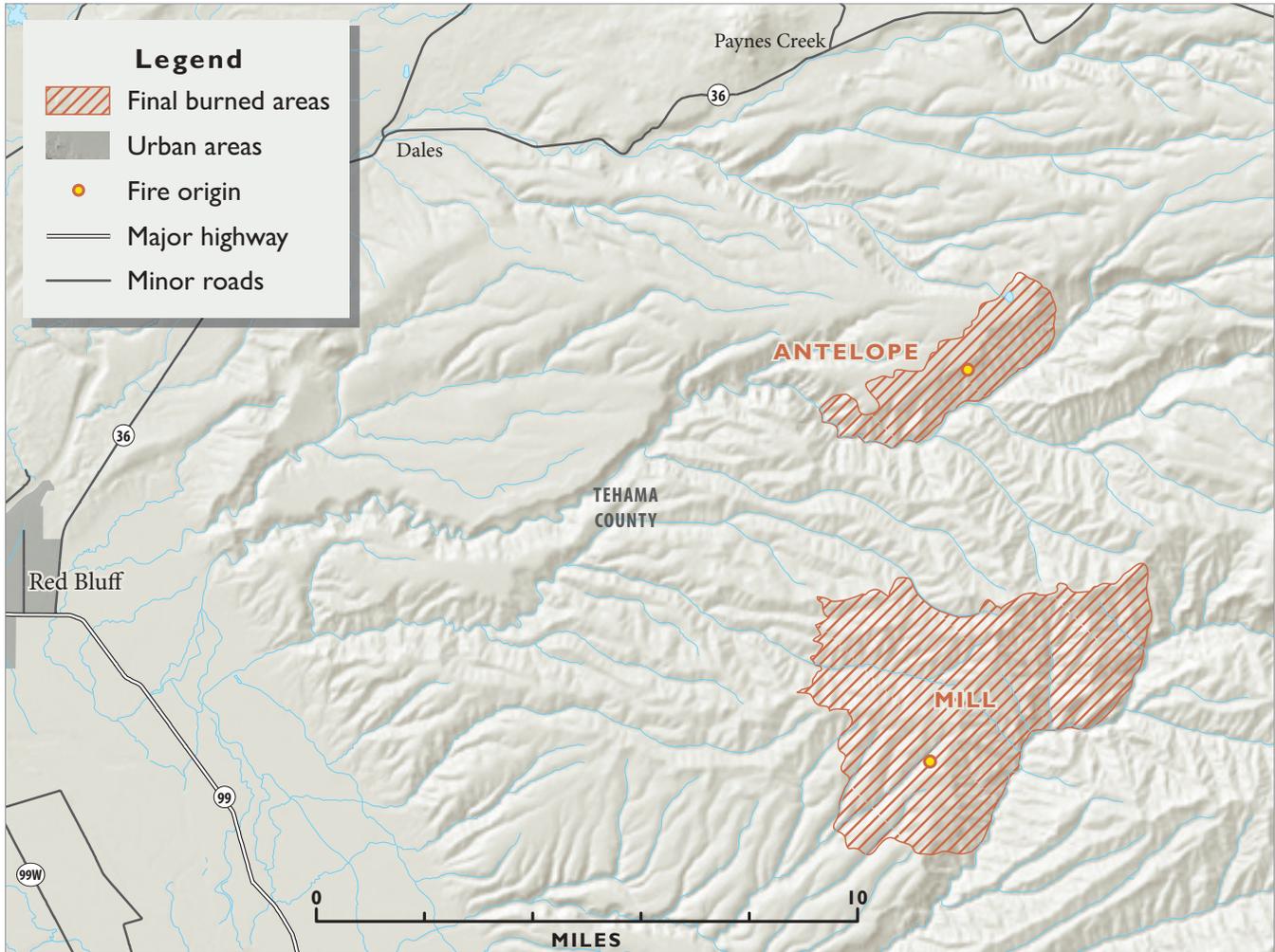
Total Acres: 133 acres  
Direct Fire Suppression Costs:  
Undetermined  
Firefighters Assigned at Peak: 389  
Structures Destroyed: 3

Fatalities: 0  
Fuels: Timber and grass  
Cause: Lightning

The TCU Lightning Complex consisted of 12 forest and grass fires which started as a result of the lightning storm that swept across the Sierra Nevada Mountains on June 21st. The TCU Unit quickly recognized the

need to organize into a complex, and established the TCU Lightning Complex. All of the fires were contained within two days and an additional week was required for complete control.

# Tehama-Glenn Complex



**STATISTICS**

Number of Fires: 39  
 Major Fires: Antelope, Mill, Noble,  
 County: Tehama  
 Affected Communities: Platina

Agencies in Command: CAL FIRE  
 Teams Assigned: CAL FIRE's  
 Tehama-Glenn Unit (TGU)  
 Start Report Date: 6/21  
 Containment Date: 7/4

Total Acres: 22,907 acres  
 Direct Fire Suppression Costs:  
 \$2,159,923  
 Firefighters Assigned at Peak: 301

Structures Destroyed: 5  
 (2 residential and 3 outbuildings)  
 Fatalities: 0  
 Fuels: Grass, brush, and timber  
 Cause: Lightning

## Tehama-Glenn Complex (continued)

By the time thunderstorms spread into the Tehama-Glenn Unit on the afternoon of June 21st, the unit had already committed a portion of its suppression resources to fires in other units. The unit coped with 34 new fires that morning and afternoon with a skeleton force of 8 state fire engines, 2 Schedule A engines, one state and two private bulldozers, three hand crews (out of 17 total normally available) and one state helicopter.

The unit lightning plan was activated, the ECC staffing was expanded, and all resources were committed to the lightning fires. An “all call” was placed to Tehama County Fire Department for all volunteer firefighters to cover their equipment. The department staffed 16 of its 19 total Type 2 and Type 3 fire engines, and 7 of its 9 water tenders for the duration of the complex. These units were assigned to the lightning fires or cover empty CAL FIRE stations for initial attack on new fires. Immediately upon completion of their training, the unit’s firefighter academy class formed into a hand crew, as most of the engines that they normally staff were out of the unit. Additional resources were provided by Sierra Pacific Industries (the major industrial timberland owner in the county).

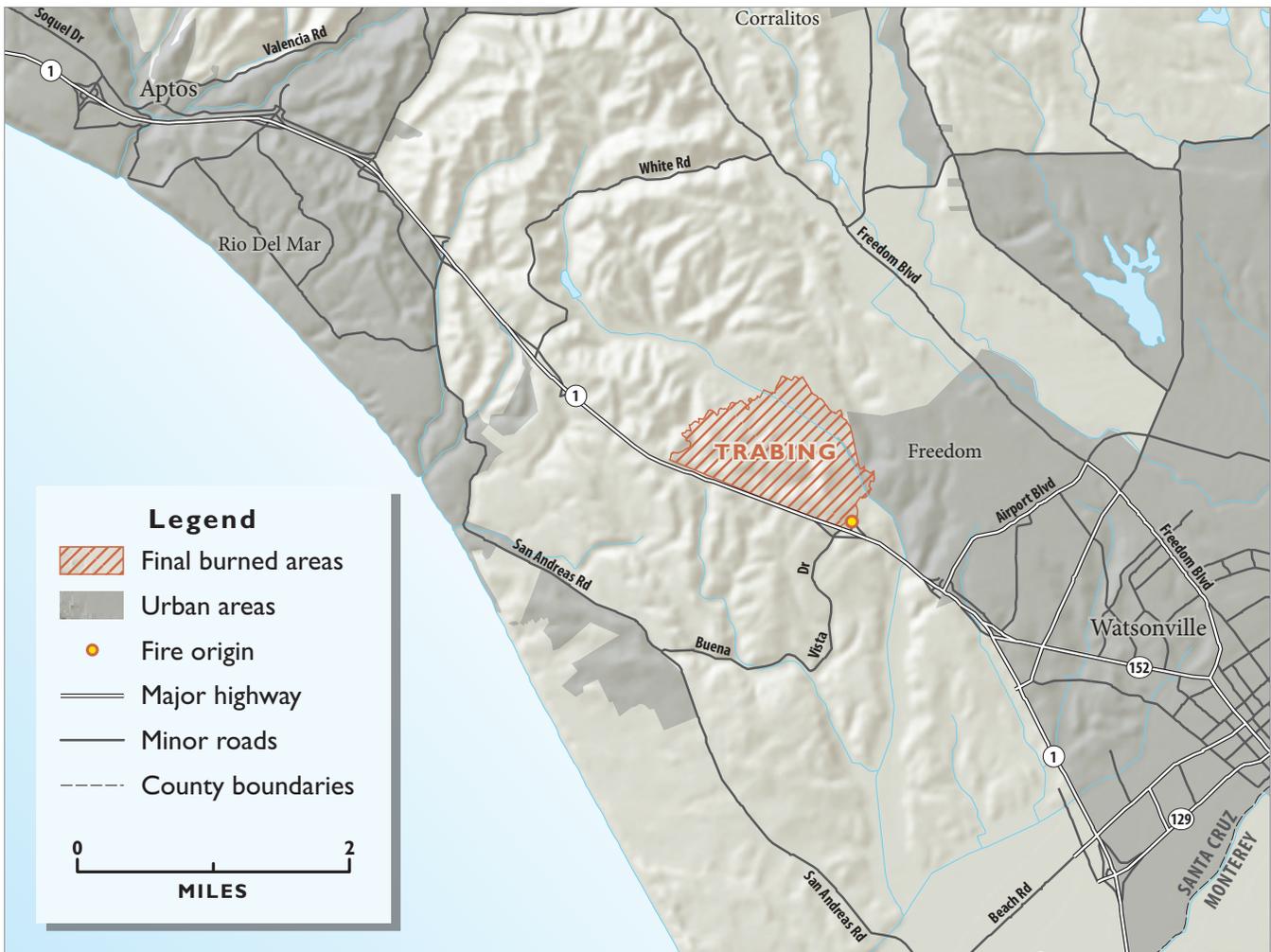
Because additional agency suppression resources were scarce and the two big fires were not threatening populated areas, the available forces were split into two 12+ hour shifts and assigned to “bump and run” or hot spotting tactics on the smaller fires. Firefighters successfully contain all but the two largest of the fires by June 24th.

The Mill Fire and the Antelope Fire are contained by June 30th, with indirect tactics included: the construction, burning out and holding of seven miles of fireline from Antelope Creek to Highway 36 use of total force of two private bulldozers and the one firefighter hand crew. Four other bulldozers cut line around the other side of the fire and it was contained at 3,400 acres.

One of the early lightning strikes knocked out the main electrical power supply to the Emergency Command Center. Although the back-up generator came on and ran, a damaged circuit breaker remained open, causing the entire telecommunications system to run on only the battery back-up. As the power drained from the UPS batteries, the ECC began to experience the loss of its computer systems; then the telephone system failed. Cell phones were activated as a temporary measure. Then the radio console failed and the dispatchers had to resort to hand-held radios and a vehicle parked outside the window. The final blow came when the computer-aid dispatch system failed. It took an hour to diagnose and correct the electrical failure.

The unit made multiple major commitments of resources, especially fire engines for structure protection, to the Noble Fire burning in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest near Platina over a period of about two weeks. The TGU Complex was contained on July 4, 2008 at 22,907 acres.

# Trabing Fire



**STATISTICS**

County: Santa Cruz  
 Affected Communities: Watsonville, Aptos, and Corralitos

Agencies in Command: CAL FIRE  
 Teams Assigned: CAL FIRE  
 Start Report Date: 6/20 1:58 p.m.  
 Containment Date: 6/22/2008  
 Total Acres: 630 acres

Direct Fire Suppression Costs: Unknown  
 Firefighters Assigned at Peak: 645  
 Structures Destroyed: 75 (26 residential and 49 outbuildings)

Fatalities: 0  
 Fuels: Eucalyptus, grass and brush  
 Cause: Under investigation

## Trabing Fire (continued)

The Trabing Fire was reported at 1:58 p.m. on June 20th, just north of Watsonville along Highway 1. Hot particles from a vehicle exhaust caused five starts along Highway 1 over a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile stretch just north of the Buena Vista Rd. exit. These fires moved rapidly into a large eucalyptus grove, merged, and consumed 630 acres before being contained on June 22nd.

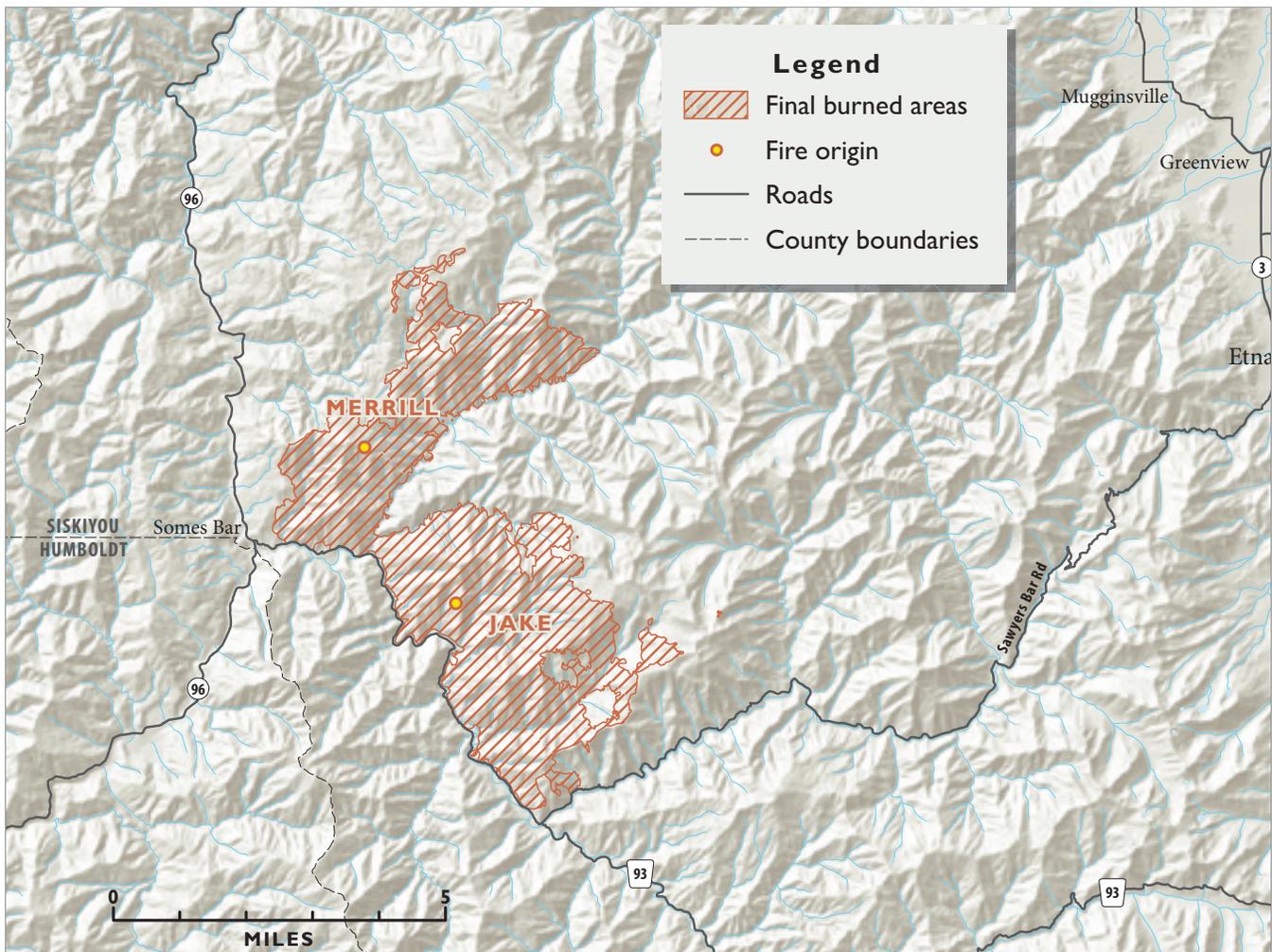
The weather was unseasonably hot and dry with the relative humidity in the low teens. The marine layer was absent. At the fire's peak 90 engines, 12 handcrews, 4 bulldozers, 9 water tenders, 6 air tankers, 4 helicopters, and 20 overhead were assigned.

During the fire, an estimated 2,000 people were evacuated, along with 220 horses and livestock and 50 small domestic animals. The Trabing Fire destroyed

26 residential structures, 49 outbuildings, and 44 vehicles. Twelve other residences were damaged and 89 others were seriously threatened. When the Trabing fire started the local Unit still had resources assigned to the Summit and Martin Fires.

During mop-up of the Trabing Fire on June 21st command staff on the incident was advised of a lightning storm approaching off the Pacific Ocean with Lightning Activity Levels of 5-6. Around 1 p.m., storm cells crossed the incident, resulting in two  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre lightning fires within one mile of the Trabing Incident. A water spout was observed near the Santa Cruz pier. The June 2008 siege was beginning.

# Ukonom Complex



## STATISTICS

**Number of Fires:** 9

**Major Fires:** Jake, Merrill, Mountain, Haypress, Blue Fire

**County:** Initially reported as Humboldt; beginning 7/1 reported as Siskiyou

**Affected Communities:** Orleans, Some Bar, Oak Bottom, Camp 3 Rd., Salmon River, Forks of Salmon, and Pollacks Subdivision

**Agencies in Command:** USFS

**Teams Assigned:** USFS – T-2 (Lund); ORCA T-2 (Paul); CIIMT 5, (Dietrick); Alaska T-1 (Wilcocks);

FUMT (Beckman); NIMO, (Gage under Klamath Theatre).

**Start Report Date:** 6/20 12:00 a.m.

**Containment Date:** 11/5

**Total Acres:** 58,871

**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:** \$25,757,622

**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:**

727 on 7/20

**Structures Destroyed:** 0

**Fatalities:** 0

**Fuels:** Timber, logging slash, brush, snow damage and wind throw

**Cause:** Lightning

The Ukonom Complex started during the June 20th storm in the Some Bar area of the Six Rivers National Forest as 9 lightning fires. Six fires remained active in steep terrain and heavy fuel threatening structures, important cultural resources, and local fisheries.

By June 26th, several fires merged and the Ukonom Complex consisted of three fires: Jake Fire (combination of Portuguese and Jake fires), Merrill Fire (combination of the Mountain, Haypress, and Merrill fires), and the Blue Fire. The complex was

## Ukonom Complex (continued)

reported at 4,100 acres and 3% contained. Firefighting resources concentrated on the Blue Fire. An archeologist assisted the Heritage Resource Advisor in identifying important cultural resources for protection.

On July 1st the Ukonom complex, at 6,358 acres and 5% contained, posed several social, economic, and cultural risks. The fires were threatening important Native American cultural and spiritual areas including the only known fully intact Karuk spiritual site. The fires also threatened historic structures including the Wooley Creek cabins (used by President Hoover), Forest Service recreation and administrative sites at Oak Bottom, anadromous fisheries and spawning grounds along Wooley Creek and the Salmon River, and the Marble Mountain wilderness. Fire managers anticipated increased public exposure due to the opening of gold dredging on the Salmon River. A new fire in the area, the Crapo Fire, had still not been located. On July 6, IMT 2 (Svalberg) took over the Blue Fire, now called Blue 2.

Red Flag Warnings for hot, dry conditions combined with strong down canyon winds to increase fire spread were issued for July 8th. The Merrill and Jake fires were expected to merge at the confluence of the Salmon River and Wooley Creek. There was heightened concern on behalf of residents in Salmon River drainage as fire moved down to the river with a 6 mile wide front.

A new incident management team assumed command of the Blue Fire within the Ukonom Complex. The name of the fire changed to the Blue 2 Fire. This 1,090 acre fire was located in a remote area 15 miles southeast of Gasquet and was 8% contained. Several forest roads

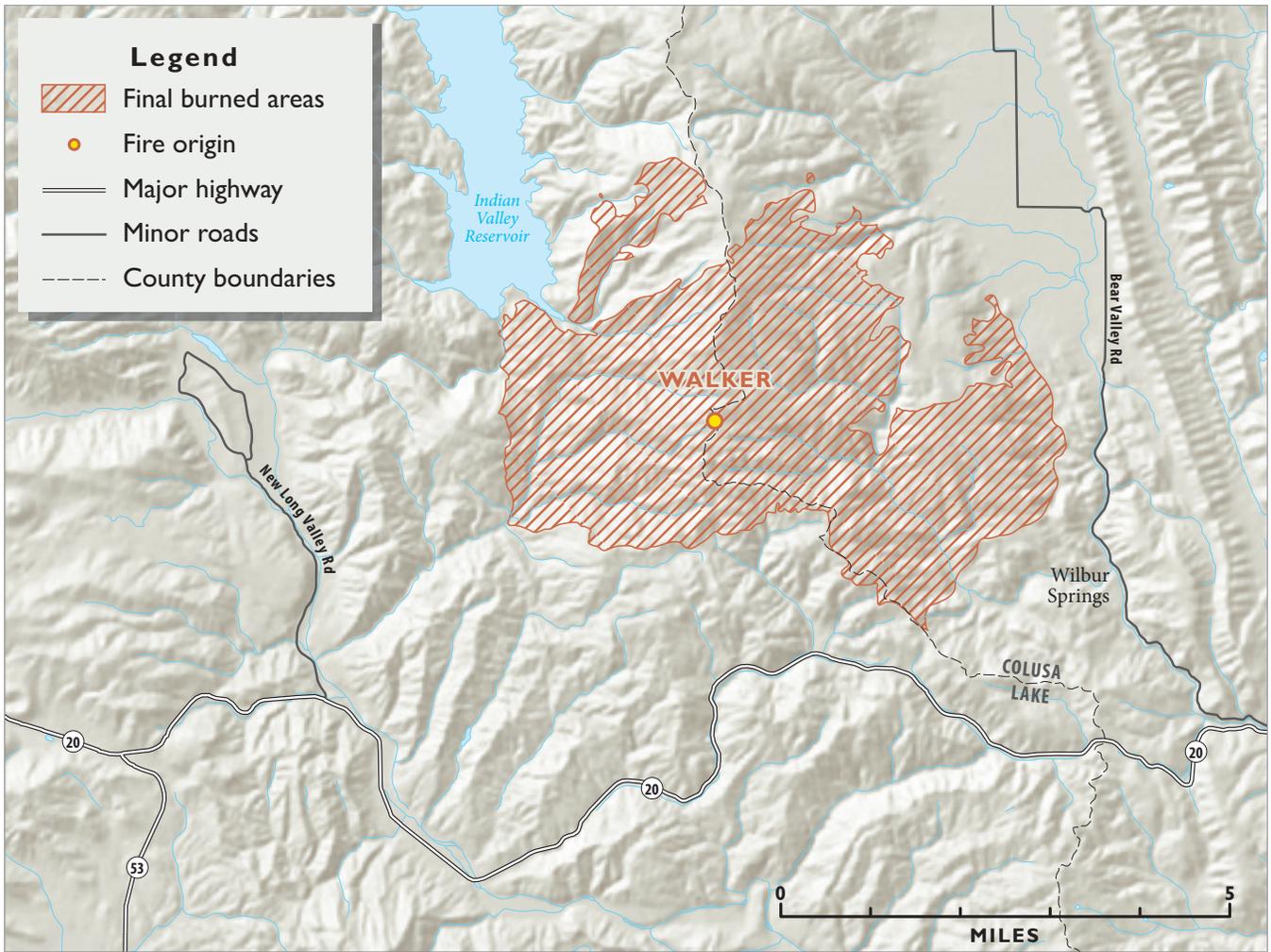
and trails were closed for public safety. July 11, IMT T-2 (Paul) assumed command.

By July 14th, the Merrill and Jake fires had merged with 22,000 acres burned and 22% containment. Very dry fuel and extreme temperatures continued to increase fire spread into critical areas toward the Bear Wallow Complex. The two complexes were separated by only 6 miles. Coordination and sharing of resources occurred among the Bear Wallow, Blue 2, Siskiyou, and Ukonom complexes.

On July 26th the Ukonom Complex threatened 45 residences and 58 outbuildings which prompted a voluntary evacuation of the Forks of the Salmon and Pollacks subdivisions. Also at risk were the Forest Service compound at Oak Bottom, the main telecommunication radio facility for the area, Native American cultural and religious sites, Wild and Scenic Rivers corridor, old growth timber, and anadromous fisheries habitat.

On August 1, a sunrise memorial service honoring Chief Daniel Packer who perished while assigned to the Panther Fire was held at the Ukonom Complex Incident Command Post in Orleans. By August 6th the Ukonom Complex had burned 47,728 acres and was 81% contained. The fire line construction was complete and burnout operations were continuing to secure the line. On August 16th, the northern portion of the Ukonom Fire (north of Wooley Creek) was transferred to the Panther Fire. The portion of the fire south of Wooley Creek was referred to as Ukonom-South. The Ukonom-South was 100% contained on 11/5/2008.

# Walker Fire



**STATISTICS**

County: Lake  
 Affected Communities:  
 Double Eagle Ranch subdivision,  
 Wilbur Hot Spring Resort

Agencies in Command: CAL FIRE  
 Teams Assigned: CAL FIRE ICT #3  
 (Morris)  
 Start Report Date: 6/22 4:20 p.m.  
 Containment Date: 6/28

Total Acres: 14,500  
 Direct Fire Suppression Costs:  
 \$3,617,769  
 Firefighters Assigned at Peak:  
 Structures Destroyed: 0

Fatalities: 0  
 Fuels: Grass, brush, and woodland

## Walker Fire (continued)

The Walker Fire was reported on the afternoon of 6/22/2008, and when Copter-104 arrived a few minutes later it was already about 500 acres with a rapid rate of spread and long-range spotting in heavy brush. Initial resources tried to cut off the fire by burning out along Walker Ridge Road, but the fire jumped the road at about 6:30 p.m. and headed toward Bear Valley Road. Air tankers were released early at about 7:00 p.m. due to ineffectiveness and the inability of ground crews to follow up the retardant drops in the heavy brush. By nightfall, the fire was well over 2,000 acres.

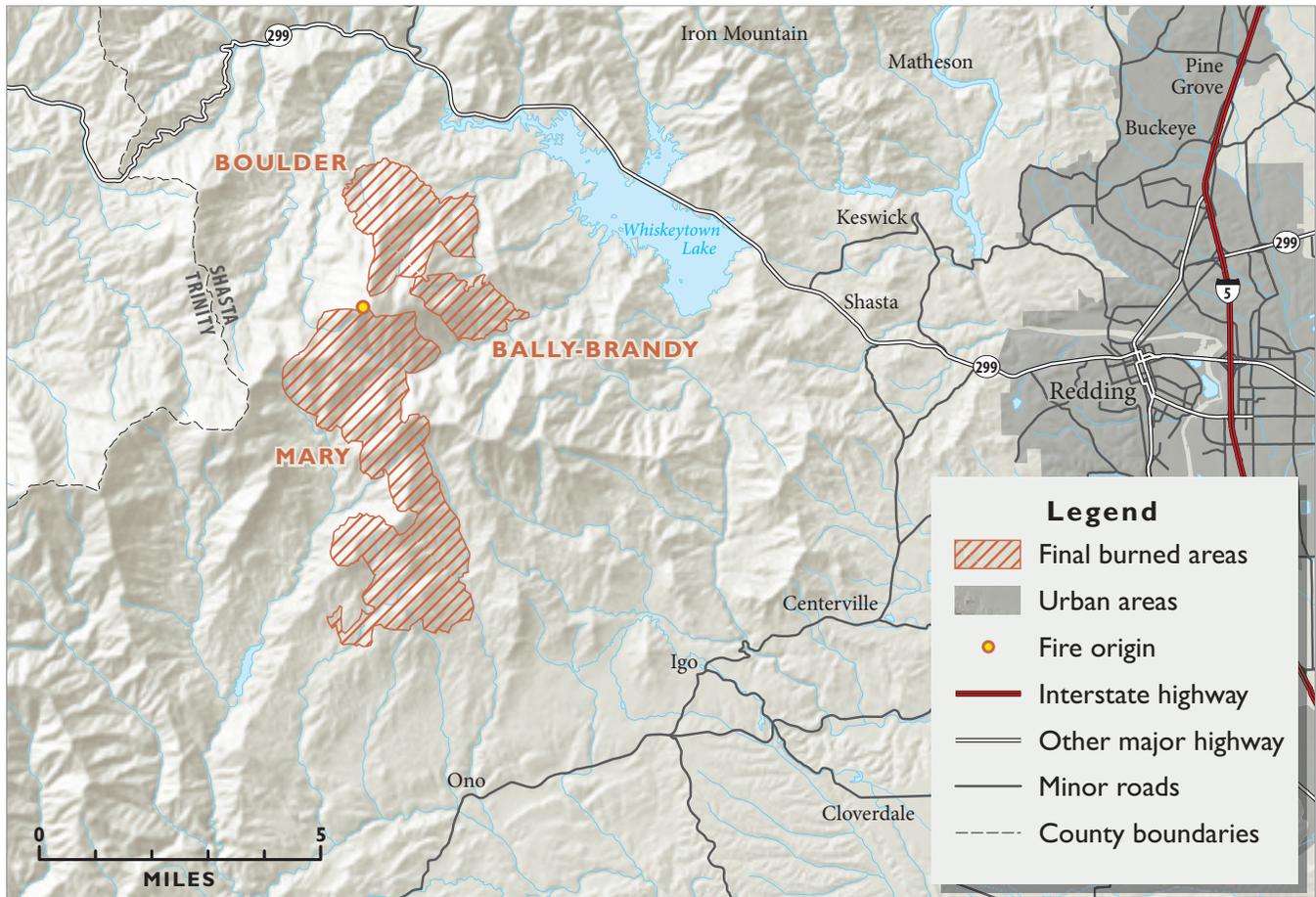
The Walker Fire threatened a subdivision, scattered residences, the Wilbur Hot Springs Resort, numerous mountaintop communications towers, high-capacity electric transmission lines, and the control facilities for the dam at Indian Valley Reservoir. Numerous environmentally sensitive areas were also threatened. The fire burned primarily on BLM lands, some of which were under lease for a wind power development project.

By the next morning the fire reached about 8,000 acres, with limited resources available. Line construction efforts were limited to burning out along existing roads. The weather continued to be hot and dry, with a southwest wind.

CAL FIRE's Incident Command Team 3 redeployed from the Wild Fire to the south and assumed command of the fire on Wednesday morning. On Thursday, additional fire engines and bulldozers arrived, and firefighters were successful in keeping the fire north of Highway 20. On Friday, the wind shifted from the northeast, aiding the firefighters building direct line on the north side of the fire. Evacuation orders were lifted for the Double Eagle Subdivision and the Wilbur Hot Spring Resort. By Friday night, the situation allowed for only a small contingent of engines to patrol the perimeter, as the other resources were finally able to get some rest.

At its peak, the Walker Fire had 66 fire engines, 27 bulldozers, 19 hand crews, 17 water tenders, 8 helicopters, and four fixed-wing aircraft assigned. The fire was contained on 6/28/2008.

# Whiskeytown Complex



## STATISTICS

Number of Fires: 5

Major Fires: Mary Fire, Bally Fire, Boulder Fire, Brandy Fire

County: Shasta

Affected Communities: Igo, Ono, Shasta, Redding  
 Agencies in Command: NPS, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area (WNP)  
 Teams Assigned: T-3 (Chapman/Robb), NR T-2 (McNitt)

Start Report Date: 6/21 0600 hrs.

Containment Date: 7/14

Total Acres: 6,240 acres

Direct Fire Suppression Costs: \$9,400,000

Firefighters Assigned at Peak: 448

Structures Destroyed: 0

Fatalities: 0

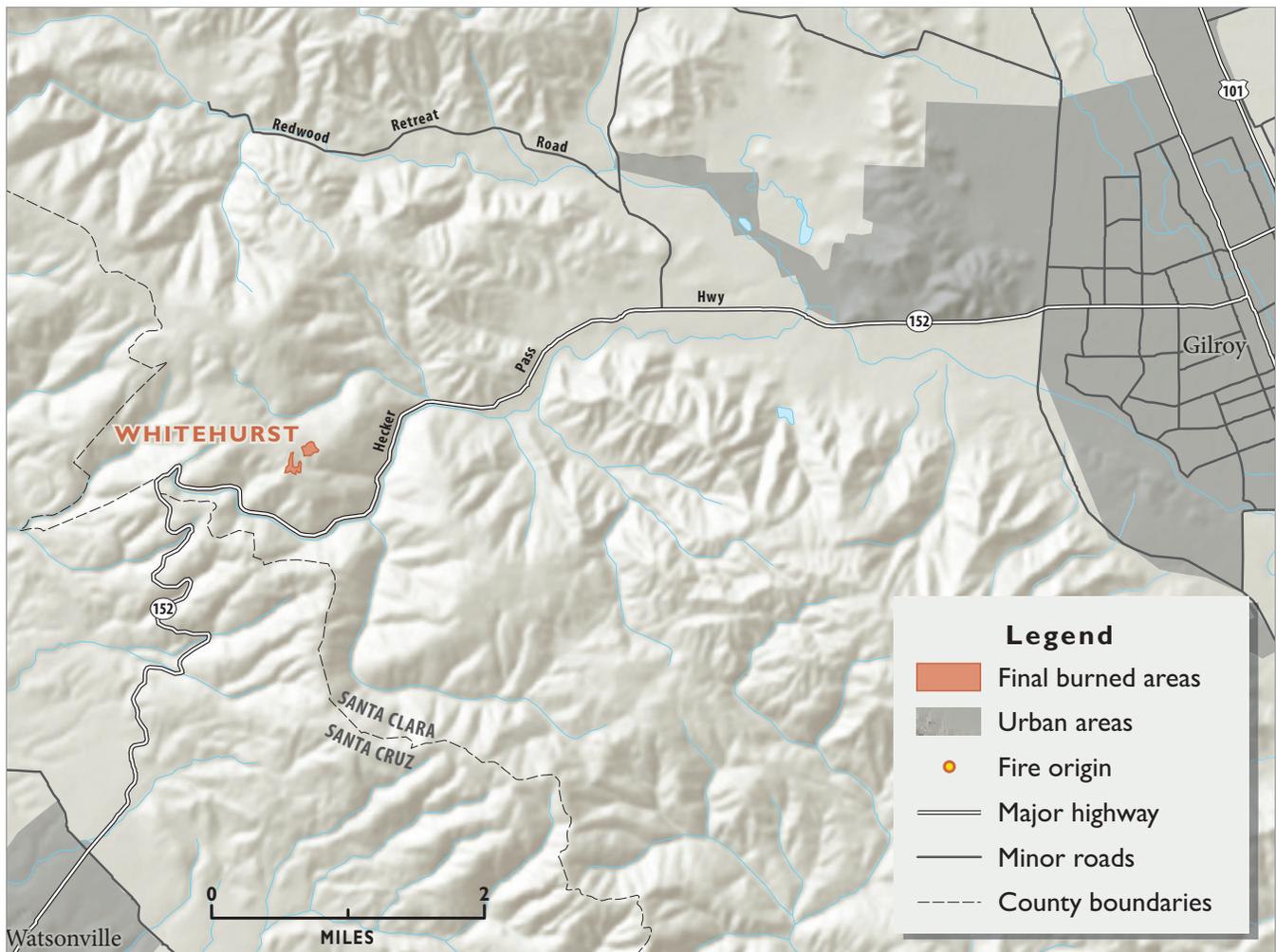
Fuels: Timber, & brush

Cause: Lightning

The Whiskeytown Complex threatened commercial communications towers and associated infrastructure on Shasta Bally. These towers are used by television, radio, numerous public and private agencies, and for two-way radio communications in the Redding area. The WAPA high voltage transmission lines, primary power supplies for northern California, were also threatened. Managing fire around power lines created safety and operational challenges. A power line arcs

when retardant is dropped on it, shutting down power to communications facilities. Evacuations occurred along Whiskey Creek Road and Highway 299 was temporarily closed. By July 1, several fires had nearly burned together, to form the Whiskeytown Fire and merged with the Moon Fire in Shasta Lightning Complex. Beginning July 10, the fires were known as the Whiskeytown Complex.

# Whitehurst Fire



## STATISTICS

County: Santa Clara  
Affected Communities:  
Gilroy and Watsonville

Agencies in Command: CAL FIRE  
Teams Assigned: CAL FIRE  
Start Report Date: 6/21 1:57 p.m.  
Containment Date: 6/24

Total Acres: 200 acres  
Direct Fire Suppression Costs:  
\$380,000  
Firefighters Assigned at Peak: 265

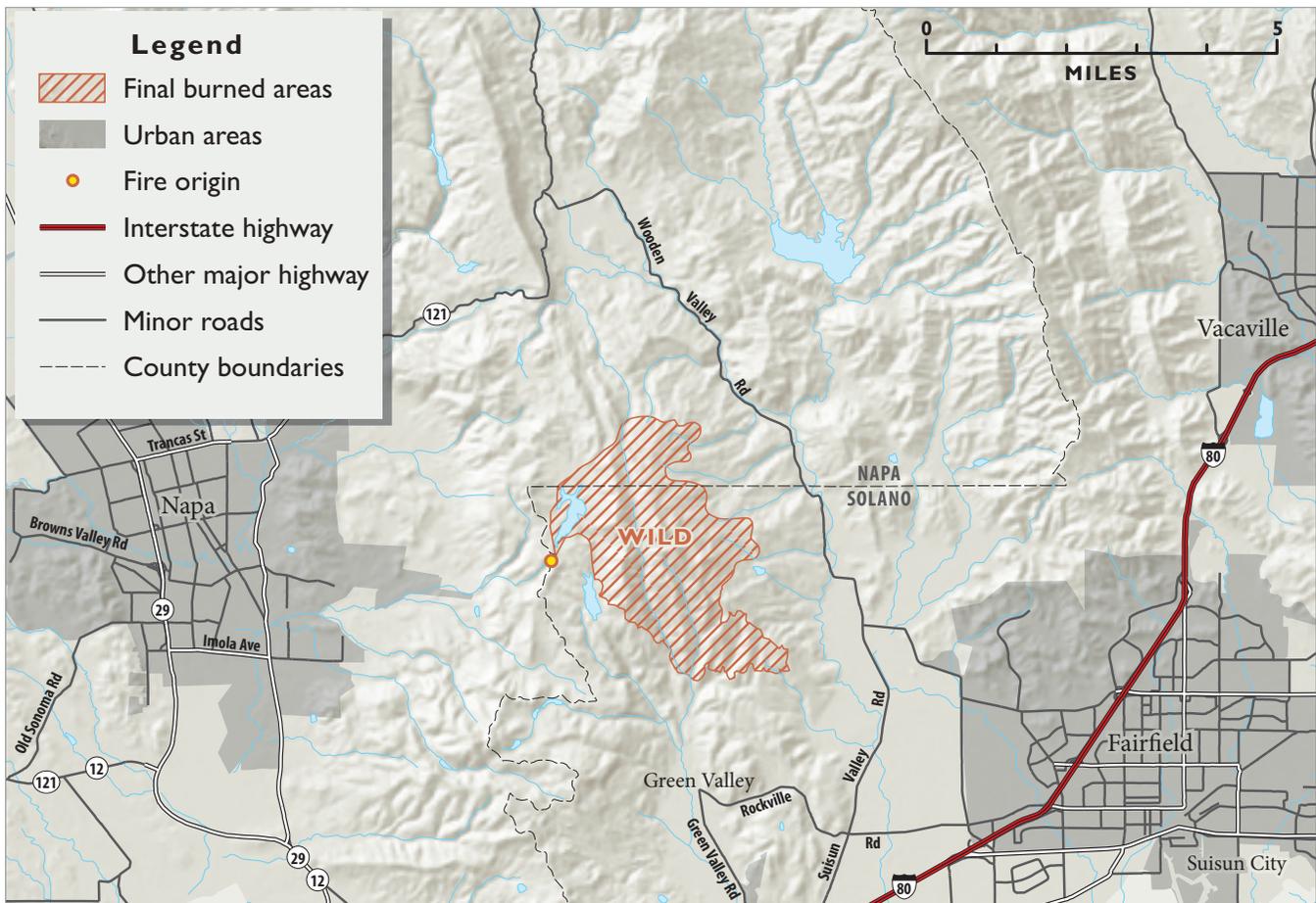
Structures Destroyed: 0  
Fatalities: 0  
Fuels: Brush, and timber  
Cause: Lightning

The Whitehurst fire was west of Gilroy and North of Highway 152, burning heavy brush and redwood timber and threatening Mt. Madonna County Park. The fire had the potential to burn several thousand acres. The vegetation and conditions were similar to those during the Summit Fire that burned at the end of May. Smoke was visible from Highway 152 (Hecker Pass) slowing traffic. Highway 152 was heavily used by commuter

route, connecting the Silicon Valley and Gilroy, to western Monterey and southern Santa Cruz Counties.

The arrival of additional hand crews and engines enabled fire personnel to limit the fire to 200 acres. Highway 152 re-opened to residents with ID on June 23rd, and opened to all traffic with full containment on the morning of June 24th.

# Wild Fire



## STATISTICS

County: Napa

Affected Communities:

Wooden Valley Rd, Suisun Valley,  
and Green Valley

Agencies in Command: CAL FIRE

Teams Assigned: CAL FIRE ICT #3  
(Morris)

Start Report Date: 6/21 4:00 p.m.

Containment Date: 6/25

Total Acres: 4,089 acres

Direct Fire Suppression Costs:  
\$1,243,265

Firefighters Assigned at Peak: 540

Structures Destroyed: 1

(outbuilding)

Fatalities: 0

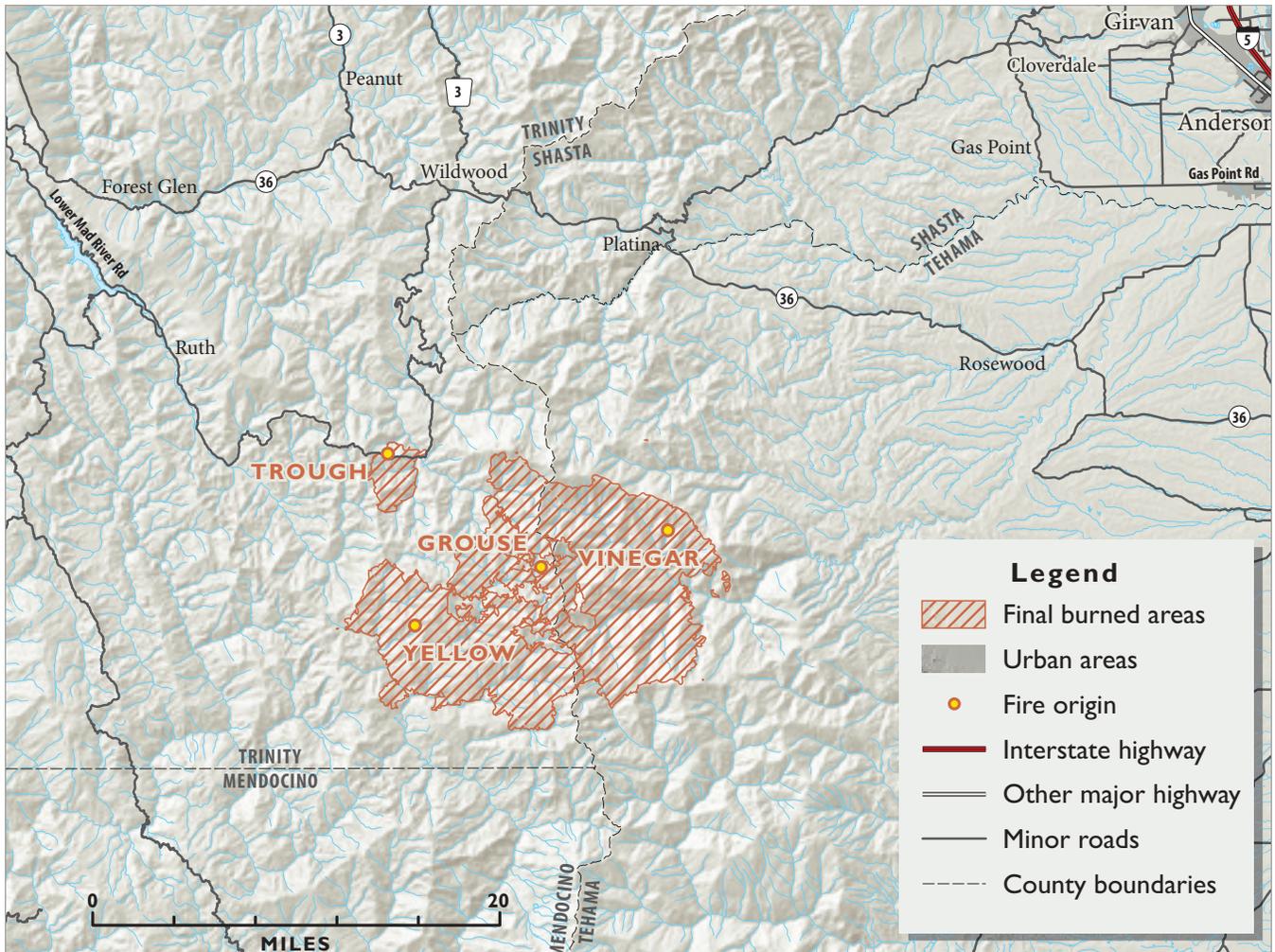
Fuels: Brush, woodland and grass

Cause: Under investigation

As initial attack forces arrive, the Wild Fire was spreading rapidly through light fuels around Wildhorse Valley Road. The fire jumped Lake Madigan, burned in multiple directions with erratic gusty winds. The fire was spotting up to  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile ahead of the fireline. Retardant drops from four air tankers were ineffective due to the winds. Firefighters kept the fire out of the Wildhorse subdivision. By midnight the fire was over 1,000 acres and had spread into difficult terrain.

On Sunday, June 22, erratic winds spread the fire to the east and south. Tanker 910 (the DC-10) was instrumental in helping firefighters keep fire out of the heavily populated Green Valley area. Progress slowed on Monday as the lack of reinforcement's forced firefighters to split into two shifts to provide rest. The winds died down on Tuesday. Hand and dozer lines were established around the southwest side of the fire. The Wild Fire was contained June 25, and all resources were redeployed north to the Walker Fire.

# Yolla Bolly Complex



## STATISTICS

Complex Fire #: CA-MNF-000663

Number of Fires: 24

Major Fires/Containment Date/Acres:

Yellow	8/20	32,250
Vinegar	8/20	47,802
Grouse	8/20	6,246
Trough	7/21	3,696

County: Mendocino, Tehama & Trinity

Affected Communities: Unknown

Agencies in Command: USFS; T-2 IMT (Harvey); T-1 IMT (Wilcocks); Northern Rockies IMT T-1 (Larsen); Rocky Mtn IMT T-2 (Blume); Eastern Great Basin Team T-3 (Lund)

Start Report Date: 6/21 0600 hrs.

Containment Date: 8/19 1830 hrs 100%

Total Acres: 89,994

Direct Fire Suppression Costs: \$16,100,000

Firefighter Assigned at Peak:

570 – 7/11/08

Structures Destroyed: 0

Fatalities: 0

Fuels: Brush, oak woodland, grass & timber

Cause: Lightning

The Yolla Bolly Complex started during the lightning storm on June 21. Initially called the MNF ABCD June Lightning Complex, the Yolla Bolly Complex was managed as part of the Lime Complex from July 11 through July 24. On July 14 the Iron, Wilderness and Harvey fires from the Lime complex merged with the Vinegar Fire. On July 25 at the Lime Complex and Yolla Bolly Complexes were separated and the Yolla Bolly Complex includes the Yellow, Vinegar, Trough and Grouse Fires. The jurisdictions within the Yolla Bolly Complex included the Mendocino NF, Shasta-Trinity NF, Six Rivers NF, California state lands, private inholdings, and the Bureau of Land Management. Much of the complex

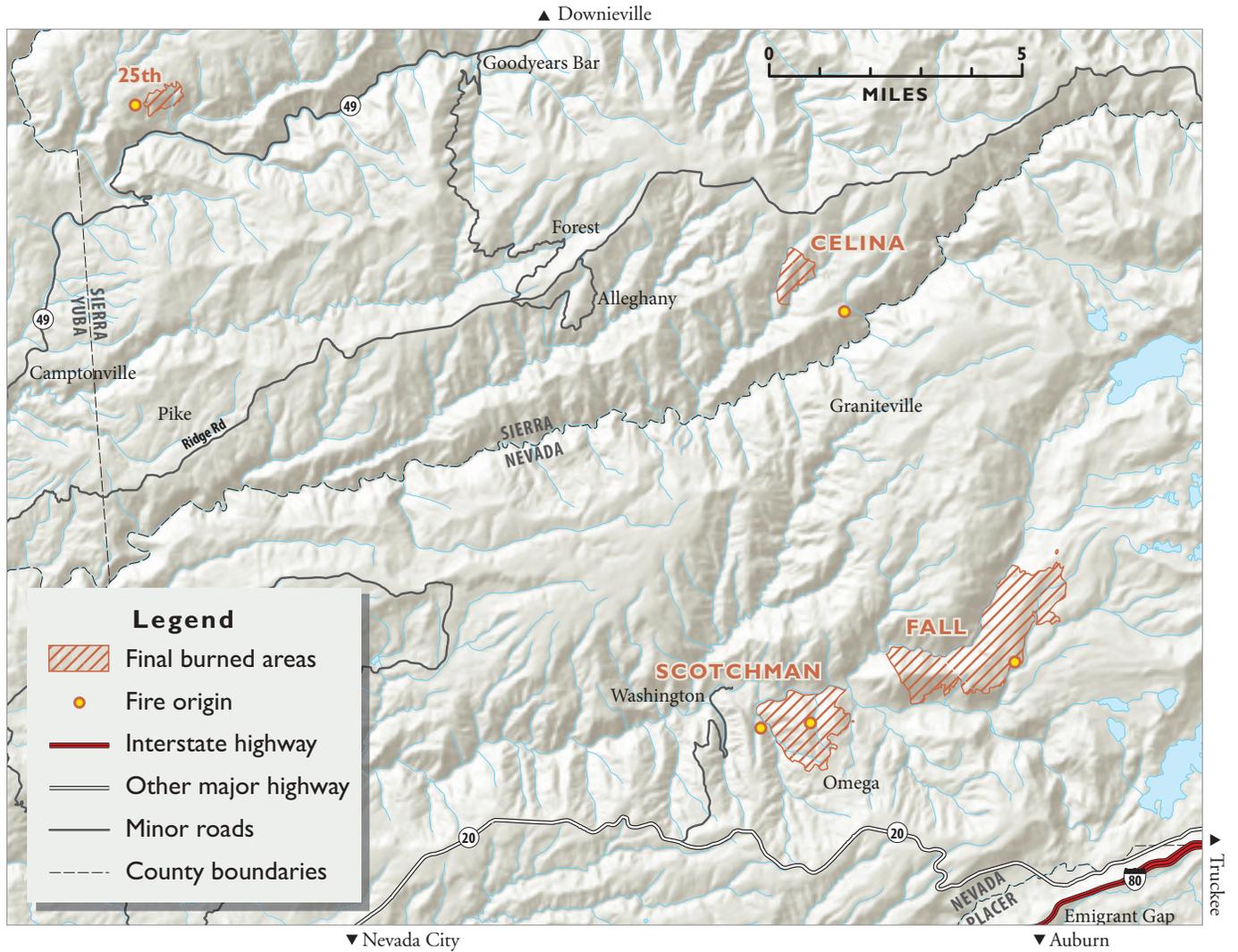
burned in or near wilderness, which required an operation with numerous spike camps.

The steep and inaccessible terrain with limited safety zones required most operational resources to be worked out of remote spike camps and communications with ICP were a challenge.

The Martin Mars was used for water drops and this complex also received assistance from the National Guard MAFFS.

Values at risk included spotted Owl habitat, steelhead trout/salmon fisheries, sensitive plant species, cultural sites, and wilderness values.

# Yuba River Complex



**STATISTICS**

Number of Fires: 13

Major fires/Containment Date/Acres:

Scotchman 7/3 1,230

Fall 7/15 2,420

County: Yuba, Nevada, Sierra

**Affected Communities:**

Washington, Fuller Lake, Bowman,

Cal Ida, Graniteville, and Rucker

**Agencies in Command:** USFS

**Teams Assigned:** USFS, Tahoe

National Forest (TNF),

T2 IMT (Joseph)

**Start Report Date:** 6/21 2:00 p.m.

**Containment Date:** 7/15/2008

**Total Acres:** 4,254 acres

**Direct Fire Suppression Costs:**

\$7,500,000

**Firefighters Assigned at Peak:** 772

**Structures Destroyed:** 0

**Fatalities:** 0

**Fuels:** Timber, and brush

**Cause:** Lightning

The Yuba River Complex started as a series of fires ignited by the June 21 lightning storm 15 miles northeast of Nevada City, in Sierra County. The complex included the 25, Omega I, Omega II, Scotchman, Fall, Celina, Gaston, Clear and Deer Fires, plus four fires that are were contained at 3 acres or less.

Within 24 hours the Yuba River Complex was reported at 590 acres with extremely active fire behavior. Summer home tracts and residences were evacuated in the Fall Fire and Scotchman Fire area. The communities of Fuller Lake, Bowman, Cal Ida, Graniteville and Rucker as well as power infrastructure (PG and E) and Nevada Irrigation District (NID) property were threatened. Contingency plans were developed to evacuate the town of Washington. Road closures included Bowman Rd from Highway 20 and FS25 Rd to Cal Ida from Highway 49. On June 27 there was a Red Flag warning for dry lightning.

June 28 the Yuba River Complex was estimated at 3,169 acres and 57% containment. Firefighters had

already contained nine of the fires. The Scotchman and Fall Fires were spreading into areas that could allow them to become “summer long campaign fires” that burned thousands of acres of prime public and private forestlands, and damaged miles of critical habitat and watershed.

By July 1, at 3,579 acres and 61% contained, the smoke from this complex continued to pose a public health hazard to local communities. High-use camping and recreational areas were closed through the 4th of July weekend, which impacted the local tourist-based economy. The Fall Fire reached the Canyon Creek area and threatened historic sites, homes, and active mining operations. Weight limits on the bridge prevented access to fire engines. Crews hiked in and established hose lays with portable pumps to protect these sites. Helicopters slowed fire spread and minimized fire growth. On July 5 the Yuba River complex, at 3813 acres and 95% contained, was transitioned from T2 IMT (Joseph) back to the local unit.