

Clear Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Wildfire History 1936 - 2005

Location:

East of Newell, CA

Acreage:

33,571

Established:

April 11, 1911

Total Wildfires:

8

Percentage of Zone Total:

5

Cause Type:

Natural	4
Camp Fire	0
Smoking	0
Fire Use	0
Incendiary	0
Equipment Use	1
Railroads	0
Juveniles	0
Miscellaneous	0
Unknown	3

The history of Clear Lake National Wildlife Refuge has much to do with the Klamath Reclamation Project, initiated in the early 1900's. While the refuge was established in April, 1911, work on the construction of Clear Lake Dam was completed a year earlier, perpetuating the lake's status as a water storage and irrigation source reservoir.

Today, Clear Lake refuge remains much as it was almost a century ago, a vast expanse of water and high mountain desert landscape. The areas surrounding the lake are covered in a combination of western juniper, sagebrush and cheat grass. Warm summer temperatures and breezy late afternoon weather situations have combined for a number of wildfires over the refuge's lifespan.

Clear Lake is host to one of only two remaining white pelican colonies in California and also hosts a variety of wildlife such as antelope, mule deer and sage grouse. Since wildfires can quickly consume vital habitat, fire suppression is mandated for the refuge. The remoteness of the refuge has affected the types of wildfires experienced over the years. Only one fire has been confirmed as being started by equipment usage, while most wildfires were naturally started by lightning, and the three unknown are likely lightning fires as well.

The fires of the 1930's (originating from the Modoc National Forest and burning onto the refuge) along with more recent fires have large acreages, especially the Clear fire of 2001. Again, the volatility of light, flashy fuels coupled with pattern winds often results in large acreages being rapidly consumed.

Wildfire Location Type Descriptions

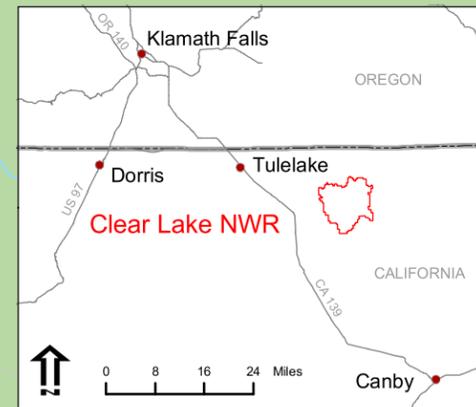
Calculated: The wildfire is calculated to a central point based upon reported legal location or specific place description. Examples include 48N, 2E, Section 28 or middle of Unit C-4 at waters edge.

General: The wildfire location is based upon a general area description. Examples include Southwest Sump of Tule Lake NWR or Unit 4 of Lower Klamath NWR.

GPS: The wildfire location was determined using a geographic positioning system and supporting software, providing a specific latitude and longitude. An example is 41 degrees, 52 minutes, 54.33 seconds north by 121 degrees, 14 minutes, 12.98 seconds west, NAD 83.

Unknown: The wildfire location was recorded only in relation to the refuge it occurred on. Historical records and research did not provide any additional information. An example would be a wildfire listed as 1954, Tule Lake NWR.

Number	Name	Year	Acreage
C01	Kilgore	1936	
C02	Cornell	1936	
C01	Goose Bay	1943	
C02	Rockpile	1996	350
C01	Peninsula	1998	1
C02	Clear Lake	1999	192
C01	Clear	2001	4317
C02	Clear	2002	0.2



Wildfire Location Type

- Calculated
- General
- GPS
- Dam
- Refuge Boundary
- Water
- Rivers/Creeks
- Roads

