

Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge

Wildfire History 1936 - 2005

Location:
North of Chiloquin, OR

Acreage:
40,959

Established:
March 11, 1958

Total Wildfires:
23

Percentage of Zone Total:
13

Cause Type:

Natural	15
Camp Fire	3
Smoking	2
Fire Use	0
Incendiary	0
Equipment Use	1
Railroads	0
Juveniles	0
Miscellaneous	1
Unknown	1

The more than 40,000 acres comprising the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge consist of a variety of vegetation types, including ponderosa pine and Douglas fir forests, grasslands and permanent marshes. This variety of fuels, coupled with the refuges geographic setting, offers a wildland susceptible to fire. The Klamath Marsh is home to hundreds of species of animals, birds, fish, raptors and plants. Some of the species one might find at the marsh include bald eagles, Peregrine falcons, Wood ducks, Sandhill cranes, spotted frogs, Pronghorn antelope, Wocus yellow pond lily and elk.

Prior to its establishment as a national wildlife refuge, the Klamath Marsh contained and bordered a number of timber harvest operations. Wanting to protect the timber, landowners actively suppressed wildfires as quickly as possible. After nearly 80 years of intense fire suppression, the marsh lands are thick with vegetative debris and have forest floors piled high in small trees, branches and woody material.

Some of this vegetative material, both within the forested areas and the marsh itself, has experienced wildfire. Lightning is the most reported cause of wildfire at Klamath Marsh, although human influences have resulted in a handful of incidents. During the summers of 2001 and 2002, the Klamath Marsh experienced an uncharacteristically high number of lightning caused fires. On July 12, 2002, lightning sparked five near simultaneous wildfires in the refuge, all of which were safely located and suppressed.

Number	Name	Year	Acreage
K01		1967	0.1
K02	Marsh Fire	1986	0.5
K03	Wocus	1987	1500.0
K04	Clyde	1990	2.5
K05	Highway	1991	1.0
K06	Sage Point	1992	0.1
K07	Whiner	1993	180
K08	Savannah	1993	40
K09	Mail Run	1995	0.2
K10	Tractor	1995	0.1
K11	Hog	2000	0.2
K12	Peninsula	2001	0.1
K13	North Marsh	2001	72
K14	Ford	2001	0.1
K15	Stacker	2001	1
K16	Farmer 2	2001	0.1
K17	Mallard	2002	0.8
K18	Military	2002	0.1
K19	Owen	2002	0.1
K20	Patty	2002	0.3
K21	Wildhorse	2002	0.3
K22	Lenz	2004	3.1
	Location and name unknown	1979	2

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.

