

Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge

Wildfire History 1936 - 2005

Location:
West of Tulelake, CA

Acreage:
53,196

Established:
August 08, 1908

Total Wildfires:
54

Percentage of Zone Total:
31

Cause Type:

Natural	4
Camp Fire	7
Smoking	1
Fire Use	6
Incendiary	6
Equipment Use	4
Railroads	0
Juveniles	0
Miscellaneous	5
Unknown	21

A mere five years following the creation of the modern day wildlife refuge system, President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed Klamath Lake Reservation as the nation's first waterfowl refuge. The President determined the lands were to be set aside "as a preserve and breeding ground for native birds". Today, Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge encompasses more than 53,000 acres of prime habitat for migrating waterfowl and provides foraging grounds for numerous raptors and other wildlife.

Like its neighbor to the east, Tule Lake NWR, Lower Klamath's lands serve dual uses as a wildlife preserve and viable farming ground. The portions of the refuge in Oregon are part of the leaseland farming program, where farmers bid annually on fields and grow various crops. The California areas of the refuge are in a combination of permanent and seasonal marshes, leased farm units and uplands.

Formal recordings of wildfires are virtually non-existent until the mid 1940's, but even then they are sporadic at best. Many non-specific references are reported for peat fires burning in and around present day Unit 4 for many years during the late 1940's through the mid 1950's. These reports seem quite reasonable as the unit is known for its highly organic and combustible soils and today peat fires still occur in the same area (most recently the Oklahoma fire in 2003).

The first twenty years of fire records and reports do not provide information to determine their specific cause, but more recently the refuge has experienced a growing number of human caused incidents. Camp fires had prevalence for some time until regulations prohibited camping and, expectantly, that cause category diminished to zero. At the same time, a number of escaped prescribed fires, both originating on and off the refuge, have resulted in wildfires.

Number	Name	Year	Acreage
L01		1944	
L02		1944	4.5
L03		1945	400.0
L04		1946	
L05		1947	
L06		1947	
L07		1947	
L08		1948	4.0
L09		1949	
L10		1949	700.0
L11		1952	160.0
L12		1956	
L13		1960	
L14		1960	
L15		1966	0.25
L16		1966	20
L17		1967	490
L18		1967	2
L19		1968	2
L20	Chalk	1970	44
L21	Sheepy East	1970	20
L22	Unit 6	1971	0.5
L23	Unit 12	1974	40
L24	Sardine	1975	135.4
L25	Unit 6	1975	25
L26	Fairchild Island	1977	30
L27		1977	160

Number	Name	Year	Acreage
L28	Unit 2	1978	
L29	Unit 2	1978	
L30	Unit 3	1978	
L31	Shop	1984	1.0
L32	Unit 9	1988	25
L33	Unit 6 C	1989	80
L34	Brandon	1994	0.1
L35	Sardine	1996	90
L36	Gretzky	1997	0.5
L37	Refuge	1998	1500
L38	Repeat	1999	25
L39	BOR	2000	25
L40	Jeezopeat	2000	3
L41	Volunteer	2000	144
L42	Carlson	2001	0.2
L43	Drain	2001	6
L44	Fairchild	2002	5
L45	Oklahoma	2003	427
L46	Greasewood	2005	0.1
L47	CWA	2005	0.55
L48	Township	2005	50.4
L49	Hensel	2005	3
	Location and name unknown	1944	
	Location and name unknown	1955	
	Location and name unknown	1961	1
	Location and name unknown	1961	1
	Location and name unknown	1961	1.5

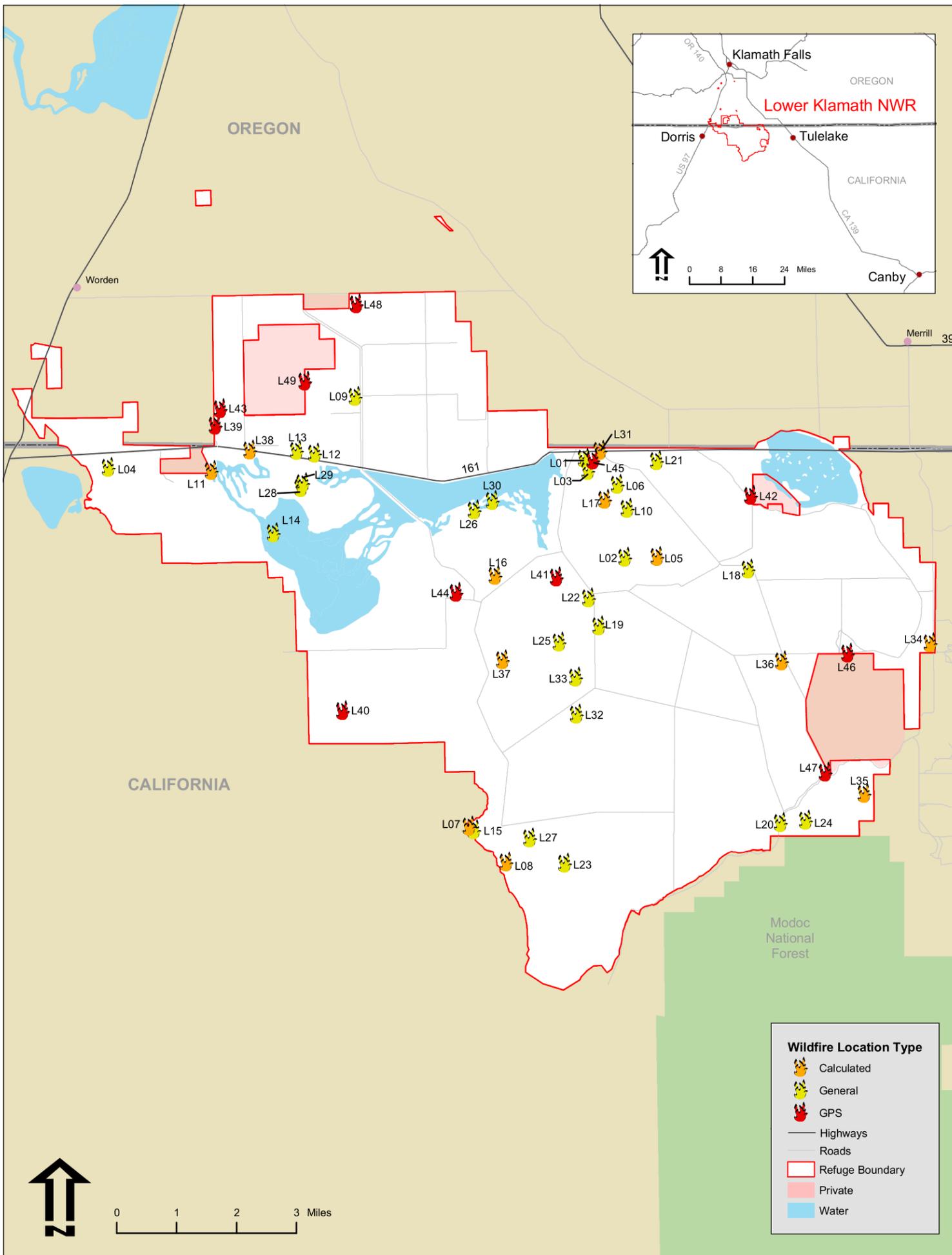
Wildfire Location Type Descriptions

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 is 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.



Wildfire Location Type

- Calculated
- General
- GPS
- Highways
- Roads
- Refuge Boundary
- Private
- Water