

# Modoc National Wildlife Refuge

## Wildfire History 1936 - 2005

**Location:**  
Alturas, CA

**Acreage:**  
7,030

**Established:**  
November 03, 1960

**Total Wildfires:**  
22

**Percentage of Zone Total:**  
13

**Cause Type:**

Natural	1
Camp Fire	0
Smoking	4
Fire Use	3
Incendiary	4
Equipment Use	2
Railroads	2
Juveniles	0
Miscellaneous	5
Unknown	1

Alturas, California's, Modoc National Wildlife Refuge is known as the high desert oasis for waterfowl. Its more than 7,000 acres offer spectacular wildlife viewing to visitors and breeding grounds for many species of migrating birds, ducks and geese. The refuge's close proximity to a semi-urban setting and variety of recreational opportunities invites thousands of visitors annually. Also, a system of federal, state and local roadways transverse its lands and a railroad line runs through its center. Combined together, these factors have resulted in wildland fire history pattern almost exclusively defined as human caused.

There is only one naturally caused wildfire reported in the refuges history. A number of escaped prescribed burns and equipment caused fires have scorched different corners of the encompassed grounds. Modoc refuge is also the only zone refuge known to have any wildfires ignited as a result of the railroad.

The 1980's were a busy time, relatively, for wildland fire suppression at Modoc NWR compared to its overall fire history and the fire histories of the other zone refuges. Still, the refuge continues to experience a dominant pattern of human influenced fires today. Its annual fuels growth and high visitation numbers (both users spending time on the refuge and passing through on one of the surrounding transportation networks) poses a continued risk for wildland fire in the future.

Number	Name	Year	Acreage
M01		1962	4
M02		1964	0.25
M03	Headquarters	1965	0.1
M04	Godfrey Tract	1973	20
M05	Ebby Tract	1976	13
M06	Alturas Rural Assist #6	1978	12
M07	Incident 7, Fire 3	1979	26
M08	Goose Pond	1981	2
M09	Goose Pond	1984	1.0
M10	Godfrey	1985	46.0
M11	Feedlot	1987	3.0
M12	East Flournoy	1988	17
M13	Sharkey	1988	0.1
M14	Matney	1988	1.5
M15	Mid-395	1994	0.1
M16	Ranchiera	1994	1
M17	Front	1995	0.1
M18	Macspipe	1997	0.1
M19	Goose Pond	2001	1
M20	Hamilton	2002	0.1
M21	Neer Pond	2003	0.3
	Location and name unknown	1982	

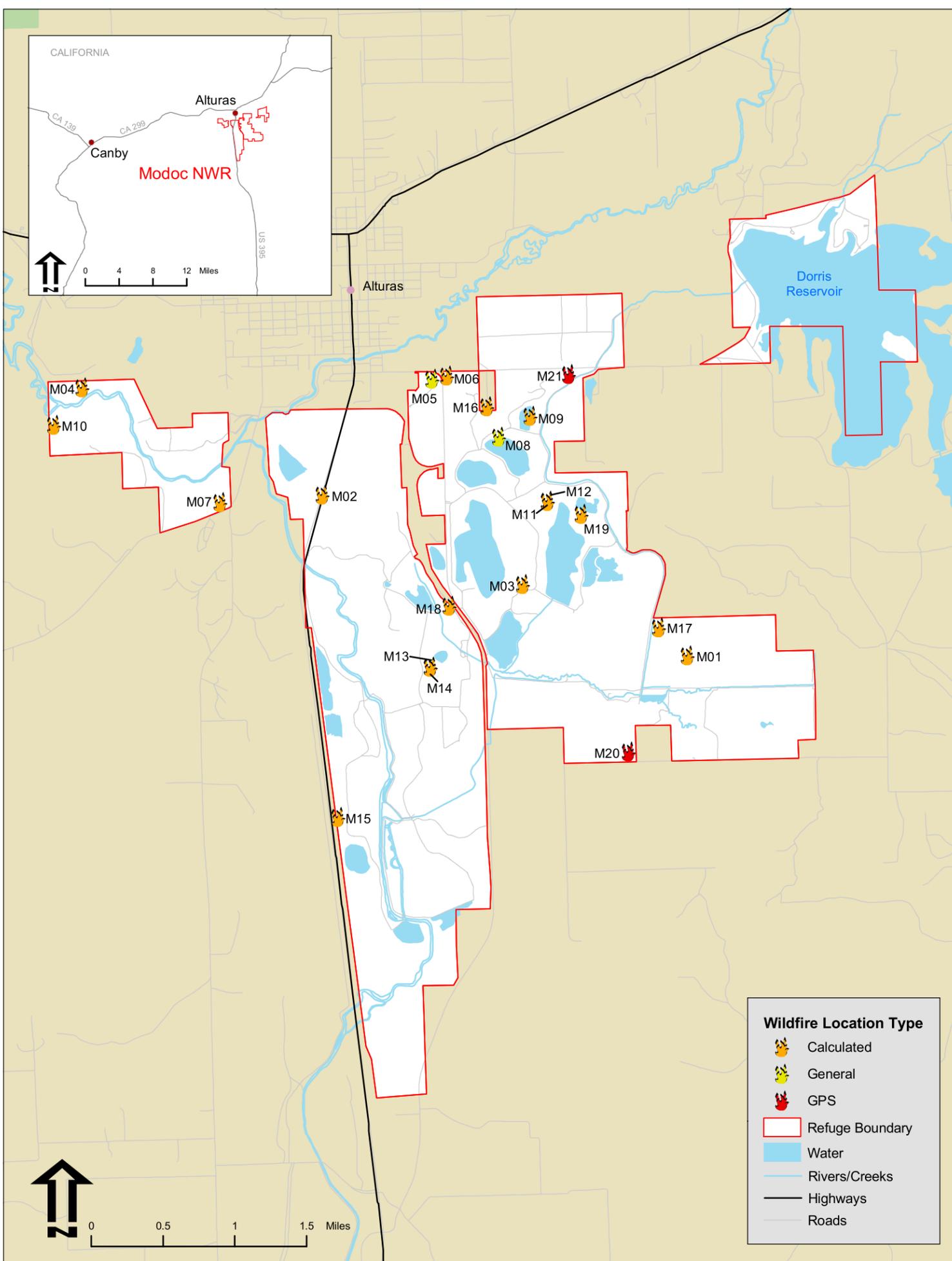
### Wildfire Location Type Descriptions

**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
- Refuge Boundary
- Water
- Rivers/Creeks
- Highways
- Roads

