

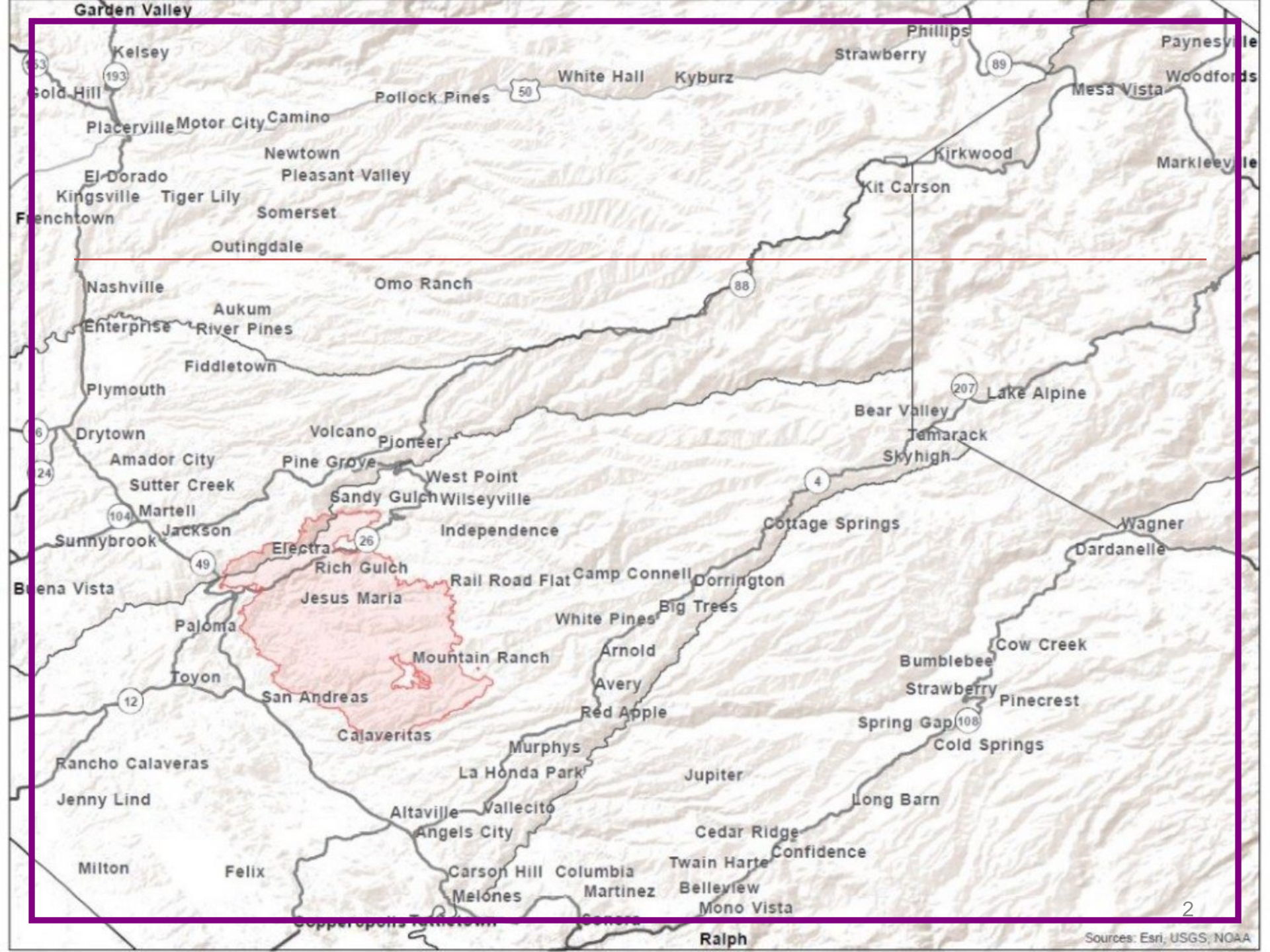
An aerial photograph of a wildfire in a hilly, forested area. A large plume of white and grey smoke rises from the fire. A red fire retardant is being dropped from an aircraft, creating a bright red streak against the smoke. The terrain is a mix of green forest and brown, dry-looking hills.

BUTTE INCIDENT

CA-AEU-024981

CAL FIRE

Amador and Calaveras Counties



Fire History

- The fire was reported at approximately 2:26 p.m. on Wednesday, 9/09/15.
- The weather was 97 degrees F, 11% RH and wind N/W at 5 (gust to 14)
- Diurnal winds prevented spotting over Mokelumne River until sundown.
- Drought stressed vegetation, accumulation of dead vegetation, steep terrain, and weather conditions promoted rapid fire growth.

Fire History



- The fire jumped the Mokelumne River at approximately 1900 hours.
- Significant evacuations occurred on the north side of Highway 26.
- A Type III Team was ordered to support the incident.
- By 2000 hours a Type I IMT was ordered.

Report Date	Time	Acreage in time period	Total acreage	Acres per hour
9/9/2015	1425	Ignition		
9/9/2015	1630	50	50	25
9/9/2015	1930	950	1000	317
9/10/2015	0600	3050	4000	226
9/10/2015	1800	10700	14700	892
9/11/2015	0600	17274	31974	1440
9/11/2015	1800	32754	64728	2730

Operational Period Synopsis (0600-0600):

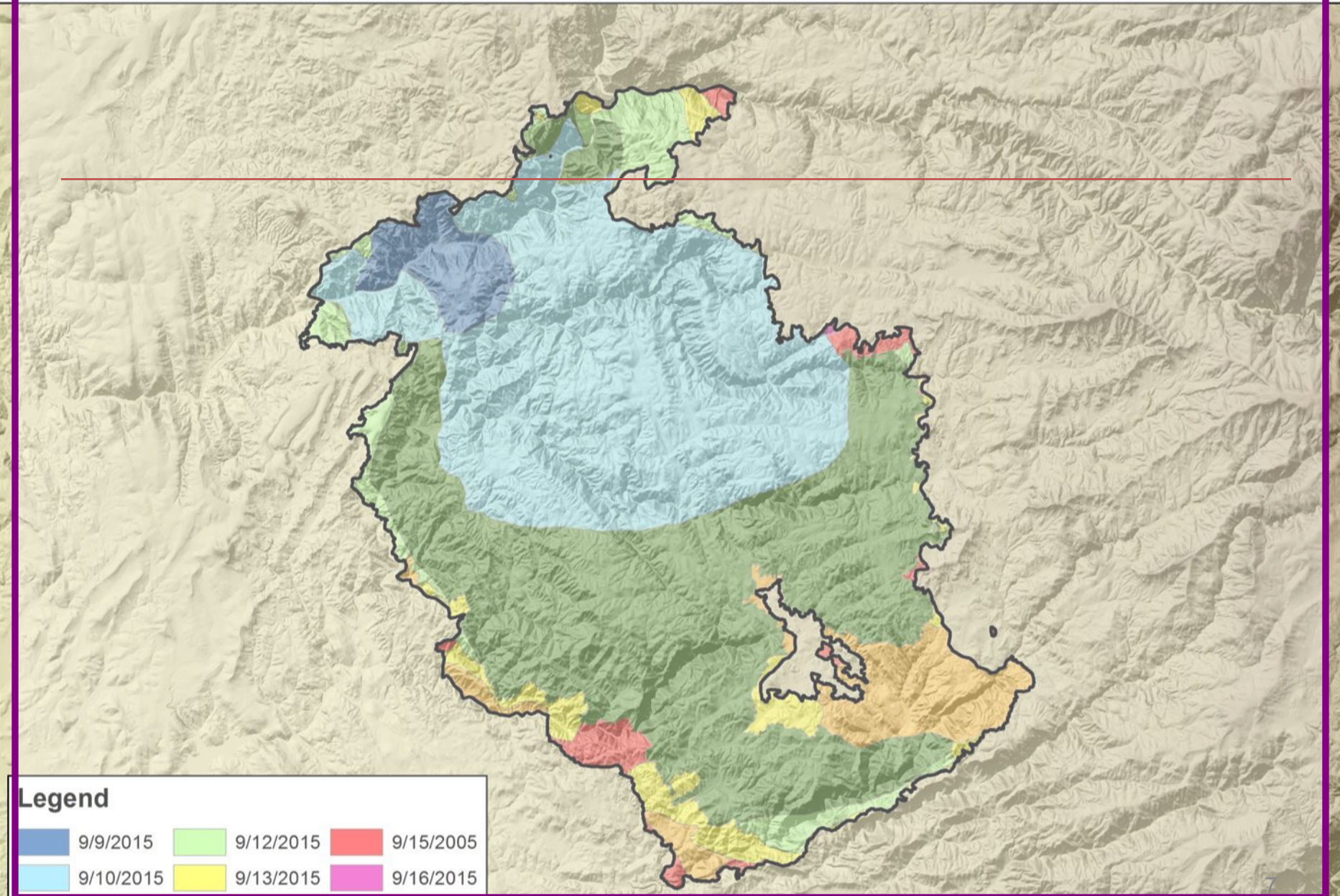
Wednesday	4000 acres burned
Thursday	27974 acres burned
Friday	32754 acres burned

Optional Time Shift Synopsis (1800-1800):

Wednesday	1000 acres burned
Thursday	13750 acres burned
Friday	50028 acres burned

Rim Fire			
August 23,2013		51,793 acres	105,622 total

King Fire			
September 17, 2014		52, 400 acres	70,944 total

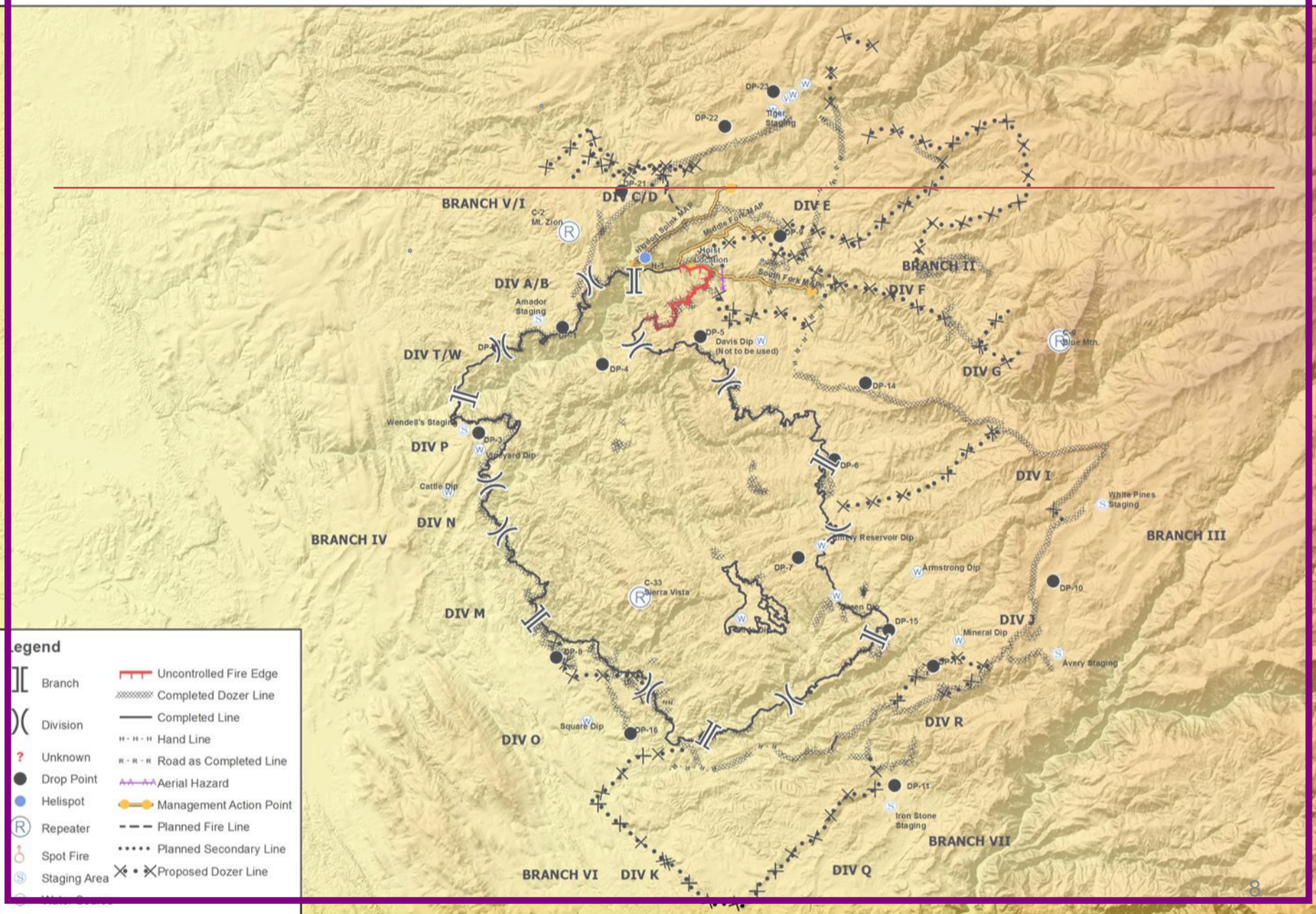


Legend

9/9/2015	9/12/2015	9/15/2015
9/10/2015	9/13/2015	9/16/2015
9/11/2015	9/14/2015	

OPERATIONS MAP

NAD83
1:250,000

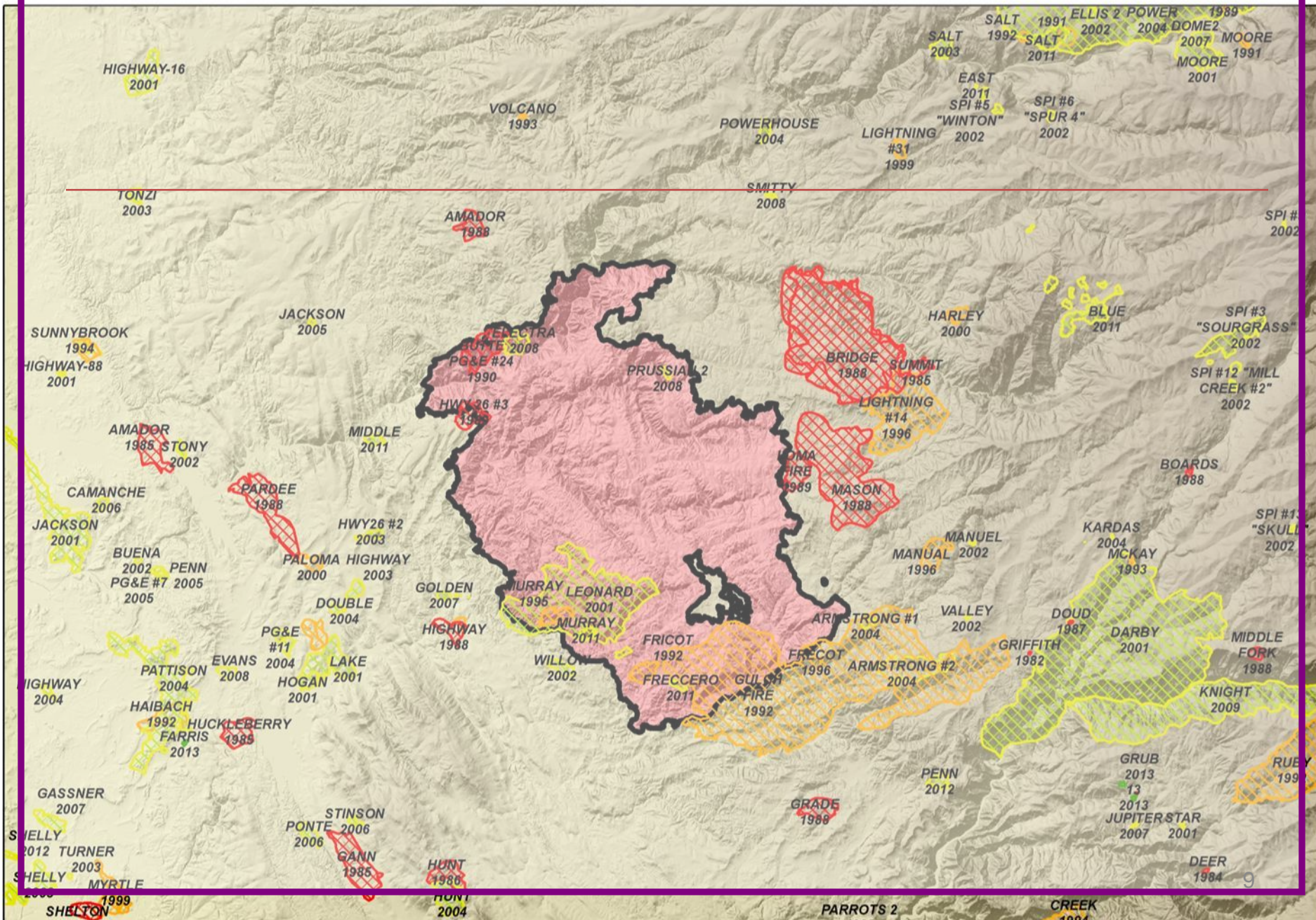


Legend

	Branch		Uncontrolled Fire Edge
	Division		Completed Dozer Line
	Unknown		Completed Line
	Drop Point		Hand Line
	Helispot		Road as Completed Line
	Repeater		Aerial Hazard
	Spot Fire		Management Action Point
	Staging Area		Planned Fire Line
	Other		Planned Secondary Line
			Proposed Dozer Line

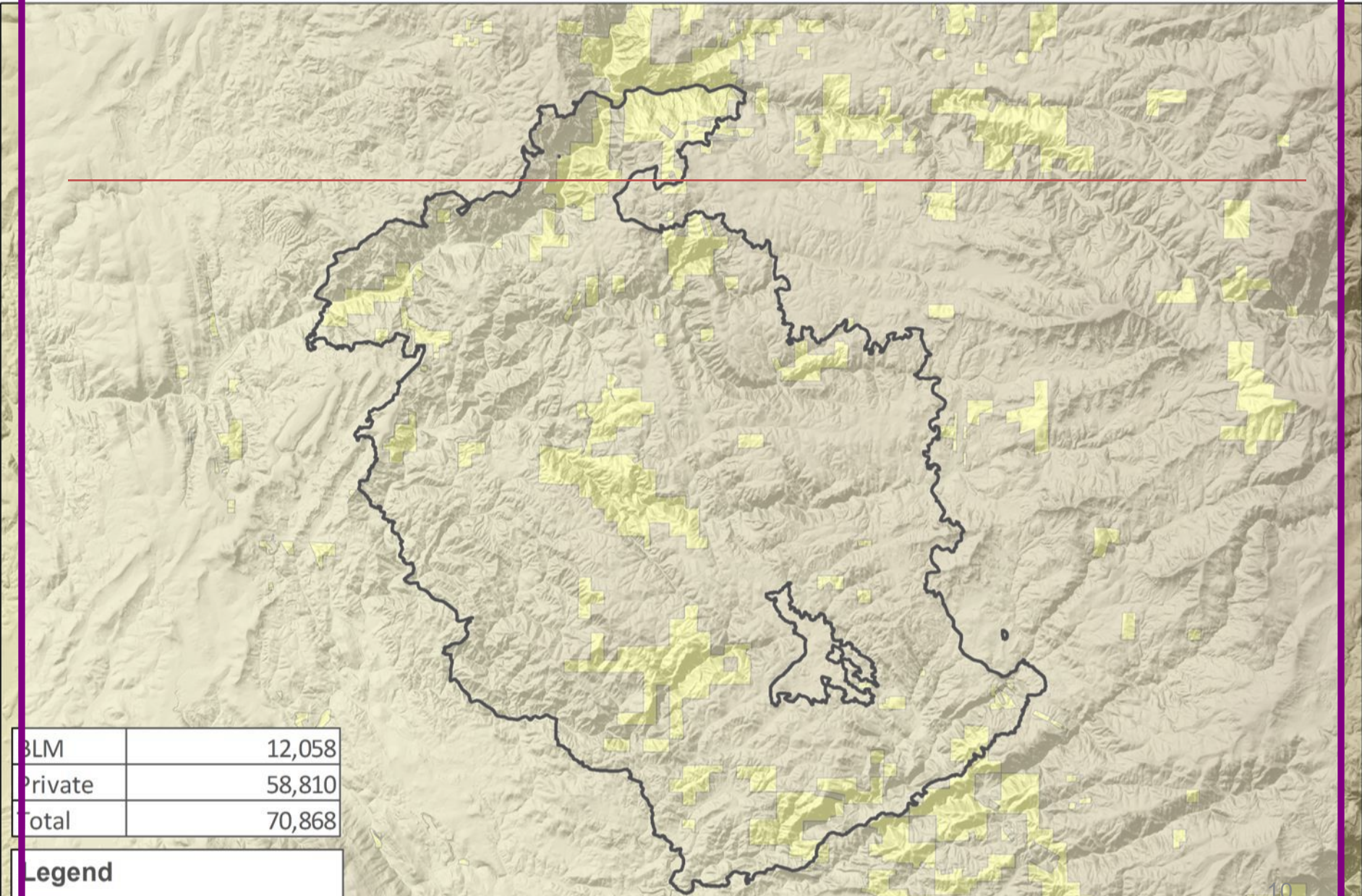
FIRE HISTORY MAP

NAD83
1:250,000




OWNERSHIP MAP

NAD83
1:150,000



BLM	12,058
Private	58,810
Total	70,868

Legend

 Bureau of Land Management

BUTTE INCIDENT

CA-AEU-024918 Legend

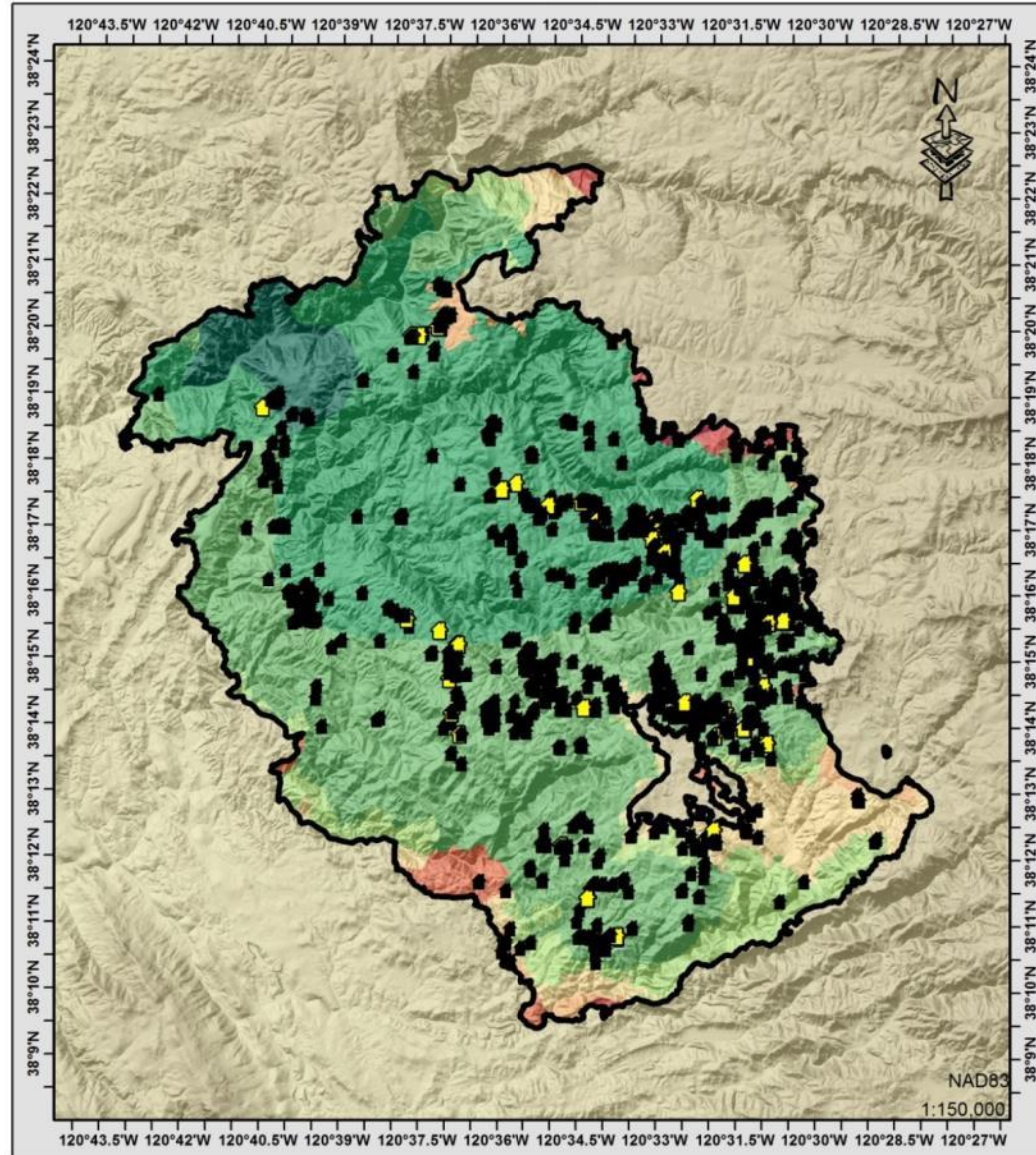
Sep 23, 2015



🏠 Damaged 🏠 Destroyed



Fire Progression



Operations Summary

- At the peak:
- Nearly 5000 personnel assigned
- 106 miles of fire hose used
- 18 fixed wing aircraft including the VLAT (Very Large Airtanker) dropped a total of 702,000 gallons of retardant
- 18 rotor wing aircraft dropped over 1 million gallons of water

Operations Overview

Continued

Operations Summary

At the peak of the incident the following was assigned:

- 519 Fire Engines with 1,968 personnel
- 81 Fire Crews with 1,433 personnel
- 115 Bulldozers with 244 personnel
- 60 Water tenders with 120 personnel

Control Objectives

KEEP THE FIRE:

- NORTH of: The Stanislaus River
- SOUTH of: Ridge, Sutter Creek Volcano, Pioneer Creek and Mill Creek Roads and the North Fork of the Mokelumne River
- EAST of: Highway 49
- WEST of: The Stanislaus National Forest DPA Boundary

Cooperating Agencies

- Amador and Calaveras Sheriff/County OES
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- United States Forest Service
- United States Bureau of Land Management
- California Highway Patrol
- Pacific Gas & Electric
- Cal OES
- Red Cross
- Amador and Calaveras County Agencies
- United States Bureau of Reclamation

Suppression Repair

- Erosion control on fire lines
- ~~Remove fill from watercourse crossings~~
- Chip or masticate brush piles and windrows within 100 feet of houses, public road, and strategic fuel breaks.
- Repair fences that were damaged by fire fighting equipment
- Majority of the work is complete; however, CAL FIRE hand crews will be continuing work over the next few weeks.

Post Fire Emergency Watershed Response Team

- Requested by the California Office of Emergency Services
- Team made up of CAL FIRE, California Geological Survey (CGS), ~~Department of Water Resources (DWR), Regional Water Quality Control Board.~~
- Goal was to provide assistance in understanding the potential post fire runoff hazards, including flooding and debris flows, to watersheds burned in the 2015 Butte Fire.
- This was a limited and general evaluation of downstream areas in a position to be affected by flooding or debris flows.
- Field observations were made to collect soil burn severity data and to identify areas where hazards to life and property may occur.
- Debris flows and flood risks are expected to be highest in the first winter following the fire, then decrease as the watershed recovers over the next 2 to 5 years.
- Largest increase in post fire runoff will occur where more than 50% of the watershed area exhibits moderate to high soil burn severity.

Salvaging Burned Timber

- Notice of Emergency Timber Operations
- Prepared by a Registered Professional Forester

- CAL FIRE has 5 days to accept for filing
- Requires a Confidential Archaeological Addendum
- Logging must be done by a Licensed Timber Operator
- Emergency Notice is basically a notice that timber operations are occurring. Timber operator has to follow the California Forest Practice Rules.
- Permit is good for one year. If operations are not completed in that time, a timber harvesting plan is required.
- No requirement to restock.
- One year erosion control maintenance period.
- Slash piles must be burned or disposed of by April 1 the year following timber operations.