

Current Fire Situation

The 2004 statewide declared fire season started on June 7th, 2004 and ended on October 19th, 2004. The fire season statistics show the number of fires and acreage were below 2003 and the five year average. There were 293 fires last year through December 31st, 2004. This number includes all fires in State Zones, which include CDF direct protection areas, Local Government Contract (Local Response Areas Under Agreement), and other agencies in State Zones. Fire occurrence was 1.3% below 2003, and 1.2% below the 5- year average. In 2004 fires burned 468 acres, which is 57% below the 2003 fire season, and 12% below the 5- year average for the Unit.

Of the 293 fires in 2004 in the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit (Humboldt, Del Norte, and western Trinity counties) 247 fires were on lands directly protected by CDF. An additional 1 fire was on land directly protected by CDF under a local “Amador” program, 4 fires were on lands directly protected by CDF, but where another agency provides life and property protection, and 15 reports were filed for false alarms. On lands directly protected by Federal Government Agencies (USFS, BIA, HIA, & NPS) there were 24 total fires.

The largest fire on record for this year (2004) was the Pilot Fire (04CAHUU005468) which started on October 6th, 2004 from a vehicle driving through tall grass. The fire consumed 274 acres of grass, woodland, and timber before it was controlled on October 10th, 2004.

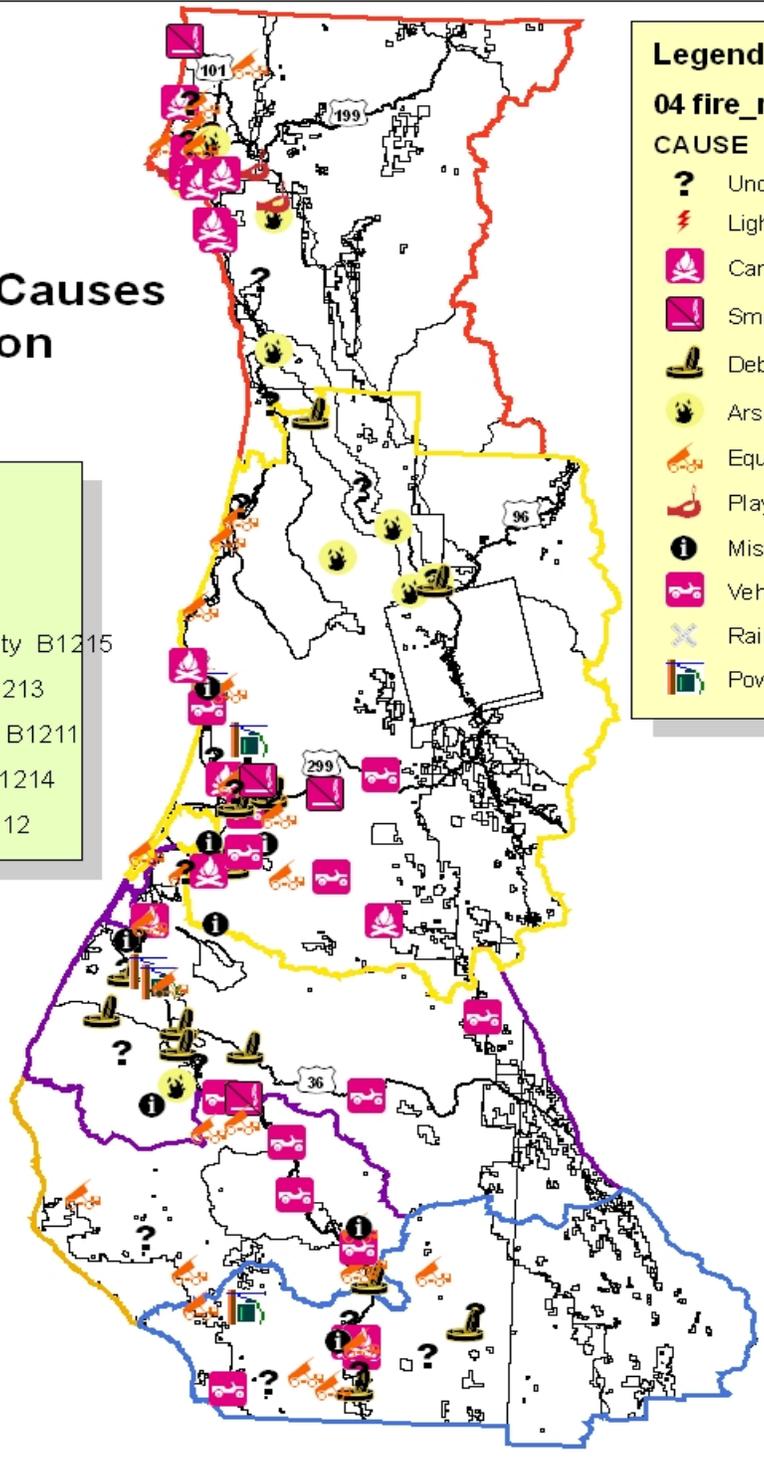
HUU 2004 Fire Causes By Battalion

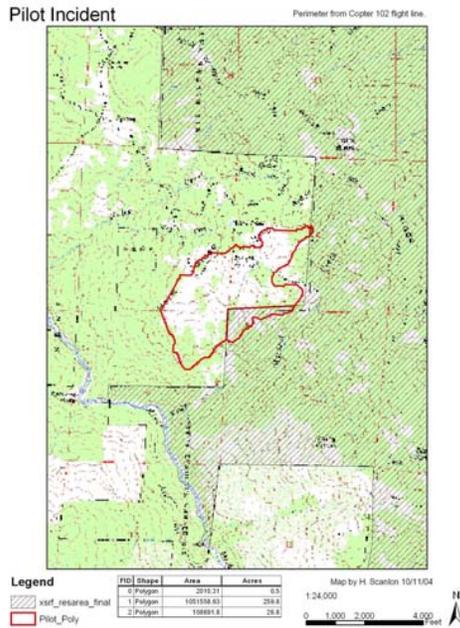
Legend
bat_2005
BATTALION

- Crescent City B1215
- Fortuna B1213
- Garberville B1211
- Trinidad B1214
- Weott B1212

Legend
04 fire_rpt Events
CAUSE

- ? Undetermined
- ⚡ Lightning
- 🔥 Campfire
- 🚬 Smoking
- 🗑️ Debris
- 🔥 Arson
- 🔧 Equipment Use
- 🔥 Playing w/ Fire
- ❗ Misc.
- 🚗 Vehicle
- ✂️ Railroad
- 📡 Powerlines





Cause DPA 1.1 – 1.8 Fires Only											
Undet	Lightning	Campfire	Smoking	Debris	Arson	Equip Use	Vehicle	RxR	Elect Power	Play w/ Fire	Misc
51	1	23	5	48	27	7	36	1	14	13	15

Ignition Workload Assessment (Level of Service)

The Fire Plan analysis of the level of service in HUU is in a constant state of assessment.

The Humboldt – Del Norte Unit is composed of eleven fire stations, three camps, one air attack base, and one helitack base. CDF HUU maintains 14 frontline engines, with two engines in reserve, two dozers, 15 inmate crews, one helicopter, one air attack, and one air tanker for fire suppression efforts. There are approximately 100 permanent fire suppression personnel, 30 resource management personnel, and 6 clerical personnel to staff these efforts. Additionally the Unit hires 50 limited term personnel to supplement the permanent staff during the fire season.

The Inter-agency dispatch center, not only dispatches fire, law enforcement, and EMS Calls for the Six Rivers National Forest, and The Humboldt – Del Norte Unit, but also for 29 volunteer fire departments, 1 ambulance company, Redwood National Park, the Bureau of Land Management’s Kings Range National Conservation Area, and acts

“Central Ordering Point” for the Hoopa Square. Refer to maps in Appendix (7 thru 10).

In 2004 the Fortuna Interagency ECC dispatched a total of 6892 calls.



The Unit as a whole responded to a total of 293 fires in 2004. That was down from the 398 in 2003. From the 2004 fires, 468 total acres were consumed in the following categories: 206 grass, 54 acres brush, 107 acres woodland, 101 acres timber and 0 acres of agricultural product. Considering the 1,904,745 acres of state responsibility land and 1,962,817 direct protection area that the Humboldt – Del Norte Unit encompasses, 468 acres seems like a drop in the bucket, HUU has been fortunate.

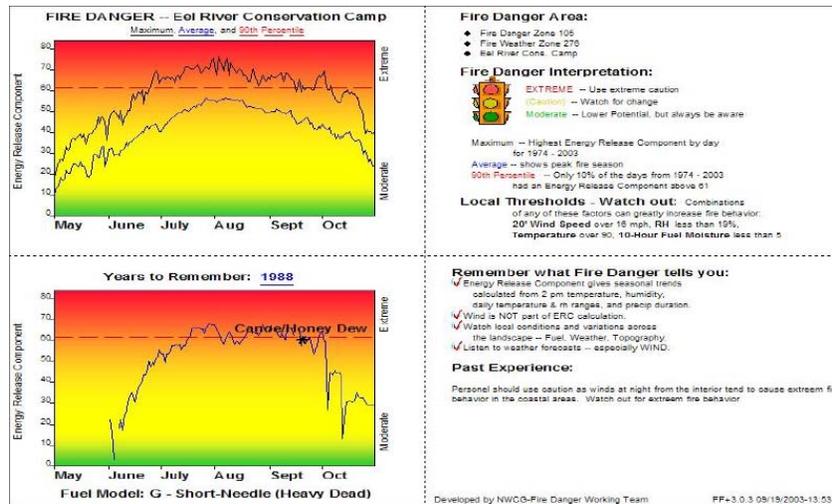
A total of six (6) fires out of the 293 that the Unit responded to were over 10 acres, (2 % of total) or 98% of all unwanted fires were contained at 10 acres or less in 2004.

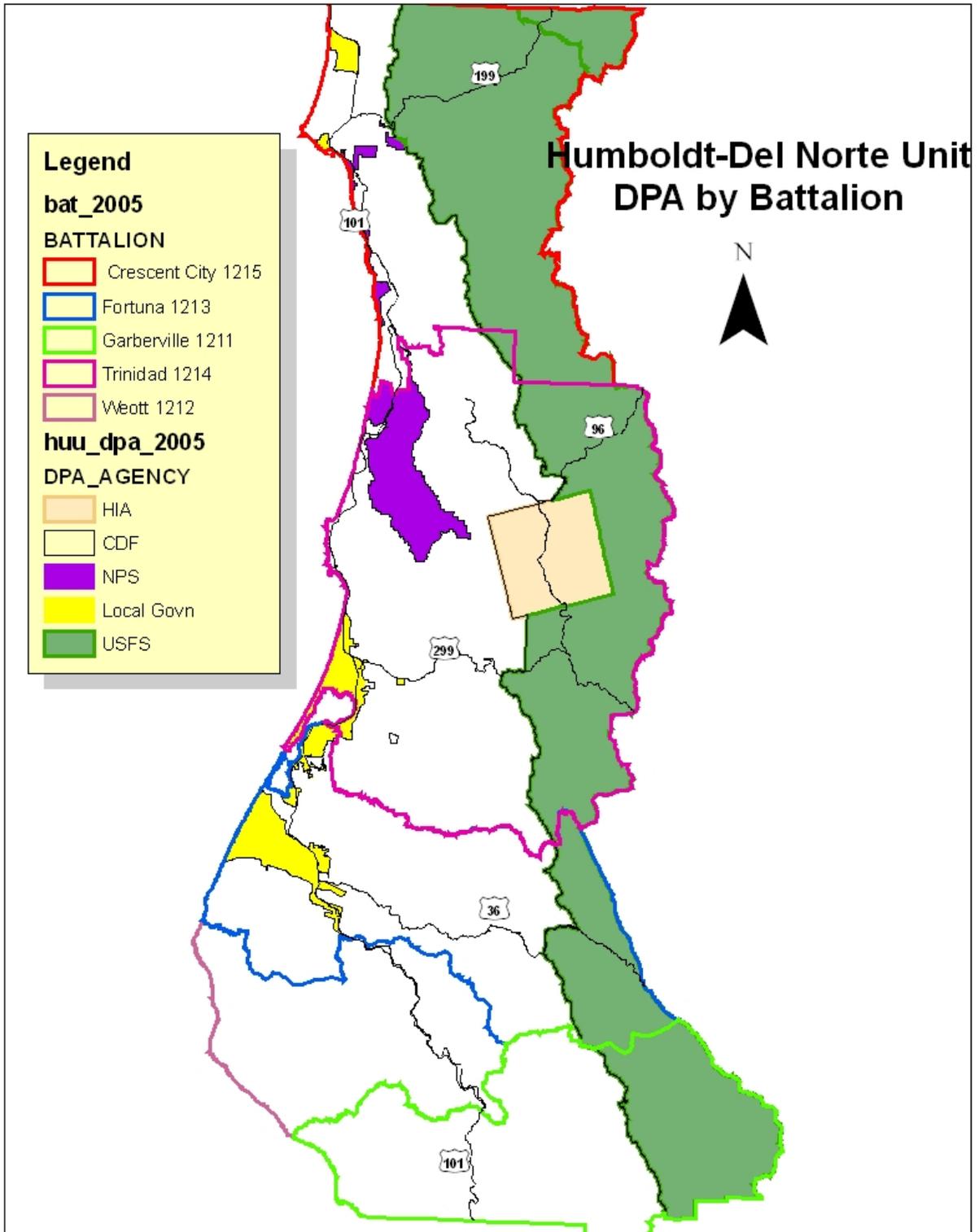
State	Unit ID	Fire #	Year	Fire Name	Agency	Alarm Date	Control Date	Control Method	Cause	Reported Acres	Inc. Number
CA	HUU	043	04	Blue	CDF	02/25/04	02/25/04	8	5	33	000022
CA	HUU	064	04	Deadman	CDF	06/15/04	06/16/04	2	3	30	000026
CA	HUU	096	04	Fish	CDF	07/03/04	07/05/04	2	7	15	000031
CA	HUU	209	04	Armstrong	CDF	09/01/04	09/03/04	2	1	17	000047

CA	HUU	215	04	Glendale	CDF	09/03/04	09/04/04	2	1	28	000047
CA	HUU	259	04	Pilot	CDF	10/06/04	10/10/04	2	8	274	000054

HUU has the potential for some rather large catastrophic fires; especially in it's southern and eastern regions. If one were to add the fire history, fuel build up, increase in population and housing, especially in wooded rural areas, you would quickly wonder why it has not happened. With the area becoming more and more popular as an area of scenic beauty, relative low land cost, etc., the risk will continue to grow, especially for the person who wishes to build and reside in remote areas of the Unit.

The Unit is one that has most of its fire protection adjacent to its population centers, leaving vast tracts of the Unit with long response times and very little protection. CDF's fire protection objective states that a system of basic fire protection will be provided so that damage to life, property and natural resources will be held at or below a level acceptable within social, political and economic constraints. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection designates in the California Fire Plan that CDF will strive to contain 95% of all unwanted fire at 10 acres or less.





California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection

Humboldt – Del Norte Unit

2004 Statistics

Agency Wildland Responsibility Direct Protection Acreage Difference

	Total Acres	Total Acres	Total Acres
CDF	1,941,991	1,963,581	21,590
CDF Wildland Contract		520*	
Hoopla (HIA)	90,666	90,851	185
BIA	9,544		
LRA	87,196	86,676	520*
BLM	80,569		
Redwood NPS	80,457	80,457	
Six Rivers NF	1,002,752	1,069,120	66,368

DPA Breakdown: CDF Six Rivers NF

Arcata Jacoby Cr Forest: 520*

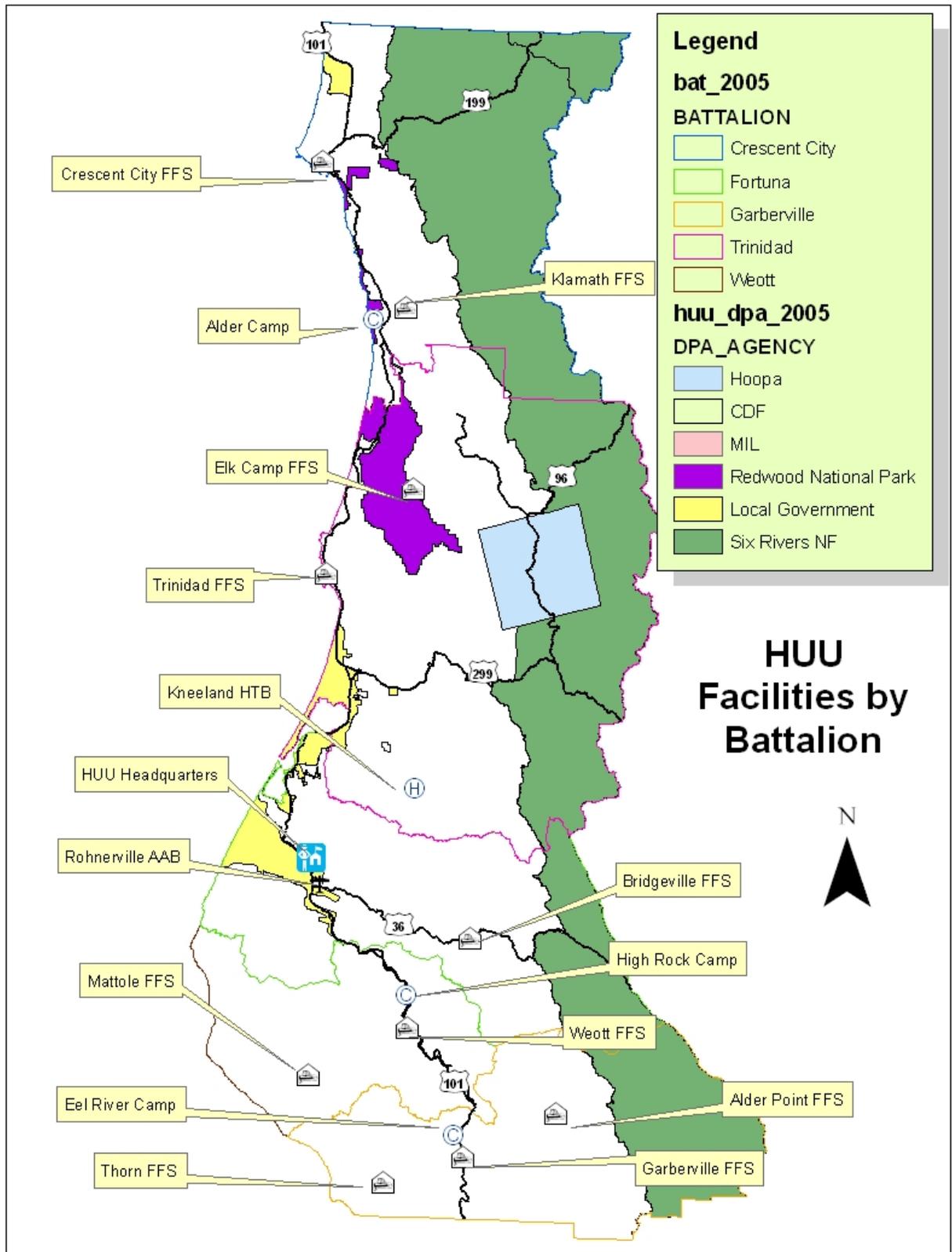
CDF: 1,841,547 100,334

BIA: 9,013 531

BLM: 80,556 13

Six Rivers NF: 31,945 968,242

1,963,581 1,069,120



**Local Fire Organizations Providing Service in the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit
HUMBOLDT DEL NORTE TRINITY**

City Fire Dept.

Eureka Crescent City

Fire Protection Dist.

Arcata Crescent
Blue Lake Fork Dick
Ferndale Smith River
Fortuna Hiouchi
Garberville
Humboldt Fire Dist.#1
Kneeland
Loleta
Myers Flat
Petrolia
Redway
Rio Dell
Samoa Peninsula
Telegraph Ridge
Whitethorn
Willow Creek

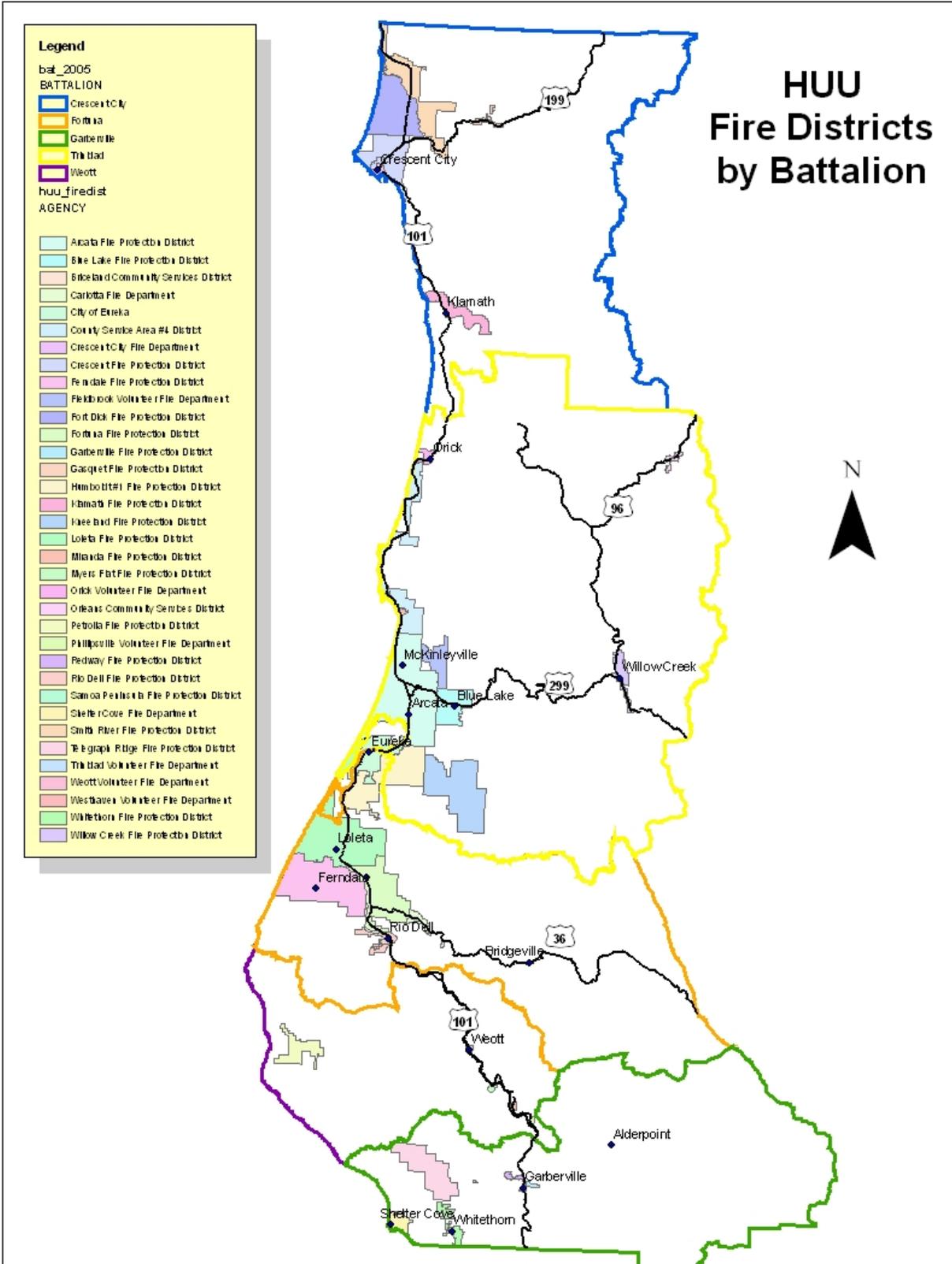
Volunteer Fire Dept.

Briceland Gasquet Kettenpom
Fruitland Klamath Salyer
Honeydew Burnt Ranch
Korbel Hawkins Bar
Maple Creek S. Trinity
Nielson Ranch Van Duzen
Orleans
Palo Verde
Prosper Ridge
Redcrest
Salmon Creek
Scotia
Shelter Cove
Sprowl Creek
Trinidad
Westhaven
Whale Gulch

Community Services Dist.

Carlotta/Riverside
Fieldbrook
Miranda
Phillipsville
Orick

Weott
Other Special Dist.
Community Service Dist.#4, Hoopa & Yurok Fire Dept.



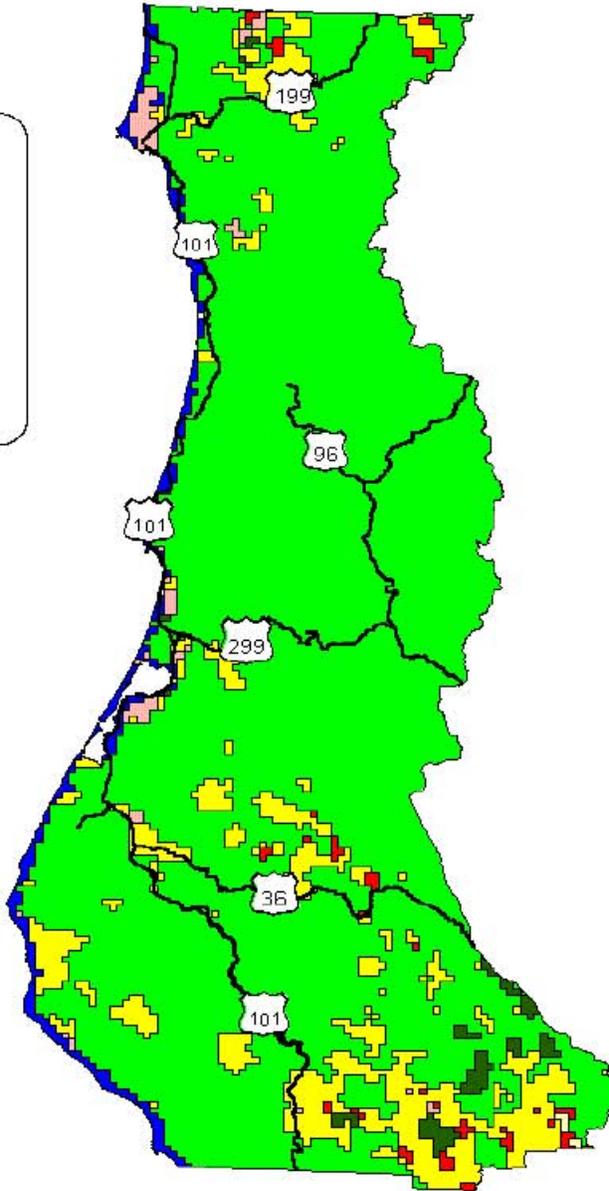
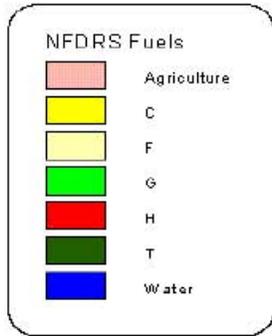
Fuels

The Fire Plan analysis of fuels has been completed for the Humboldt Del Norte Unit. While an actual rating for the fuels is available, some general statements can be made based on local knowledge of the fuels. The Unit is predominately mixed conifer forest (NFDRS Fuel model G) or Fire Behavior Fuel Model 10. This model consists of, Coast Redwood, Douglas Fir, Spruce with intermingled hardwoods including Madrone and Tanoak. A key component within this fuel type is the large amount of down and dead woody fuel. This vegetation type occurs in three zones. The coastal strip consists of Coast Redwood, Douglas Fir and Spruce. This is a closed canopy forest with a thick, lush understory of brush. The biomass in this fuel type is equal to or greater than a rainforest. In fact it is not uncommon to have a true Redwood forest referred to as a rainforest. The second zone occurs inland where the Douglas Fir dominates and resides with the above mentioned hardwoods. This results in a more open canopy with a sparser understory. The third zone occurs in the most southeastern portions of the unit, where the fuel is that of a typical Oak Woodland. The understory is open and consists of grass and brush (chaparral). Refer to maps in Appendix (1 thru 6).

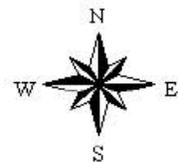
The following set of photographs depict a cross section of the vegetation types within the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit.







Humboldt Del Norte
Fuels



Fire Weather

The Fire Plan analysis of the frequency of severe fire weather has been developed. The business plan that addresses the validation process was completed this last year.

We found that the current weather station being used as a severity station for the Unit (Cooskie RAWS) because of its almost constant strong winds does not give an accurate depiction of the area. We are working on repairing the problem by switching to our Eel River RAWS, which we have used as our severity station for the past five years in our Unit Weather Plan.

The unit has used various options in order to mitigate this problem, in the past such as the use of Fire Family plus to tabulate existing weather data from our weather stations set in National Fire Danger Rating Zones, as addressed in the Unit Weather plan.

Using local knowledge and research work done at Humboldt State University we can define when and under what conditions severe fire weather occurs. The unit is also fortunate to have a good database (dating back to 1974) of weather observations from the Eel River manual weather observation station.

Three major synoptic weather systems are associated with large fires in the Humboldt



Del Norte Unit. They are the Pacific High (post-frontal), the Great Basin High and the Subtropical High Aloft pattern. These patterns can be expected to occur 50-55 days in the summer months, with the greatest number of days occurring in July, August or September.

National Weather Service, Eureka weather Office, Woodley Island, California

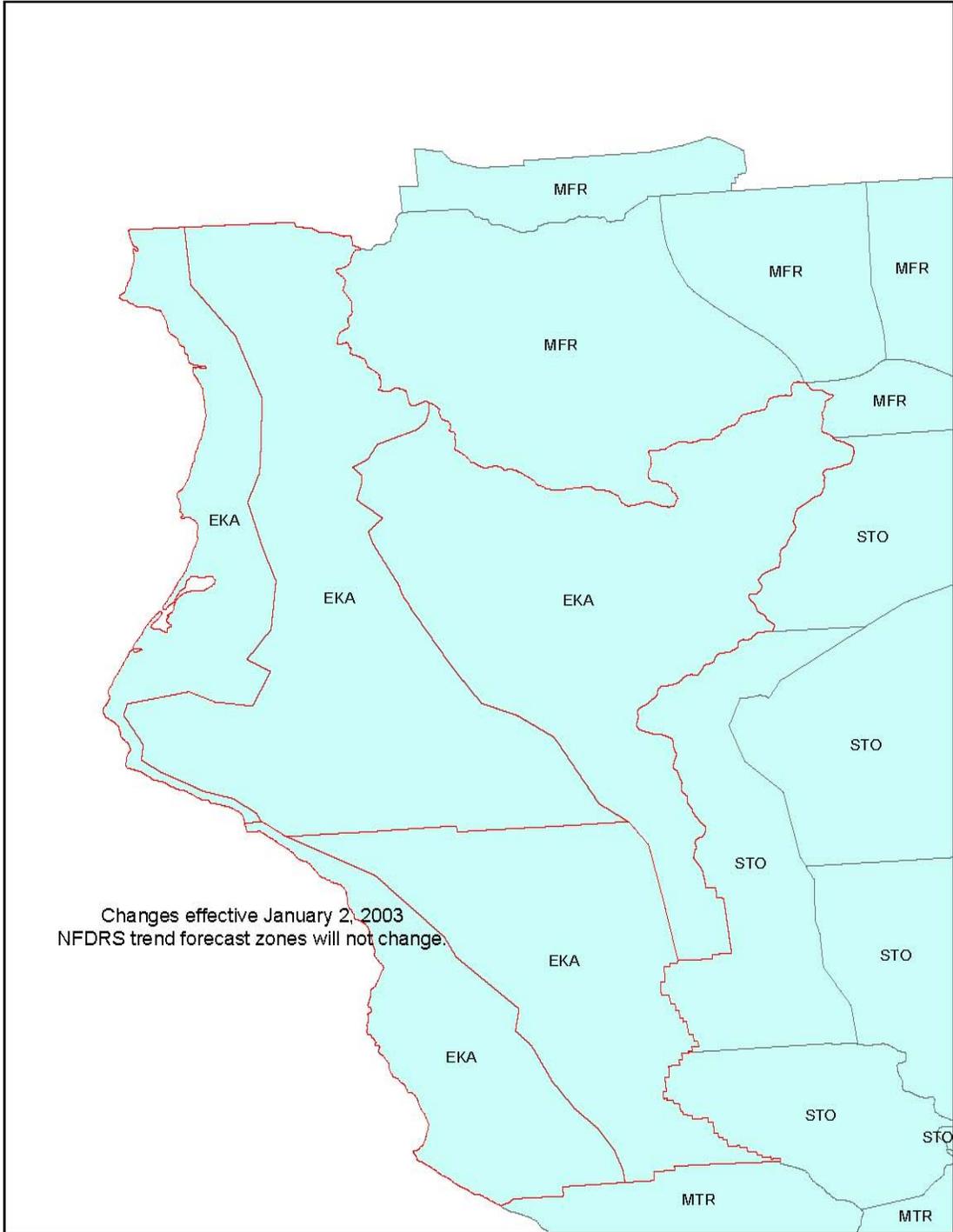
National Weather Service

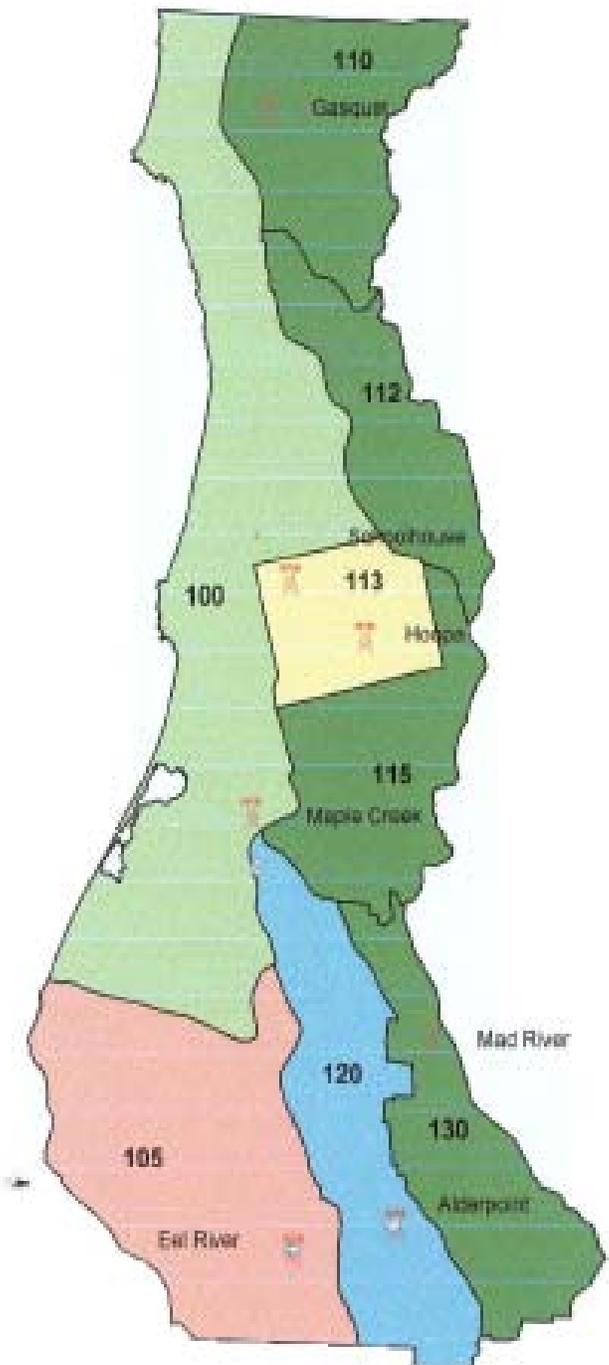
As of January 1st, 2003 the National Weather Service has moved all daily fire weather forecasting from Redding to the Eureka office. All spot weather forecasts will be requested through the Eureka office at their main web page:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Eureka>, with exception of those that are related to smoke management issues (Vegetation Management Program burns, etc.) In those cases, spot weather forecasts will be routed through the Redding office. This change will affect all areas of the unit that fall under CDF responsibility. Spot weather forecasts can be posted at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/wrspot/spotmon?site=eka>.

Eureka Fire Weather Zones

EKA= Eureka MFR= Medford STO= Sacramento MTR= Monterey





RAWS & Field Reporting Locations

Legend

facility02_1

Field Reporting Locations

- Aberpoint FFB
- Est River DC
- Kneelad HB

huaraws

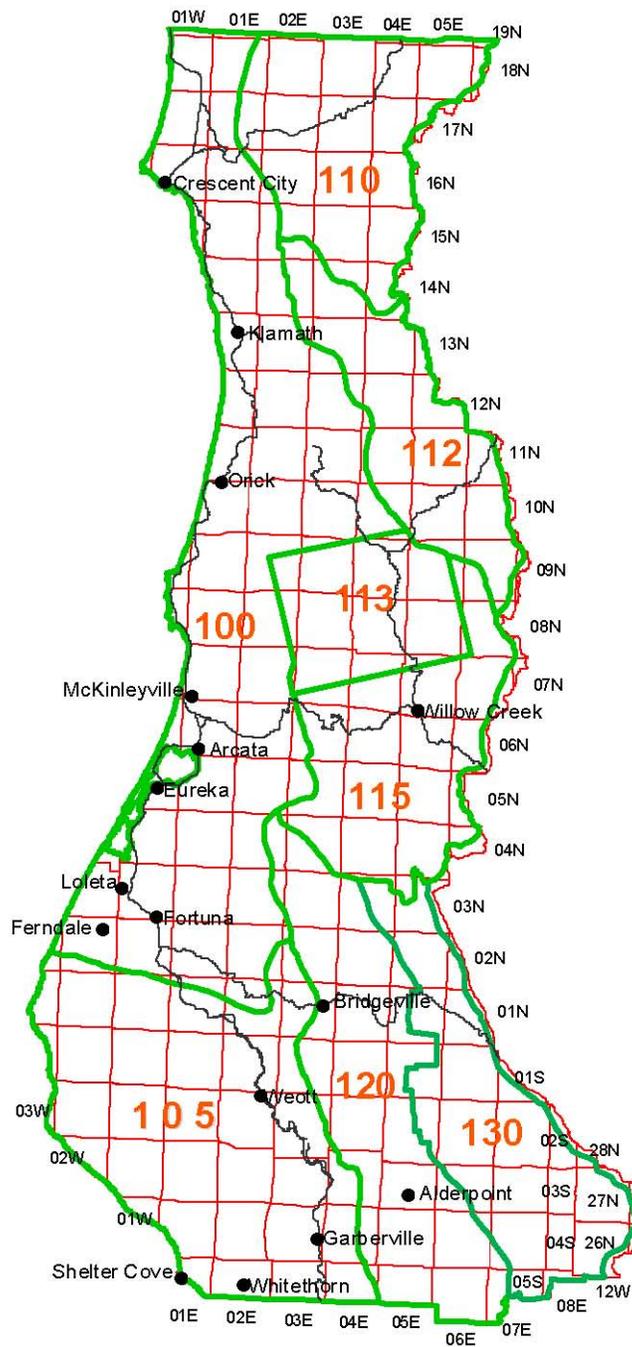
RAWS Name / Ownership

- Aberpoint HUU
- Est River HUU
- Gasquet SRF
- Hoppe HA
- Maple Creek HUU
- Mad River SRF
- Schoelhouse RWP

hau_rflrs

HUU/NFDRS Zones

- 100 HUU
- 105 HUU
- 110 SRF
- 112 SRF
- 113 HA
- 115 SRF
- 120 HUU
- 130 SRF



National Fire Danger Rating Zones

Located on the northeastern fringes of the City of Eureka, this area creates an interface problem. Many housing subdivisions back up to open forest that is zoned timber production and is being logged. The logging not only changes the fuel hazard type, but the activity itself can contribute to fire “starts”. The Unit and Humboldt Fire District typically control one or two fires a year within this general area.