DAMAGE SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

DISASTER CA23-5

AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES

DEL NORTE and SISKIYOU COUNTIES

COMMENCING AUGUST 15, 2023

Prepared by: California Department of Transportation Division of Budgets Federal Resources Office

Introduction

This Damage Survey Summary Report (DSSR) has been prepared for submission to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in response to statewide wildfire events impacting Del Norte and Siskiyou Counties, which began on August 15, 2023. According to FHWA's Emergency Relief Manual (May 2013), the purpose of this DSSR is to "summarize the damage assessment and provide information and documentation for the FHWA Division Administrator to make a finding that a natural disaster or catastrophic failure has occurred within the intent of 23 U.S.C. 125." The DSSR also "provides the Division Administrator with a basis to make a finding that the disaster is eligible for funding under the FHWA ER program."

Damage Description

Beginning on August 15, 2023, the Head Fire and a series of other lightning caused fires, collectively known as the Happy Camp Complex fires in Siskiyou County, and a series of lightning strikes occurred in the Six Rivers National Forest, resulting in multiple fires collectively known as the Smith River Complex fires in Del Norte County, which spread rapidly due to dry fuels, winds, and lightning, high temperatures and continued critical fire weather conditions, impacting Siskiyou and Del Norte Counties. The fires have caused extensive damage to critical infrastructures and roadside facilities.

A Governor's two Proclamations executed on August 29, 2023, one for the Happy Camp Complex fires in Siskiyou County and the other for the Smith River Complex fires in Del Norte County, are included in this Damage Survey Summary Report.

The Damage Assessment Form (DAF) due date for this disaster is November 30, 2023. Given the anticipated timeframe of a corresponding Finding of Eligibility and the necessary work to complete damage assessment, it is anticipated that additional time will be needed. A Damage Assessment Form time extension to December 30, 2023, will be requested as part of the Emergency Relief application.

Damage Estimate

To date, the preliminary estimated cost to repair or reconstruct the damage to federal-aid highways in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 125 for the Happy Camp Complex fires in Siskiyou County is 1.3 million, and the Smith River Complex fires in Del Norte County is 8.6 million, for State facilities and no damages have been reported for Local facilities, and tracked individually.

In accordance with 23 CFR 668.105(j), the minimum \$700,000 threshold for event eligibility will be applied to each individual fire event identified under this Disaster. The table below provides the specific fire events and costs, based on current estimates, which will be applying for ER funding under Disaster CA23-5 at this time:

CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST-COUNTIES INCLUDED IN GOV. PROCLAMATIONS							
District	Date of Incident	Event Name	DO (Y/N)	EA #	Reporting Code(s)	TOTAL COST TO DATE	
2	8/16/2023	Happy Camp Complex Fire	Y	TBD	TBD	\$1,300,000	
1	8/15/2023	Smith River Complex Fire	Y	01- 0N540	01WF2401	\$8,600,000	

Additional fire damages are expected to supplement this initial ER Application Letter requesting eligibility for ER funding through the DAF approval process. As state and local agencies assess damages, additional counties may need to be added to this Disaster via Supplemental ER Applications. Additional fires associated with this disaster event will be submitted under separate cover through a Supplemental ER Application Letter to determine eligibility for ER funding, if required.

Additional Information

The following attached information describes the statewide wildfire damage in additional detail:

- Governor's Proclamations (Happy Camp Complex Fire and Smith River Complex Fire both executed on August 29, 2023)
- State damage estimates (to date)
- CAL FIRE incident information and sampling of news articles
- Pictures of reported damage

DISASTER CA23-5

AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES

DEL NORTE and SISKIYOU COUNTIES

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATIONs

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS on August 15, 2023, the Head Fire and a series of other lightning caused fires, collectively known as the Happy Camp Complex, started burning in Siskiyou County and have since burned more than 22,000 acres; and

WHEREAS on August 16 and August 23, 2023, Siskiyou County proclaimed a local emergency due to the Happy Camp Complex fires; and

WHEREAS these wildfires have prompted evacuations, forced road closures, caused prolonged power outages, severely impacted air quality, and continue to threaten homes, structures, and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS these wildfires have created a substantial amount of ash, burnt vegetation, and other such debris over large areas within the county; and

WHEREAS widespread hazardous structural debris, which may contain dangerous toxins including heavy metals such as arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, and asbestos, must be cautiously and expeditiously removed and properly disposed of; and

WHEREAS state agencies, including the Office of Emergency Services and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, have been coordinating with and supporting emergency operations and fire and law enforcement resources in Siskiyou County in response to these wildfires; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to these wildfires in Siskiyou County; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by these wildfires, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by these wildfires; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of these wildfires.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in Siskiyou County due to the Happy Camp Complex fires.

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.
- The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to local governments, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.
- 3. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of these fires. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of these fires.
- 4. The provisions of Unemployment Insurance Code section 1253 imposing a one-week waiting period for unemployment insurance applicants are suspended as to all applicants who are unemployed as a direct result of these fires who applied for unemployment insurance benefits during the time period beginning August 15, 2023, and ending on the close of business on February 15, 2024, and who are otherwise eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.
- 5. Vehicle Code sections 9265(a), 9867, 14901, 14902, and 15255.2, requiring the imposition of fees, are suspended with regard to any request for replacement of an identification card, driver's license card, vehicle registration certificate, or certificate of title, or registration stickers, by any individual who lost such records as a result of these fires. Such records shall be replaced without charge.
- 6. The provisions of Vehicle Code sections 4602 and 5902, requiring the timely registration or transfer of title are suspended with regard to any registration or transfer of title by any resident of Siskiyou County, who is unable to comply with those requirements as a result of these fires. The time covered by this suspension shall not be included in calculating any late penalty pursuant to Vehicle Code section 9554.
- 7. Health and Safety Code sections 103525.5 and 103625, and Penal Code section 14251, requiring the imposition of fees are hereby suspended with regard to any request for copies of certificates of birth, death, marriage, and dissolution of marriage records, by any individual who lost such records as a

result of these fires. Such copies shall be provided without charge.

- 8. Any fairgrounds that the Office of Emergency Services determines are suitable to assist individuals impacted by these fires shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, Government Code section 8589. The Office of Emergency Services shall notify the fairgrounds of the intended use and may immediately utilize the fairgrounds without the fairground board of directors' approval.
- Any state-owned properties the Office of Emergency Services determines are suitable to address the impacts of these fires shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services for this purpose in accordance with Government Code section 8570.
- 10. The California National Guard may be mobilized under Military and Veterans Code section 146 to support disaster response and relief efforts, as directed by the Office of Emergency Services, and to coordinate with all relevant state agencies and state and local emergency responders and law enforcement within the impacted areas. Sections 147 and 188 of the Military and Veterans Code are applicable during the period of participation in this mission, exempting the California Military Department from applicable procurement rules for specified emergency purchases, and those rules are hereby suspended.
- 11. State statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdiction of boards, departments, and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency are hereby suspended to the extent necessary for expediting the removal and cleanup of debris from these fires or to address other impacts associated with that debris, for implementing any restoration plan, or conducting other fire recovery activities.
- 12. Individuals who desire to conduct activities under the suspension of statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements specified in Paragraph 11 shall first request that the appropriate Agency Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, make a determination that the proposed activities are eligible to be conducted under the suspension. The Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency shall use sound discretion in applying these Orders to ensure that the suspension serves the purpose of accelerating cleanup and recovery, while at the same time protecting public health and the environment.
- 13. Any activities performed under the suspension of statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements specified in Paragraph 11 shall be in accordance with the State Environmental Protection Plan, or a comparable plan describing how such actions will balance expeditious fire recovery and environmental protection.

- 14. In order to allow out-of-state contractors and other utilities driving their own vehicles to provide mutual aid assistance for the restoration of electrical power within the counties impacted by these fires, applicable provisions of the Vehicle Code including, but not limited to, Vehicle Code section 34620 requiring a motor carrier permit [licensing] and imposition of certain fees, are suspended for motor carriers providing such assistance. Also, the requirements for motor carriers and drivers in Vehicle Code sections 1808.1 [pull-notice program that checks for driver's license violations], 27900 [display name on vehicle], 27901 [size and color of display name on vehicle], 34505.5 [requirement to have been inspected within 90 days], and 34501.12 [requirement to set up home base in California] are suspended while providing mutual aid assistance for the emergency restoration of services.
- 15. If appropriate, the California Department of Transportation shall formally request immediate assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program, United States Code, Title 23, section 125, in order to obtain federal assistance for highway repairs or reconstruction.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS beginning on August 15, 2023, a series of lightning strikes occurred in the Six Rivers National Forest resulting in multiple fires collectively known as the Smith River Complex, which have since burned more than 73,000 acres in Del Norte County; and

WHEREAS on August 18, 2023, Del Norte County proclaimed a local emergency due to the Smith River Complex fires; and

WHEREAS these wildfires have severely impacted Crescent City and continue to threaten the community of Gasquet; and

WHEREAS these wildfires have prompted evacuations, forced road closures, caused prolonged power outages, severely impacted air quality, and continue to threaten homes, structures, and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS homes, businesses, schools, and state and local government facilities have been without power or using backup generators for extensive periods due to power outages caused by these wildfires; and

WHEREAS state agencies, including the Office of Emergency Services and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, have been coordinating with and supporting emergency operations and fire and law enforcement resources in Del Norte County in response to these wildfires; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to these wildfires in Del Norte County; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by these wildfires, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by these wildfires; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of these wildfires.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist in Del Norte County due to the Smith River Complex fires.

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.
- The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to local governments, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.
- 3. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of these fires. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of these fires.
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Damage Survey Summary Report – 09/13/2023

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This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

> IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 29th day of August 2023. GAVMNEWSOM Governor of California



IRLEY WEBER, P h.D. Secretary of State

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DISASTER CA23-5

AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES

DEL NORTE and SISKIYOU COUNTIES

STATE DAMAGE ESTIMATES

Damage Survey Summary Report - 09/13/2023

State Damage Estimate CA23-5:

	COMMENTS	1,300,000 [8/22: D0 Estimate increased from \$1M to \$504; Verbal approval for \$1M	A verbal approval for \$1M was granted on 8(1.7) bate to baschoot scontinons, a 8,600,000 tetalled assessment is not possible at this time. It is anticipated final repair costs will be much higher. A Do will be costs will be much higher. A Do will be		
	TOTAL COST TO DATE	\$ 1,300,000			
	End PM	23.7	36.4 \$		
-	Begin PM	R16.1 23.7	15.5		
	Route	96	199		
ORT	County Route Begin	SIS	N		
CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST-Preliminary Major Damage Assessment REPORT	Work Description	Burned signs, guadrail posts, Mudsides occurred overright from 8/19- and treas dant grees	Haz Trees Removal, Silde Removal, Slope Replacement, Sign Repainery, Guard Rail System Restoration, Traffic Control, System Restoration, Traffic Control, Neuroscient Provisio Euclidition, Decomposition Transfer Control,		
CTS LIST-Preliminary	Main Damages	Burned signs, guardrail posts, and trees	Hazard trees, MBGR, sildes, signs, drainage, and other roadway impacts.		
ITAL PROJE	Reporting Code(s)	TBD	01WF2401		
₽ S	EA #	TBD	01-0N540		
	Ω (N/λ)	~	~		
	Event Name DO EA #	8/16/2023 Happy Camp Complex Fire	Smith River Complex Fire		
	Date of Incident	8/16/2023	8/15/2023		
	District Date of Incident	N	1		

DISASTER CA23-5

AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES

DEL NORTE and SISKIYOU COUNTIES

SAMPLING OF NEWS ARTICLES

Damage Survey Summary Report – 09/13/2023

Happy Camp Complex fires in Siskiyou County

https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-publication/caknf-2023-happy-camp-complex

inciWeb			MENU
+	Rogua River- Sekiyou NF SIS KAY O U 7002 II.	Falls 2023 Happy Camp Complex Klamath NF	Altamont 8458 t
	Six Rivers National Forest National Forest	Contained: 57%	Modec National Forest
Show Legend	Hoopa Volky Reservation	NTAIMS B950 ft	9894 ft Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, USGS, EPA, NPS
2023 Happy (Klamath NF	Camp Complex	Unit Information	Incident Contacts
		Klamath National Forest 🖻 1711 S. Main St Yreka, California 96097	Email: 2023.happycampcomplex@firer Phone: (530) 330-5441 / Media (530) 330-5452

Happy Camp Complex Incident Update, August 20, 2023 8:00 pm

2023 Happy Camp Complex Klamath NF News - 08/21/2023

The Happy Camp Complex is comprised of 12 fires all burning on the Klamath National Forest over a large portion of Siskiyou County. The west side of the complex includes the Canyon, Three Creeks, Elliot, Ufish, and Malone Fires. The Canyon, Three Creeks, and Elliot are burning on the west side of Highway 96. Firefighters are focused on keeping the fires west of the highway and protecting structures along the corridor.

The Ufish is burning east of Highway 96, southeast of Clear Creek. The fire is slowly backing toward the Highway 96 corridor. The Malone Fire is burning west of Elk Creek Road. Active fire behavior was observed on the Malone today and several spot fires ignited outside the primary lines. The spot fires were picked up by crews on scene. The crews are also working to strengthen the initial fireline built around the Malone Fire.

The largest fire on the east side of the complex is the Head Fire. Today the fire was active on the east side. Firefighters used limited tactical firing operations to keep the line even and prevent large runs from occurring. On the north side of the Head Fire, firefighters worked on a dozer line north toward Horse Creek and addressed a 17 acre spot fire to the north of the main fire. Structure protection has been established and continues in the community of Hamburg.

'Head Fire' now part of 'Happy Camp Complex'

26 by FOX 26 KMVU | August 18, 2023 10:00 am

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HAPPY CAMP, Calif. - With smoke filling the skies overnight, wildfires continue to burn out of control in Siskiyou County.

Type 1 California Interagency Incident Management Team 5 assumed command Thursday of what's now dubbed the "Happy Camp Complex" which includes the Head Fire.

It's the biggest one burning in the forest, now over 4,000 acres and still 0% percent contained.

The Head Fire has spread to within a few miles of the McKinney Fire burn scar which could end up helping firefighters.

Jennifer Erickson with the Klamath National Forest said, "We have a lot of previously used fire lines across the Klamath National Forest because we do have frequent fires here. There are some that are associated with last year's McKinney Fire, and fire managers are looking at those previously used lines."

The Forest Service is responding to more than 27 other lightning-caused fires in addition to the Head Fire.

The Canyon Fire and three creek fires have already burnt over 300 acres and both are near the 250-acre Elliott Fire.

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Smith River Complex fires in Del Norte County

Times#Standard

Crashes and Disasters | Map: Smith River wildfire :



Updated Aug. 29

The Smith River wildfire complex has passed 70,000 acres, and the fire line is being held at the edge of the evacuated community of Gasquet.

There is no containment yet of the main fire — the merged Kelly/Holiday fire — although secured lines on smaller fires brought the containment figure for the complex to 7% on Tuesday, Aug. 29, said fire managers for the U.S. Forest Service. The area was at 73,799 acres (115 square miles).

Burning operations and bulldozer lines are expected to keep the flames from residences in Gasquet's North Fork area, the fire managers said.

Twenty miles to the southeast, the Elliot and Swillup fires of the Happy Camp Complex merged over the weekend. On Tuesday, the merged fire now called Elliot accounted for 9,915 acres of that complex's 22,195 (35 square miles). The evacuation area on the complex's east side was reduced as containment of the Head Fire reached 45%.

The Smith River and Happy Camp fires started during lightning storms on Aug. 15-16. In the map above, the mandatory evacuation area is shown in red and the approximate perimeters of the largest fires in black. Colored dots indicate locations of smaller fires.

🕮 An official website of the United States government Here's how you know 🗸



Forest Service Caring For the Land and Serving People

Six Rivers National Forest

Del Norte County Fires, now known as the Smith River Complex

Release Date: Aug 16, 2023

Eureka, Calif., August 16, 2023— There are currently 13 fires within the Smith River Complex in Del Norte County, 3 of which have been fully contained. The remaining 10 fires are estimated to be over 1,500 acres, these fires include the Holiday, Kelly, Prescott, Diamond, and other smaller fires.

Firefighters are facing challenges due to extreme weather conditions and rugged terrain. During these emerging incidents, firefighter safety remains a top priority for the Six Rivers National Forest. Overnight an infrared flight will occur, weather permitting, to provide a more accurate assessment of the size of the fires.

California Interagency Incident Management Team 15 will be in-briefing at 1200 on August 17th, 2023, and will assume command immediately after.

Evacuations

Evacuation orders have been placed by the Del Norte County Sheriff's Office, if you are in the area please sign up for their <u>Community Alert System</u> to receive emergency notifications. Evacuation levels as of 6:45pm, today August 16 are as follows:

Level 3 "Go Now" for Patrick Creek, Little Jones Creek, Copper Creek Drainage, Coon Creek/ 16n19 17n07.

Level 2 "Be Set" for Washington Flat, High Divide, Rowdy Creek, Pioneer/Panther Flat.

Level 1 "Be Ready" for French Hill, Big Flat/Rock Creek, Low Divide, Gasquet.

Closures

U.S. Highway 199 is fully closed in Del Norte County from Pioneer Road to Oregon Damage Survey Summary Report – 09/13/2023 19

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DEL NORTE and SISKIYOU COUNTIES

PHOTOGRAPHS

Smith River Complex Fires in Del Norte



01-DN-199 – Typical wildfire damage

Damage Survey Summary Report - 09/13/2023







01-DN-199 – Smith River Complex Fires Along US199 in Del Norte



Happy Camp Complex Fires in Siskiyou County

02-SIS-96 – Typical Damaged