

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>.

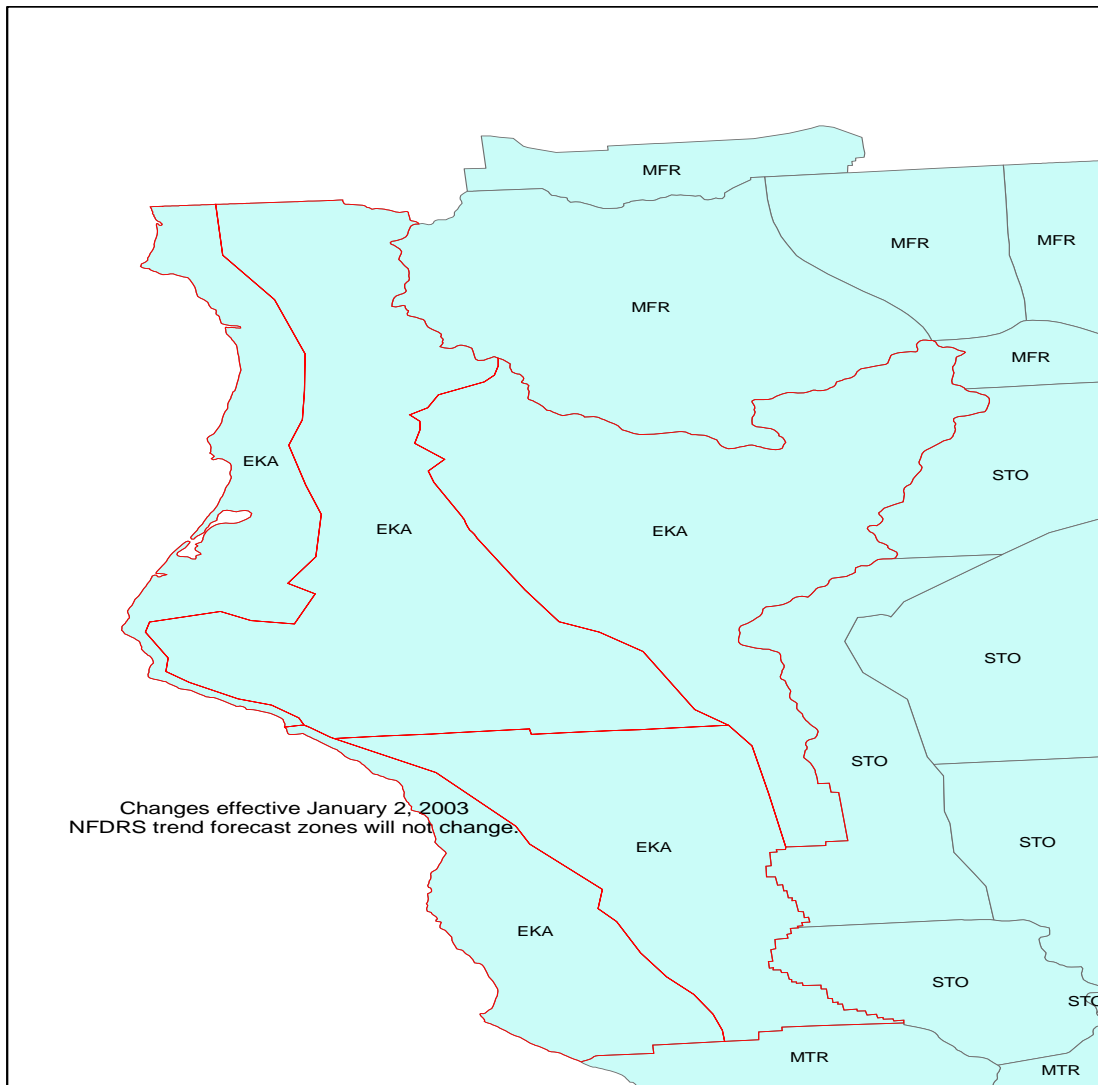
Eureka Fire Weather Zones

EKA= Eureka

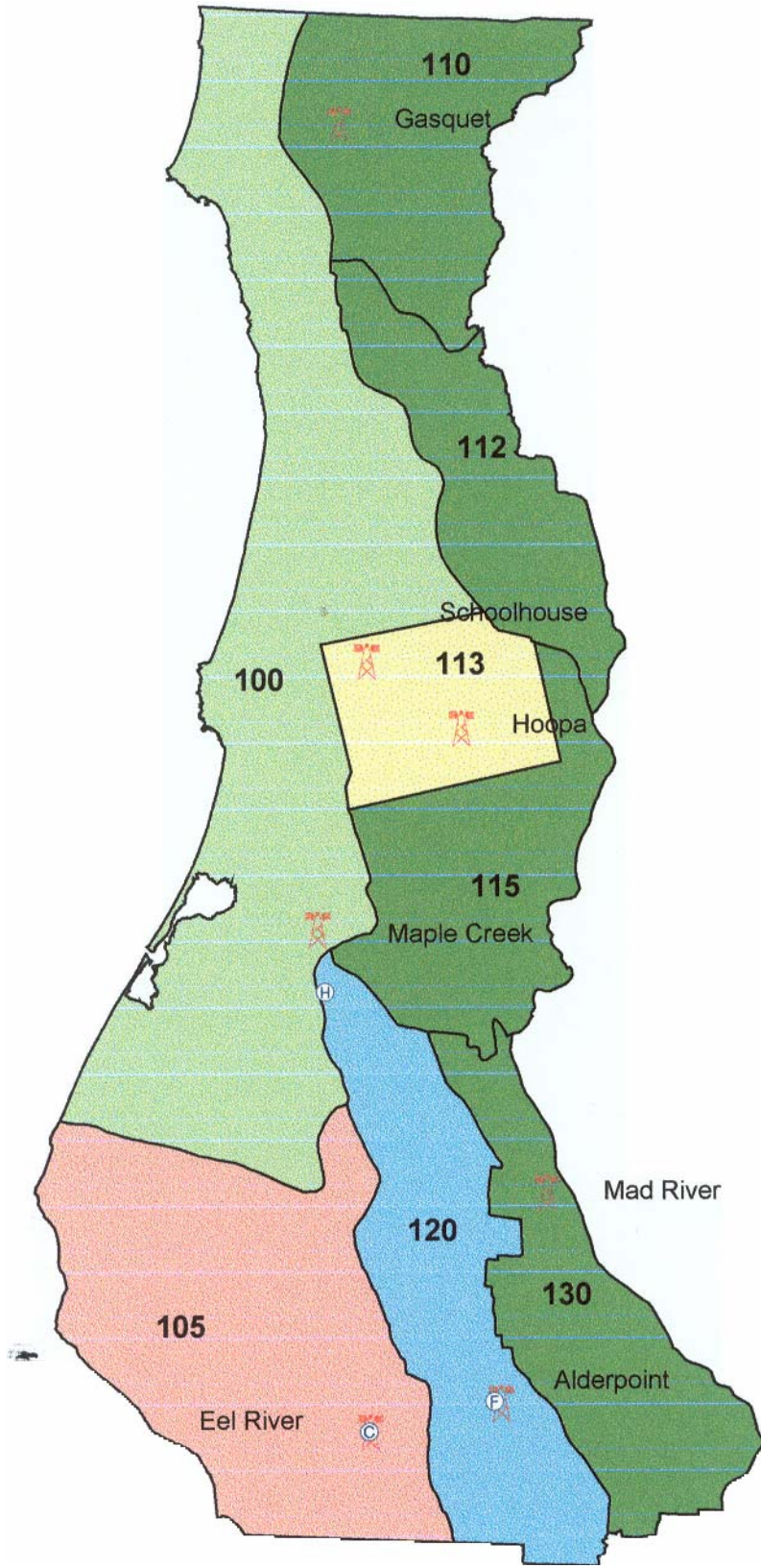
MFR= Medford

STO= Sacramento

MTR= Monterey



RAWS & Field Reporting Locations



Legend

facility02_1
Field Reporting Locations

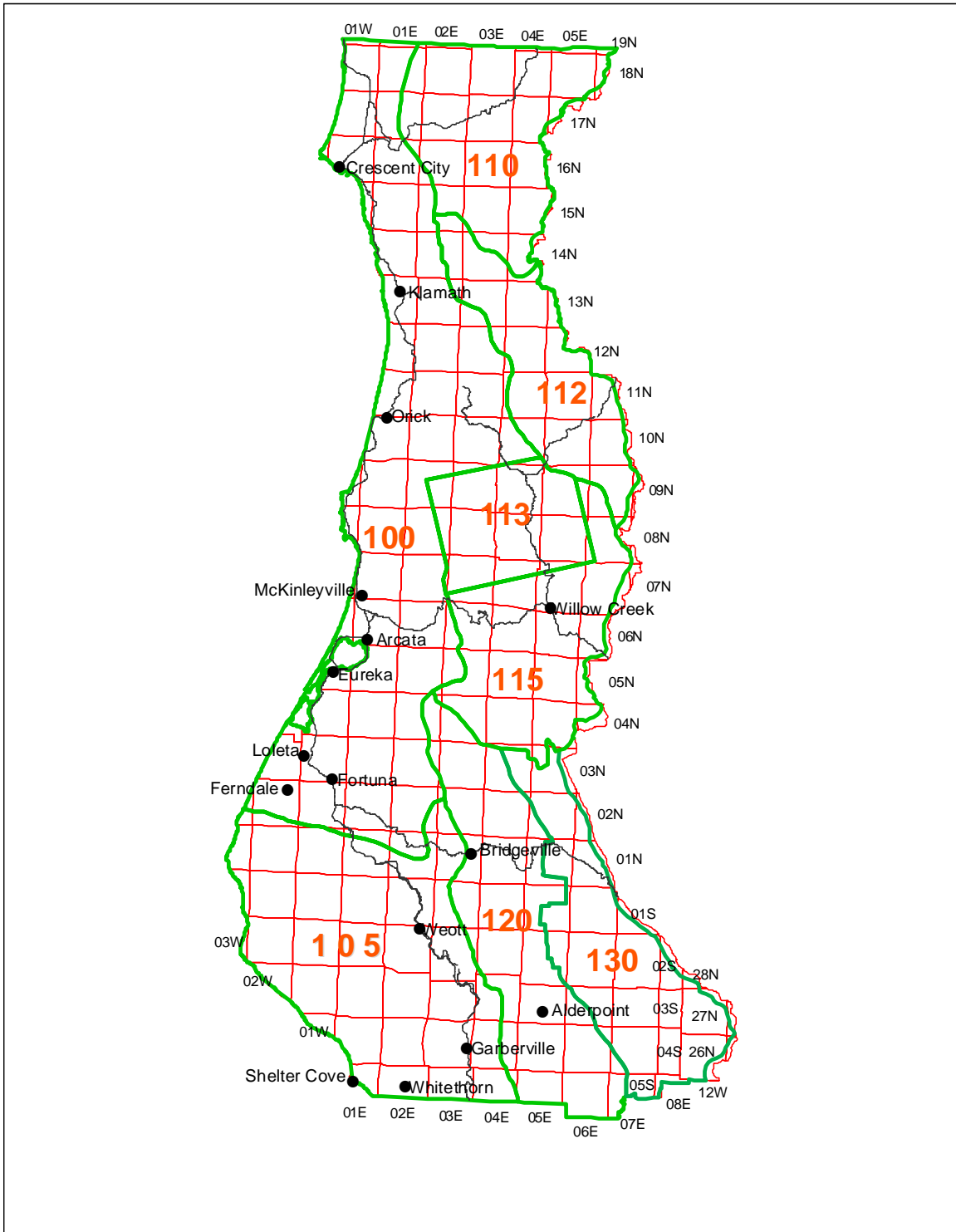
- Ⓟ Alderpoint FFS
- Ⓢ Eel River CC
- Ⓜ Kneeland HB

huuraws
RAWS Name / Ownership

- Ⓜ Alderpoint HUU
- Ⓜ Eel River HUU
- Ⓜ Gasquet SRF
- Ⓜ Hoopa HIA
- Ⓜ Maple Creek HUU
- Ⓜ Mad River SRF
- Ⓜ Schoolhouse RWP

huu_nfdrs
HUU NFDRS Zones

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



National Fire Danger Rating Zones