



October Lightning Complex – Update # 4

November 4, 2007

As of today, **2 additional fires, for a total of 13**, have resulted from the thunderstorms of October 29. **Four** of these fires are in Yosemite wilderness area and are to be **managed as Wildland Fire Use (WFU)**, for resource benefits rather than suppressed. Since the early 1970's, Yosemite National Park has allowed natural fire to function as a landscape process in more remote areas. Ecological benefits of WFU limits the size and severity of subsequent fires. Fire is a natural process in the Sierra Nevada and is necessary to maintain ecosystem diversity. In addition this "best management practice" is cost effective.

The current Wildland Fire Use incidents are in order of priority (* indicates the found/start date):

Devil (*11/3) – This fire is in **Mariposa Co.** It is east of the Tamarack Trail, between the Tamarack Flat Campground and Tamarack Trail footbridge crossing at Cascade Creek. The elevation is approximately 7000', and is burning in snags, down logs and brush (white thorn). Smoke is visible from many locations throughout the Park. It is poised for **moderate to high growth potential**, as there have been historic fires surrounding the area, and it is burning on a southwest/southeast aspect. The fire is approximately 5acres. Lat/long: 37 44.67 x 119 42.24

Cotton (*11/3) – This fire is in **Tuolumne Co.** It is approximately **3.5 miles east of the Hetch Hetchy Ranger Station, near Cottonwood Meadow.** It was found by Park Helicopter on patrol looking for additional lightning fires. It is burning in snags and down logs and brush. It is inside the **Ackerson Fire of '96.** It is on an s/w slope, and has low to moderate growth potential. Its elevation is approximately 6500'. Lat/Long: 37 58.871 x 119 45.946.

Jack (*10/31) – This is being managed as **Fire Use.** It is located on the top Turner Ridge, 6500' El., in **Mariposa Co.** and currently is **.25ac. It low to moderate potential for growth.** Lat/Long: 37 34.37 x 119 40.4

Johnson (*10/31) – This is being managed as **Fire Use.** It is on an 80% slope, in timber @ 8475' El. It is in **Madera Co,** 4 miles n/e of Wawona, near Crescent Lake, in snow and rock. It has low potential for growth. Lat/Long: 37 34.113 x 119 31.614.

The remaining 10 fires have been contained, controlled and mopped-up and are in patrol status. They will be monitored periodically until measurable precipitation occurs. These fires include: Empire, Wawona Dome, Old Steamboat, Turner, Ned, Taft, Point, Badger, and Barn.

Sub-Dome, Rattlesnake, Alder: These reported fires were never found.

Additional Information: The park website, www.nps.gov/yose/fire has information about fire activity and smoke effects in Yosemite.