

(Taken from Vol. 77, No 8; Thursday July 16 1953-The Willows Journal)

Forest Fire Situation Said Most Critical in 20 years

What appears to the "The worst early season situation in more than 20 years" is worrying state and national forest officials. Fires since January 1 have totaled 1,028 up to July 1. Complete figures up-to-date are unavailable but 16 persons have died and damage has been estimated at \$1,500,000. Arson was blamed for 11 blazes. The Mendocino Forest has had two this season; that near Powderhouse Point and the other near Lake Pillsbury, where two acres were burned. But there have been big ones in Central and Southern California:

Sulphur Spring, Angeles Forest, 32, 110 acre, \$991,000 damage, camper-caused.

Maddock Angeles Forest, 420 acres, \$69,000 damage, firecracker-caused.

Big Dalton, Los Padres Forest, 70,750 acres and still burning, \$275,000 damage, caused by a sagging power line.

Hunter-Ligett Military Reservation, Monterey county, 34,400 acres, damage unknown, fire caused by military operations.

Long Valley, Monterey county 20,900 acres, damage unknown, harvester -caused.

Alderson, Lake County, 2,470 acres on state land, damage unknown, started by flames which escaped from a range-improvement burn.