Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

Rattlesnake Fire - Travel Directions

The Rattlesnake Fire site is located near the front country boundary of the Mendocino National Forest. This is where the Sacramento Valley meets the Coast Range Mountains. A key geographic locating feature is Grindstone Canyon about 20 miles west of the city of Willows, California. Several convenient lodging options are available in Willows.

To Forest Boundary for Stand 1

Take the State Highway 162 exit off Interstate 5 (from either direction)

Go 21 miles west on State Highway 162

The road will come to a "T" intersection with a stop sign at Elk Creek

Turn right (this is still State Highway 162)

Go 4 miles

Turn left (this is still State Highway 162)

Go 4 miles

The road will come to a "Y" intersection with a National Forest boundary sign

The paved State Highway 162 continues to the left

The Alder Springs Road is the gravel road to the right

There is a turnout area to park vehicles here

Note: State Highway 162 is also called Forest Highway 7 from this point going west

To Alder Springs Road for Stands 2, 3, 4 and 5

Take the Alder Springs Road up the hill to the west

Go 1 ½ miles west on Alder Springs Road

Locate Oleta Point (Stand 2)

Continue ¾ mile up Alder Springs Road

Locate the Overlook (Stand 3)

Continue ¾ mile up Alder Springs Road

Locate Powderhouse Turn (Stand 4)

There is a turnout area to park vehicles here

Walk 1/4 mile west below Powderhouse Ridge

This is the vicinity of the Missionary Spot Fire

Suggested Return Route

Continue 2 1/2 miles west on Alder Springs Road

The road will again junction with State Highway 162 / Forest Highway 7

There is a rest area at the junction with a monument for the Rattlesnake Fire

Turn left onto the highway

Go 5 miles east to the lower junction with the Alder Springs Road

Retrace route back to Willows