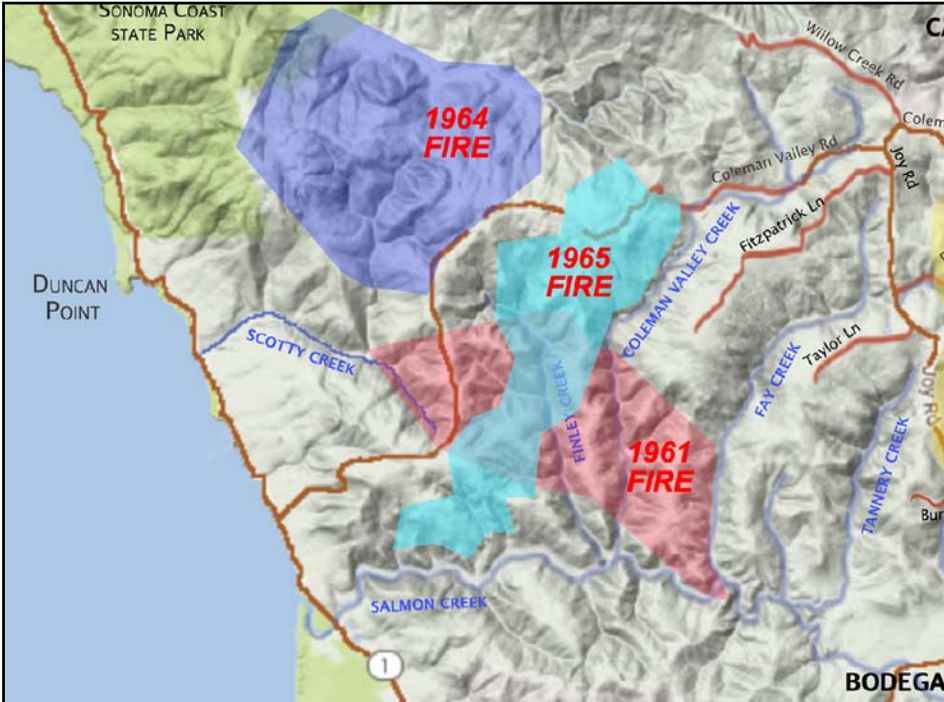


RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAJOR FIRES in RANCHO BODEGA



WILLOW CREEK FIRE

Sept. 1964 This fire began south of Willow Creek Road, ran along the valley north of Coleman Valley Road, along Wright Hill Road, and reached the east end of Furlong Gulch, burning 2603 acres. That September there were 94 wildfires in the North Bay within 2 weeks, including the Hanley Fire in Santa Rosa. Humidity down to 15%, Temperature up to 100's. Winds peaking at 50 mph.

COLEMAN VALLEY FIRE

Sept. 1965 Began south west of Occidental, continued along the western slopes of Fay Creek and along the ridge between Coleman Valley and Fay Creeks, moving southwest almost to Salmon Creek to burn about 2000 acres. One of twelve simultaneous fires in the county, one of 94 fires in the North Bay within 2 weeks. Humidity 15%, temperature in high 90's, winds to 78-100 mph from north east.

NATIVE AMERICAN ERA

8000 BCE to 1836

Native Americans purposely burned most of Northern California every one to five years until Governor Vallejo prohibited the practice in 1836. Throughout California 5-13 million acres were burned each year. In 1818 Captain Golovine of the Russian Navy observed an Indian fire racing across grassland towards the Russian River. Lightning-initiated fires are estimated to have occurred once every 50 years.

ROBERTSON FIRE

Sept. 1961 Began six miles north of Bodega Bay and burned southwest jumping Coleman Valley Rd. Started on Marshall Hendren Ranch off Hwy 1, reached along the western slopes of Fay Creek, and along Tannery, and Coleman Creeks down almost to Salmon Creek. Burned 2208 acres. One of twelve fires burning that day in the north bay. Humidity near 0%, temperature high 90's, winds 80 mph from north east.

MAP CREDITS

Collated by Noel Bouck and Diane Masura with map by Bob Fink for the Salmon Creek Watershed Council (October 2021 CE)

DATA

Cal-Fire Fire Perimeters by Emily Zentner and Chris Hagan

