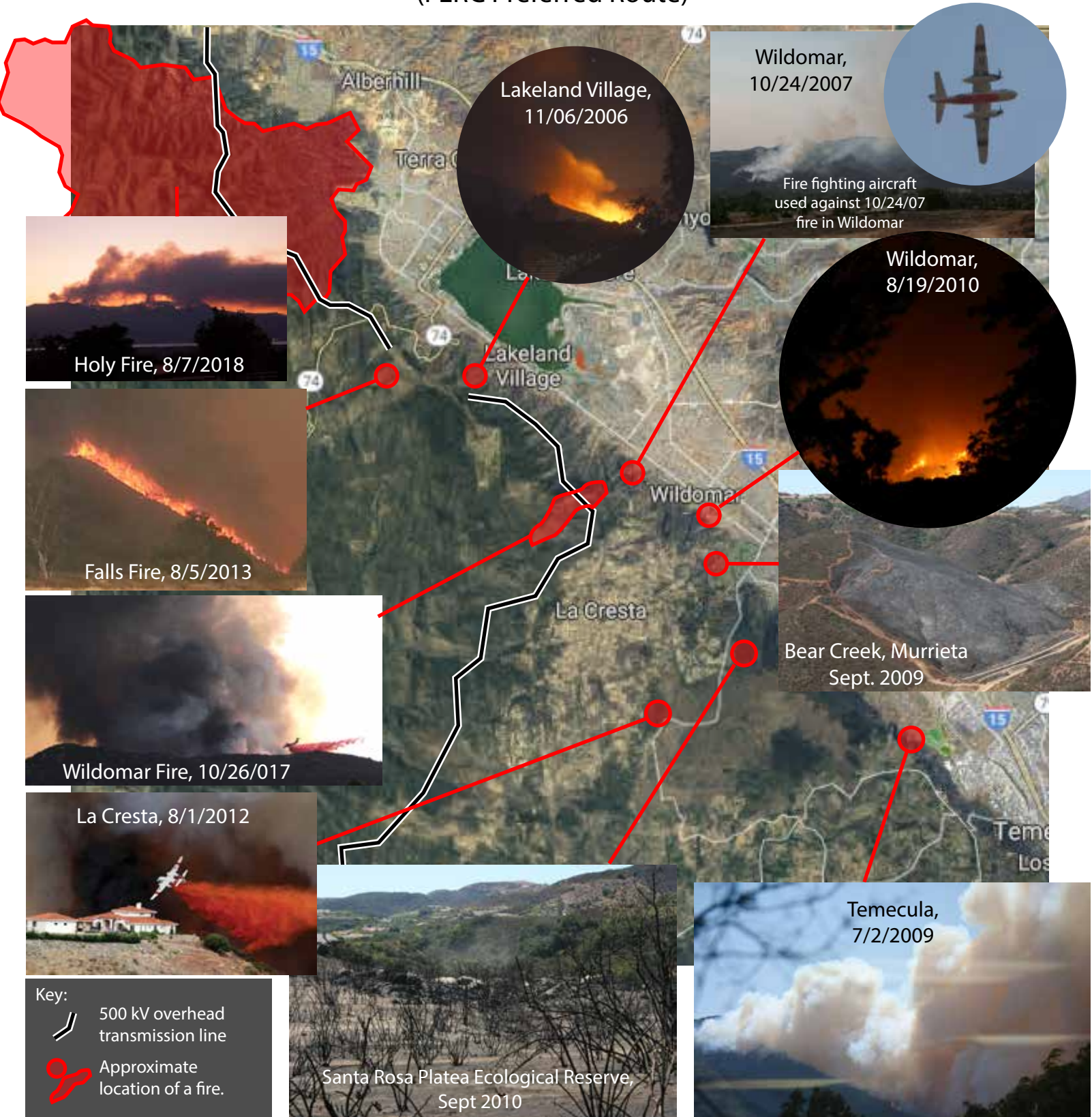


A Sample of Fires Near the Proposed LEAPS Transmission Line (FERC Preferred Route)



Official says power line poses fire risk for all,

The Californian 4/7/02

Quotes from article:

"The Cleveland National Forest has the highest number of wildland firefighting casualties of any national forest in the United States....

Firefighters cannot work under lines if the power running through them has not been shut down....Often there is a delay between the time firefighters arrive on a fire line and the time it takes a utility company to shut off the power to transmission lines.

In heavy smoke, charged power lines can cause an electrical arc, which shoots to the ground like a lightning bolt, possibly electrocuting anyone standing beneath the lines"

"In a brush fire, California forestry firefighters are required to stay 300 feet away from the area under transmission lines.

Transmission lines also present unacceptable risks for firefighting aircraft... adding to delays in fighting a blaze."

"Waiting until the blaze has gotten past the power lines means losing precious minutes. And when fighting a fire, time is of the essence..."