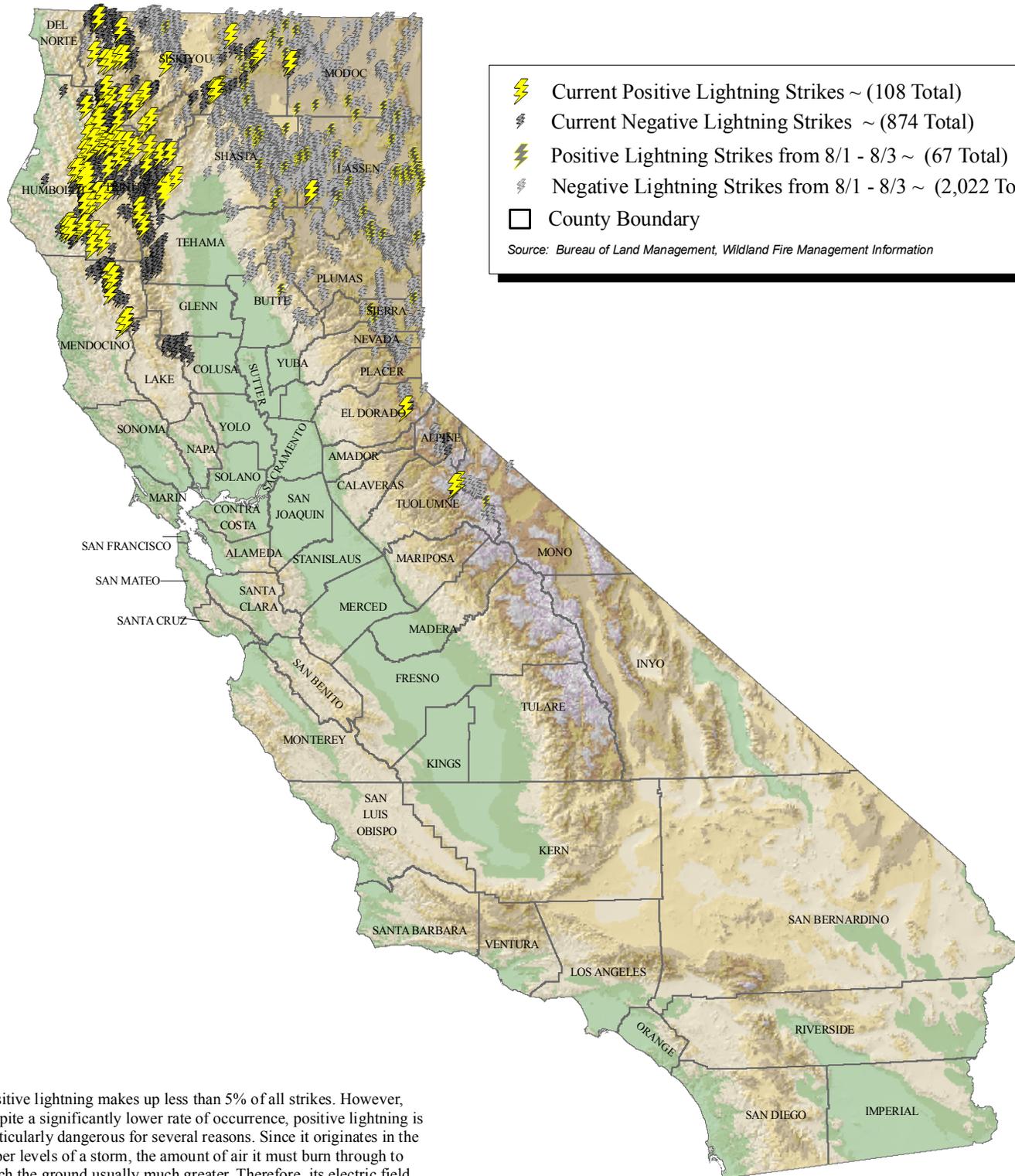


CALIFORNIA LIGHTNING STRIKES

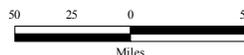
From 1100 Hrs - 8/05/08

To 1100 Hrs 8/06/08



Positive lightning makes up less than 5% of all strikes. However, despite a significantly lower rate of occurrence, positive lightning is particularly dangerous for several reasons. Since it originates in the upper levels of a storm, the amount of air it must burn through to reach the ground usually much greater. Therefore, its electric field typically is much stronger than a negative strike. Its flash duration is longer, and its peak charge and potential can be ten times greater than a negative strike; as much as 300,000 amperes and one billion volts! Positive flashes are believed to be responsible for a large percentage of forest fires and power line damage. Thus, positive lightning is much more lethal and causes greater damage than negative lightning.

Source: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/jetstream/lightning/positive.htm>



Created by Cal-EMA- GIS, Kris Higgs
August 6, 2009 Source: BLM Lightning
/Active_Incident/Fires/2009/Statewide/

Lightning/projects/Statewide_Lightning_080609_A.mxd

