

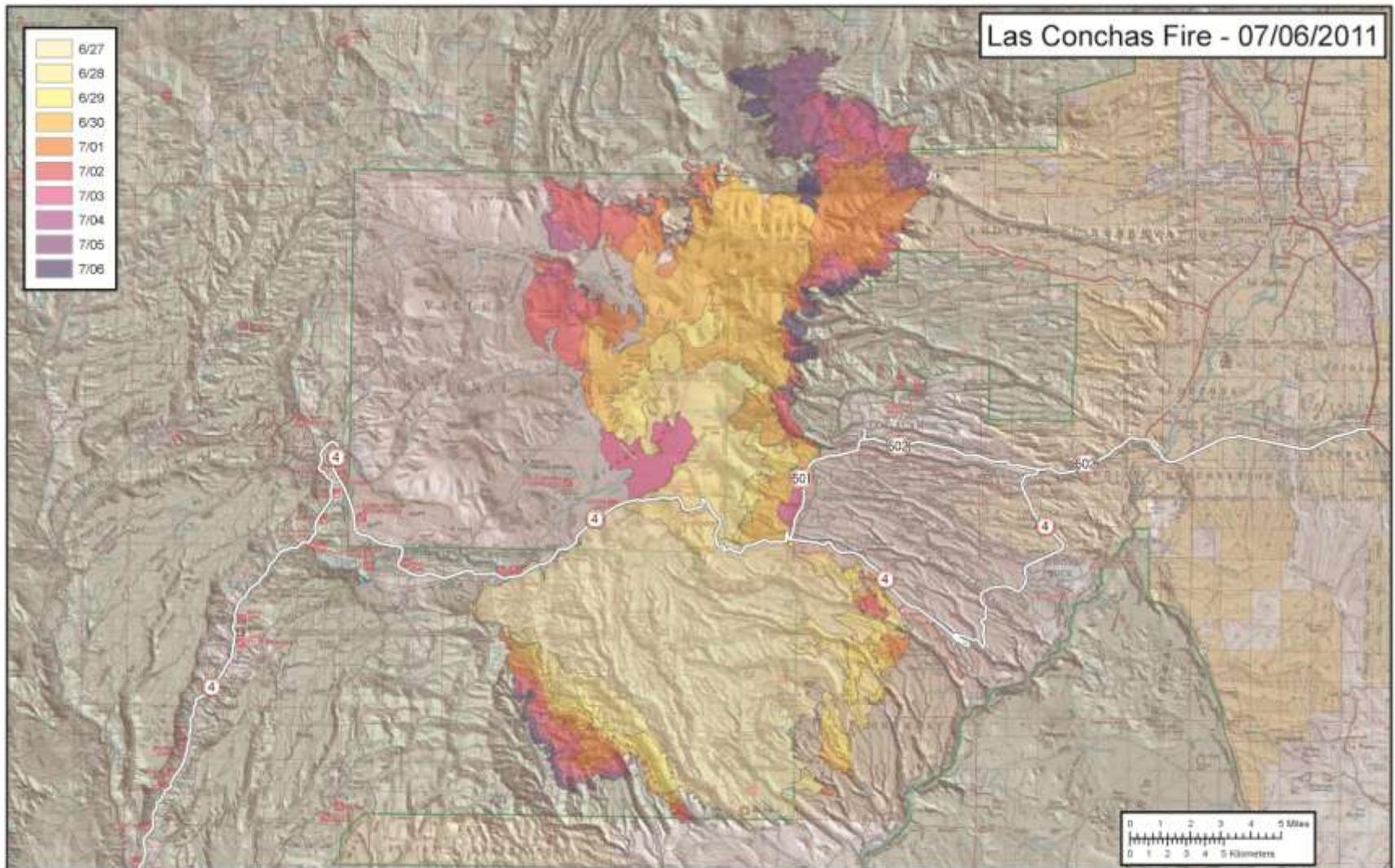
July 6, 2011 - The Valles Caldera National Preserve remains closed due to the Las Conchas Wildfire

Fire fighting operations are still active in the Preserve. While New Mexico 4 is open, stopping or pulling off along the highway is prohibited (as per Closure Order 10-356.) This is due to the extreme fire danger as well as the danger presented by the active suppression operations. Violators may be cited (as per 36 CFR 261.52e)

As soon as is safely possible, teams will be entering the burned areas to assess damages and recommend measures to mitigate immediate health and safety issues. When that assessment is complete, Preserve managers will develop a plan for reopening. Since we do not want to distribute any misinformation or confuse people by speculating, we ask people to be patient. We will issue accurate information as soon as possible.

To-date approximately 30,000 acres of the 88,900 acre Preserve are within the fire perimeter. As with all large fires, there are areas within the fire perimeter which are lightly burned and even some “islands” which are not burned at all. There are other areas which are severely burned and a range of burn severities in between the extremes. Burned area assessments will help us to understand how this fire has impacted the Preserve.

For up to date information on the Las Conchas Fire, visit <http://inciweb.org/incident/2385/>



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