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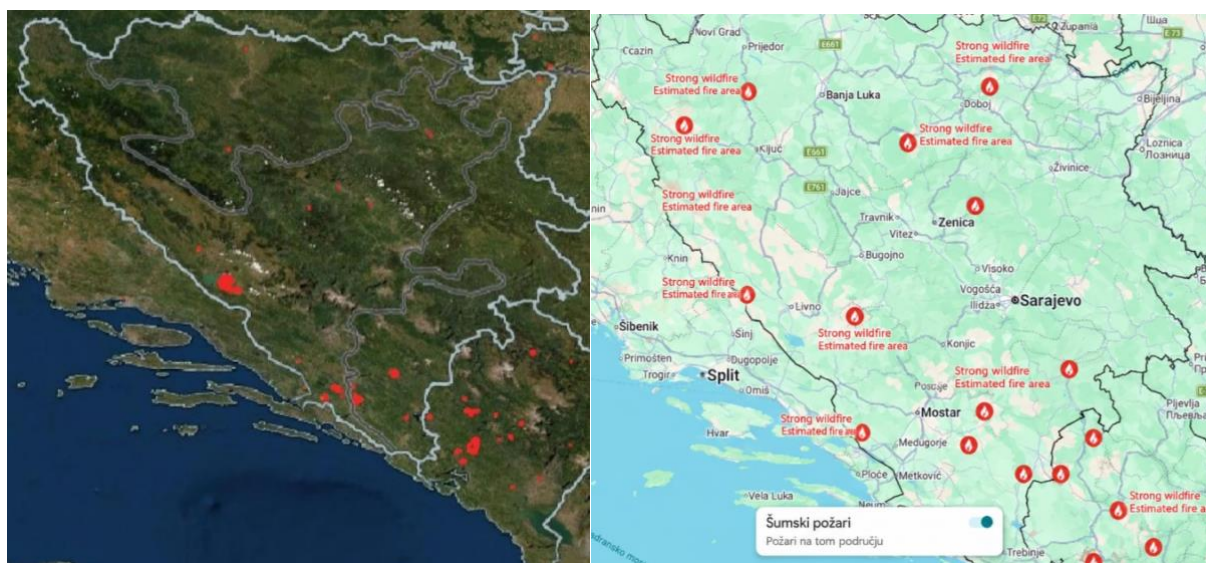
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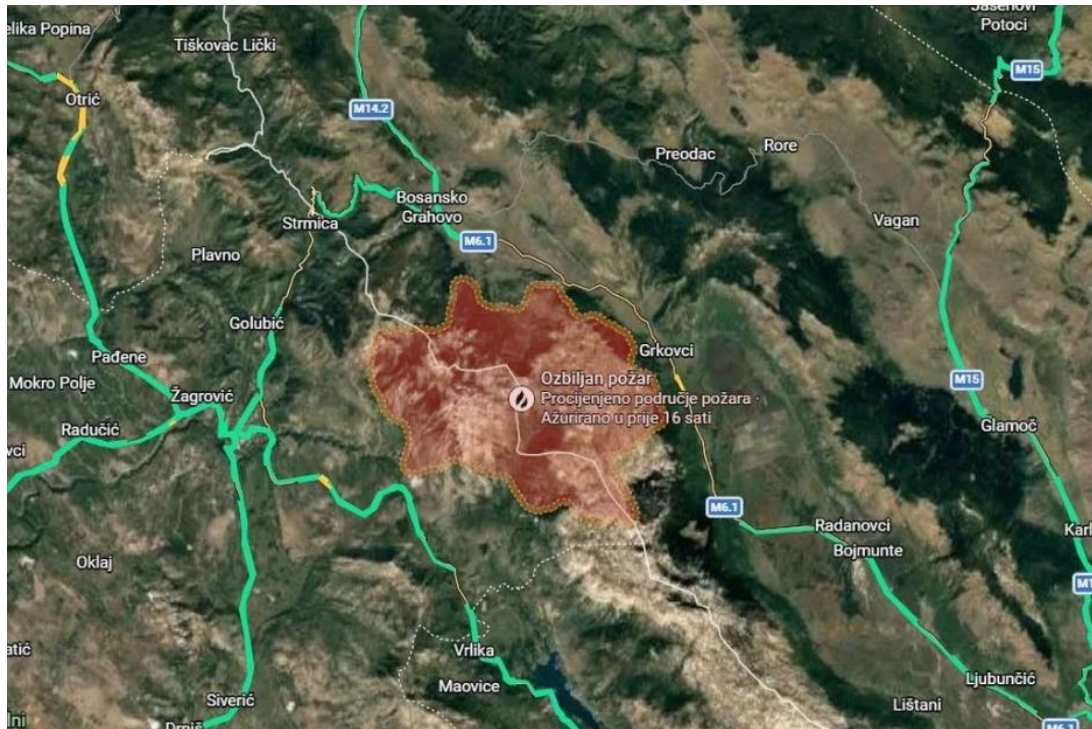
Forestfire season 2026 in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Forestry company „Hercegbosanske šume“ Ltd Kupres

The 2026 wildfire season in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been exceptionally challenging, particularly during the hot and dry summer period. At one point, more than five forest fires were active simultaneously, affecting natural forests dominated by beech, fir and spruce, and pine stands.



In Herzegbosnian Canton, several large and extremely intense wildfires affected approximately **12,000 ha in the area of Bosansko Grahovo**, **15,000 ha on the mountain Ljubuša area** and **2,000 ha in the Glamoč–Drvar area**. The affected areas include both **state-owned and privately owned forests**, with a significant share of natural high forests. This makes the assessment of losses particularly complex, as the damage cannot be assessed only through the value of burned timber.



Bosansko Grahovo forestfire (approx. 120km²)

In some of the affected areas, afforestation and forest regeneration activities had been carried out over the past 20 years, resulting in the loss of significant previous investments in forest establishment and management.



Wildfire on the area of Ljubuša mountain (approx. 150km²)



Burned area of the Ljubuša mountain. Smoke of the fire spreaded in Dalmatia.

Post-fire management requires close cooperation between forestry organisations and other competent institutions. As a forest management company, ŠGD “Hercegbosanske šume” has been directly involved in firefighting, monitoring, assessment of affected areas and planning of subsequent forest regeneration and restoration measures.

The response to the fires involved fire brigades, civil protection services, local residents, hunters and other volunteers, alongside forestry personnel. Measures included continuous monitoring, mobilisation of available resources, cooperation with firefighting and civil protection services, and requests for additional support from national authorities, the military and the Air Force.

The main lessons learned from this fire season are the critical importance of early detection and rapid response, as well as stronger cooperation between all relevant services. There is also a clear need for better firefighting equipment, improved accessibility of forest areas, stronger prevention capacities and long-term investment in wildfire prevention and post-fire forest restoration.

We believe that the experience of the 2026 wildfire season in Bosnia and Herzegovina highlights the serious wildfire risks facing our country and the limitations of our current capacities to prevent and manage such events. This situation underlines the need for greater awareness at the European level and stronger technical and financial support to strengthen wildfire prevention, improve response capacities and support post-fire forest restoration. It is essential that these challenges receive greater attention in the wider European discussion on forest resilience and wildfire management.

Report prepared by Franciska Deljak, MSc in forestry