



Eldorado National Forest



Georgetown Maintenance Prescribed Burn

Project Area: The Georgetown Maintenance Prescribed Burn is spread out between two geographic areas of the Georgetown Ranger District; Swansboro and Hornblende/Bottlehill. The Hornblende/Bottlehill area is northwest of the Georgetown community. The Swansboro units are north of the Swansboro/Mosquito communities. Both of the areas are adjacent to private property and urban interface. Elevation ranges between 2,200 to 3,000 feet.

Goals and Objectives:

- Reintroduce fire back to fire dependent ecosystems and reduce the ground and ladder fuels 20-80% to reduce the risk of high severity wildland fire and provide for firefighter and public safety.
- Produce a mosaic vegetation condition while reducing both surface fuels and re-growth of tree saplings and shrub species and maintaining the previous fuel loading (3-5 tons per acre) of the treated units.

Project Summary: Using a combination of seasonality, and firing patterns, will allow for the implementation of these prescribed burns to achieve the prescribed fire objectives. All of the Hornblende, Bottlehill, and 75% of the Swansboro units have been treated mechanically which will allow for low intensity fire to be laid down to accomplish the objectives.

Treatment: Prescribed burning after mechanical treatment with low intensity hand and understory burning, hand and dozer lines.

- Hornblende = 155 acres
- Bottlehill = 490 acres
- Swansboro = 716 acres

Total Acres: 1,361 **Implementation:** 2017, multi-year

Responsible Agency/Organization: U.S. Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest

Values to Be Protected: Local communities and residences, cultural resources, public safety, recreational trails, and wildlife habitat.

Highlights:

- As the Hornblende/Bottlehill area was thinned and treated 10-15 years ago it was used as a holding line for the Trailhead fire.
- This project is one of multiple projects designed to provide a fuel break for the west side of the district which will improve community fire protection.

Wildland Urban Intermix

The Georgetown Maintenance project area is located adjacent to private property in the Swansboro and Volcanoville communities, and has private structures in close proximity to the units. The project area is classified by CALFIRE as a Very High Fire Hazard and is in the Wildland Urban Intermix (WUI) defense and threat zones. Emergency access is limited.

- The **Mosquito Fire Safe Council area** is located north of Placerville Ca. and includes the community of Swansboro. It encompasses an area of 7,860 acres with a population according to the 2010 census of 1097 individuals and 551 homes. It is located to the north of the South Fork of the American River. There is only two ways in and out and both are narrow roads, the Rock Creek Road and Mosquito Road.
- The **Bottlehill/Hornblende area** is northwest of Georgetown which is located on the "Divide", a ridge with the area to the north draining to the Middle Fork, while the area to the south drains into the South Fork. The northern portion (Otter and Canyon Creeks) is steeper with poorer access, and is fortunately sparsely populated. Also, much of this area has a north-facing aspect, meaning it is generally cooler and moister. South of Georgetown, the slopes tend to be gentler, so topography has less influence on wildfire behavior.

Project Area Maps:

