

Fire Update



October 10, 2019 INCIDENT UPDATE

Caples Fire Information: (530) 303-2412
Email: Eldoradoincidents@gmail.com
InciWeb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6622/>

Eldorado National Forest
Facebook: [facebook.com/eldoradonf](https://www.facebook.com/eldoradonf)
Twitter: [@EldoradoNF](https://twitter.com/EldoradoNF)

The Caples prescribed burn was declared a wildland fire on October 10 at approximately 1:30 pm. Fire managers made the decision due to unfavorable weather conditions and the inability to meet previously established objectives. This change allows for additional resources to assist in suppression from partners such as CalFire.

The Caples prescribed burn began as pile burning 10 days ago under favorable conditions following rain and snowstorms. This is part of a larger, multi-year forest restoration project. The goal of this project is to promote a healthy resilient forest by reintroducing fire to the landscape.

In anticipation of the upcoming strong winds, fire managers began building fireline and conducting firing operations to secure the fire perimeter. Unfavorable conditions over the past few days prevented crews from being able to complete the firing operations contributed to the incident being declared a wildland fire.

The public is asked to avoid the fire area as firefighters and equipment are working to contain the fire. For more information, please visit the Caples incident on Inciweb, the Eldorado National Forest's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

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Caples Fire Update

October 11, 2019 / 12 PM

Fire Info Line: (530) 303-2412

INCIDENT FACTS	
Incident Start Date: 10/11/2019	
Incident Type: Wildfire	Cause: Prescribed Fire
Agency: US Forest Service	
Incident Location: Caples Creek north of Highway 88	Structures threatened: 0
Size: 2,134 acres	Containment: 20%
Civilian Injuries: 0	Expected Full Containment:
Civilian Fatalities: 0	Firefighter Injuries: 0
	Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 14 Crews: 9 Water Tenders: 3 Helicopters: 3 Total Personnel: 275

Today: The winds and fire activity moderated last night. The fire at 2,143 acres and 20% contained, is still within the planned prescribed burn project area. A Type 3 fire organization is in place and additional resources are here and more are on order.

The prescribed burn project began on September 30 as pile burning under favorable conditions following rain and snowstorms. The prescribed fire was within prescription and achieving the goals of the project of reducing fuels loading and create vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. Once the red flag warning for the wind event was forecasted fire managers began building fire line and conducting firing operations to secure and strengthen the fire perimeter before the wind arrived. The containment lines held well through the wind event into Thursday morning when the winds changed direction pushing the fire farther to the south and west and increasing the fire activity. This activity increase took the project out of prescription as the project objectives were no longer being met. On October 10, the Caples fire was converted to a wildfire from a prescribed fire allowing managers to obtain additional resources not normally available to us for a prescribed fire, such as; dozers and engines from partners like CALFIRE. The Caples fire is now being managed for full suppression.

Weather Forecast: High pressure will continue to weaken over the region the next couple of days which will result in lighter winds at 10 to 15 mph although humidity recovery levels will continue to be low. The weather is still a factor in the progression of this fire. A weather system could bring a slight chance for some showers over Northern California next week.

Smoke: Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors.

Evacuations: None

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Road Closures: Due to the active fire operations in progress, hiking and hunting in the Silver Fork/ Caples Creek area is not recommended. Roads are blocked at the following intersection: Packsaddle Pass and Silver Fork Road; Packsaddle Pass and 11N19; Mormon Emigrant Trail and Silver Fork Road; Martin Meadows, Margaret and Shealor Lake Trailheads, and Schneider Camp. If you see a road blocked for fire activity please comply to keep firefighters and the public safe.

Caples Ecological Restoration Project: The Caples Ecological Restoration Project is restoring fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lightning have been suppressed since 1908. The project is intended to improve forest health, fire resiliency and increase public safety. Prescribed fire treatments reduce fuel loadings, maintain vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. The goal of this project is to promote a healthy resilient forest by reintroducing fire to the landscape.

The Caples Ecological Restoration Project is a collaborative effort between the Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado Irrigation District and Sierra Nevada Conservancy to restore fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lightning have been suppressed since 1908. The project provides a strategic landscape-wide fuel treatment that will reduce fuel to pre-settlement conditions that will protect the chief water supply to El Dorado County, improve wildlife habitat and create defensible space to nearby communities. The Caples Creek watershed provides a primary water supply for 110,000 people in the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) service area and includes some of the last remaining old growth in the Eldorado National Forest.

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Caples Fire Update

October 12, 2019 / 11 AM

Fire Info Line: (530) 303-2412 (9 am-6pm)

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019		
Incident Type: Wildfire		Cause: Prescribed Fire
Agency: US Forest Service		
Incident Location: Caples Creek north of Highway 88		Structures threatened: 12
Size: 2,667 acres	Containment: 25%	Expected Full Containment: 10/18/2019
Civilian Injuries: 0		Firefighter Injuries: 1
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 20 Crews: 14 Water Tenders: 3 Helicopters: 3 Dozers: 3 Total Personnel: 752

Saturday AM (12th): Minimal overnight fire activity was observed due to near freezing temperature and light winds. The fire was mapped with an infrared flight at 2,667 acres and 25% contained (earlier report of 2,100 was from a system error). The Caples Fire is still within the project boundaries. North and west fire lines are being mopped up and patrolled in case of spot fires. Focus is on the south and east lines today. A couple of uphill runs were observed on the south side of the fire last night and there may be an increase in fire behavior if winds pick up today. The southwest division is building hand line directly on the fire’s edge. The southeast division is building direct hand line and scouting for possible dozer line locations. They are tying in the fire line with the natural rock outcroppings in preparation of a tactical firing operation later to remove fuel ahead of the fire’s edge. Helicopters and tanker retardant drops are being strategically used to support line construction.

The prescribed burn project began on September 30 as pile burning under favorable conditions following rain and snowstorms. The prescribed fire was within prescription and achieving the goals of the project of reducing fuels loading and create vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. Once the red flag warning for the wind event was forecasted fire managers began building fire line and conducting firing operations to secure and strengthen the fire perimeter before the wind arrived. The containment lines held well through the wind event into Thursday morning when the winds changed direction pushing the fire farther to the south and west and increasing the fire activity. This activity increase took the project out of prescription as the project objectives were no longer being met. On October 10, the Caples fire was converted to a wildfire from a prescribed fire allowing managers to obtain additional resources not normally available to us for a prescribed fire, such as; dozers and engines from partners like CALFIRE. The Caples fire is now being managed for full suppression.

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Weather Forecast: The natural wind patterns from the west/southwest are good for suppression actions. Temperatures are moderate during the day and the relative humidity is low. Night time temperatures are near freezing with light winds and high relative humidity recovery. Light winds and dry conditions will continue over the weekend. Temperatures will fluctuate a bit but overall remain near normal. Weather conditions are predicted to be continued warm dry conditions with cooler more humid conditions for the second half of next week.

Smoke: Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors. Smoke settles in the valleys and canyons at night but usually clears later in the morning with the natural diurnal upcanyon winds.

Evacuations: None

Road Closures: Due to the active fire operations in progress, hiking and hunting in the Silver Fork/ Caples Creek area is not recommended. Roads are blocked at the following intersection: Packsaddle Pass and Silver Fork Road; Packsaddle Pass and 11N19; Mormon Emigrant Trail and Silver Fork Road; Martin Meadows, Margaret and Shealor Lake Trailheads, and Schneider Camp. If you see a road blocked for fire activity please comply to keep firefighters and the public safe.

Caples Ecological Restoration Project: The Caples Ecological Restoration Project is restoring fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lighting have been suppressed since 1908. The project is intended to improve forest health, fire resiliency and increase public safety. Prescribed fire treatments reduce fuel loadings, maintain vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. The goal of this project is to promote a healthy resilient forest by reintroducing fire to the landscape.

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Caples Fire Update

October 13, 2019 / 11 AM

Fire Info Line: (530) 303-2412 (9:00 AM-6:00)

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019		
Incident Type: Wildfire		Cause: Prescribed Fire
Agency: US Forest Service		
Incident Location: Caples Creek north of Highway 88		Structures threatened: 12
Size: 2,885 acres	Containment: 35%	Expected Full Containment: 10/18/2019
Civilian Injuries: 0		Firefighter Injuries: 1
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 26 Crews: 17 Water Tenders: 5 Helicopters: 3 Dozers: 2 Total Personnel: 572

Sunday AM (13th): Overall the fire was quiet last night. Some activity was observed in the southwest corner and northeast end and consumption of unburned islands of fuel. No progression in the northeast section where there is very scattered vegetation. The inversion is expected to lift around 1 pm which could potentially increase the fire activity. The fire is at 2,885 acres and 35% contained. Today’s plan is to continue with a full suppression strategy to build indirect line in the southern section which could include tactical firing operations. The intent is to use low intensity burning to remove vegetation between the containment line and the fire’s edge. This is safer for the firefighters due to the steep terrain and is also meeting the original Caples Ecological Restoration Project objectives of reducing fuel loadings, maintaining vegetation conditions that will allow fires to burn with lower intensities, and creating defensible space. Although the Caples fire is now designated a wildfire it is accomplishing our goal of promoting a healthy resilient forest by reintroducing fire to the landscape. The fire has been burning mostly as an understory burn with occasional tree torching. Most of the smoke has been from overgrown brush fields and deep duff layers.

Weather Forecast: High temperatures of 55-65F and relative humidity of 22-27% over the fire today. Ridge winds 10-15 mph with possible gusts to 20 mph; slope and valley winds SW 4-8 mph with a few gusts 10-12 mph. A weak trough will pass through the region today. The main impact will be some increasing cloud cover. Southwest ridge winds will increase. There may be enough wind and instability aloft associated with this trough to push the smoke eastward. Overall, winds over the fire are expected to remain fairly light with general winds southwest and slope winds at eye level.

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Smoke: Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors. Smoke settles in the valleys and canyons at night but usually clears later in the morning with the natural diurnal upcanyon winds.

Evacuations: None

Road Closures: Due to the active fire operations in progress, hiking and hunting in the Silver Fork/ Caples Creek area is not recommended. Roads are blocked at the following intersection: Packsaddle Pass and Silver Fork Road; Packsaddle Pass and 11N19; Mormon Emigrant Trail and Silver Fork Road; Martin Meadows, Margaret and Shealor Lake Trailheads, and Schneider Camp. If you see a road blocked for fire activity please comply to keep firefighters and the public safe.

Background: The prescribed burn project began on September 30 as pile burning under favorable conditions following rain and snowstorms. The prescribed fire was within prescription and achieving the goals of the project of reducing fuels loading and create vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. Once the red flag warning for the wind event was forecasted fire managers began building fire line and conducting firing operations to secure and strengthen the fire perimeter before the wind arrived. The containment lines held well through the wind event into Thursday morning when the winds changed direction pushing the fire farther to the south and west and increasing the fire activity. This activity increase took the project out of prescription as the project objectives were no longer being met. On October 10, the Caples fire was converted to a wildfire from a prescribed fire allowing managers to obtain additional resources not normally available to us for a prescribed fire, such as; dozers and engines from partners like CALFIRE. The Caples fire is now being managed for full suppression.

Caples Ecological Restoration Project: The Caples Ecological Restoration Project is restoring fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lightning have been suppressed since 1908. The project is intended to improve forest health, fire resiliency and increase public safety. Prescribed fire treatments reduce fuel loadings, maintain vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. The goal of this project is to promote a healthy resilient forest by reintroducing fire to the landscape.

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Caples Fire Update

October 14, 2019 / 11 AM

Fire Info Line: (530) 303-2412 (9:00 AM-6:00 pm)

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019		
Incident Type: Wildfire		Cause: Prescribed Fire conversion
Agency: US Forest Service		
Incident Location: Caples Creek north of Highway 88		Structures threatened: 12
Size: 2,983 acres	Containment: 42%	Expected Full Containment: 10/18/2019
Civilian Injuries: 0		Firefighter Injuries: 3
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 24 Crews: 15 Water Tenders: 2 Helicopters: 2 Dozers: 2 Total Personnel: 510

Monday PM (14th): The Caples Fire was overall quiet last night with some fire activity in the southern section until early morning. The acreage has been refined due to infrared mapping last night. Today, firefighters will continue with the full suppression strategy to build indirect line going east along the ridge above the steep terrain in the southern section and removing fuel with tactical firing operations. The intent is to use low intensity burning to remove vegetation between the containment line and the fire’s edge. This is safer for the firefighters due to the steep terrain and is also meeting the original Caples Ecological Restoration Project objectives of reducing fuel loadings, maintaining vegetation conditions that will allow fires to burn with lower intensities, and creating defensible space. Although the Caples fire is now designated a wildfire it is accomplishing our goal of promoting a healthy resilient forest by reintroducing fire to the landscape. The fire has been burning mostly as an understory burn with occasional tree torching. Most of the smoke has been from overgrown brush fields and deep duff layers.

Weather Forecast: A quiet weather pattern Monday as the weak trough from Sunday pushes east and weak high pressure tries to build over the region. This will keep winds light through most of the day with light east winds in the morning turning light southwest/upcanyon in the afternoon hours. The lighter winds aloft will likely keep the smoke closer to the surface and less well mixed. The moderate temperatures, humidity and winds should be favorable for firing operations though fuels remain critically dry. Winds along the southern edge of the fire should be favorable with light wind speeds allowing the fire to draw back into the burned area. For night operations the down canyon winds will likely bring heavy smoke back over the fire with moderate humidity recovery.

Smoke: Expect smoke from the tactical firing operations for the next 2-3 days as firefighters continue to secure the southern fire containment line. Residual smoke from the Caples fire can be expected through the weekend.

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Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors. Smoke settles in the valleys and canyons at night but usually clears later in the morning with the natural diurnal upcanyon winds. Smoke levels can be monitored at www.purpleair.com or www.airnow.gov.

Evacuations: None

Road Closures: Due to the fire operations in progress, hiking and hunting in the Silver Fork/ Caples Creek area is not recommended. The following roads and trails are closed by Forest Order number 03-19-09 . If you see a road blocked for fire activity, please comply to keep firefighters and the public safe.

- Forest Road: 10N40 (Silver fork Road), starting from its intersection with 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), then south to its intersection with 10N50 (Mormon Emigrant Trail). 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), starting from its intersection with 11N40 (Silver fork Road), then north 10.12 miles. 10N13 (Schneider Camp Road), 10N16 (Martin Meadow Road), 10N16A, and 10N16E.
- Forest Trails: 17E13, 17E14, 17E15, 17E16, 17E17, 17E20, 17E22, 17E49, 17E51, 17E53, 17E63, 17E71, 17E73, 17E74, and 17E78.

Background: The prescribed burn project began on September 30 as pile burning under favorable conditions following rain and snowstorms. The prescribed fire was within prescription and achieving the goals of the project of reducing fuels loading and create vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. Once the red flag warning for the wind event was forecasted fire managers began building fire line and conducting firing operations to secure and strengthen the fire perimeter before the wind arrived. The containment lines held well through the wind event into Thursday morning when the winds changed direction pushing the fire farther to the south and west and increasing the fire activity. This activity increase took the project out of prescription as the project objectives were no longer being met. On October 10, the Caples fire was converted to a wildfire from a prescribed fire allowing managers to obtain additional resources not normally available to us for a prescribed fire, such as; dozers and engines from partners like CALFIRE. The Caples fire is now being managed for full suppression.

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Caples Fire Update

October 15, 2019 / 11 AM

Fire Info Line: (530) 303-2412 (9:00 AM-6:00 pm)

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019		
Incident Type: Wildfire		Cause: Prescribed Fire conversion
Agency: US Forest Service		
Incident Location: Caples Creek north of Highway 88		Structures threatened: 12
Size: 3,158 acres	Containment: 53%	Expected Full Containment: 10/18/2019
Civilian Injuries: 0		Firefighter Injuries: 3
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 10 Crews: 13 Water Tenders: 3 Helicopters: 3 Dozers: 2 Total Personnel: 400

Tuesday (15th): The fire was quiet last night despite poor humidity recovery. Today crews will use tactical firing to secure indirect fire lines along a ridge that extends from the fire’s southern edge to Castle Point. Fuels in that area consist of rock outcrops with scattered pockets of vegetation which is expected to produce less smoke than a few days ago. Firefighters will also mop up areas to the southwest that were burned yesterday. Along the north and west perimeter crews will continue mop up in advance of suppression repair work which is expected to within the next few days. Stronger winds from the southwest are expected tomorrow (Wednesday). Fire resources are being released commensurate with the remaining suppression work and predicted weather. As the firing operations are completed the acreage numbers will significantly increase. Keep in mind that most of this terrain is large expanses of granite formations with islands of vegetation.

The intent of tactical firing operations is to use low intensity burning to remove vegetation between the containment line and the fire’s edge. This is safer for the firefighters due to the steep terrain and is also meeting the original Caples Ecological Restoration Project objectives of reducing fuel loadings, maintaining vegetation conditions that will allow fires to burn with lower intensities, and creating defensible space. Although the Caples fire is now designated a wildfire it is accomplishing our goal of promoting a healthy resilient forest by reintroducing fire to the landscape. The fire has been burning mostly as an understory burn with occasional tree torching. Most of the smoke has been from overgrown brush fields and deep duff layers.

Weather Forecast: High temperatures are expected to be 60-69F and relative humidity 18-24%. Ridge winds southwest 5-10 mph, gusts to 15 mph; Slope and valley winds should be southwesterly upslope 3-6mph, gusts 10mph. Southwest winds are predicted to become stronger tonight into tomorrow.

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Smoke: Expect smoke from the tactical firing operations for the next 2 days as firefighters continue to secure the southern fire containment line. This part of the fire line has less fuel in scattered rock outcrops, which should result in reduced smoke compared to the previous operations. Residual smoke from the Caples fire can be expected through the weekend. Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors. Smoke settles in the valleys and canyons at night but usually clears later in the morning with the natural diurnal upcanyon winds. Smoke levels can be monitored at www.purpleair.com or www.airnow.gov .

Road Closures: Due to the fire and suppression operations in progress, hiking and hunting in the Silver Fork/ Caples Creek area is not recommended. The following roads and trails are closed by Forest Order number 03-19-09 . If you see a road blocked for fire activity, please comply to keep firefighters and the public safe.

- Forest Road: 10N40 (Silver fork Road), starting from its intersection with 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), then south to its intersection with 10N50 (Mormon Emigrant Trail). 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), starting from its intersection with 11N40 (Silver fork Road), then north 10.12 miles. 10N13 (Schneider Camp Road), 10N16 (Martin Meadow Road), 10N16A, and 10N16E.
- Forest Trails: 17E13, 17E14, 17E15, 17E16, 17E17, 17E20, 17E22, 17E49, 17E51, 17E53, 17E63, 17E71, 17E73, 17E74, and 17E78.

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Caples Fire Update

October 16, 2019 / 11 AM

Fire Info Line: (530) 303-2412 (9:00 AM-6:00 pm)

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019		
Incident Type: Wildfire		Cause: Prescribed Fire conversion
Agency: US Forest Service		
Incident Location: Caples Creek north of Highway 88		Structures threatened: 0
Size: 3,100 acres	Containment: 53%	Expected Full Containment: 10/20/2019
Civilian Injuries: 0		Firefighter Injuries: 3 (illness and wrist injury)
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 10 Crews: 15 Water Tenders: 3 Helicopters: 4 Dozers: 2 Total Personnel: 454

Wednesday (16th): The stable weather pattern of the past several days is predicted to change significantly in the next 24 hours. A strong cold front will bring clouds and increasing winds from the southwest through the day and into tonight. Strongest winds will be in the evening. Light rain and snow showers are predicted over the fire area Thursday morning. The approach of the cold front will determine fire operations today. When conditions are favorable crews will continue to mop up and patrol containment lines, and secure indirect fire lines along a ridge that extends from the fire’s southern edge to Castle Point. Remaining uncontained areas of the fire are primarily large open granite formations with scattered pockets of vegetation.

Changes to acreage is a result of updated mapping from infrared flights.

A new Forest Order affecting road and trail access was issued (see below).

Weather Forecast: High temperatures are expected to be 59-69F and relative humidity 15-25%. Ridge winds southwest 8-15 mph, gusts to 30 mph; Slope and valley winds should be southwesterly upslope 5-10 mph, gusts 15 mph. Southwest winds increasing through the day.

Smoke: Some smoke may be transported in predicted southwest winds. Smoke would be from interior burning and tactical firing operations if they occur today. Areas where the fire is not contained line has light fuel in scattered rock outcrops, which would result in reduced smoke emissions. Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors. Smoke levels can be monitored at www.purpleair.com or www.airnow.gov.

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Road Closures: Due to the fire and suppression operations in progress, hiking and hunting in the Silver Fork/ Caples Creek area is not recommended. The following roads and trails are closed by Forest Order number 03-19-11 (**updated from the previous order** 03-19-09; the signed Order and map can be accessed at Eldorado National Forest website under Alerts and Notices). If you see a road blocked for fire activity, please comply to keep firefighters and the public safe.

- Forest Road: 10N40 (Silverfork Road), starting from its intersection with 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), then south to its intersection with 10N50 (Mormon Emigrant Trail). 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), starting from its intersection with 11N40 (Silverfork Road), then north 10.12 miles. 10N13 (Schneider Camp Road), 10N16 (Martin Meadow Road), 10N16A, and 10N16E. Forest Road 11N19 (Strawberry Jeep Trail) from its intersection with Forest Road 10N13.
- Forest Trails: 17E15, 17E20, 17E49, 17E51, 17E53, 17E63, 17E71, 17E73, and 17E74.

Background: The prescribed burn project began on September 30 as pile burning under favorable conditions following rain and snowstorms. The prescribed fire was within prescription and achieving the goals of the project of reducing fuels loading and create vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. Once the red flag warning for the wind event was forecasted fire managers began building fire line and conducting firing operations to secure and strengthen the fire perimeter before the wind arrived. The containment lines held well through the wind event into Thursday morning when the winds changed direction pushing the fire farther to the south and west and increasing the fire activity. This activity increase took the project out of prescription as the project objectives were no longer being met. On October 10, the Caples fire was converted to a wildfire from a prescribed fire allowing managers to obtain additional resources not normally available to us for a prescribed fire, such as; dozers and engines from partners like CALFIRE. The Caples fire is now being managed for full suppression.

Caples Ecological Restoration Project: The Caples Ecological Restoration Project is restoring fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lightning have been suppressed since 1908. The project is intended to improve forest health, fire resiliency and increase public safety. Prescribed fire treatments reduce fuel loadings, maintain vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. The goal of this project is to promote a healthy resilient forest by reintroducing fire to the landscape.

The Caples Ecological Restoration Project is a collaborative effort between the Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado Irrigation District and Sierra Nevada Conservancy to restore fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lightning have been suppressed since 1908. The project provides a strategic landscape-wide fuel treatment that will reduce fuel to pre-settlement conditions that will protect the chief water supply to El Dorado County, improve wildlife habitat and create defensible space to nearby communities.

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Caples Fire Update

October 17, 2019 / 11 AM

Fire Info Line: (530) 303-2412 (9:00 AM-6:00 PM)

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019		Location: 4 miles NW of Kirkwood Ski Resort
Incident Type: Wildfire		Cause: Prescribed Fire conversion
Agency: US Forest Service		
Incident Location: Caples Creek north of Highway 88		Structures threatened: 0
Size: 3,275 acres	Containment: 53%	Expected Full Containment: 10/31/2019
Civilian Injuries: 0		Firefighter Injuries: 5 (illnesses, wrist injury, finger)
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 10 **Crews:** 13 **Water Tenders:** 3 **Helicopters:** 4 **Dozers:** 2 **Total Personnel:** 432

Thursday (17th): Yesterday the fire received strong winds in advance of a cold front. Fire activity increased and produced smoke that moved northeast into South Lake Tahoe and Carson Valley. An area in the northeast corner of the fire in North Fork Caples Creek was active with short uphill runs. The fire received precipitation this morning, which will temporarily moderate fire activity. Today’s priority is constructing and securing hand lines on the northeast corner, strengthening the fire line toward Castle Point, and continuing mop up. Remaining uncontained areas of the fire are generally rocky with sparse vegetation.

Weather Forecast: Light rain, snow, and hail in the morning and decreasing clouds during the day. Breezy southwest winds in the morning, with lighter northwest winds in the afternoon. High temperatures in the 40s to 50s. Afternoon relative humidity 50-60%. Afternoon ridge winds northwest; 5-10 mph, gusts to 20 mph. Slope and valley winds from the west 4-8 mph with gusts to 15 mph.

Smoke: With higher humidity, cooler temperatures and lower wind speeds, less smoke is expected today. Smoke could be transported by light northwest winds in the afternoon. Smoke would be from interior burning and tactical firing operations if they occur today. Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors. Smoke levels can be monitored at www.purpleair.com or www.airnow.gov .

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Road Closures: Due to the fire and suppression operations in progress the following roads and trails are closed by Forest Order number 03-19-11. Order and map can be accessed at Eldorado National Forest website under Alerts and Notices and in Inciweb. If you see a road blocked for fire activity, please comply to keep firefighters and the public safe.

- Forest Road: 10N40 (Silverfork Road), starting from its intersection with 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), then south to its intersection with 10N50 (Mormon Emigrant Trail). 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), starting from its intersection with 11N40 (Silverfork Road), then north 10.12 miles. 10N13 (Schneider Camp Road), 10N16 (Martin Meadow Road), 10N16A, and 10N16E. Forest Road 11N19 (Strawberry Jeep Trail) from its intersection with Forest Road 10N13.
- Forest Trails: 17E15, 17E20, 17E49, 17E51, 17E53, 17E63, 17E71, 17E73, and 17E74.

Background: The prescribed burn project began on September 30 as pile burning under favorable conditions following rain and snowstorms. The prescribed fire was within prescription and achieving the goals of the project of reducing fuels loading and create vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. Once the red flag warning for the wind event was forecasted fire managers began building fire line and conducting firing operations to secure and strengthen the fire perimeter before the wind arrived. The containment lines held well through the wind event into Thursday morning when the winds changed direction pushing the fire farther to the south and west and increasing the fire activity. This activity increase took the project out of prescription as the project objectives were no longer being met. On October 10, the Caples fire was converted to a wildfire from a prescribed fire allowing managers to obtain additional resources not normally available to for a prescribed fire. The Caples Fire is being managed for full suppression.

Caples Ecological Restoration Project: The Caples Ecological Restoration Project is restoring fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lightning have been suppressed since 1908. The project is intended to improve forest health, fire resiliency and increase public safety. Prescribed fire treatments reduce fuel loadings, maintain vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. The goal of this project is to promote a healthy resilient forest by reintroducing fire to the landscape.

The Caples Ecological Restoration Project is a collaborative effort between the Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado Irrigation District and Sierra Nevada Conservancy to restore fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lightning have been suppressed since 1908. The project provides a strategic landscape-wide fuel treatment that will reduce fuel to pre-settlement conditions that will protect the chief water supply to El Dorado County, improve wildlife habitat and create defensible space to nearby communities.

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Caples Fire Update

October 18, 2019 / 11 AM

Fire Info Line: (530) 303-2412 (9:00 AM-6:00 PM)

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019		Location: 4 miles NW of Kirkwood Ski Resort
Incident Type: Wildfire		Cause: Prescribed Fire conversion
Agency: US Forest Service		
Incident Location: Caples Creek north of Highway 88		Structures threatened: 0
Size: 3,300 acres	Containment: 55%	Expected Full Containment: 10/31/2019
Civilian Injuries: 0		Firefighter Injuries: 6 (illnesses, wrist injury, finger, shin)
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 4 **Crews:** 11 **Water Tenders:** 2 **Helicopters:** 3 **Dozers:** 2 **Total Personnel:** 369

Friday (18th): The fire was quiet last night. Today’s priority is constructing and securing hand lines on the northeast corner, strengthening the fire line toward Castle Point, and continuing mop up. Tactical ignition is occurring on the indirect fire line on the ridge southwest of Castle Point. Remaining uncontained areas of the fire are generally rocky with sparse vegetation.

Weather Forecast: Sunny, dry and warmer weather is expected, with light down canyon winds in the morning becoming west northwest and increasing in the afternoon.

Smoke: With higher humidity, cooler temperatures and lower wind speeds, less smoke is expected today. Smoke could be transported by light northwest winds in the afternoon. Smoke would be from interior burning and tactical firing operations if they occur today. Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors. Smoke levels can be monitored at www.purpleair.com or www.airnow.gov.

Road Closures: Due to the fire and suppression operations in progress the following roads and trails are unsafe and not recommended for public use. If you see a road blocked, please comply to keep firefighters and the public safe.

- Forest Road: 10N40 (Silverfork Road), starting from its intersection with 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), then south to its intersection with 10N50 (Mormon Emigrant Trail). 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), starting from its intersection with 11N40 (Silverfork Road), then north 10.12 miles. 10N13 (Schneider Camp Road), 10N16 (Martin Meadow Road), 10N16A, and 10N16E. Forest Road 11N19 (Strawberry Jeep Trail) from its intersection with Forest Road 10N13.

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- Forest Trails: 17E15 Cody Meadows, 17E20 Silver Fork, 17E22 from Highway 88 north to end, 17E49 Strawberry Creek, 17E51 Caples Creek, 17E53 Kirkwood Lake Loop, 17E63 Forgotten Flat, 17E71 Old Silver Lake Trail, 17E73 Strawberry 4WD Trail, and 17E74 Spur Bee 4WD Trail.

Background: The prescribed burn project began on September 30 as pile burning under favorable conditions following rain and snowstorms. The prescribed fire was within prescription and achieving the goals of the project of reducing fuels loading and create vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. Once the red flag warning for the wind event was forecasted fire managers began building fire line and conducting firing operations to secure and strengthen the fire perimeter before the wind arrived. The containment lines held well through the wind event into Thursday morning when the winds changed direction pushing the fire farther to the south and west and increasing the fire activity. This activity increase took the project out of prescription as the project objectives were no longer being met. On October 10, the Caples fire was converted to a wildfire from a prescribed fire allowing managers to obtain additional resources not normally available to for a prescribed fire. The Caples Fire is being managed for full suppression.

Caples Ecological Restoration Project: The Caples Ecological Restoration Project is restoring fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lightning have been suppressed since 1908. The project is intended to improve forest health, fire resiliency and increase public safety. Prescribed fire treatments reduce fuel loadings, maintain vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. The goal of this project is to promote a healthy resilient forest by reintroducing fire to the landscape.

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Caples Fire Update

October 19, 2019 / 11 AM

Fire Info Line: (530) 303-2412 (9:00 AM-6:00 PM)

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019		Location: 4 miles NW of Kirkwood Ski Resort, Caples Creek drainage
Incident Type: Wildfire		Cause: Prescribed Fire conversion
Agency: US Forest Service		
Size: 3,434 acres	Containment: 55%	Expected Full Containment: 10/31/2019
		Structures threatened: 0
Civilian Injuries: 0		Firefighter Injuries: 6 (illnesses, wrist, finger, shin)
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 4 Crews: 11 Water Tenders: 2 Helicopters: 3 Dozers: 2 Total Personnel: 358

Saturday (19th): The fire was quiet last night. Today’s priority is constructing and securing a hand line on the non-contained southeast section of the fire which is in a roadless area in the Caples Creek drainage. This area is predominately rocky terrain with islands and stringers of vegetation and timber. Crews will build a handline between the rock formations into the area from Castle Point. Tactical firing operations may be used to strengthen the line if conditions are favorable.

Weather Forecast: A dry cold front will pass through today, bringing stronger, adverse northwest winds for the southern division. The northern part of the fire area will experience gusty afternoon west northwest winds which will push smoke to the southeast. Cooler afternoon temperatures and partly cloudy skies are expected with the frontal passage. Humidity levels will be at minimum in the morning, rising in the afternoon with the frontal passage.

Smoke: Smoke would be from interior burning and tactical firing operations if they occur today. Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors. Smoke levels can be monitored at www.purpleair.com or www.airnow.gov.

Road Closures: Due to the fire and suppression operations in progress the following roads and trails are unsafe for public use. The roads and trails in the Caples fire area are still closed by forest order 03-19-11. If you see a road blocked, please comply to keep firefighters and the public safe.

- Forest Road: 10N40 (Silverfork Road), starting from its intersection with 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), then south to its intersection with 10N50 (Mormon Emigrant Trail). 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), starting from its intersection with 11N40 (Silverfork Road), then north 10.12 miles. 10N13 (Schneider

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Camp Road), 10N16 (Martin Meadow Road), 10N16A, and 10N16E. Forest Road 11N19 (Strawberry Jeep Trail) from its intersection with Forest Road 10N13.

- Forest Trails: 17E15 Cody Meadows, 17E20 Silver Fork, 17E22 from Highway 88 north to end, 17E49 Strawberry Creek, 17E51 Caples Creek, 17E53 Kirkwood Lake Loop, 17E63 Forgotten Flat, 17E71 Old Silver Lake Trail, 17E73 Strawberry 4WD Trail, and 17E74 Spur Bee 4WD Trail.

Background: The prescribed burn project began on September 30 as pile burning under favorable conditions following rain and snowstorms. The prescribed fire was within prescription and achieving the goals of the project of reducing fuels loading and create vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. Once the red flag warning for the wind event was forecasted fire managers began building fire line and conducting firing operations to secure and strengthen the fire perimeter before the wind arrived. The containment lines held well through the wind event into Thursday morning when the winds changed direction pushing the fire farther to the south and west and increasing the fire activity. This activity increase took the project out of prescription as the project objectives were no longer being met. On October 10, the Caples fire was converted to a wildfire from a prescribed fire allowing managers to obtain additional resources not normally available to for a prescribed fire. The Caples Fire is being managed for full suppression.

Caples Ecological Restoration Project: The Caples Ecological Restoration Project is restoring fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lighting have been suppressed since 1908. The project is intended to improve forest health, fire resiliency and increase public safety. Prescribed fire treatments reduce fuel loadings, maintain vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. The goal of this project is to promote a healthy resilient forest by reintroducing fire to the landscape.

The Caples Ecological Restoration Project is a collaborative effort between the Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado Irrigation District and Sierra Nevada Conservancy to restore fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lighting have been suppressed since 1908. The project provides a strategic landscape-wide fuel treatment that will reduce fuel to pre-settlement conditions that will protect the chief water supply to El Dorado County, improve wildlife habitat and create defensible space to nearby communities.

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Caples Fire Update

October 20, 2019 / 11 AM

Fire Info Line: (530) 303-2412 (9:00 AM-5:00 PM)

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019		Location: 4 miles NW of Kirkwood Ski Resort, Caples Creek drainage
Incident Type: Wildfire		Cause: Prescribed Fire conversion
Agency: US Forest Service		
Size: 3,434 acres	Containment: 62%	Expected Full Containment: 10/31/2019
		Structures threatened: 0
Civilian Injuries: 0		Firefighter Injuries: 6 (illnesses, wrist, finger, shin)
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 2 **Crews:** 8 **Water Tenders:** 1 **Helicopters:** 3 **Dozers:** 1 **Total Personnel:** 277

Sunday (20th): Increased humidity reduced fire behavior overnight. Today’s priority is to construct and secure a hand line from the southern containment line on the ridge a 0.5 mile west of Castle Point going north though Convict Meadow to the containment line on the southeast end of the fire. This area is in the non-contained southeast section of the fire which is in a roadless area in the Caples Creek drainage. This area is predominately rocky terrain with islands and stringers of vegetation and timber. Tactical firing operations may be used to strengthen the line if conditions are favorable. A large number of resources are being released from the fire today. On Monday, the Caples Fire will be transferred back to the forest and managed by a smaller Type 4 organization. A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team is assigned to the fire to determine what actions need to be taken to repair damage or prevent further damage from erosion and precipitation. Suppression repair activities have begun on the contained sides of the fire.

Weather Forecast: Sunny and warmer on Sunday, with lowering humidity. Winds by afternoon will be adverse north/northwest winds for the southern section of the fire and will push smoke to the southeast. Expect a warming and drying trend next week, with a shift to northeast to east winds. These winds are forecast to increase in intensity by mid-week and be accompanied by poor overnight humidity recovery and afternoon levels in the teens. This will drop and become poor by mid-week. This northeast wind event could be similar in strength to the last one.

Smoke: Smoke would be from interior burning and tactical firing operations if they occur today. Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors. Smoke levels can be monitored at www.purpleair.com or www.airnow.gov.

Road Closures: Due to the fire and suppression operations in progress the following roads and trails are unsafe

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for public use. The roads and trails in the Caples fire area are still closed by forest order 03-19-11. If you see a road blocked, please comply to keep firefighters and the public safe.

- Forest Road: 10N40 (Silverfork Road), starting from its intersection with 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), then south to its intersection with 10N50 (Mormon Emigrant Trail). 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), starting from its intersection with 11N40 (Silverfork Road), then north 10.12 miles. 10N13 (Schneider Camp Road), 10N16 (Martin Meadow Road), 10N16A, and 10N16E. Forest Road 11N19 (Strawberry Jeep Trail) from its intersection with Forest Road 10N13.
- Forest Trails: 17E15 Cody Meadows, 17E20 Silver Fork, 17E22 from Highway 88 north to end, 17E49 Strawberry Creek, 17E51 Caples Creek, 17E53 Kirkwood Lake Loop, 17E63 Forgotten Flat, 17E71 Old Silver Lake Trail, 17E73 Strawberry 4WD Trail, and 17E74 Spur Bee 4WD Trail.

Background: The prescribed burn project began on September 30 as pile burning under favorable conditions following rain and snowstorms. The prescribed fire was within prescription and achieving the goals of the project of reducing fuels loading and create vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. Once the red flag warning for the wind event was forecasted fire managers began building fire line and conducting firing operations to secure and strengthen the fire perimeter before the wind arrived. The containment lines held well through the wind event into Thursday morning when the winds changed direction pushing the fire farther to the south and west and increasing the fire activity. This activity increase took the project out of prescription as the project objectives were no longer being met. On October 10, the Caples fire was converted to a wildfire from a prescribed fire allowing managers to obtain additional resources not normally available to for a prescribed fire. The Caples Fire is being managed for full suppression.

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Caples Fire Update

October 21, 2019 / 11 AM

Information: (530) 622-5061 (8:00 AM-4:30 PM)

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019		Location: 4 miles NW of Kirkwood Ski Resort, Caples Creek drainage
Incident Type: Wildfire		Cause: Prescribed Fire conversion
Agency: US Forest Service		
Size: 3,434 acres	Containment: 68%	Expected Full Containment: 10/31/2019
		Structures threatened: 0
Civilian Injuries: 0		Firefighter Injuries: 6 (illnesses, wrist, finger, shin)
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 2 Crews: 3 Water Tenders: 1 Helicopters: 2 Dozers: 1 Total Personnel: 110

Monday (21st): Crews are continuing to secure the new handline on the southern section of the fire with tactical burning operations to remove fuel between the line and fire’s edge, mop-up of hotspots on the rest of the southern line, and work on suppression repair of the lines. This southeast section of the fire is in a roadless area in the Caples Creek drainage. The area is predominately rocky terrain with islands and stringers of vegetation and timber. Additional resources were released this morning.

The Caples Fire has been transferred back to the forest and managed by a smaller Type 4 organization. A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team is assigned to the fire to determine what actions need to be taken to repair damage or prevent further damage from erosion and precipitation.

Weather Forecast: Sunny and warmer today, with lowering humidity. Winds will be favorable for operations on the southern section of the fire and will push smoke to the southwest. Expect a warming and drying trend this week, with continued northeast to east winds. These winds are forecast to increase in intensity by mid-week and be accompanied by poor overnight humidity recovery and afternoon levels in the teens.

Smoke: Smoke would be from interior burning and tactical firing operations if they occur today. Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors. Smoke levels can be monitored at www.purpleair.com or www.airnow.gov .

Road Closures: Due to the fire and suppression operations in progress the following roads and trails are unsafe for public use. The roads and trails in the Caples fire area are still closed by forest order 03-19-11. If you see a road blocked, please comply to keep firefighters and the public safe.

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- Forest Road: 10N40 (Silverfork Road), starting from its intersection with 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), then south to its intersection with 10N50 (Mormon Emigrant Trail). 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), starting from its intersection with 11N40 (Silverfork Road), then north 10.12 miles. 10N13 (Schneider Camp Road), 10N16 (Martin Meadow Road), 10N16A, and 10N16E. Forest Road 11N19 (Strawberry Jeep Trail) from its intersection with Forest Road 10N13.
- Forest Trails: 17E15 Cody Meadows, 17E20 Silver Fork, 17E22 from Highway 88 north to end, 17E49 Strawberry Creek, 17E51 Caples Creek, 17E53 Kirkwood Lake Loop, 17E63 Forgotten Flat, 17E71 Old Silver Lake Trail, 17E73 Strawberry 4WD Trail, and 17E74 Spur Bee 4WD Trail.

Background: The prescribed burn project began on September 30 as pile burning under favorable conditions following rain and snowstorms. The prescribed fire was within prescription and achieving the goals of the project of reducing fuels loading and create vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. Once the red flag warning for the wind event was forecasted fire managers began building fire line and conducting firing operations to secure and strengthen the fire perimeter before the wind arrived. The containment lines held well through the wind event into Thursday morning when the winds changed direction pushing the fire farther to the south and west and increasing the fire activity. This activity increase took the project out of prescription as the project objectives were no longer being met. On October 10, the Caples fire was converted to a wildfire from a prescribed fire allowing managers to obtain additional resources not normally available to for a prescribed fire. The Caples Fire is being managed for full suppression.

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Caples Fire Update

October 22, 2019 / 11 AM

Information: (530) 622-5061 (8:00 AM-4:30 PM)

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019		Location: 4 miles NW of Kirkwood Ski Resort, Caples Creek drainage
Incident Type: Wildfire		Cause: Prescribed Fire conversion
Agency: US Forest Service		
Size: 3,434 acres	Containment: 73%	Expected Full Containment: 10/31/2019
		Structures threatened: 0
Civilian Injuries: 0		Firefighter Injuries: 7 (illnesses, wrist, finger, shin)
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 2 Crews: 3 Water Tenders: 1 Helicopters: 2 Dozers: 1 Total Personnel: 120

Tuesday (22nd): Crews are making good progress as they continue to secure the handline on the southern section of the fire with tactical burning operations to remove fuel between the line and fire’s edge, mop-up of hotspots on the rest of the southern line, and work on suppression repair of the lines. This southeast section of the fire is in a roadless area in the Caples Creek drainage. The area is predominately rocky terrain with islands and stringers of vegetation and timber. *As there are no changes in the fire perimeter, a new map was not created for today.*

The Caples Fire has been transferred back to the forest and managed by a smaller Type 4 organization. A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team is assigned to the fire to determine what actions need to be taken to repair damage or prevent further damage from erosion and precipitation.

Weather Forecast: Dry, warm, and quiet conditions with low- level inversions are expected through today. A cold front will move across the region Wednesday, bringing gusty northeast winds to Sierra ridges and Lake Tahoe ridges, and areas west of the crest. Lower humidity will also accompany this front with poor overnight recoveries Wednesday night through Saturday. Fire Weather Watch in effect from late Tuesday night through Thursday afternoon.

Smoke: Smoke would be from interior burning and tactical firing operations if they occur today. Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors. Smoke levels can be monitored at www.purpleair.com or www.airnow.gov .

Road Closures: Due to the fire and suppression operations in progress the following roads and trails are unsafe for public use. The roads and trails in the Caples fire area are still closed by forest order 03-19-11. If you see a road

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blocked, please comply to keep firefighters and the public safe.

- Forest Road: 10N40 (Silverfork Road), starting from its intersection with 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), then south to its intersection with 10N50 (Mormon Emigrant Trail). 11N23 (Packsaddle Pass Road), starting from its intersection with 11N40 (Silverfork Road), then north 10.12 miles. 10N13 (Schneider Camp Road), 10N16 (Martin Meadow Road), 10N16A, and 10N16E. Forest Road 11N19 (Strawberry Jeep Trail) from its intersection with Forest Road 10N13.
- Forest Trails: 17E15 Cody Meadows, 17E20 Silver Fork, 17E22 from Highway 88 north to end, 17E49 Strawberry Creek, 17E51 Caples Creek, 17E53 Kirkwood Lake Loop, 17E63 Forgotten Flat, 17E71 Old Silver Lake Trail, 17E73 Strawberry 4WD Trail, and 17E74 Spur Bee 4WD Trail.

Background: The prescribed burn project began on September 30 as pile burning under favorable conditions following rain and snowstorms. The prescribed fire was within prescription and achieving the goals of the project of reducing fuels loading and create vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. Once the red flag warning for the wind event was forecasted fire managers began building fire line and conducting firing operations to secure and strengthen the fire perimeter before the wind arrived. The containment lines held well through the wind event into Thursday morning when the winds changed direction pushing the fire farther to the south and west and increasing the fire activity. This activity increase took the project out of prescription as the project objectives were no longer being met. On October 10, the Caples fire was converted to a wildfire from a prescribed fire allowing managers to obtain additional resources not normally available to for a prescribed fire. The Caples Fire is being managed for full suppression.

Caples Ecological Restoration Project: The Caples Ecological Restoration Project is restoring fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lightning have been suppressed since 1908. The project is intended to improve forest health, fire resiliency and increase public safety. Prescribed fire treatments reduce fuel loadings, maintain vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. The goal of this project is to promote a healthy resilient forest by reintroducing fire to the landscape.

The Caples Ecological Restoration Project is a collaborative effort between the Eldorado National Forest, El Dorado Irrigation District and Sierra Nevada Conservancy to restore fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lightning have been suppressed since 1908. The project provides a strategic landscape-wide fuel treatment that will reduce fuel to pre-settlement conditions that will protect the chief water supply to El Dorado County, improve wildlife habitat and create defensible space to nearby communities.

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Caples Fire Update

October 23, 2019 / 11 AM

Information: (530) 622-5061 (8:00 AM-4:30 PM).

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019		Location: 4 miles NW of Kirkwood Ski Resort, Caples Creek drainage
Incident Type: Wildfire		Cause: Prescribed Fire conversion
Agency: US Forest Service		
Size: 3,434 acres	Containment: 80%	Expected Full Containment: 10/31/2019
Structures threatened: 0		
Civilian Injuries: 0		Firefighter Injuries: 7 (illnesses, wrist, finger, shin)
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 2 Crews: 3 Water Tenders: 1 Helicopters: 2 Dozers: 1 Total Personnel: 118

Wednesday: Crews completed and secured the handline on the southern section of the fire. Suppression repair continues on the rest of the fire line. The fire area will be patrolled through the wind event to monitor the southern line. The upcoming northeast winds are expected to push any fire that flares up back into the burned area. The containment will be evaluated after the wind event. This southeast section of the fire is in a roadless area in the Caples Creek drainage. The area is predominately rocky terrain with islands and stringers of vegetation and timber. *As there are no changes in the fire perimeter, a new map was not created for today.* The Caples Fire is being managed by a Type 4 organization.

Weather Forecast: A cold front will move across the region today, bringing gusty east-northeasterly winds to the Sierra and Tahoe ridges.

Smoke: Smoke is expected to be light as interior fire continues to smolder and burn down or until season ending precipitation occurs. No additional tactical firing operations are planned. Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors.

Trail Closures: The road closure has been reduced to a Trail Closure. For public safety the following trails will continue to be closed. The interior of the fire area still has pockets of smoldering fire and stump holes burning underground and is not safe for public use.

- Forest Trails: 17E15 Cody Meadows, 17E20 Silver Fork, 17E22 from Highway 88 north to end, 17E49 Strawberry Creek, 17E51 Caples Creek, 17E53 Kirkwood Lake Loop, 17E63 Forgotten Flat, 17E71 Old Silver Lake Trail, 17E73 Strawberry 4WD Trail, and 17E74 Spur Bee 4WD Trail.

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Caples Fire Update

October 24, 2019 / 11 AM

Information: (530) 622-5061 (8:00 AM-4:30 PM).

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019		Location: 4 miles NW of Kirkwood Ski Resort, Caples Creek drainage
Incident Type: Wildfire		Cause: Prescribed Fire conversion
Agency: US Forest Service		
Size: 3,434 acres	Containment: 80%	Expected Full Containment: 10/31/2019
		Structures threatened: 0
Civilian Injuries: 0		Firefighter Injuries: 7 (illnesses, wrist, finger, shin)
Civilian Fatalities: 0		Firefighter Fatalities: 0

Engines: 2 **Crews:** 2 **Water Tenders:** 0 **Helicopters:** 0 **Dozers:** 0 **Total Personnel:** 71

Thursday: The containment lines held through last night’s wind event with some interior burning remaining. There is a line around the fire. Crews continue suppression repair, cleanup, and patrolling activities. The containment will be re-evaluated after this weekend’s wind event. This southeast section of the fire is in a roadless area in the Caples Creek drainage. The area is predominately rocky terrain with islands and stringers of vegetation and timber. *As there are no changes in the fire perimeter, a new map was not created for today.* The Caples Fire is being managed by a Type 4 organization.

Weather Forecast: Winds will decrease Thursday afternoon. Lower humidity will also accompany this front with poor overnight recoveries likely Wednesday night through Saturday. Another strong cold front looks to move into the region Saturday night into Sunday.

Smoke: Smoke is expected to be light as interior fire continues to smolder and burn down or until season ending precipitation occurs. No additional tactical firing operations are planned. Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors.

Trail Closures: The road closure has been reduced to a Trail Closure (forest order 03-19-12). For public safety the following trails will continue to be closed. The interior of the fire area still has pockets of smoldering fire and stump holes burning underground and is not safe for public use.

- Forest Trails: 17E15 Cody Meadows, 17E20 Silver Fork, 17E22 from Highway 88 north to end, 17E49 Strawberry Creek, 17E51 Caples Creek, 17E53 Kirkwood Lake Loop, 17E63 Forgotten Flat, 17E71 Old Silver Lake Trail, 17E73 Strawberry 4WD Trail, and 17E74 Spur Bee 4WD Trail.

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Caples Fire Update

October 25, 2019 / 11 AM

Information: (530) 622-5061 (8:00 AM-4:30 PM).

INCIDENT FACTS		
Incident Start Date: 10/10/2019	Location: 4 miles NW of Kirkwood Ski Resort, Caples Creek drainage	
Incident Type: Wildfire	Cause: Prescribed Fire conversion	
Agency: US Forest Service		
Size: 3,434 acres	Containment: 80%	Expected Full Containment: 10/31/2019
Structures threatened: 0		
Civilian Injuries: 0	Firefighter Injuries: 7 (illnesses, wrist, finger, shin)	
Civilian Fatalities: 0	Firefighter Fatalities: 0	

Engines: 2 **Crews:** 2 **Water Tenders:** 1 **Helicopters:** 0 **Dozers:** 0 **Total Personnel:** 65

Friday: Some fire activity in the interior as the fire cleans up some of the islands of vegetation. There is a line around the fire. Crews continue suppression repair, cleanup, and patrolling activities. The containment will be re-evaluated after this weekend’s wind event. *A new map will only be created if a change in the perimeter occurs.* The Caples Fire is being managed by a Type 4 organization.

Weather Forecast: A strong cold front will move through Saturday evening with strong northeast winds Sunday into Monday morning for the west side.

Smoke: Smoke is expected to be light as interior fire continues to smolder and burn down or until a season ending precipitation occurs.

Trail Closures: The road closure has been reduced to a Trail Closure (forest order 03-19-12). For public safety the following trails will continue to be closed. The interior of the fire area still has pockets of smoldering fire and stump holes burning underground and is not safe for public use.

- Forest Trails: 17E15 Cody Meadows, 17E20 Silver Fork, 17E22 from Highway 88 north to end, 17E49 Strawberry Creek, 17E51 Caples Creek, 17E53 Kirkwood Lake Loop, 17E63 Forgotten Flat, 17E71 Old Silver Lake Trail, 17E73 Strawberry 4WD Trail, and 17E74 Spur Bee 4WD Trail.

Background: The prescribed burn project began on September 30 as pile burning under favorable conditions following rain and snowstorms. The prescribed fire was within prescription and achieving the goals of the project of reducing fuels loading and create vegetation conditions that allow fires to burn with lower intensities and create defensible space. Once the red flag warning for the wind event was forecasted fire managers began

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building fire line and conducting firing operations to secure and strengthen the fire perimeter before the wind arrived. The containment lines held well through the wind event into Thursday morning when the winds changed direction pushing the fire farther to the south and west and increasing the fire activity. This activity increase took the project out of prescription as the project objectives were no longer being met. On October 10, the Caples fire was converted to a wildfire from a prescribed fire allowing managers to obtain additional resources not normally available to for a prescribed fire. The Caples Fire is being managed for full suppression.

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News Release

For Immediate Release
November 1, 2019

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1) Patches of tree mortality are found in the high fire severity areas of the Caples Fire. - USFS photo by Laurence Crabtree; 2) The Caples Fire burned this "champion" incense cedar which is 20' in diameter at the base. - USFS photo by Allen Speering

Caples Fire 100% Contained, Burned Area Assessment in Progress

PLACERVILLE, Calif. - Incident Commander Kevin Breitwieser has declared that the Caples Fire is now 100% contained and in patrol status at 3,435 acres. There has been almost no change in fire size since October 18. The extreme wind event on October 26 that prompted a public safety power shutoff was a good test of the containment lines and resulted in three small spots which were extinguished. Traces of smoke from interior burning will continue to be visible, but no additional fire growth is expected.

Forest Service specialists including foresters, archaeologists, hydrologists, soil scientists and aquatic biologists have been working on a burned area assessment. They have determined that in some areas, the wildfire burned more intensely than was planned for in the original Caples Prescribed Fire, particularly along Caples Creek where some of the highest fuel concentrations had been accumulating for many decades.

"The Caples Fire demonstrates the importance and urgency of re-establishing fire in the forest under moderate conditions so that future wildfires will be less intense," said Forest Supervisor Laurence Crabtree. "Although the intensely burned areas of the Caples Fire are within the size range and severity of historic fires in the Sierras, visitors may be surprised at the number of trees that are now dead."

The concern about high intensity fire killing too many trees and other live vegetation was one of the reasons the prescribed fire was declared a wildfire and suppression began on Oct 10. The fire was kept within the original project boundaries, except for 320 acres on the southern end where the fire crossed over into the Silver Fork drainage and was quickly stopped.

Although the intensity of the wildfire resulted in more fire-killed trees than was intended in the prescribed fire, having pockets of severely burned areas within the forest will have some ecological benefits. Species that are adapted to fire and to the conditions found in the early stages of the forest will flourish in the large open areas and diverse habitat created by the Caples Fire. Research teams from the Forest Service and the California Academy of Sciences will be studying the burned area in the future to learn more about the role of fire in the Caples Creek watershed. This watershed is also an important water supply for 110,000 people in the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) service area. No substantive effects from the fire are anticipated to the water quality that EID will be delivering to its customers.

The fire area will be closed to the public until spring due to the hazards of fire weakened and dead trees. Some of these trees will fall in upcoming winter storms which will reduce the risk to visitors when the trail reopens. While some large trees in the burned area did not survive, most of the large trees in the lower part of the watershed known as Legacy Trees did survive. These trees were prepared for fire by volunteers and youth conservation crews who removed hazardous fuel from around them earlier this summer.

Lessons learned from the Caples Fire will inform the next steps for the 8,800 acre Caples Ecological Restoration Project, a multi-year project in partnership with the El Dorado Irrigation District and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). SNC and EID have provided grant funding and administration for the planning and implementation phases of the project. They share the goal of restoring fire to the Caples Creek watershed where naturally occurring wildfires started by lightning have been suppressed since 1908.

For more information about the Caples Ecological Restoration Project, please visit the [project pages](#) on the forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/eldorado .

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