



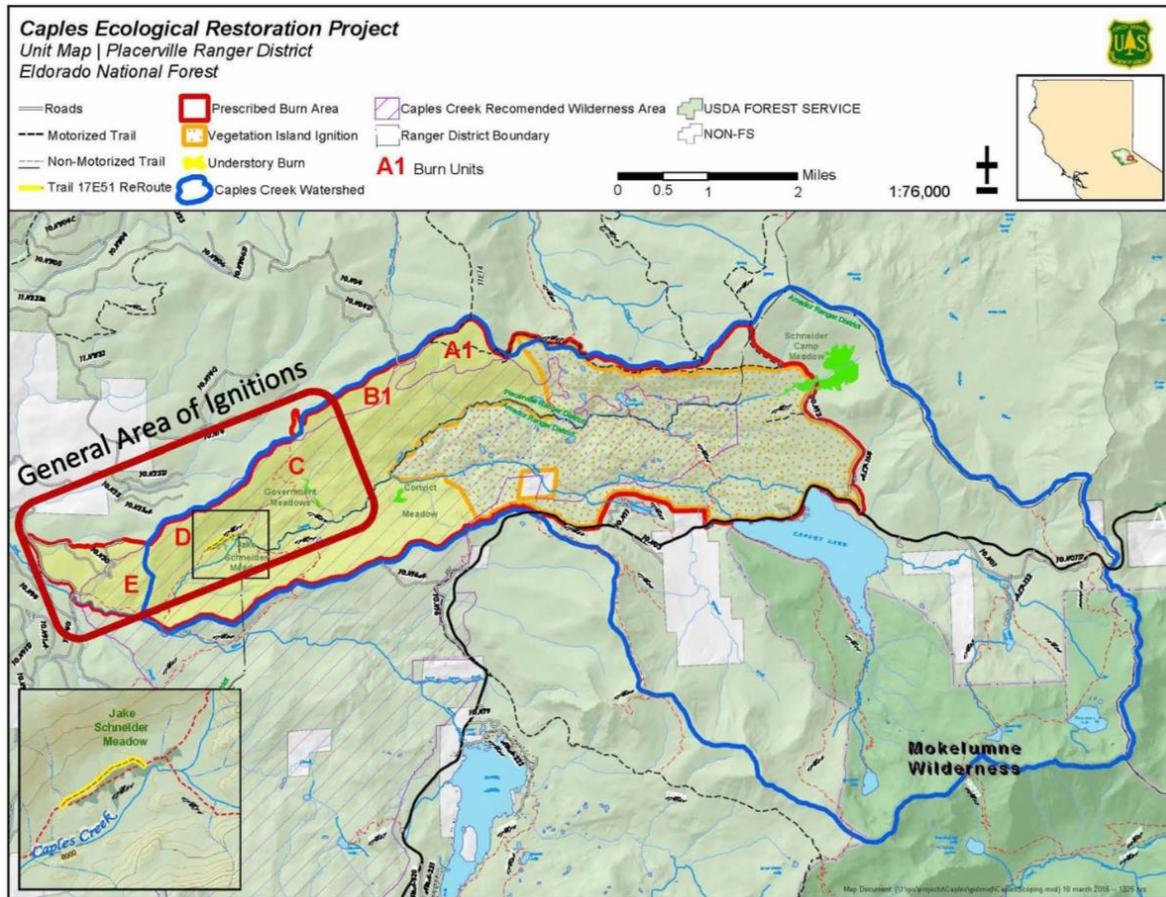
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# News Release

For Immediate Release  
 October 7, 2019

Media Contact: Jennifer Chapman  
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Area of ignitions on the Caples Prescribed Fire Project - October 2019

## Ignitions Continue on Caples Prescribed Fire - More Smoke is Expected

PLACERVILLE, Calif. - Fire management staff are continuing to burn along the northern ridge above Caples Creek as part of a multi-year 8,800 acre prescribed fire within the Caples Ecological Restoration Project. More smoke is expected over the next several days and will generally be heavier in the morning after the air cools and settles at night.

Crews are currently using hand ignition and burning toward the west to create blackline approximately 300 feet wide that will be used to control prescribed fire within the center of the Caples Creek watershed. The goal of the current burn operation is to reach the end of the ridge and tie into a dozer line that extends to the 10N30 road before the wind event that is predicted for tomorrow evening.

The Caples Prescribed Fire is at 7,500 feet in elevation. Conditions in the project area are cooler and more moist than the area below 6,000 feet where a red flag warning is in effect for Tuesday evening through Thursday. Although the recent snow has melted, fuel moistures continue to be above normal and the Caples Prescribed Fire is burning slowly in dead and dry fuels, successfully meeting the fuel reduction objectives of the project.

Pile burning along the ridge began last Monday September 30th in wet conditions with snow and rain. These piles were created from hand thinning that was done over the last several years. Since Monday, approximately 100 acres of burning has been accomplished.

There are currently 6 fire crews assigned to the Caples Prescribed Fire - the Iron Mountain Hand Crew from the Eldorado National Forest, the Los Padres Hot Shots, and additional crews from the Modoc, Shasta-Trinity, Stanislaus and Plumas National Forests. Five engines from the Eldorado National Forest are assisting with the prescribed fire, with 3 of the engines available to respond to others fires if needed.

Due to the active prescribed fire operations in progress, hiking on the Caples Creek Trail is not recommended, and a formal trail closure is being considered.

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 Caples Creek watershed includes some of the last remaining old growth in the Eldorado National Forest and provides a primary water supply for 110,000 people in the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) service area. Approximately 425 acres have been burned in the project area overall since October 2017.

Smoke can be detected in communities throughout the western Sierra slope of El Dorado County and may also be present in the Lake Tahoe Basin, Carson City, or Reno with the prevailing southwest winds. Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors.

At a later stage of the project, aerial ignition will be used to accomplish the majority of the prescribed burning in the Caples Creek watershed when control lines surrounding the watershed have been established. Silver Fork Road and Caples Creek will be used to manage prescribed fire in the watershed during the first aerial ignition phase. The southern portion of the watershed will be burned in a second major aerial ignition phase of the project which will extend to the watershed boundary along Highway 88.

Updates on the Caples Prescribed Fire will be posted on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/eldoradoNF](http://www.twitter.com/eldoradoNF). For more information about the Caples Ecological Restoration Project, please visit the [project pages](#) on the forest website.

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## News Release

**Media Contact:**

Fire Information (530) 303-2412

### **For Immediate Release**

**Date:** October 8, 2019

### **Caples Prescribed Fire Update - October 8, 2019**

The update for the Caples Prescribed Fire has been posted on Inciweb:

[Caples Prescribed Fire October 8, 2019](#)

Further updates and information will be maintained on Inciweb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6622/> and not emailed.

Information is also being posted to the Eldorado National Forest Twitter site at [www.twitter.com/eldoradonf](http://www.twitter.com/eldoradonf)

-USFS-



# Caples Prescribed Fire

October 8, 2019

Information Line: (530) 303-2412

PRESCRIBED FIRE INFORMATION			
Location: Northern ridge above Caples Creek north of Highway 88.			
Project Period: Fall 2019		Elevation: 7,500 feet	
Start Date: September 30, 2019		Overall Project: Multi-year project started in October 2017.	
Current Target: 500 acres		Overall Project Area: 8,800 acres	
Accomplished: 100 acres		Overall Accomplished: 425 acres since 2017	
Resources	Engines: 4	Crews: 6	Water Tenders: 1

**Summary:** Fire management staff are continuing to burn along the northern ridge above Caples Creek as part of a multi-year 8,800-acre prescribed fire within the Caples Ecological Restoration Project. Crews are using hand ignition and burning toward the west to create blackline approximately 300 feet wide that will be used as a control line for prescribed fire within the center of the Caples Creek watershed on a later phase of the project.

**Today:** The goal of today's burn operation was to continue active ignitions to reach the end of the ridge and tie into the 10N30 road before the wind event that is predicted for early Wednesday. Ignitions on the Caples Prescribed Fire have been completed and crews will patrol and monitor the area over the next few days during the wind. No additional ignitions are planned this week.

At 7,500 feet in elevation, conditions in the project area are cooler and moister than the area below 6,000 feet where a red flag warning is in effect for Wednesday morning through Thursday. Although the recent snow has melted, fuel moistures continue to be above normal and the Caples Prescribed Fire is burning slowly in dead and dry fuels, successfully meeting the fuel reduction objectives of the project.

**Weather Forecast:** A strong north to northeast wind event is likely across northern California early Wednesday morning continuing through Thursday. The strongest Valley winds look to be early Wednesday through Wednesday evening, with the strongest winds over the foothills and higher terrain Wednesday evening into Thursday. Winds decrease Friday and dry weather continues through the weekend.

**The PG&E Power Outage** will shut down all of the Eldorado National Forest offices except dispatch. Fire and essential personal will still be working but our offices and phones will not be open or operational. This information line and Inciweb will be monitored and updated as information changes.

**Smoke:** Smoke is expected over the next several days but should lighten once the active ignitions stop. Note that smoke is typically heavier in the morning after the air cools and settles at night. Smoke can be detected in communities throughout the western Sierra slope of El Dorado County and may also be present in the Lake Tahoe Basin, Carson City, Gardnerville, or

UPDATES ON THE CAPLES PRESCRIBED FIRE WILL BE POSTED ON TWITTER AND INCIWEB. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAPLES ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECT, PLEASE VISIT THE PROJECT PAGES ON THE FOREST WEBSITE.

Inciweb: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6622/>

Twitter: [@EldoradoNF](https://twitter.com/EldoradoNF)

Caples Project Page: [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/caples](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/caples)

Facebook: [Facebook.com/EldoradoNF/](https://www.facebook.com/EldoradoNF/)

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Reno depending on wind direction. Our prevailing winds are from the southwest, but the incoming winds are from the north/northeast. Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors.

**Caution:** Due to the active prescribed fire operations in progress, hiking on the Caples Creek Trail is not recommended.

**Resources:** There are currently 6 fire crews assigned to the Caples Prescribed Fire - the Iron Mountain Hand Crews from the Eldorado National Forest, the Los Padres Hot Shots, and additional crews from the Modoc, Shasta-Trinity, Stanislaus and Plumas National Forests. Five engines from the Eldorado National Forest are assisting with the prescribed fire.

**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 Caples Creek watershed includes some of the last remaining old growth in the Eldorado National Forest and provides a primary water supply for 110,000 people in the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) service area.

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**Caples Project Page:** [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/caples](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/caples)

**Facebook:** [Facebook.com/EldoradoNF/](https://www.facebook.com/EldoradoNF/)

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# Caples Prescribed Fire

October 9, 2019

Information Line: (530) 303-2412

PRESCRIBED FIRE INFORMATION				
Location: Northern ridge above Caples Creek north of Highway 88.				
Project Period: Fall 2019		Elevation: 6,000-7,00 feet		
Start Date: September 30, 2019		Overall Project: Multi-year project started in October 2017.		
Today's Target: 50 acres		Overall Project Area: 8,800 acres		
Accomplished: 750 acres to date		Overall Accomplished: 1,075 acres since 2017		
Resources	Engines: 4	Helicopter: 1	Crews: 7	Water Tenders: 1

**Summary:** Fire management staff are continuing active ignitions along the northern ridge above Caples Creek as part of a multi-year 8,800-acre prescribed fire within the Caples Ecological Restoration Project. Yesterday, ignitions were intended to be completed, however, unfavorable conditions during the day prevented crews from being able to complete the firing operations. Crews will take advantage of favorable conditions today to finish ignitions.

**Today:** The goal of today's burn operation is to continue the firing operations that will help secure the fire perimeter edge in advance of the predicted wind event. Using fire line constructed from the ridge top on the north side of Caples Creek from a previous burn area, existing hand line, and natural fire breaks, crews are continuing active ignitions in the southwest and northeast sections of the fire perimeter to secure area north of Caples Creek. Once firing operations are completed, crews will patrol and monitor the area over the next few days during the wind event.

The project area is experiencing conditions that are cooler and moister than the area below 6,000 feet where a red flag warning is in effect this evening through Thursday. Although the recent snow has melted, fuel moistures continue to be above normal and the Caples Prescribed Fire is burning slowly towards the creek, successfully meeting the fuel reduction objectives of the project.

**Weather Forecast:** Strong and gusty north to northeast winds will occur across northern California this morning continuing through Thursday. The strongest Valley winds look to be early Wednesday through Wednesday evening, with the strongest winds over the foothills and higher terrain Wednesday evening into Thursday. The project area is experiencing better fuel moisture levels than lower elevations. Winds are expected to decrease Friday and dry weather continues through the weekend.

**The PG&E Power Outage** has resulted in the closure of Eldorado National Forest offices except dispatch. Fire and essential personal are still working but forest offices and phones will not be open or operational. This information line and Inciweb will be monitored and updated as information changes.

**Smoke:** Smoke is expected over the next several days but should lighten once the active ignitions stop. Note that smoke is

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typically heavier in the morning after the air cools and settles at night. Smoke can be detected in communities throughout the western Sierra slope of El Dorado County and may also be present in the Lake Tahoe Basin, Carson City, Gardnerville, or Reno depending on wind direction. Our prevailing winds are from the southwest, but the incoming winds are from the north/northeast. Smoke sensitive individuals are encouraged to reduce their exposure by avoiding smoky areas, closing windows, or staying indoors.

**Caution:** Due to the active prescribed fire operations in progress, hiking on the Caples Creek Trail is not recommended.

**Resources:** There are currently 7 fire crews assigned to the Caples Prescribed Fire - the Iron Mountain Hand Crews from the Eldorado National Forest, the Los Padres Hot Shots, the Feather River Hotshots from the Shasta-Trinity Forest, and additional wildland fire and fire use module crews from the Modoc, Stanislaus and Plumas National Forests. Additional resources include four engines, a water tender, a dozer, and a helicopter from the Eldorado National Forest are assisting with the prescribed fire.

**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 Caples Creek watershed includes some of the last remaining old growth in the Eldorado National Forest and provides a primary water supply for 110,000 people in the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) service area.

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# Fire Update



## October 10, 2019 INCIDENT UPDATE

**Caples Fire Information:** (530) 303-2412  
**Email:** [Eldoradoincidents@gmail.com](mailto: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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