



1. Schneider Camp Meadow: Information from Proper Functioning Condition (PFC) Assessments (USFS 2004, Still Water Sciences 2010) indicates that two roads are eroding sediment directly into Schneider Camp Meadow. USFS route 10N13, visible in the foreground of this photo, follows the eastern boundary of the meadow and crosses the stream channel at the upstream boundary of the meadow. A non-system route, which intersects 10N13 and leads to a livestock barn and unimproved camping area, forms a portion of the northern meadow boundary. Impaired meadow function and hydrologic disruption occur from these road related sources of increased sediment and runoff.



2. Schneider Camp Meadow: Schneider Camp Meadow is at risk of losing additional hydrologic function if actions are not taken to reduce road and trail related effects, such as the erosion visible in this photo. Easily erodible volcanic deposits with steep slopes and somewhat sparse vegetation add to sediment transport into the meadow via an eroding gully on the northwest side of the meadow and the stream that flows into the eastern side of the meadow.



3. Schneider Camp Meadow: Vehicles drive on Schneider Camp Meadow, as seen in this photo, and directly in the stream channel. Schneider Camp Meadow is classified in the moderately wet to dry wetness categories (SWS 2010). *Epilobium howellii* (a sensitive plant species) occurrence near Schneider Cow Camp has been impacted by non-designated vehicle traffic and may have been extirpated from the site. Riparian wetland and rangeland vegetation have been degraded by driving in the meadow and soil productivity may be impaired. In addition to information contained in PFC assessments, vegetation conditions at Schneider Camp Meadow have been documented via a long-term range condition and monitoring plot (the meadow is part of the Cody Allotment) that is measured every five years.



4. Schneider Camp Meadow: Visible in the foreground of this photo, the intermittent stream that flows through Schneider Camp Meadow is now held together largely by willow. Active erosion features observed include: active headcuts (including a 3.5 foot relief headcut on the main channel, downstream of which the banks are actively failing), rill and gully erosion, streambed incision, undercut banks, stream bank alteration, and active sediment deposition. Rainbow trout were present in 2004. In addition to vehicle impacts, cattle trampling has altered surface flow paths in some portions of the meadow.

Visible in the background of this photo is Schneider Barn, which is on the northern side of the meadow. Vehicle tracks near the barn lead to several dispersed campsites. While a predominance of hydrophytic species and diversity of plant species exist in most parts of the meadow (five community types, including willow thickets, were identified by SWS in the meadow in 2010), areas supporting *Artemisia tridentata* with very high percent cover of bare ground reflect large impacts from human use along the barn and access road.



5. Government Meadows: Vegetation conditions within meadow and riparian areas have been documented via long-term range condition and trend monitoring plots within the watershed (two in Jake Schneider Meadow, two in Government Meadow, and one in Schneider Camp Meadow); Proper Functioning Condition Assessments done for range NEPA (Schneider Camp Meadow and Government Meadow) and by Still Water Sciences (Schneider Camp Meadow); and Rapid Assessments done for range NEPA (Convict Meadow).



6. Fuels Conditions Example: In the Caples Creek watershed, heavy fuel loading is a concern where pre-settlement fire return intervals were between 5 and 35 years, with generally low to mixed severity, and have now lengthened to 35 to 100 years. Lengthened fire return intervals have allowed for accumulations of dead woody materials and a dense understory of brush and/or saplings; and have influenced stand structure, density, and distribution. The site in this photo is located along the Caples Creek Trail, near where the trail runs along the Silver Fork American River.



7. Fuels Conditions Example: The Eldorado National Forest fire history geospatial layer indicates that approximately 47 fires occurred within the Caples Creek watershed since 1908. Those fires were not allowed to burn, however, and all were contained at less than eleven acres. Sites such as this are located along the Caples Creek Trail, near where the trail runs along the Silver Fork American River.



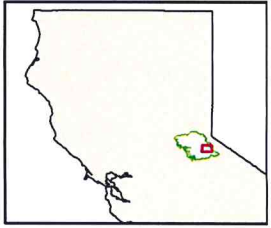
8. Silver Fork American River: The confluence of Caples Creek with the Silver Fork American River defines the lower boundary of the Caples Creek Watershed. Both the Silver Fork American River and Caples Creek are Class I productive streams with brown trout and rainbow trout. Pictured above is a segment of the Silver Fork American River, downstream of the project area.



9. Fuels Conditions Example: Longer fire return intervals allow for more fuel and vegetation to accumulate between fires, resulting in a higher severity fire than what may have occurred in pre-European settlement. Consequently, fires today kill more vegetation and are more difficult to control (FMP, 2009). The site in this photo is located along the Caples Creek Trail.



10. Caples Creek: The entire length of Caples Creek (pictured above) within the boundary of the proposed fuels project is Wild and Scenic River Status eligible. To be eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation, a river must be free-flowing and contain at least one "outstandingly remarkable value." The outstandingly remarkable values for Caples Creek are recreation and fisheries. Rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System are further classified as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, dependent upon on the extent of development and accessibility along each section. Caples Creek is considered to be a Wild river, meaning that it is "...free of impoundments, generally inaccessible except by trail (no roads), with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive, and having unpolluted waters. (<http://www.rivers.gov/information.html>)"



1:76,000

Caples Ecological Restoration Project

Amador and Placerville Ranger Districts
Eldorado National Forest

- Roads
- Motorized Trail
- - - Non-Motorized Trail
- Trail 17E51 ReRoute
- ▭ Prescribed Burn Area
- ▭ Vegetation Island Ignition
- ▭ Understory Burn
- ▭ Caples Creek Recommended Wilderness Area
- ▭ Ranger District Boundary
- ⊕ USDA FOREST SERVICE
- ⊕ NON-FS
- Caples Creek Watershed

