



GOLD FIELD NOTES

EL DORADO CHAPTER ☼ CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ☼ SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2022

In-Person Meeting
New Time

SEPTEMBER 27 PROGRAM THE NATURE NOOK—A SPECIAL HABITAT FOR NATIVE PLANTS

We hope that all will join us on September 27 at **6 pm (note new start time)** for our chapter meeting and a presentation on how the Nature Nook, a special habitat garden that features native plants, came to be.

The three people most responsible for the garden will speak. All are members of the EDC – CNPS Board. After their talks, you can all visit the Nature Nook with an expert! It is located next to the library.

- Cindy Podsiadlo on how she came up the idea to refurbish and update the garden, and how she managed the irrigation and other details.
- Christie Johnson was responsible for the design of the garden. She will discuss the basic steps involved and why she selected the plants she did.
- Madeline Franke will share the design elements of the signage and artwork and share the type of signs were chosen.

And, all three will discuss the ongoing efforts to keep the Nature Nook going through maintenance and additions. A garden is never finished!

This meeting will be **IN-PERSON** at the El Dorado County Library lawn, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667.

CALENDAR

September 21 (Wednesday)

Program.
Creating Bird-Friendly Landscapes hosted by the Redbud Chapter. Presentation begins on Zoom at 6 pm. Link for this presentation at: <https://chapters.cnps.org/redbud/2022/08/22/sept-21-2022/>

September 27 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
The Nature Nook. In-person meeting at Placerville Library and at new time. See details to right.

October 20-22 (Thurs.—Sat.)

CNPS Conference.
Rooting Together. Restoring Connections to plants, Place and People. San Jose, CA. For more information: <https://conference.cnps.org/>

November 22 (Tuesday)

Chapter program.
Topic TBD. See website and next newsletter for details.



Nook volunteers (L to R): Madeline Franke, Cindy Podsiadlo, Christie Johnson

The
**Nature
Nook**
A special garden
at the Placerville library.

Native Plant Sale

Plants - Books - Garden Art

Sponsored by the El Dorado Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.



2022 Fall Plant Sale
 Order Online: **September 24 @ 10:00 am thru October 1 @ 5:00 pm**
 Location: shop.eldoradocnps.org

Plant Pickup
 Date: **October 8**
 Time: **Pickup time assigned at checkout**
 Location: **2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA**
 (parking lot of county building C)



Stay in touch
www.eldoradoCNPS.org

 [eldocnps](https://www.instagram.com/eldocnps)
 [ElDoradoCNPS](https://www.facebook.com/ElDoradoCNPS)
 Homegrown Habitat:
 Native Plant Gardening
 in El Dorado County

CNPS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

PLANT SALE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Want to help get more native plants out into county gardens? From sorting plants into boxes to delivering as people drive through, our big fall plant sale can use your help! Those who volunteer will receive one plant for one shift, or two plants for all day help. Sign up by Oct 1 and you can even choose your plant(s)!

Two shifts: 7-12 (sorting plants) and 11-3 (handing out and take down)

Please join in - we'd love to have you!
web.eldoradocnps@gmail.com



A FOREST RECOVERS FROM THE CALDOR FIRE

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted by permission from the Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association (ENFIA)

How does a forest recover from a devastating wildfire like the Caldor Fire? The answer is multifaceted and depends on a lot of factors. Eldorado Forest staff are in the midst of that process and will be for many years to come. And there is the opportunity for folks to help in a variety of ways.

Immediately after the fire (and in some cases, even while the fire was still burning), Forest staff worked on emergency repairs to reduce the immediate impacts from the wildfire and suppression efforts, such as making sure dozer lines didn't cause erosion, mulching burned areas with highly erosive soils, protecting cultural sites from damage, etc. This is all part of the Burned Area Emergency Response (or BAER) process.

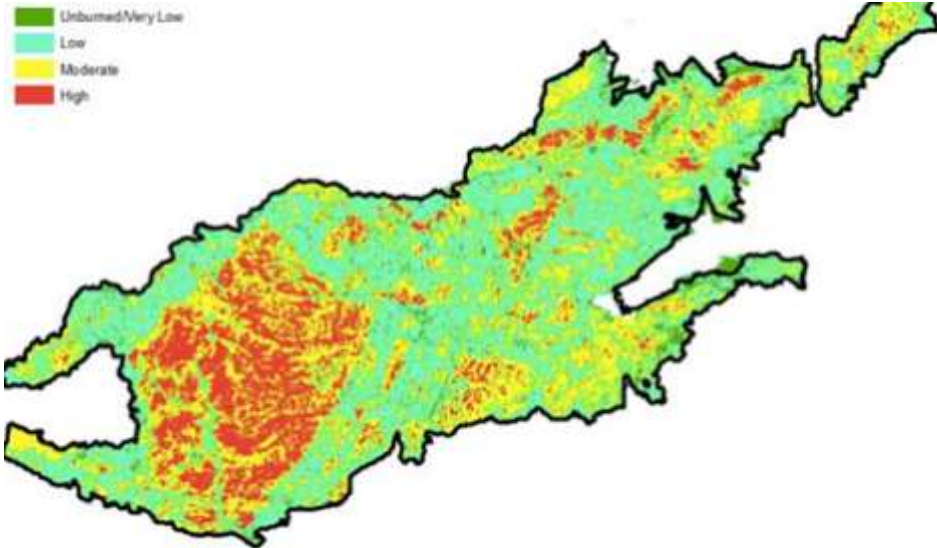


Caldor Fire area where all of the trees were killed.
 Photo: Lester Lubetkin.

(continued on page 3)

A FOREST RECOVERS *(continued from page 2)*

And then there has been the removal of hazard trees along the major roadways leading into the Eldorado Forest and near other infrastructure, like campgrounds and trailheads. As you travel around the Forest, you will see large piles (decks) of logs that are awaiting disposal, be it for milling into lumber or chipping for other uses. This roadside hazard tree removal will go on for some time. Not to mention the hazard tree removal work being done by PG&E, AT&T, EID, the El Dorado County Resource Conservation District, Sierra Pacific Industries, Sierra At Tahoe and many others.



Map showing the soil burn severity across the Caldor Fire area. USDA Forest Service.

But the really heavy work is just beginning. As Dan Smith, Eldorado Forest's Caldor Fire Recovery Team Leader explains it, the Eldorado Forest had been working on a forest wide Resiliency Strategy when the Caldor Fire hit. Now they are using that strategy to help inform restoration planning. Restoration will likely be a mix of treating some of the most degraded areas, while also helping to maintain some areas that the fire helped to bring into more natural conditions.

There is a concept of "natural range of variation" (also referred to as NRV), which is a way of considering the ecological conditions over a reasonable span of space and time, usually based on pre-European influences. By considering the natural range of variation, foresters can determine whether the Caldor Fire brought the forest condition closer to a natural condition, or whether the fire has caused the forest to be outside of natural conditions. Under natural (pre-European) conditions, the

forest would be a mosaic of vegetation patches, ranging from openly spaced trees to brush fields to meadows to young stands of trees.

The Eldorado Forest will soon begin the first step in the environmental analysis by releasing a "proposed action." This document will describe the various measures the Forest intends to implement in order to restore the Caldor Fire area. One of the key considerations in this proposal will be how best to treat the landscape so that fire can be restored to its natural role. The document will include maps showing where work is proposed, tables describing what will be done in different areas and will describe many of the requirements and guidelines to ensure that the restoration efforts protect the broad range of resources out on the Forest.

Everyone is encouraged to take a look at this document and provide your thoughts and suggestions to the Eldorado Forest staff working on this massive effort. Your input, along with that from others, will be used to help guide the restoration planning and future implementation. This will also be a great opportunity to help with interpretation of wildfire and forest restoration.

To sign-up to receive an email letting you know when the Caldor project is available for review and comment, go to the Eldorado National Forest's project webpage (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/eldorado>) and click "Join Our Mailing List" on the right-hand side.

*Lester Lubetkin
Conservation Co-chair*



View of the Caldor Fire area in which you can see a mosaic with some patches in which most trees were killed and other areas where the fire burned the understory and left the trees in a more healthy condition. Photo: Lester Lubetkin.

A PERSPECTIVE ON THE CALDOR FIRE FROM ELDORADO FOREST SUPERVISOR JEFF MARSOLAIS

Editor's Note: This article is reprinted by permission from the Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association (ENFIA)

We reached out to Eldorado National Forest Supervisor Jeff Marsolais to learn more about the impacts of the 2021 Caldor Fire and to hear about the great work that the Eldorado Forest is undertaking to restore the fire footprint. Here are excerpts from that interview:

ENFIA: What has been the impact of the Caldor Fire on the Eldorado Forest?

JM: The Caldor Fire had major impacts on the natural environment, but also on the public services and recreation opportunities this part of the Forest provided, impacts on the communities we serve and on the Forest's employees. The Eldorado Forest is not just a "drive-through" forest, but is a beloved area in which people from a broad range of communities come to recreate, enjoy the unique dispersed activities, take in the scenic vistas, as well as grazing and woodcutting. We have a lot of employees that have worked on the Forest for a long time, and they are devastated to see the projects they had worked on over the years lost, including trails, healthy landscapes and fuel reduction projects.

ENFIA: How would you describe the goal of the Caldor Fire Restoration Plan?

JM: The Caldor Fire Restoration Plan will implement the Forestwide Wildfire Resiliency Strategy, which in turn is built on the many past successes Forest staff have completed over the last 20 to 25 years. A key goal is the desire to restore fire to the landscape. This will be done using a POD (Potential Operational Delineations, potential locations where fire suppression is likely to be effective) strategy, which looks at how to break up the landscape to have a better chance of catching future wildfires.

The Caldor Fire burned about 180,000 acres within the Eldorado National Forest. The remainder of the wildfire burned through private land and a portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin Manage-

ment Unit. Of that 180,000 acres, about 90,000 acres burned in high severity, mostly in the area around Grizzly Flat and to the east. High severity means all or nearly all of the trees were killed. But a significant part of the fire area burned at moderate to low severity, meaning that the fire actually was beneficial in some of these areas. Our goal in the areas with lower intensity burn will be to keep the areas in a fire resilient condition.

ENFIA: And how do you see the Caldor Fire Restoration Plan proceeding?

JM: We are at a unique time where we have significant resources available - including federal, local and state funding. So, I expect a focused and aggressive effort to jumpstart the landscape. In areas of high severity fire, we will have full-scale restoration, meaning removing dead trees and planting seedlings. But this will be done using the current science, including GTR 270 (Postfire Restoration Framework for National Forests in California; USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station General Technical Report 270). We are already working on regaining public access into the area of the fire, such as in the Grizzly Flat area and the Forestwide roadside hazard tree mitigation project.

We are working on the first step of the environmental analysis and expect to have the "Proposed Action" released in late-Fall (for the full Caldor Fire Restoration Plan).

ENFIA: Once the Plan is completed, how long do you think implementation will take?

JM: We hope to have a decision on the Restoration Plan, based on the environmental analysis, by the end of 2023. We will work to meet public service needs up front - that includes reasonable access for the public, remove hazards, get campgrounds, trails and other public facilities open and usable. But also move to restore the Forest. The Eldorado Forest grows trees well, and we will move to get reforestation going. We are already planting trees in some areas, while also avoiding planting trees in a way that



Forest Supervisor Jeff Marsolais.
Photo: Lester Lubetkin.

might create long term future fire hazards. Our tree planting also includes planting a mix of tree species to avoid creating a monoculture.

Partnerships are going to be a big part of the implementation of the restoration. We will be identifying "ecological resilience blocks" - these will be the PODs I mentioned earlier. And we want to work with partners to help in key places, like meadows, forested areas, and waterways. There are a lot of groups that have an attachment to the Eldorado Forest and we want to engage them as part of the solution to restoring the Caldor Fire footprint.

ENFIA: What do you envision the area of the Caldor Fire will look like in 10 years? In 20 years? In 50 years?

JM: Right from the beginning, we are working to address urgent and emergency needs, such as restoring access to the Forest, removing hazards and repairing damage caused during the fire suppression efforts. 10 years out, I expect visitors will still see the fire impacts in places. There are some areas we simply can't restore right away. But in those lower severity burned areas, the Forest will look healthy and evidence of the Caldor Fire will be barely visible. One of our objectives is to get fire back on the landscape, so evidence of fire will be visible, but this will be of a low intensity, creating a more open forest and a mosaic of vegetations.

(continued on page 5)

FOREST SUPERVISOR JEFF MARSOLAIS AND CALDOR FIRE

(continued from page 4)

50 years out, my hope is that the Caldor Fire will just be a memory and that our communities will remember how people came together to deal with the fire and the aftermath of restoring the communities and the Forest.

ENFIA: What role would you like to see ENFIA play in the restoration and recovery of the Caldor Fire area?

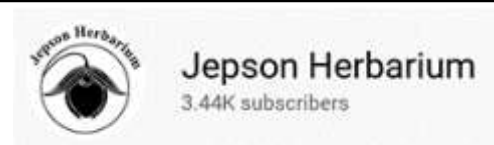
JM: One area that ENFIA could play a key role is in interpreting and educating the public about fire and wildfire. It is not just a “binary” decision between sup-

press or don't suppress. Prescribed fire will be a critical part of the future management of the Forest. Helping the public understand about the role of fire in the ecosystem will be essential.

ENFIA and the Eldorado Forest have a long and productive relationship. And, ENFIA members have deep roots in the community. I hope that ENFIA can help to identify issues and concerns raised in the community and bring them to light, so that we can all be informed and moving together to restore this burned landscape. I also hope that ENFIA can reach out to underserved communities to help them enjoy the restored Caldor Fire area.

NATIVE PLANT VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

The Jepson Herbarium is developing an archive of YouTube videos that feature specific native plants. These 2-4 minute videos describe their natural habitats and life requirements, threats, and some information on horticulture. There are over 75 species featured including *Carpenteria californica* (bush-anemone), *Primula* (shooting stars) - Introduction & Identification, *Cypripedium californicum* (California lady's slipper), *Aristolochia californica* (California pipevine), and *Torreya californica* (California-nutmeg).



All are available for viewing at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/JepsonHerbarium/deos>



Carpenteria californica
(bush-anemone)

NOVEMBER 22 PROGRAM

To be determined. Details in the next newsletter or on the website closer to the event.

BOARD OPENINGS

Have ideas on helping promote and protect native plants in the county? Join the board and have your voice heard! We are a vibrant, active group and are always looking for new people to bring their energy and insights.

Volunteer coordinator is available now, with **president, secretary, and program chair** all opening up in January. We also have **members at large**, a good place to get your feet wet. Being on the board is truly a great way to meet other native plant enthusiasts while making a difference. For more info, contact Alice Cantelow at web.eldoradocnps@gmail.com



Aristolochia californica
(California pipevine)



The spread of weeds in the Caldor Fire area was one of the first natural resource concerns that chapter members raised to the Forest Service. As a result of these concerns, chapter members have been undertaking monitoring of the burn area to ensure an early detection of weeds and to enable a rapid response to their control. See the July-August 2022 issue of the chapter newsletter for a little more detail about this monitoring effort.

Our chapter is not the only group worrying about the spread of weeds and the damage they can do to native plant habitat. The Northwest Fire Science Consortium and the Great Basin Science

Exchange have been talking about the problem in recent years. The result of these conversations is a new infographic that provides an overview on weeds and disturbance in the context of implementing fuel treatments and management activities. It also offers best practices to limit the spread of weeds and best practices for containment.

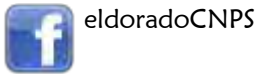
We have included the infographic as the last page of this newsletter. It can also be downloaded from the Consortium's website: <https://tinyurl.com/mpma7n88>



El Dorado Chapter
 California Native Plant Society
 P.O. Box 1948
 Placerville, CA 95667

September-October 2022

For Updates Visit Us on the Web
www.eldoradoCNPS.org and



**DEDICATED TO THE
 PRESERVATION OF
 CALIFORNIA'S NATIVE FLORA**

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The mission of the Society is to conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes the journal *Artemisia*, quarterly magazine, *Flora*, which gives statewide news and announcements of Society activities and conservation issues, and the chapter newsletter *Gold Field Notes*. To join, call our main office in Sacramento, (916) 447-2677, or visit www.cnps.org to join online.

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Contact Chapter Leadership at web.eldoradocnps@gmail.com

PRESIDENT	Alice Cantelow
VICE PRESIDENT	Debra Ayres
SECRETARY	Kathleen Barco
TREASURER	Ola Jane Gow
BOOKS & POSTERS	Christie Johnson
CONSERVATION CO-CHAIRS	Lester Lubetkin
	Sue Britting
CLARK YOUTH FUND	Chelsea Morgan
FIELD TRIPS	Ginna Meyer
INVASIVE EXOTICS CO-CHAIRS	Debra Ayres
	Virginia Meyer
LIBRARY DEMO GARDEN CO-CHAIRS	Cindy Podsiadlo
	Madeline Franke
MEMBERSHIP	Cindy Podsiadlo
PLANT SALE CHAIR	Kit Veerkamp
PROGRAMS	Vacant
RARE PLANTS	Vacant
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR	Vacant
FACEBOOK	Annie Walker
COMMUNICATIONS	Kathleen Barco
WEBMASTER	Deborah Nicolls
NEWSLETTER	Sue Britting

WEEDS, FIRE RISK, & RESILIENT FOREST LANDSCAPES

Weeds can become an unintended consequence of fire & fuels management

THE PROBLEM

Woody fuel treatments can increase weeds by:



Opening canopy for light-loving weeds



Disturbing soil & established native species



Spreading seeds between treatment sites

ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Weeds impact biodiversity & ecosystem function



Fires often exacerbate the impacts of weeds by removing natives & benefiting invasives

Decrease native plant & wildlife habitat



Increase erosion & alter hydrologic cycling

Decrease forage for livestock & wildlife



WEEDS ARE FUEL!

FIRE IMPACTS

Weeds alter fuel & fire characteristics



Dry out quickly in summer, easily ignite and shift fire season earlier

Increase fine fuel load & continuity in treated areas



Increase fire spread rates across landscapes

Decrease fire response times



Increase fire frequency as weeds recover quickly (1-3 years) after fire

CHALLENGES of effective weed management include:

1 SOCIAL CHALLENGES

Weeds not uniformly viewed as a fuel and fire problem (especially in forests)



Weeds aren't viewed as an issue until widespread, when management is much more difficult



2 POLICY CHALLENGES

Lack of weed-focused management targets



Funds only available immediately after fires, not when weed invasions occur years later



3 IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

Limited integration among resource specialists during project planning

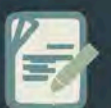


Limited seed resources and species for post-fire restoration efforts



TACKLING THE PROBLEM

Working towards effective weed management by:



Planning & embracing existing policies together



Setting quantifiable weed targets



Investing in weed management & offering flexible funding for post-fire weed treatments



Increasing options for post-fire seed resources



Conducting targeted weed research



Spreading the word! Effective education & sharing science at local & leadership levels

Weed management is part of building resilient forest landscapes

