

# USFS Eldorado National Forest - Fuels Treatments Completed Within the Caldor Fire



## Amador Ranger District - Fuels Reduction Treatments Affecting Firefighter Safety and Suppression Effectiveness on the Caldor Fire

October 4, 2021

The most significant impacts of recent treatments on the Amador Ranger District were the improvements in firefighter safety, reduction in fire intensity, and increase of fireline production rates. Even under unprecedented drought conditions, these recent treatments allowed us to contain significant slope overs and spot fires due to the reduction in surface and ladder fuels. Among these treatments the underburned units afforded the greatest effect and reduced the holding and mop-up phases of fire suppression which allowed our few resources to continue forward progression of the fireline.

Although these treatments were a major factor in the successful containment of the south side of the Caldor Fire, they can be improved by designing features and treatments to further improve firefighter safety:

- Imagine if a single safety zone existed when the fire started, instead of us having to build them daily.
- Imagine if the hazard trees along the roads and firelines had been felled before they were on fire.

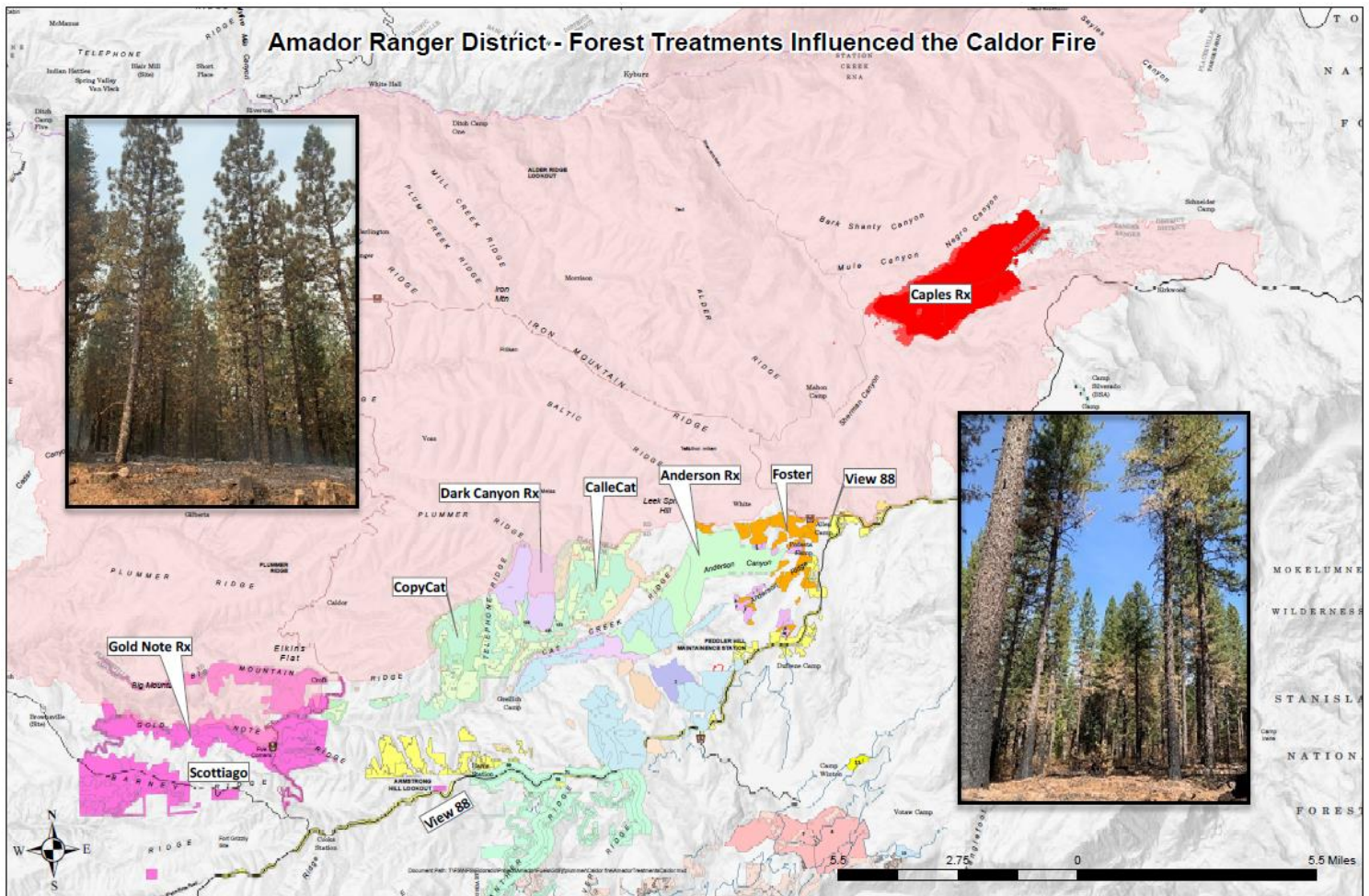


Figure 1. (Left) Photo by USFS – Area thinned and prescribed burned in 2012 within Goldnote Project post Caldor fire August 2021.

Figure 2. (Right) Photo by USFS – Precommercial thinned, and brush cut 2012 within Goldnote Project post Caldor fire August 2021