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News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Fire Disrupts Operations on Sacramento NWR

On Wednesday, September 17, 2014, a prescribed fire on an upland unit of the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge escaped the control line. Approximately 395 acres of Refuge lands and approximately 4 acres along California Northern Railroad were burned. The Refuge's fire crew regularly conducts prescribed burns during the year to help meet the Refuge's goals and mission of providing habitat for wintering waterfowl. The planned burn of 60 acres of uplands was to manage invasive plants and provide quality new grasses for the hundreds of thousands geese that visit the Refuge in the winter.

The fire escaped the established control line and winds from the south increased, pushing the fire to the north. A section of the fire pushed north and west, where it burned rapidly through short dry grass and wetlands.

Fire crews from Willows, Maxwell, Colusa, Kanawha, and Mendocino National Forest responded to assist with the fire which was contained Thursday. No one was injured by the fire, however damage to utility poles on the refuge interrupted electrical power to resident of nearby communities. Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) restored power to affected residents. The Refuge remains closed for public safety but will reopen on Saturday, September 20.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov/cno>. Connect with our [Facebook page](#), follow our [tweets](#), watch our [YouTube Channel](#), and download photos from our [Flickr page](#).

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