



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

PROJECT UPDATE

JULY 11, 2007

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **DEIS Release date set as July 20, 2007.**
- **Last day for public input on the DEIS is September 4, 2007.**
- **Public meetings set for July 24-August 2, 2007.**

ENF to Release Draft Environmental Impact Statement on July 20 for Public Review

For the past two years the Forest Service has been working with the public to develop a range of alternative options intended to manage wheeled motorized vehicles on existing routes throughout the Eldorado National Forest (ENF).

The project area includes all national forest system (NFS) roads and trails and existing unauthorized routes within the ENF (including wilderness areas), except for those NFS lands and routes included in the Rock Creek Recreational Trails Plan (ENF 2006). The resulting draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) detailing and analyzing these alternatives will be released for public review this month on July 20.

With the release of the DEIS, the project moves toward a final decision. The Forest Service is seeking input from the public on the document prior to a final decision.

The Travel Management project is intended to address unmanaged recreation, one of the four threats identified by the Forest Service as having the greatest impact on the health of our Nation's forests and grasslands. The DEIS proposes to regulate and manage motor vehicle use on the ENF, identifying the roads and trails where public motor vehicle use will be allowed. It also addresses seasonal closure of wheeled motor vehicle routes, as well as wheeled over-the-snow travel.

All native surface NFS roads and trails, in addition to unauthorized routes, were considered for public wheeled motor vehicle use on the Eldorado. This DEIS does not consider surfaced NFS roads designed for passenger cars already open to public motor vehicle use.

The Travel Management DEIS describes the five alternatives considered, the analysis and public scoping used in developing those alternatives, and the effects of implementing each one. The designated system of routes in each alternative will provide for diverse public wheeled motor vehicle opportunities, provide routes that enhance wheeled motor vehicle recreation, and provide access to dispersed recreation.

The DEIS also identifies the Forest Supervisor's preferred alternative. "My goal in choosing the preferred alternative was to balance the need to provide a diversity of road and trail riding opportunities and the need to protect forest resources," said ENF Forest Supervisor, Ramiro Villalvazo.

The public will have 45 days, ending September 4, to respond to the DEIS, and those responses will be considered in formulating the Final Environmental Impact Statement which will be released later this year.

Public Meetings Schedule

The Forest Service has scheduled five open house meetings to present and discuss the DEIS release. The purpose of these open house meetings is to introduce the DEIS, answer your questions and provide you with guidance on providing meaningful comments. Public meetings explaining the DEIS and the 45 day public comment period will be held from 7:00 – 9:00 PM on the following dates at the following locations:

DATE	CITY	LOCATION
July 24	Placerville	Marshall Building, El Dorado County Fairgrounds 100 Placerville Dr.
July 25	Jackson	Jackson Civic Center 33 Broadway
July 26	Markleeville	Turtle Rock Park Community Center 17300 Hwy 89
July 31	Folsom	Lake Natomas Inn 702 Gold Lake Dr.
August 2	Concord	Pleasant Hill Recreation Center 320 Civic Dr.

How To Get a Copy of the DEIS

The DEIS, the 5 alternative maps, and resource maps are available for download on the ENF website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/projects/route>, on CD by request, and at the Supervisor’s Office and Ranger District Offices for review.

To request a copy of the CD, send a message to eldoradoroutes@fs.fed.us, or call the project hotline at 530-295-5666. You may also mail your request to: Travel Management DEIS CD Request, Eldorado National Forest, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667.

Commenting On the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

An official 45-day public comment period will begin July 20 with the release of the DEIS and end September 4, 2007. It is important to provide comments on the DEIS that are specific and address the adequacy of the DEIS, the environmental effects analysis, and the merits of the alternatives discussed. We encourage you to be as specific as possible about routes, areas, portions of the analysis, and other elements of the DEIS. Providing comments to offer general support of an alternative or general dislike of other alternatives is not the purpose of this comment period. This is your opportunity to make specific concerns or objections known to the Forest Supervisor prior to a decision being made.

Only those who submit comments or otherwise express an interest in this project during the 45-day comment period will have standing to administratively appeal the final decision on this project under 36 CFR 215. Once a

final decision is made, there will be an official 45-day public appeal period.

Names and addresses of those who comment will be considered part of the public record, and will be available for public review.

Comments submitted anonymously will

be accepted and considered; however, those who submit only anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215. Each individual or representative from each organization submitting com-

ments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

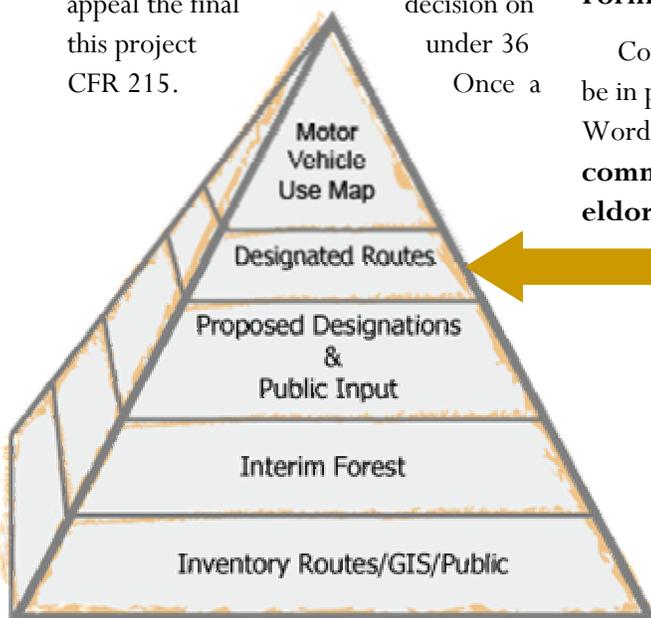
Comments may be submitted by mail to: **Forest Supervisor, Ramiro Villalvazo, Attn: ENF Travel Management DEIS, Eldorado National Forest, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667.**

Comments submitted via email should be in plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf) or Word (.doc) and be sent to:

comments-pacificsouthwest-eldorado@fs.fed.us.

This is your opportunity to make specific concerns or objections known to the Forest Supervisor prior to a decision being made.

We encourage you to be as specific as possible about routes, areas, portions of the analysis, and other elements of the DEIS.



THE 5 STEPS: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Step 4: Designate Routes. The publication of the Draft EIS shows the effects of implementing the 5 alternatives analyzed. Forest Supervisor, Ramiro Villalvazo will consider the public comments received, along with any additional analysis, and will publish a Final EIS and Record of Decision by December, 2007.

**USDA
FOREST SERVICE**

**Eldorado National Forest
Travel Management Project**

100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667
Hotline/Voicemail: 530-295-5666
TTY: 530-642-5122
Email: eldoradoroutes@fs.fed.us



We Are On The Web!

www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/projects/route



F O R E S T S W I T H A F U T U R E .

Ways To Keep In Contact

We want to keep you informed on how your input was used, and how we are progressing in this route designation process. We will be as timely as possible within the constraints of available staffing (we may occasionally ask for your patience). We plan to keep the web page www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/projects/route posted with new information on a regular basis. We also have a Forest Travel Management phone hotline at 530-295-5666, where you can hear about upcoming events or leave your comments. We will update and monitor this hotline on a regular basis.

We will adjust our public involvement process as we learn to be more effective. You have a role in the success of this process, so please stay involved.



Visitors enjoying a leisurely crawl through the Eldorado National Forest. (USFS, 2004).

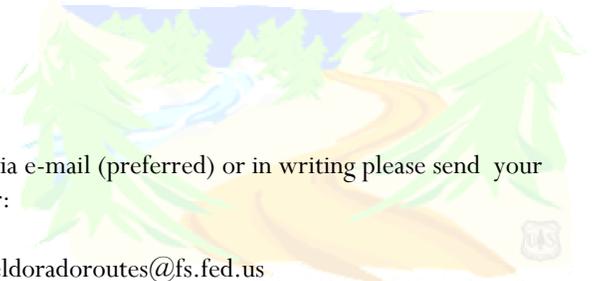
How To Get On The Forest Mailing List

If you are interested in continuing to receive information from us directly via e-mail (preferred) or in writing please send your name, **physical mailing address** and email address information to either:

Eldorado National Forest—Travel Management Project

100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667

eldoradoroutes@fs.fed.us



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