



April 2, 2008

PROJECT UPDATE

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Finally, A Starting Point – Routes to Forest Adventures Designated

Forest Supervisor Ramiro Villalvazo has reached a decision to allow public motor vehicle use on over 1,847 miles of roads and trails across the Eldorado National Forest. This Travel Management decision is the culmination of an effort that has been going on for some time, and will implement the direction given in the 1989 Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan to keep motor vehicles on designated roads and trails and to prohibit cross country travel.

The Travel Management project intended to address unmanaged recreation, one of the four key threats identified by the Forest Service as having the greatest impact on the health of our National Forests and Grasslands.

The details of Forest Supervisor Villalvazo's decision are presented in the Record of Decision (ROD) to be released on April 2, 2008. This decision was based on the forest's Motorized Travel Management Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). More details about the opportunities provided by this decision are presented on Page 3 of this Project Update.

"The fact that the population in our area continues to grow presents some unique challenges", said Villalvazo. "Growth in the area translates into more people in the Forest. I welcome more people from all walks of life to experience the forest. It is recognized that being outdoors and close to nature is important to us as human beings. It significantly adds to our quality of life. However, more people in the forest also increases the need for proper management and a shared responsibility to care for its resources."

The final decision selected a modification of Alternative B, referred to as Modified B, which allows for a diversity of recreation opportunities while further reducing environmental impacts.

Specifically the modifications met the LRMP Standards and Guidelines, minimized impacts to meadows, reduced impacts to stream courses and riparian habitat, include a seasonal closure for dirt roads and trails between January 1 and March 31, and provided areas for quiet

recreation. In addition to these items, the decision allows for diverse public wheeled motor vehicle opportunities such as motorcycles, ATV's, 4WDs, other high clearance vehicles, and passenger cars, provides routes that enhance motor vehicle recreation by creating loops and access to unique areas, and provides access for dispersed recreation.

The Forest heard comments on the Draft EIS from over 6,000 groups and individuals in writing and more than 1,200 in public meetings. These comments and suggestions were used to guide the modification of Alternative B. "I really appreciate that you took the time to share your insights", said Villalvazo. "While you may not have your interests met 100%, I can assure you, we are much closer to meeting them than if you had not participated."



"My decision about the Forest's Travel Management direction is only the beginning, and in no way ends this process."

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **FEIS Release Date is April 2, 2008.**
- **Public Open Houses Scheduled from April 5 to April 17.**
- **WEBSITE: Check for updated information on the Eldorado National Forest Website at: www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado.**

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You Are Invited To The Public Open Houses

Learn about the designated motorized travel system. Talk with the Forest Supervisor, Rangers, and Planners. Peruse the maps of the designated routes and explore volunteer opportunities. Find out how to use the free CDs to learn about the Final Environmental Impact Statement and all of the other maps included.

The Forest Service has scheduled four Open Houses to provide an opportunity for those that are interested to drop in and learn about the Final decision made by the Forest Supervisor. At the Open Houses, there will be maps and information about the routes that have been designated, access to the Forest Supervisor and other Forest Staff, assistance to understand how to find information in the FEIS, and insights into the Next Steps in the implementation of the decision.

Date & Time	City	Location
April 5, 2008 Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Placerville	El Dorado County Fairgrounds Organ Room 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667
April 10, 2008 Thursday 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	South Lake Tahoe	Lake Tahoe Community College Aspen Room One College Drive South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
April 12, 2008 Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Pleasant Hill	Diablo Valley College Cafeteria 321 Golf Club Road Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
April 17, 2008 Thursday 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Jackson*	Amador County Board of Supervisor's Office 810 Court Street Jackson, CA 95642

* The Jackson Open House will be hosted by Amador District Ranger Doug Barber

Note: Location maps are posted on the web site.

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The decision about the roads and trails where motor vehicle use will be allowed is only the beginning, and in no way ends this process. There may well be routes that are closed that some people believe should be open and some routes that should be closed that are open. The key to implementing this Travel Management decision is the opportunity in the future to make changes! Implementation will include features intentionally designed to allow Forest visitors and interest groups to help, through volunteering to complete resource

protection improvements, to maintain trails, help with monitoring of road and trail conditions, and to educate visitors about the designated travel system and things they can do to protect forest resources.

Forest Supervisor Villalvazo shared that his hope is that even though his decision will not satisfy everyone, we will move forward together. "We all desire to both enjoy and care for the forest", said Villalvazo. "There's a lot to be done, but I think we are up to it."

What Does The Final Decision Look Like?

The selected alternative, Modified B, includes the following features:

- Allows use on 1,002 miles of native surface (dirt) roads and 210 miles of trails for public wheeled motor vehicles. In addition, there are 635 miles of surfaced roads suitable for passenger cars.
- Prohibits public wheeled motor vehicle cross-country travel.
- Limited non-significant Forest Plan amendments for specific route segments within meadows.
- Seasonal closure on designated system trails and ML-2 roads from Jan. 1 through March 31.
- Prohibits public wheeled over-the-snow travel on the following: all designated snowmobile routes and cross-country ski trails on the ENF, Mormon Emigrant Trail (10N50/Forest Route 5) from the junction of Silver Fork Road (11N40) southeast to the Iron Mountain SnoPark at Highway 88; Loon Lake Campground Road (13N17); Chipmunk Bluff Road (13N19); and Robbs Peak Road (13N31).

Uses Allowed		Miles
Dirt Roads	Open to highway and non-highway legal vehicles	913
	Open to highway legal vehicles only	89
Trails	4WD Trails	58
	ATV and Motorcycle Trails	37
	Motorcycle Trails	115
Surfaced Roads	Mixed Use	5
	Highway vehicles only	630
TOTAL		1,847

How To Obtain A Copy Of the FEIS & Record of Decision

The FEIS, the Record of Decision, the six alternative maps, and other resource maps or information are available for download on the ENF website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/projects/route>, or on CD by request, and at the Supervisor's Office and Ranger District Offices.

To request a copy of the CD, please 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 FEIS Request, Eldorado National Forest, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667.



What To Expect In Summer 2008.

The Forest Service will continue to allow motor vehicle use during the summer of 2008 using the free Motor Vehicle Restrictions Map that has been in place since August 2005. This map and associated Forest Order restricts motor vehicle use to 2,200 miles of National Forest System roads and trails. Paved roads are legal for highway licensed vehicles only. All unauthorized routes will continue to be closed.



The reason for the delayed implementation is to make sure that Forest visitors are aware of the rules and that the rules don't change during the middle of the summer season. There is a 45-day appeal period following the Forest Supervisor's decision of April 2, and then additional time to resolve any appeals. This would likely mean that the earliest the new rules could take effect would be in late summer, and the Forest Supervisor decided to make the change at a more reasonable time.

However, following the decision, the Forest will begin putting up signs, working with interested folks in developing maps, educating Forest visitors about the new rules and proper motor vehicle use in the Forest, identifying routes to be considered in the future for change, and other elements of the decision. The seasonal closure will begin with the winter season on January 1, 2009.

US FOREST SERVICE

Eldorado National Forest Travel Management Project

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We Are On The Web!

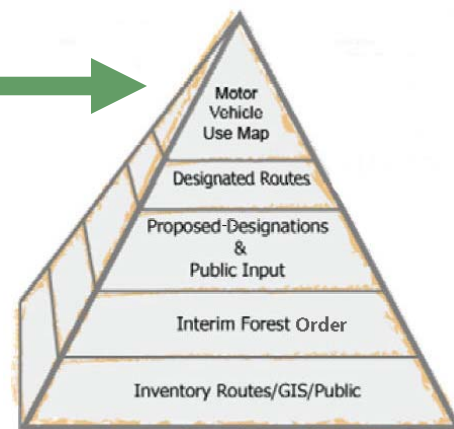
www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/projects/route



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

THE 5 STEPS: WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Step 5: Develop Motor Vehicle Use Map which shows the roads and trails where wheeled motor vehicle use is allowed, by class of vehicle and allowed season of use.



Ranger District Contact Information

Placerville Ranger District

4260 Eight Mile Road
Camino, CA 95709
530-644-2324
TTY 530-647-5314

Amador Ranger District

26820 Silver Drive
Pioneer, CA 95666
209-295-4251
TTY 209-295-5996

Georgetown Ranger District

7600 Wentworth Springs Road
Georgetown, CA 95634
530-333-4312
TTY 530-333-5511

Pacific Ranger District

7887 Highway 50
Pollock Pines, CA 95726
530-644-2349
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