

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

## Eldorado National Forest

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### **Developed Recreation Site Facilities Master Planning Underway For the Eldorado National Forest**

Placerville, CA.....The Forest Service is evaluating developed recreation sites in the Eldorado National Forest to make sure they provide the best recreation opportunities in the right national forest locations. The study will specifically look at the operation and maintenance of campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, boat ramps, and information stations.

The outcome of a seven-step evaluation process, called “Recreation Site Facilities Master Plan,” will be a five-year program of work that is scheduled to be finalized by December 2007.

Many of the Eldorado’s recreation sites were built 30-50 years ago, while others have been upgraded more recently. The Forest Service says visitors’ preferences and demographics have changed and some sites do may not meet visitors’ expectations and needs.

“We are committed to responsibly serving the public by efficiently operating and, when necessary, modifying the services we offer to ensure that recreation sites provide the right opportunities in the right places,” said Eldorado National Forest Supervisor Ramiro Villalvazo. “We are fortunate; however, to have many recently upgraded and soon to be upgraded recreation facilities in the Forest.”

National Forests nationwide are taking steps to create a sustainable program that aligns their developed recreation sites with the type of recreational experiences desired by visitors.

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“I look forward to working with interested people to ensure that our developed recreation sites are efficiently operated, take into consideration visitor’s desires, and reflect the forest’s special characteristics,” said Villalvazo. “One of the positive things about this process is that it looks into the future to determine the kinds of recreation sites that will best fit the national forest and visitors’ expectations. Each of the approximately 100 developed recreation sites will be evaluated using the best available data and information from the public.”

The Forest Service completed step one in the process in December 2006 which updated the Forest’s inventory of recreation sites and assembled estimates of the operation and maintenance costs as well as the amount of deferred maintenance for each site. The next step, which is scheduled to be concluded at the end of January, involves identifying the Forest’s recreation program “niche”, a summary paragraph about the Eldorado’s distinctive contributions to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Public ideas are welcome to help frame the Forest’s niche statement. The Forest Service will use data regarding recreation visitor-use, outdoor recreation supply and demand, and information from interested publics to determine the focus of the Forest’s recreation program. This recreation niche will be summarized in a paragraph statement and a map will be prepared that displays the Forest’s recreation settings.

For information about this project call Vicki Jowise at 530-622-5061. Information, including topics to be considered in defining the Eldorado’s niche, is also available on the Eldorado National Forest website located at: [www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/rsfmp](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/rsfmp).