



United States Department of

Recreation Facility

Analysis

Eldorado National Forest

Update 3



The Eldorado's Proposed Program of Work

Background

The Forest Service is reviewing more than 100 developed recreation sites across the Eldorado National Forest, through a seven step process which was called "Recreation Site Facility Master Planning" (RSFMP). This process will allow the Forest Service, with ideas and information from you and others, to provide the best recreation opportunities in the right national forest locations.

The RSFMP is a tool to help the Forest Service align its developed recreation sites with the unique characteristics of the Eldorado National Forest, projected recreation demand, visitors' expectations, and revenue opportunities.

A New Name For a Better Understanding

Since our last update of the RS-FMP project, there have been some administrative changes made to the process. The Forest Service at the national level was concerned that the public regarded the Recreation Site Facility Master Planning (RS-FMP) effort as a decision making document. In fact, the process is an analytical one and not a decision making tool. To facilitate a better understanding of the purpose of the RS-FMP and to ensure that the public is fully encouraged to become involved, the Recreation Site Facility Master Plan has gone through the following changes:

- ◆ The process has been re-named Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA).
- ◆ Regional and national over-sight procedures have been established.
- ◆ Public participation in the process has been reinforced and is mandatory.
- ◆ The deadline to conclude the process nationwide has been extended to 12/31/08 to make sure that appropriate public participation is solicited.

Where Are We Now?

Step One in the Recreation Site Facility Master Planning effort was completed during the first week of December 2006. This step involved the preparation of the forest's developed recreation site inventory and estimates of costs for annual operations and maintenance as well as deferred maintenance needs.

In February, the forest completed *Step Two* identifying a recreation program niche for the Eldorado. The information that contributed to the formulation of the niche came from responses to four topics that were published in the January 2007 update and on the forest website.

Steps 3 and 4 of the Eldorado National Forest's Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA) were completed in March 2007. The forest recreation staff examined all of the developed sites that are included in the RFA process (see website for the developed recreation site list) and determined which strategies could be undertaken to maintain recreation opportunities while reducing site expenditures and eliminating deferred maintenance. The developed recreation sites were then rated through the use of a series of questions involving the site's conformance with the forest recreation program niche (see website for Niche statement); their financial and operational efficiency; their effects on environmental sustainability; and their effects on community stability.

The culmination of the four steps is presented in the Eldorado National Forest Proposed Program of Work (PPOW). The PPOW is an analytical document that describes a vision for the Eldorado Forest's developed recreation sites program. The PPOW includes possible actions that may be considered for the continued operation of those

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sites. It is meant to be a dynamic strategic plan for the next five years. As conditions change, so may the plan. Some actions considered as part of the RFA process require additional site specific public involvement before decisions are made. These include: recreation fee changes, facility and site expansions, and new construction or facility removal.

Under the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), fee adjustments are being considered at some sites throughout the forest. For more information on REA, proposed fee changes and a list of affected sites please go to the REA web page www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/projects/rea/index.shtml.

What Is Next?

STEP 5: Propose Five Year Program of Work to you, our Stakeholders.

If you wish to view a full copy of the draft PPOW you may request one be mailed to you hard copy or electronically. A summary of the PPOW is available on the website. We would like to hear from you regarding the results of the Eldorado's Recreation Facility Analysis process and the Proposed Program of Work.

STEP 6: Finalize Five Year Proposed Program of Work

The five-year program of work for recreation sites is refined, based upon the broader discussions and comments from stakeholders. *Date to be determined but forest must be ready to implement Plan by December 31, 2008.*

STEP 7: Implementation

Annually, site-specific steps are proposed to implement the five year program of work for recreation sites. Prior to implementation of individual projects, National Environmental Policy Act and other agency coordination requirements are completed.

Contact Information

Your ideas about how to care for the recreation facilities in the future is an important part of the process. We are aware that certain sites, even those in less than desirable condition are important to groups and individuals. It is valuable for us to hear from you to help round out our understanding of what is important to consider in this process.

You can e-mail us at: eldorado_rsfmp@fs.fed.us

Or mail us at:

RFA, Eldorado National Forest
100 Forni Road,
Placerville, CA 95667

Or call us at: 530-622-5061

We will keep the latest information on our website. If you would like to be added to the RFA mailing list or you have specific questions or concerns about RFA please contact us.



Regarding the Ranking

The Eldorado National Forest operates many developed recreation sites in partnership with several different utility and power providers, in association with the hydroelectric facilities and reservoirs licensed through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Partial funding for operation and maintenance comes from the hydroelectric providers. The following agencies have licenses for projects on the Eldorado.

- ◆ El Dorado Irrigation District (EID)
- ◆ Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E)
- ◆ Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)
- ◆ Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)

We are obligated under the four licenses to operate and maintain the associated developed recreation sites as described under their related licenses therefore, a rating of 101 was given to represent the non-discretionary status of these recreation sites and essentially remove them from the decision making process.

**Thank you for your participation
in determining how quality
recreation opportunities can
continue to be provided on the
Eldorado National Forest.**

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Recreation Fees You Pay at Recreation Sites on National Forests

Many locations and recreation facilities on National Forest lands are free to use. There are also some places or participation in particular activities where a fee is charged. As a user of the National Forest, you may not see the difference between the types of fees being collected; however, there is often a big difference in how the money is used to provide high quality recreation opportunities and to protect public lands.

Many ski areas, resorts, outfitter guides and organizational camps are permitted to use the National Forest to provide special recreation opportunities to the public. These businesses pay a fee to the government for the use of the public lands. They collect fees from the recreation users for the services they provide. The fees paid by the various businesses to the Forest Service generally go directly to the federal treasury and are not used for recreation on the National Forests where they were collected.

On the Eldorado National Forest, many of the campgrounds are operated by a concessionaire (a business that has been selected to operate and maintain the campground). The Forest Service allows the concessionaires to charge the public a fee for the use of the campground, in return for services provided by the concessionaire, such as toilet cleaning, security in the campground, providing drinking water, etc. The concessionaire, in turn, pays a portion of the campground fees to the federal government, which goes to the general treasury. However, in many cases, the Forest Service works with the concessionaire in completing repairs and improvements to the campground or other recreation facility, in lieu of collecting a fee from the concessionaire. This allows these recreation sites to be maintained at a higher quality and sees that the fees paid by the people using the campground are invested back into the site.

One other authority for collecting fees at recreation facilities is the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), which allows the Forest Service to collect a fee at certain types of recreation sites and to then use these fees at the site where they were collected. These are often facilities or services operated or managed by the Forest Service, such as campgrounds, rental cabins and lookouts, heavily visited wilderness areas, certain visitor centers, etc. The funds collected are used to help operate and maintain the various recreation sites, to provide new or improved recreation opportunities, to restore or protect areas impacted by recreational use, or to better serve the recreation visitors in other ways. Prior to REA, when fees were collected at similar sites, the funds were deposited in the federal treasury and were not available for use at the site where the fee was collected.

More information about these types of fees and how the funds are used can be found on the National Forest Service website at www.fs.fed.us.

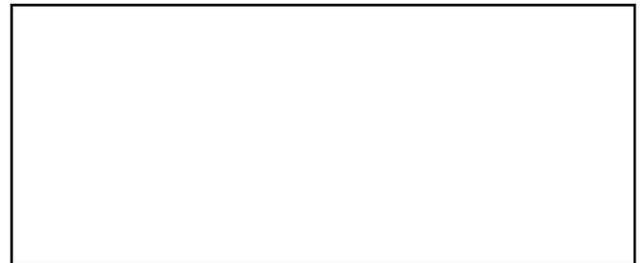


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100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667

Contact:

Vicki Jowise, Project Coordinator
530-622-5061
TTY: 530-642-5122
Email: eldorado_rsfmt@fs.fed.us



**For more information on this project and
the opportunity to share your ideas
contact Vicki Jowise (information above)**

Or visit our website at:

www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/rsfmt

**For More Information Regarding
Specific Eldorado National Forest
Recreation Site; Contact:**

Amador Ranger District
26820 Silver Drive
Pioneer, CA 95666
(209) 295-4251

Placerville Ranger District
4260 Eight Mile Road
Camino, CA 95709
(530) 644-2324

Pacific Ranger District
7887 Highway 50
Pollock Pines, CA 95726
(530) 644-2349

Georgetown Ranger District
7600 Wentworth Springs Road
Georgetown, CA 95634
(530) 333-4312