

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 28, 2004

CONTACT: **Connie Hendryx**
(530) 841-4434
Cell (530) 598-4190

Website: www.fs.fed.us/r5/klamath

Water Development to Help Big Game

CECILVILLE, CA—Last week, employees of the Klamath National Forest hiked into a remote area of the Salmon River Ranger District to help prepare a site for the helicopter transport of a 1,800 gallon big game guzzler/water tank. The guzzler is designed to catch rainwater throughout the year. The drinking portion of the tank allows elk and a multitude of other wildlife species safe access to water. Biologists have noted an almost immediate response to these water developments by elk, deer, bear, upland game, and even songbirds. Fred Schmalenberger, Salmon River District Wildlife Biologist states: “These water habitat improvements have been one of the most beneficial contributions to our local elk herds and their habitat.”

Schmalenberger, Sam Cuenca, Scott River District Wildlife Biologist, and members of the Scott Valley Helicopter 502 crew hiked in to

prepare the site for the helicopter-transport of the guzzler.



Helicopter bringing in guzzler



View of guzzler in the air

This is one of many water development projects that the KNF is creating with the assistance of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to improve habitat conditions for the increasing elk herds. As natural water sources dry up during the summer and fall months, elk are forced to travel from their preferred range to the closest available water. When this occurs, elk can cause problems, like crop

depredation on private lands, or can be vulnerable to harassment from predators, dogs, and humans, or hit by vehicles. By creating water developments in strategic locations, elk are encouraged to remain in key areas year round.



Guzzler installation complete

Elk disappeared from the KNF and adjacent lands during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Roosevelt elk have been re-introduced into the KNF by the California Department of Fish and Game over the past 20 years. This population continues to expand and provide hunters and recreationists a unique experience in our local mountains. The Forest is committed to the restoration and enhancement of habitat needs for elk and other wildlife. The KNF would like to thank the RMEF for their continued support to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, and their habitat.

-KNF-

Media Note: If you need more information about this project, please contact Sam Cuenca or Fred Schmalenberger at 468-5351.