



June 28, 2005

IMPORTANT NOTICE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 1 CHANGES TO MOTOR VEHICLE USE
- 2 ROUTE DESIGNATION PROJECT IN PROCESS

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **MAP:** The new Motor Vehicle Use (MVU) Map will be available at all Eldorado National Forest offices and stations, as well as, online.
- **ROUTE MARKERS:** Open routes will be marked on the ground. If the road or trail does not have a route marker or is not shown on the new MVU map, it will not be legal to drive on.
- **CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE (CVC):** The CVC applies throughout California, including on National Forest Lands.
- **WEBSITE:** Check for updated information on the Eldorado National Forest Website at: www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado.

CHANGES TO MOTOR VEHICLE USE

The Forest Service will soon be complying with a court order to keep all motorized travel in the Eldorado National Forest on system roads and trails. A free Motor Vehicle Use Map defining the travel system will be available soon.

WHAT CHANGES CAN YOU EXPECT?

Beginning in summer 2005, motor vehicles will be allowed to operate on only the 2,200 miles of system roads and motorized trails. Paved roads are legal travel routes if your vehicle is licensed to operate on highways. All non-system routes will be closed by court order and interim Forest Order.

- **Cross-Country Travel:** Use of motorized vehicles for cross-country travel will be prohibited.
- **User-Created Routes:** Over the years, visitors have created their own routes, or opened routes previously closed by the Forest Service to prevent environmental damage. These routes will be considered closed.
- **Restoration Areas:** The Forest Service is responsible for managing the national forest. Areas that have received resource damage from vehicle use (meadow damage, erosion, stream sedimentation, damage to archaeological sites, etc.) will continue to be closed, and restored or rehabilitated. These projects will be on-going.

WHO DOES THIS AFFECT?

This court order applies to all motorized vehicles including, but not limited to: cars, trucks, four-wheel drives, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and sand buggies. As such, this affects more than the Off-Highway Vehicle recreationists. If you camp outside of developed campgrounds or hunt, for example,

you may also be affected. Some of the access routes to remote spots along a river, stream or lake are routes created over the years by visitors. If the route leading your campsite or hunting area is not signed or shown on the Motor Vehicle Use Map, it will no longer be open to your motorized vehicle.

- **Dispersed Campers:** You will still be able to camp free-of-charge just about anywhere in the National Forest, unless it is specifically prohibited. Your vehicle, however, will need to be parked on a route that is signed as open for motorized vehicles (or within a reasonable distance so as not to block the roadway or create a safety hazard). You may not travel beyond gates and barriers.
- **Hunters:** Some visitors scout hunting spots by patrolling the back roads in their vehicles. Keep in mind that some of the roads previously used may not be open for motorized travel. You will still be able to use your non-motorized game cart.
- **Wood Cutters:** Access off system roads will be allowed according to the terms of your woodcutting permit. Please read all the instructions when you purchase your permit.

WHEN WILL THESE CHANGES GO INTO EFFECT?

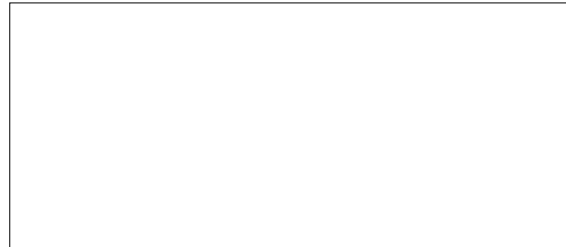
These changes are estimated to be in effect by August 2005.



**USDA
FOREST SERVICE**

**Eldorado National Forest
Route Designation 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 .

ROUTE DESIGNATION PROJECT IN PROCESS

The court ordered changes in Motorized Vehicle Use on the Eldorado National Forest have been incorporated into an ongoing Route Designation Process. Throughout the country national forests are committed to designating route systems. In California, a 5-step planning process is being implemented. The Eldorado National Forest is asking for public review of the Step 1 Route Inventory. The court order will dictate how the Step 2 Interim Forest Orders are implemented.

Visit the Route Designation Project website to learn more about the process and how you can become involved.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/projects/route>

Ways To Keep In Contact

If you are interested in receiving updates about the Route Designation Project on the Eldorado National Forest you can sign up for the Forest Mailing List. 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 Route Designation 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. The exact process we will use is still in development. You have a role in the success of this process, so please stay involved.

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—Route Designation Project
100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667

eldoradoroutes@fs.fed.us



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA'S TARGET center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.