

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

## Eldorado National Forest

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### **Recreation Season Heats Up On The Eldorado.**

**Placerville, CA....** Most campgrounds and picnic areas in the Eldorado National Forest will be open for Memorial Day Weekend. Wrights Lake, Loon Lake, Gerle Creek, Woods Lake, and Kirkwood Lake campgrounds remain closed due to snow and wet conditions until June.

“Forest conditions are drier than normal for this time of year so visitors outside of developed campgrounds need to make sure they have at least a five foot clearance in all directions around their campfires and that the fire is completely extinguished when they leave.” said Fire Prevention Officer Barbara Rebiskie. 2008 Campfire Permits are required in order to use wood, charcoal, or gas fires on national forest land. Campfire permits can be obtained free-of-charge at any U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Forestry, or Bureau of Land Management office.

This summer the Forest Service will continue to allow motor vehicle use on routes displayed on the same free Motor Vehicle Use Restriction map that’s been available at all Eldorado National Forest offices since August 2005. Visitors planning to camp outside of developed campgrounds must park their vehicle on a system route or within a reasonable distance of the route so as not to block the roadway, create a safety hazard, or damage vegetation.

Wilderness permits are required year-round for overnight camping in both Desolation and Mokelumne Wilderness areas. The wilderness areas and trails still have several feet of snow in most areas and the streams are running at high volume due to the snow melt. The Forest Service recommends that visitors do not attempt to cross swollen streams and that they use caution when traveling along the stream banks.

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Visitors can obtain information and permits at our Forest Service offices located in Camino (exit 54), Pollock Pines, Georgetown, and Pioneer. The Camino and Pioneer offices are open six days a week Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Georgetown and Pacific Ranger Stations are open seven days a week. The Pacific Ranger Station, four miles east of Pollock Pines, is the only Eldorado National Forest office that issues Desolation Wilderness area overnight permits. Information and permits are also available at the Carson Pass Information Station on Highway 88 and the Crystal and Cleveland Information Stations on Ice House road.

For additional recreation information on campground and road conditions visit the Eldorado National Forest website at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado).

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