## **NEWS RELEASE**

## USDA Forest Service Eldorado National Forest

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## Prescribed Burn In Progress On the Eldorado

**Placerville CA** ... The Cat Anderson Prescribed Burn north of Highway 88 is in progress this week. As of Thursday morning four hundred acres have been treated under controlled conditions. We have the project fully staffed, and the burn is progressing well and is within it's containment lines. No additional ignitions are planned for today.

The cause of the smoke was a strong southeast ridgetop wind combined with active backing of the fire down slope last night. This wind pushed the smoke further down into the foothill communities than was expected. Normal wind direction is from the southwest which pushes the smoke east into the forest. The wind has shifted back to the normal direction this morning and the storm that is due in this afternoon or evening should clear the smoke.

"Fire is a natural part of the ecosystem" said Jennifer Boyd, Fuels Specialist. "Prescribed burning allows us to reintroduce it back into the forest under carefully controlled conditions after a 100 years of fire suppression resulting in an healthier and safer forest."

For more information on our Fuels Project planned for this fall and winter, or visit the website at <u>www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado</u> or contact Jennifer Boyd, Forest Fuels Specialist, at 530-622-5061.

