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MOTOR VEHICLE USE UPDATE

Eldorado National Forest to Implement Designated Routes Beginning January 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 1 IMPLEMENTING DESIGNATED ROUTES
- 2 WHO DOES THIS APPLY TO?
- 3 WHERE CAN I FIND A MAP?
- WHAT IS SO DIFFERENT AND
- 4 WHO DOES THIS AFFECT?
- 5 HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Forest to implement designated routes starting January 2009**
- **WEBSITE:** Check for updated information on the Eldorado National Forest Website at: www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado.

Starting in January 2009, the Eldorado National Forest will begin implementing the decision made to restrict all motor vehicles to designated roads and trails. This direction follows Forest Supervisor Ramiro Villalvazo's decision from April 2008, which allows public motor vehicle use on over 1,800 miles of roads and trails across the Forest.

"My decision about the Forest's Travel Management direction is only the beginning, and in no way ends this process."

There will be new Motor Vehicle Use Maps available, which show the designated roads and trails, and identify the types of vehicles that are allowed on various roads or trails. Some routes will only be open to ATVs and motorcycles, some only to highway licensed vehicles, and some will be open to a wide range of motor vehicles. Cross country travel (travel off of a designated road or trail) will be prohibited.

Implementation of the new designated route system will also include closure of dirt roads and trails between January 1 and March 31 of each year. This is the time of year when these routes are most susceptible to damage from rutting and erosion, and is the period when water quality is often affected. Over 600 miles of paved and graveled roads will generally continue to be open during this time period, providing public access to the Eldorado Forest.

Who Does This Apply To?

This rule applies to all motorized vehicles including: cars, trucks, campers and RVs, four wheel drives, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles (ATV), sand buggies, etc.

With the release of the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), parking across the Forest, outside of trailheads and other developed recreation areas, will be limited to within one car length of a road or trail. This will affect many visitors, including those that come to fish, picnic, horseback ride, hike, etc.

Implementation of Forest Supervisor Villalvazo's decision also includes looking for ways to make the designated route system better. This may include identifying those routes that are closed that some people believe should be open and some routes that should be closed that are open. The key to implementing this Travel Management decision is the opportunity in the future to make changes! Implementation will include involving Forest visitors and interest groups to help, through volunteering to complete resource protection improvements, maintaining trails, helping with monitoring of road and trail conditions, and educating visitors about the designated travel system and things they can do to protect Forest resources.

What Is So Different and Who Does This Affect?

The new designated route system includes the following features:

- Allows use on 1,002 miles of native surface (dirt) roads and 210 miles of trails for public motor vehicles. This includes cars, trucks, campers, RV's, ATV's, motorcycles, 4WD's, etc. In addition, there are 635 miles of surfaced roads suitable for passenger cars. These roads and trails are across the Forest, including in the Crystal Basin area, Silver Fork Road, Mormon Emigrant Trail, Elkins Flat, Gold Note, Rock Creek, and many other areas.
- Prohibits cross-country travel by cars, trucks, ATV's, motorcycles, RV's, etc.
- Seasonal closure on designated system trails and dirt roads from Jan. 1 through March 31. Seasonal closures may be longer if roads or trails are wet and susceptible to damage. Visit the Forest's website or call one of the offices listed below for current restrictions.
- Prohibits wheeled over-the-snow travel on the following: all designated snowmobile routes and cross-country ski trails on the ENF, Mormon Emigrant Trail (10N50/Forest Route 5) from the junction of Silver Fork Road (11N40) southeast to the Iron Mountain SnoPark at Highway 88; Loon Lake Campground Road (13N17); Chipmunk Bluff Road (13N19); and Robbs Peak Road (13N31).
- Parking outside of developed trailheads and other recreation sites is restricted to turnouts, landings, or within one vehicle length of the road or trail.



How To Obtain a Copy of the Motor Vehicle Use Map In 2009



The MVUM, or Motor Vehicle Use Map, will be a free map available next year at any of the Eldorado National Forest offices. These maps show the roads and trails on the Eldorado Forest that are designated for motor vehicle use, and display any restrictions as to the types of vehicles that are allowed on various routes (such as motorcycles only, highway licensed vehicles only, etc.). The maps also show the roads and trails where motor vehicle travel is restricted between January 1 and March 31 of each year.

CDs of the designated road and trail system are available for free from the Eldorado Forest: Call or write to the addresses below. Or visit our website at:

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

Are You Interested in Getting Involved?

There are a number of groups and clubs that are working with the Eldorado Forest to help make the designated route system a success, by helping to maintain roads and trails, educating Forest visitors about the new rules, and reporting to the Forest on the condition of roads and trails. Here are just some of the groups.



California Native Plant Society
El Dorado CNPS



Ranger District Contact Information

Placerville Ranger District

4260 Eight Mile Road
Camino, CA 95709
530-644-2324
TTY 530-647-5314

Amador Ranger District

26820 Silver Drive
Pioneer, CA 95666
209-295-4251
TTY 209-295-5996

Georgetown Ranger District

7600 Wentworth Springs Road
Georgetown, CA 95634
530-333-4312
TTY 530-333-5511

Pacific Ranger District

7887 Highway 50
Pollock Pines, CA 95726
530-644-2349
TTY 530-647-5407



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