

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

## Eldorado National Forest

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### **Prescribed Burns Planned In Eldorado National Forest**

USDA Forest Service fire personnel intend to continue this year's "prescribed burning" activities in the Eldorado National Forest during the fall and winter months. Approximately 9,000 acres of national forest lands are scheduled to be prescribed burned, in both pile and understory fire application. Pile burning begins after the rains have thoroughly dampened the forest floor and will continue throughout the winter months. Detailed maps of the burn locations will be available on the Eldorado National Forest website <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado/> and on the El Dorado County Firesafe website <http://www.edcfiresafe.org/index.php>. Additional information on burn locations may be obtained by calling the local District offices.

Three understory burn projects are of particular interest. The Cat – Anderson burn on the Amador district in the Leek Springs area will continue to reintroduce fire into the forest reducing the heavy fuels in the area. The Van Vleck Meadow Restoration project on the Pacific District has progressed with the removal of encroaching conifers that are filling in the meadows and will follow up with prescribed fire to clean up and rejuvenate the meadow systems. The Henrys burn on the Placerville District will link numerous hazardous fuels projects already completed and in progress that have occurred in and around the community of Grizzly Flats. The Henrys burn will treat fuels below the Grizzly Flats community in the north fork of the Consumes River.

Prescribed fire helps reduce heavy fuel loads while simultaneously opening the forest structure and maintaining the health of the forest. It improves and regenerates wildlife habitat, enhances native plant communities, and is a critical part of the ecological process of western forests. Prescribed burning also makes national forest lands less vulnerable to wildfires during the fire season. Each burn removes brush, slash and small trees that can carry wildfire into the tops of taller trees.

“Making the National Forest less susceptible to wildfires is a major emphasis in Forest Service land management activities. The timing of the actual ignition of a prescribed burn project depends on weather conditions, moisture in the fuels we intend to burn, our ability to control the fires, and permission from the local air pollution control district”, said Jennifer Boyd, Eldorado National Forest Fuels Specialist.

Every prescribed burn is designed to minimize smoke drifting into residential areas. Any one with respiratory illness or thinks the smoke might adversely affect them should contact the nearest Eldorado National Forest Ranger Station to be placed on a “sensitive persons” pre-burn notification list.

Smoke may continue to be present for days after the fires are started due to the large scale of the projects. Persons driving in the vicinity of the burns may encounter reduced highway visibility.

For additional information call Jennifer Boyd at (530) 621-5223, e-mail at: [jsboyd@fs.fed.us](mailto:jsboyd@fs.fed.us), or check the forest web page at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado).

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