

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service
Eldorado National Forest
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Forest Service Lifts Seasonal Closure of Designated Dirt Roads and Trails April 16

Placerville, CA....Designated dirt roads and trails in the Eldorado National Forest will reopen to motorized use on April 16, ending the wet weather seasonal closure that began on January 1, announced Acting Forest Supervisor Jeffrey Vail. The Forest Service closed these routes to protect water quality, prevent erosion, and reduce damage to roads and trails.

“The western edge of the national forest has many routes that are located in clay soils that mud up and rut easily,” said Vail. “Most of these routes are dry enough to be reopened on April 16. Visitors should keep in mind that they may receive citations if they cause resource damage by driving on routes that are too wet.”

Spring conditions exist across much of the national forest, with areas of standing water, snow, and other road hazards.

Higher elevations of the national forest are still covered with snow and the roads won't be passable until the snow melts. Vail says that most of the designated routes in the higher elevations have soils that dry out faster than the clay soils.

The decision to reopen designated motorized routes does not affect routes in the Rock Creek area of the national forest located near Georgetown which are managed under different closure criteria.

Visitors should contact the ranger station closest to where they want to visit for road and trail condition information.

Routes that will be open to motorized travel are identified on free-of-charge motorized vehicle travel maps, now available at all Eldorado National Forest offices.

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