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42 Routes Project Update

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Eldorado

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Contact Information

Forest Supervisor's Office

Kathy Hardy, Forest Supervisor
100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667
530-622-5061
530-642-5122 TTY
Open: Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Placerville Ranger District

Duane Nelson, District Ranger
4260 Eight Mile Road
Camino, CA 95709
530-644-2324
TTY 530-647-5314
Summer Schedule:
Open Monday - Friday
Winter Schedule:
Open Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Pacific Ranger District

Richard Thornburgh, District Ranger
7887 Highway 50
Pollock Pines, CA 95726-9602
530-644-2349
TTY 530-647-5407
Summer Schedule: Open 7 days a week through end of September
Winter Schedule:
Open Monday - Friday, starting in October
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Georgetown Ranger District

Patricia Trimble, District Ranger
7600 Wentworth Springs Road
Georgetown, CA 95634
530-333-4312
TTY 530-333-5511
Summer Schedule: Open 7 days a week until November 17
Winter Schedule:

Status:

A supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the affected 42 routes is in progress.
The Draft SEIS was released for public comment on February 20. It consists of two volumes, one contains the analysis and one contains the maps. Please keep in mind that the draft SEIS is not the final decision, it's our best shot to date and will be available for your review and comment. Once the notice is published in the Federal Register, the public will have 45 days to comment on the alternatives and our analysis. We will then analyze those comments and complete the Final SEIS and the decision.
The Final SEIS will be prepared after the public comment period and is expected to be completed about July 2013.
[Link to 2008 Public Wheeled Motorized Travel Management Decision.](#)

Documents:

Draft Stage - See Open House schedule below.

- [Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Volume 1 \(pdf\)](#)
- [Draft SEIS Volume 2 \(11 x 17 inch map packets\):](#)
 - [Cover Page](#)
 - [Alternative 1 Maps \(pdf\) - Proposed Action](#)
 - [Alternative 2 Maps \(pdf\) - No Action](#)
 - [Alternative 3 Maps \(pdf\) - Preferred Alternative](#)
 - [Alternative 4 Maps \(pdf\)](#)
- [DSEIS Project Update](#)
- [DSEIS Question and Answers](#)
- [DSEIS Public Meeting Alternative 1 Map \(pdf\)](#)
- [DSEIS Public Meeting Alternative 2 Map \(pdf\)](#)
- [DSEIS Public Meeting Alternative 3 Map \(pdf\)](#)
- [DSEIS Public Meeting Alternative 4 Map \(pdf\)](#)

Scoping and Proposed Stage -

- [Scoping Letter \(pdf\)](#)
- [Proposed Action \(pdf\)](#)
- [Link to Schedule of Proposed Actions \(SOPA\) database for this project](#)
- Scoping Phase SEIS 8.5 x 11 inch Maps -
 - [Amador Ranger District Proposed Action Map \(pdf\)](#)
 - [Pacific Ranger District Proposed Action Map \(pdf\)](#)
 - [Placerville Ranger District Proposed Action Map \(pdf\)](#)

Additional Information -

- [Route List](#)
- [Information on Meadows \(pdf\)](#)

Meadow Surveys (all pdfs):

[Meadow Survey Method \(pdf\)](#)

8N23B	10N26	14N27
9N01	10N98	14N39
9N04	10NY04	14N58
9N08	10NY05	16E21
9N15	10NY06	17E12
9N82	11N09A	17E16
9N83	11N22	17E17
9N95	11N23F	17E19
10N01	11NY32	17E21
10N03	12NY06	17E24
10N06	12NY15	17E28
10N14	13N24	17E73
10N21	14N05	

Alerts & Warnings

- [Dirt Road Seasonal Closure in Effect Nov. 29](#)
- [Mormon Emigrant Trail Closed By Snow](#)

[View All Forest Alerts](#)

Open Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Amador Ranger District
Rick Hopson, District
Ranger

26820 Silver Drive
Pioneer, CA 95666
209-295-4251
TTY 209-295-5996
Summer Schedule: Open 6
days a week, Monday -
Saturday through Labor
Day

Winter Schedule:
Open Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Placerville Nursery

David Pilz, Manager
2375 Fruitridge Road
Camino, CA 95709
530-622-9600
TTY 530-642-5050
Open: Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm

**National Forest Genetic
Electrophoresis
Laboratory**

Valerie Hipkins, Director
2480 Carson Road
Placerville CA 95667
Phone 530-622-1225

Contact Us

Open House Schedule:

February 26, 2013: Placerville Inn, 6850 Greenleaf Drive, Placerville, CA
95667. drop-in from 3 - 8 p.m.

March 5, 2013: Turtle Rock Community Center, 17300 State Route 89,
Markleeville CA 96120. drop-in from 4 to 8 p.m.

March 6, 2013: Amador County Administration Center - Board Chambers, 810
Court Street, Jackson, CA 95642. drop-in 3 - 8 p.m.

Comment Period:

A paper copy of the DSEIS is also available for review at the Eldorado National
Forest Supervisor's Office located on 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667 and at
the Placerville, Pacific, and Amador Ranger District offices.

The **purpose** of this comment period is to provide an opportunity for the public to
provide early and meaningful participation on a proposed action prior to a decision
being made by the Responsible Official. Those who provide comments during this
comment period are eligible to participate in the administrative review process.

*At this time the Notice, Comment, and Appeal Procedures (36 CFR part 215) are
the regulations providing guidance on the administrative review process.* The Forest
Service published a proposed rule for a Project-Level Predecisional Administrative
Review Process in the Federal Register (Federal Register volume 77, Number 153,
August 8, 2012) to replace the 36 CFR part 215 Notice, Comment and Appeal
Procedures. The Forest Service will be implementing the Final Predecisional
Administrative Review Procedures (36 CFR part 218) in the next few months and
the Responsible Official may choose to follow that process for this project if
available and timely.

How to Comment and Timeframe –

The Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability (NOA) for
the DSEIS in the Federal Register, the opportunity to provide comments to
establish eligibility to appeal/object under 36 CFR 215/36 CFR 218 ends 45 days
following that date. **The Comment Period ends April 8, 2013.** The publication
date of the NOA in the Federal Register is the exclusive means for calculating the
comment period for a proposed action documented in a DSEIS. Those wishing to
comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any
other source.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this
action will be accepted; however, to assure eligibility to object if the administrative
review process is used, comments should be written rather than oral.

It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close
of the comment period.

By Mail or Hand Delivery during normal business hours to:

Eldorado National Forest
Kathryn D. Hardy, Forest Supervisor
"Eldorado National Forest Travel Management Supplemental DEIS"
100 Forni Road,
Placerville, CA 95667

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding holidays.

By Fax:

(530) 621-5297 at above office hours.

By Email:

comments-pacificsouthwest-eldorado@fs.fed.us

Acceptable formats for electronic comments are plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), or
Word (.doc).

Oral:

Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal
business hours via telephone (530) 622-5061 or in person, or at an official agency
function (public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments. *To assure
eligibility to object if the administrative review process is used, comments should
be written rather than oral.*

Note: Names and addresses of those who comment will be considered part of the
public record on this proposed action, and will be available for public inspection. In
cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of
identity will be required for appeal eligibility. If using an electronic message, a
scanned signature is one way to provide verification. It is the responsibility of
persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period.
Only those who submit timely comments will have eligibility to appeal/object the
subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215/36 CFR 218. Individuals and organizations
wishing to be eligible to appeal/object must meet the information requirements of
36 CFR 215.6/36 CFR 218.5.

When using electronic mail, please send your name and physical address in addition to your email address. Thank you.

Related Maps:

[Currently Open Routes](#): The 2012 Motor Vehicle Use Map has been updated and is available. The MVUM displays all routes that are currently open on the forest. This is the legal map for vehicle travel. The forest order is now expired since the MVUM map takes precedence.

Expired Meadow Closure Route maps and description: The expired forest order is still linked for visitors that would like a description.

[Written description of routes from the expired Forest Order 03-12-04](#)

Forest Order: [Placerville Ranger District maps](#)

Forest Order: [Pacific Ranger District maps](#)

Forest Order: [Amador Ranger District maps](#)

Background:

May 26, 2011: U.S. District Court Senior Judge Lawrence Karlton found that the Forest Service failed to comply with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) when it designated 42 existing wheeled motorized vehicle routes that cross portions of meadows with their **2008 Public Wheeled Motorized Travel Management Decision**.

The order stated that the Forest Service failed to complete a required Riparian Conservation Objective analysis for standards and guidelines in its Land and Resource Management Plan pertaining to segments that cross meadows.

February 14, 2012: The court directed the Forest Service to submit a proposed order that will set aside the decision that designates the 42 routes to the degree they go through meadows, and not affecting the sections of those same roads that do not go through meadows, unless they cannot otherwise be reached. The court also directed that the current seasonal closure for those routes remain in effect until the court order is issued.

March 14, 2012: The Forest Service submitted the proposed order.

April 23, 2012: The Eldorado National Forest issued an interim forest order keeping the 42 routes closed to motorized vehicle access until a final court order was issued later. The **court's interim decision** prohibited wheeled motor vehicle access to a total 135 miles of routes. The rest of the 1800 mile system is still open to wheeled motor vehicle travel.

April and May, 2012: Initial public notification and on-the-ground signing was completed. Public education is ongoing.

July 31, 2012: In settling a lawsuit filed in 2009 regarding the Eldorado National Forest's Travel Management decision, Judge Karlton issued his **final order** on July 31, 2012. In May 2011, Judge Karlton had upheld the majority of the Forest's 2008 Travel Management decision, although the Court did find that the Forest had erred in designating 42 roads or trails crossing meadows. This final Order identifies the remedies and corrective actions that the Forest Service is directed to follow:

The final court order prohibits or limits travel through meadows until a new environmental decision on these specific routes is made allowing public wheeled motorized travel.

The final court order changes the route closures from closing the entire route to just those portions of the routes that intersect with the meadows. See Table B in the final court order.

The final court order narrowly defines what is being reviewed in the supplemental environmental analysis. These areas are being analyzed for the effect of the routes on the hydrological function of the meadow. Does this route hinder the movement of water in the meadow? Habitat, species effect, etc. is not part of the order.

The Forest Service will revise its Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) to incorporate these changes. **(Completed.)**

Until the MVUM is finalized and available for public distribution an interim Forest Order will be issued. **(Completed.)**

All other portions of the **2008 Public Wheeled Motorized Travel Management Decision** remain in effect. The Travel Management decision:

Allows highway legal and non-highway legal motor vehicle use by the public on 1,002 miles of ML-2 native surfaced roads (this total includes the addition of 17 miles of unauthorized roads to the NFTS).

Allows motorcycle, ATV, and high clearance vehicle use on 210 miles of trails (this total includes the addition of 6 miles of unauthorized trails to the NFTS).

In addition, there are 635 miles of surfaced roads suitable for passenger cars that are not a part of this decision.

August 13, 2012: The interim Forest Order and revised maps are in place.

September 21, 2012: The revised Motor Vehicle Use Map is available.

October 9, 2012: Proposed Action Released.

October 22, 2012: Open House - Alpine County - Turtle Rock Community Center, Markleeville, CA

October 24, 2012: Open House - El Dorado County - Placerville, CA

October 28, 2012: Open House - Amador County - Jackson, CA

November 7, 2012: End of this phase's comment period.

February 19, 2013: Draft SEIS released

February 26, 2014: Open House - El Dorado County - Placerville, CA

March 5, 2013: Open House - Alpine County - Turtle Rock Community Center, Markleeville, CA

March 6, 2013: Open House - Amador County - Jackson, CA

Additional Information

[Initial Judge's Court Order](#)

[Questions and Answers: Court Order](#)

[Final Judge's Court Order](#)