

# NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

## Eldorado National Forest

100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667



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Contact: Frank Mosbacher  
Phone: 530-409-1080

### Fall Prescribe Burning in the Eldorado National Forest Will Begin as Soon as Conditions are Right

Placerville, CA (October 2, 2009)...The US Forest Service announced today that prescribe burning in the Eldorado National Forest will begin again this fall when the air quality, humidity, temperature, wind, and fuel moisture are right. .

The Forest Service says the Van Vleck Meadow Restoration project may be one of the first projects to be implemented. This 168 acre project is located in Aspen Meadow and Upper and Lower Van Vleck Meadows, 7 miles north of Ice House Reservoir.

“The three meadows are located within critical deer habitat and are utilized in the spring for fawning and in the summer for foraging,” said Eldorado National Forest Pacific District Ranger Diane Rubiaco. “Historically the meadows were burned annually but this practice hasn’t been applied in the project area for the past 70-100 years.”

The Forest Service intends to document the value of prescribed fire in meadows by completing pre and post surveys of the conditions and vegetation.

The Van Vleck Meadow restoration project is partially funded by a grant from the California Deer Association.

Prescribe fires are typically intended to reduce the likelihood of catastrophic fire, provide nutrients to the soil, improve the watershed, and enhance wildlife habitat. The Forest Service annually burns approximately 4,500 acres with prescribed fires in the Eldorado National Forest.

Information about this year’s prescribed burns will be posted on the Eldorado National Forest website and notices can be received via twitter at: EldoradoNF.

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*The conservation mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands and to meet the needs of present and future generations.*