

ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST RESEARCH AND MONITORING CHECKLIST

Here on the Eldorado National Forest, we recognize the value of public lands to scientific study; we also rely on science to inform ecological restoration and management activities. To better facilitate research on the forest, we have developed the following informational sheet and checklist to ensure your safety and assist in the sharing of data.

BEFORE THE SEASON BEGINS:

- Fill out the Crew Information Sheet (provided at the end of this document) and send it to your Eldorado NF point(s) of contact
 - The following will be your Eldorado NF point(s) of contact:
- Please come prepared to be self-sufficient! There are many ways that you can get ready for your visit:
 - Visit the Eldorado county website for lodging information, food and supplies, etc. (<http://www.eldoradocounty.org>)
 - Check out the Eldorado NF website (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/eldorado>)
 - Buy forest maps and the forest atlas at one of our four Eldorado NF offices
 - Obtain copies of local floras
 - *Jepson Manual of California* (Baldwin et al. 2012)
 - *Selected Plants of Northern California and adjacent Nevada* (Oswald 2002)
 - Download publicly available GIS data (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/landmanagement/gis>)
- Bring appropriate field equipment, including: GPS units, communication devices, hard hats, plot markers, and flagging supplies
 - If using permanent markers to mark plots, purchase equipment in accordance with Eldorado NF policy and flagging standards
 - If using cell phones, be sure to understand local use limitations. Currently, Verizon appears to work the most reliably up here.
- Be aware that you may encounter a number of hazards while working on the forest, including dead snags, rattlesnakes, poison oak, steep and uneven terrain, etc. Please familiarize yourself with the potential hazards and what you can do to avoid them before you arrive. Consider taking a first aid class or review the FS safety webpage: <http://www.fs.fed.us/safety/>
- Obtain necessary permits for projects that:
 - Occur in Research Natural Areas, Wilderness Areas, or other areas with special land designations
 - Require collection of specimens or samples, or have the potential to disturb resources or visitors.

BEFORE HEADING OUT INTO THE WOODS:

- If appropriate, check-in with dispatch (located at the Interagency Dispatch in Camino) and provide them with a copy of your completed **Crew Information Sheet**. Check with ENF forest staff on proper protocol.
- If you plan on using a FS radio, get it programmed and complete radio training. Check with ENF forest staff on proper protocol.
- Check in with Forest/District contact to discuss. Continue to contact them with updates as things change on the ENF that might affect research.
 - Fire and motorized vehicle restrictions
 - Forest Closures (i.e. wildlife closures)
 - Project-related traffic and road conditions
 - Site-specific safety concerns (i.e. snags in post-fire landscapes, marijuana farms)
 - Emergency protocols (i.e. what to do if there is a wildfire or you discover a marijuana farm)
 - Medevac procedures

AFTER THE FIELD SEASON

- Provide maps and (if available) GPS locations of all permanent plot markers. This will help us to protect plots and equipment during project implementation.
- Help us to apply your research findings to forest management! Keep us informed of the progress of your project by sending copies of final reports, publications, and presentations.

General guidelines

Permanent plot establishment and placement

- All markers should be low to the ground, capped, and mapped;
- Wherever feasible, non-metal plot markers (i.e. PVC, wood stakes, bamboo, or fiberglass paddles) should be used;
- Tree tags and nails should be aluminum;
- In accordance with Eldorado NF flagging guidelines, flagging can be: white, orange, pink & black stripe, orange & silver stripe, or you can hang a combination of two flags blue & black stripe with lime (chartreuse).
- Upon project completion, remove all plot markers (unless they will be used by forest staff for future monitoring)

Information for Research Crews working on the Eldorado National Forest

To help us facilitate your visit and coordinate with dispatch, please fill out the following information prior to arriving on the Forest and send it electronically to **FILL IN CONTACT**. Please also attach any more supporting information such as agreements, proposals, and protocols.

Organization/Agency:

Principal Investigator/Advisor:

Principle Investigator /Advisor Contact Number:

Project title and description:

Dates and location of field work:

Crew lead and crew members and contact information (*identify crew leader with an **):

Name	Contact number

Field vehicles and license plate numbers:

Camp or location of lodging:

Off-Forest Emergency contact (include phone number):

Forest emergency contacts (include phone number):