



Caldor Fire Recreation Residences Rebuild Determination Briefing

A total of 175 Recreation Residences, private structures authorized under special use permit on National Forest System lands, were destroyed during the Caldor Fire in September 2021. Of that total, 140 are located on the Placerville Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest (ENF) along the Highway 50 corridor. Another 35 are located on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) primarily located at Echo Summit. The Forest Service worked with recreation residence permittees and collaborators, including the EPA for the Phase I mitigation of hazardous material, FEMA for providing financial support for Phase II cleanup, and Cal OES for concluding the Phase II removal of lot debris. The ENF and LTBMU will be issuing letters on July 6, 2023 to the cabin owners informing them of the final determination of the rebuild suitability of their lot. The determinations are based upon the recommendations in the *USFS Region 5 Geological and Flood Hazard Assessment of Cabin Sites within the Caldor Fire ENF and LTBMU* and a review of current standards and regulations by Forest Service staff. This next step presents a pivotal chapter for the affected permittees, as well as the USFS in administration of these permits.

Forest Service staff have been working diligently through the complicated process of determining whether each recreation residence can be rebuilt. The Forests recently received the final Geologic and Flood Hazard Assessment of the majority of the cabin sites within the Caldor fire on the ENF and LTBMU. The Assessment contains recommendations on whether to allow or deny rebuilding based on the potential for geologic and flood hazards following the fire. In addition, a determination was made on the suitability of conventional septic systems and recommendations for further assessment to potentially mitigate geologic hazards for rebuilding some the cabins was provided. The full report will be posted to the [Caldor Fire Recovery](#) website by July 11, 2023. As a portion of the cabin sites weren't evaluated due to weather conditions, an addendum report for the remaining lots is expected to be completed later this summer.

Now that most of the assessment has been completed, the authorized officer will issue the determination of whether a lot is safe to allow a cabin to be rebuilt and permit holders will be notified of the determination by certified letter. The letter will include one of the following Rebuild Determinations for each cabin destroyed:

- Suitable for Rebuilding,
- Mitigation Measures are necessary for Rebuild or
- Not Suitable for Rebuild.

The letter notifying permit holders will specify a timeframe to respond and how to complete the next steps in the process. A permit holder may be offered an "in lieu" lot on the Forest within the Caldor Fire area if their current permitted lot is determined not suitable for rebuild. Please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions on the [Caldor Fire Recovery](#) website for more information.

The ENF and LTBMU appreciates the cooperation, perseverance, and patience of all involved in completing the long and

difficult process of clean up and evaluation of the recreation residences impacted by the 2021 Caldor Fire.

For further information, contact:

Eldorado National Forest: Linda Babcock, Placerville District Recreation Officer, linda.babcock@usda.gov

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit: Daniel Cressy, LTBMU Public Services Staff Officer, daniel.cressy@usda.gov

Questions may also be directed to following email boxes for response by one of our recreation residence permit administrators:

Eldorado National Forest: SM.FS.PVL-REC-RES@USDA.GOV

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit: SM.FS.LTBMURecRes@usda.gov