

February, 2016

Issue #6



42 Route Update

Barrett 4wd Trail Meadow #1

"We made substantial progress this year, repairing and reopening six more routes or route segments, and beginning the monitoring program that we agreed to."

*Laurence Crabtree
Forest Supervisor*

In July, 2015, an additional project was completed at Barrett 4wd Trail meadow number 1. Two rolling dips were installed in the trail to divert water and sediment before reaching the meadow, and some sediment was removed from the meadow at a site where a sediment plume had previously been deposited. In addition, a new culvert was installed at a location where water from a small stream was being diverted by the trail.

vehicles pulling trailers to shuttle the gravel in from the trailhead for use in constructing the rolling dips and installing the culvert. As a result of the work at all three meadow locations on the Barrett 4wd Trail, the route was able to be reopened to public motor vehicle use in July 2015.



Volunteers from the Hi-Landers 4wd Club hauled in gravel from the Barrett Trailhead in trailers

Fourteen volunteers from the Hi-Landers 4wd Club contributed 390 hours of work assisting Forest Service personnel with the project at Meadow #1. They made 27 trips with 4wd



A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held September 26, 2015, with special recognition to the Hi-Landers 4wd Club for their many hours of public service, and to all who helped to accomplish the work needed to reopen the route.

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/eldorado>

- Watch for project updates on the Eldorado National Forest website under the heading "42 Routes"
- Links to project pages for larger projects are being created as work progresses
- The Detailed Corrective Action Plan is also posted on the website and is being updated as work progresses on various routes

Woods Lake Spur Road

In June 2015, a project was completed at Woods Lake Spur Road (10N01B) on the south side of Highway 88. The project included removal of vegetation from a section of the road that was overgrown, causing vehicles to deviate from the road

and create tracks on the edge of the meadow. The project also included filling some potholes and construction of four rolling dips along the upper section of the route to minimize runoff and sediment from reaching the meadow.



Before: View looking west of overgrown pavement (right) and vehicle tracks on meadow edge (left)



Beginning the removal of vegetation that had grown over paved road segment



More removal of vegetation that had grown over paved road segment



Replanting plugs of vegetation in restored meadow section



Finished section of relocated road looking west with restored meadow area on the left



One of four rolling dips that were constructed to prevent runoff and sediment from reaching the meadow.

Richardson 4wd Road

In the summer of 2015, a project was implemented for the upper part of Richardson Road (14N49) to address issues with hydrologic connectivity at Meadow 9. A deeply entrenched portion of the trail was reconstructed using permeable rock materials and filter fabric to enable water to

drain from the meadow on one side of the road to the meadow on the other side of the road, instead of travelling down the road. The work was done under a contract. Additional rolling dips were also installed on the lower part of the trail that had been worked on and reopened in 2014. Monitoring showed a

sediment basin constructed in 2014 was in need of cleaning out, and this work was also done. With this final project in FY 2015, the remainder of the Richardson 4WD Road was reopened to public motor vehicle access to the end of the road at the top of Sourdough Hill.



Entrenched portion of upper Richardson Road before...



and after repairs.

Additional Routes Re-opened

In fiscal year 2015, eleven trail repair projects were completed, resulting in the re-opening of the following routes or sections of routes:

- Barrett Meadows 5 & 6 (16E21)
(Completed October 2014)
- Schneider Camp Road (10N13)
(Completed October 2014)
- 47 Milestone (11NY32)
(Completed October 2014)
- North Shanty Spur (16E33)
(Completed October 2014)
- Mule Canyon (10N14)
(Completed October 2014)
- Mud Lake Section of Carson Emigrant Trail (Up to Allen's Camp) (17E24)
(Completed June, 2015)
- Woods Lake Spur Road (10N01B)
(Completed June, 2015)
- Jim Quinn Spur (10N98)
(Completed September, 2015)
- Upper Richardson (14N39)
(Completed July, 2015)
- Barrett Meadow #1 (16E21)
(Completed July, 2015)
- Long Canyon 4WD Trail (16E27)
(Completed September, 2015)

Monitoring Update

In March 2015, Forest Supervisor Laurence Crabtree signed a Monitoring Plan that lays out the protocol for conducting monitoring agreed to in the 42 Routes Settlement Agreement between the Eldorado National Forest and the Travel Management SEIS appellants (September 12, 2013.) Two types of monitoring are addressed in the plan: Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation of other aquatic features.

Implementation Monitoring

Implementation monitoring, to evaluate effectiveness of the work that was completed, is being conducted along the 18 routes where corrective actions were implemented to meet Standard and Guideline 100 (S&G 100). It will also be conducted at any locations where corrective actions are implemented on the other 24 routes.

This monitoring began in the Spring of 2015, and is being conducted spring and fall each year on completed projects. All of the projects monitored are still meeting S&G 100. The July 2015 monitoring identified a need for cleaning out a sediment Basin on lower Richardson, and that work was done in the Summer of 2015.

Evaluation of Other Aquatic Features

The second type of monitoring being conducted under the monitoring plan is the evaluation of aquatic features other than meadows on the 24 routes that were reopened under the 2013 Travel Management SEIS. This evaluation will determine if there are other aquatic features on these routes that are not meeting Standard and Guideline #100. If problems are found, then necessary corrective actions will be identified and implemented.

In the spring of 2015, The Eldorado National Forest retained hydrologist Eric Moser from Forest Service Above and Beyond Enterprise Team to assist with the evaluation of other

aquatic features on the 24 routes. Additional routes were evaluated by Forest hydrologists in the summer of 2015. Of the 24 routes, 18 have now been evaluated. Thirteen were found to be meeting S&G 100 with regard to all aquatic features. Three were identified for corrective actions: Bunker Meadow Road (14N27), Middle Long Canyon (10NY04), and Upper Long Canyon (10NY06). Both Middle Long Canyon and Upper Long Canyon were repaired in October 2015, and now meet S&G 100. Two routes that were looked at, Bucks Pasture Trail (17E17) and Horse Canyon Trail (17E21) were rated as inconclusive, requiring further evaluation to determine appropriate actions.

Planning Corner

Amador High Country Routes

The Preliminary Environmental Assessment for the Amador High Country Routes Project was completed on November 12, 2015, and the Final Environmental Assessment and Draft Decision Notice/FONSI was completed January 12, 2016. A final decision is anticipated in April, 2016. The Forest Service initiated formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for this project on January 12, 2016.

The Amador High Country Routes EA analyzes repairs at meadows 17E24-3, 17E24-4, 17E24-5 and 09N82-2 on the Carson Emigrant National Recreation Trail (17E24) and meadow 09N82-7 on the Forest System Trail 16E26. In addition to the corrective actions needed to comply with SNFPA Standard and Guideline 100, the project includes some proposed work at a crossing of a tributary to Bear River on the Long Valley Trail (17E28) where sediment has the potential to enter a creek, and analyzes a change in the vehicle type designation on the northernmost .52 mile section of the Long Valley Trail to more closely match the historic use of this segment by 4WD vehicles to access dispersed campsites around the lake.

It is anticipated that, subject to USFWS concurrence, elements of this project will be implemented in phases in the field seasons of 2016 and 2017.

Deer Valley 4WD Trail and Blue Lakes/Meadow Lake Road

The Preliminary Environmental Assessment for the Deer Valley 4wd Trail and Blue Lakes/Meadow Lake Projects was completed on 8/14/15 and the Final Environmental Assessment and Draft Decision Notice/FONSI is expected this spring once the Forest Service has completed Formal Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Forest Service initiated formal consultation with the USFWS on June 2, 2015.

Repairs on the Deer Valley 4wd trail (19E01) include a trail reroute, hardening the crossing at 9N83-2 and stream bank restoration. For The Blue Lakes Road (9N01), the Forest would install a gate west of Twin Lakes and complete road maintenance to bring the route into compliance with S&G 100. Additionally both routes would have a new seasonal closure in the spring to limit impacts to the Yosemite Toad. It is anticipated that, subject to USFWS concurrence, elements of this project will be implemented in phases in the field seasons of 2016 and 2017. Since Deer Valley 4wd Trail was found to be consistent with S&G 100 in 2014, that trail would be immediately opened once the Final Decision Notice is signed.

Cosumnes Head Road (9N95)

The draft decision on the Foster Firs project addressed the work needed to repair and open the portion of Cosumnes Head Road (9N95) that was previously on the MVUM (up to road 9N95B). The repairs are described in the Foster Firs EA as "The first segment of 9N95 (0.5 miles) will receive one additional cross drain with an inlet riser along with ditch reconstruction and installation of a riser on the existing cross drain to disperse and disconnect concentrated runoff. Outlet protection rip rap will be installed as needed." A final decision is expected by the end of February, 2016, and work is planned for implementation in the summer of 2016.

Detailed Corrective Action Plan (Updated 2/1/2016)

Tier 1

Tier 1 Projects:

- Relatively low complexity (nature of repair needed, resource issues and logistics)
- High demand for public motor vehicle use and/high level of public interest in the route
- Associated values (access to developed facilities or private lands, previous investment in the route)

<i>Route</i>	<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Preliminary Assessment / Design Status</i>	<i>NEPA Planning Funding</i>	<i>Team Leaders</i>	<i>Anticipated NEPA Dates</i>	<i>Anticipated Project Start</i>	<i>Funding for Implementation</i>
Amador Ranger District		Rick Hopson, District Ranger					
09N08 Stockton Camp Road	Road Maintenance (access to Stockton Camp)	Initial visit 11/13; Engineer/ Hydrologist/ C&M to visit 6/14	OHV Planning Grant	<i>Preliminary Assessment: (PA)</i> Diana Erickson	September, 2014	Route was reopened 9/18/2014	Forest Service funding
Pacific Ranger District		Richard Thornburgh, District Ranger					
16E21 Barrett Lake 4WD Trail	Trail Reconstruction	Completed 10/13	OHV Ground Operations Grant and Forest Service Funding	<i>PA:</i> D. Erickson <i>NEPA:</i> D. Erickson	Started 2013; Completed June, 2014 Decision Notice signed 6/16/14	Meadows 5 & 6 completed 10/8/14; Meadow 1 completed July, 2015 Route was reopened July 2, 2015	OHV Ground Operations Grant; RAC Grant; Forest Service Funding; Volunteers
14N39 Richardson Lake	Road Maintenance (first part)	Initial visits 2013; Engineer/ Hydrologist/ C&M to visit 6/14	OHV Planning Grant	<i>PA:</i> D. Erickson, Vince Pacific <i>NEPA:</i> Vince Pacific	Road Maintenance CE	Work was completed July 2014; Route was Reopened to PCT 7/14/14	Forest Service funding and volunteers
Placerville Ranger District		Duane Nelson, District Ranger					
11NY32 47 Milestone	Road Maintenance Some work completed, additional work needed	April-August 2014	OHV Planning Grant	<i>PA:</i> D. Erickson <i>NEPA:</i> Cathy Bounds	CE completed 2014	Work was completed October 2014; Route reopened 11/19/14	Forest Service funding
10N98 Jim Quinn Spur	Road Maintenance	June-August 2014	OHV Planning Grant	<i>PA:</i> D. Erickson <i>NEPA:</i> Cathy Bounds	CE completed 2014	Work was completed in September, 2015 Route reopened 9/30/15	Forest Service funding

Detailed Corrective Action Plan—continued

Tier 2

Tier 2 Projects:

- Relatively high complexity (nature of repair needed, resource issues and logistics)
- High demand for public motor vehicle use and/high level of public interest in the route
- Associated values (access to developed facilities or private lands, previous investment in the route)

<i>Route</i>	<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Preliminary Assessment / Design Status</i>	<i>NEPA Planning Funding</i>	<i>Team Leaders</i>	<i>Anticipated NEPA Dates Start / End</i>	<i>Anticipated Project Start</i>	<i>Funding for Implementation</i>
Amador Ranger District				Rick Hopson, District Ranger			
10N01B Woods Lake Spur	Road Maintenance	November 2013–September 2014	SNC Grant/ OHV Planning Grant	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: Becky Shufelt	CE completed October 2014	Completed June 2015; route reopened July 6, 2015	Forest Service Funding (Cornerstone)
10N13 Schneider Camp Road	Road Maintenance	November 2013–August 2014	SNC Grant/ OHV Planning Grant	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: Becky Shufelt	CE completed October 2014	Completed October 2014; Route reopened to new parking area 11/3/14	Forest Service Funding (Cornerstone)
19E01 (09N83) Clover Valley/Deer Valley Trail	TBD	6/14 - 9/14	OHV Planning Grant	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: Matt Brown	EA in progress September 2014 - Spring 2016	Fall 2016	Forest Service Funding
Forest Route 16E26	TBD	6/14 - 9/14	OHV Planning Grant	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: TBD	Amador High Country Routes EA 2015—2016	2016 or 2017	TBD
17E24 Carson Emigrant Trail	TBD	Initial visit hydro (Moser) 11/13; follow up 6/14 - 9/14	OHV Planning Grant	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: Mud Lake CE: Becky Shufelt EA: D. Erickson	CE for Mud Lake completed June 2015; Amador High Country Routes EA for remainder 2016	Mud Lake Section reopened 6/2015; Work on remainder anticipated Fall 2016 or 2017	TBD
09N01 Blue Lakes/ Meadow Lake Road	TBD	6/14 - 9/14	OHV Planning Grant	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: Matt Brown	EA in progress September 2014 - Spring 2016	2016	TBD
17E28 Long Valley Trail	Trail Maintenance	6/14 - 9/14	Forest Service Funding	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: D. Erickson	Amador High Country Routes EA 2015—2016	Summer 2016	State OHV Ground Operations Grant
Pacific Ranger District				Richard Thornburgh, District Ranger			
14N39 Richardson Lake 4WD Trail (upper part)	Road Repair/possible reroute	Initial visits 2013; Engineer/ Hydrologist visit 6/14; Appellant Visit 7/16/14	OHV Ground Operations Grant	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: Vince Pacific	CE Completed August 2014	Work completed 2015 Route reopened 8/21/15	State OHV Ground Operations Grant and Forest Service funding

Detailed Corrective Action Plan—continued

Tier 2 Continued

<i>Route</i>	<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Preliminary Assessment / Design Status</i>	<i>NEPA Planning Funding</i>	<i>Team Leaders</i>	<i>Anticipated NEPA Dates Start / End</i>	<i>Anticipated Project Start</i>	<i>Funding for Implementation</i>
Placerville Ranger District		Duane Nelson, District Ranger					
17E73 (10N13) Strawberry 4WD Trail	Trail Repair / possible reroute	Planned for 6/14 - 9/14; (Assigned to Enterprise Team; first visit 2nd week of June)	OHV Planning Grant for Strawberry Trail	PA: Cathy Bounds/Cam Lockwood, T.U. NEPA: TBD	2016—2017	TBD	TBD
16E27 (10N21) Long Canyon 4WD Trail	Trail Repair	Initial visit hydro 11/13; follow up 6/14 - 9/14	OHV Planning Grant	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: Cathy Bounds	June 2015— Fall 2015	Completed Sept. 2015 Route reopened 9/30/2015	TBD
16E33 (11N23F) North Shanty Spur	Trail Repair	Initial visit hydro 11/13; follow up 6/14 - 9/14	Forest Service Funding	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: Cathy Bounds	CE completed 2014	Completed Nov, 2014 Route reopened 11/19/14	Forest Service funding
10N14 Mule Canyon	Road Maintenance	Engineer/Hydrologist/C&M visit 6/14	OHV Ground Operations Grant	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: Cathy Bounds	CE completed 2014	Completed Nov, 2014 Route reopened 11/19/14	Forest Service funding

Tier 3

Tier 3 Projects:

- May have relatively high complexity (nature of repair needed, resource issues and logistics)
- Relatively lower demand for public motor vehicle use and/lower level of public interest in the route
- Few associated values (access to developed facilities or private lands, previous investment in the route)

<i>Route</i>	<i>Project Type</i>	<i>Preliminary Assessment / Design Status</i>	<i>NEPA Planning Funding</i>	<i>Team Leaders</i>	<i>Anticipated NEPA Dates</i>	<i>Anticipated Project Start</i>	<i>Funding for Implementation</i>
Amador Ranger District		Rick Hopson, District Ranger					
17E19 Allen Camp MC Trail	Maintenance or possible reroute	Initial visit hydro (Moser) 11/13; follow up 6/14 - 9/14	OHV Planning Grant	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: B. Shufelt	2016	2016 or 2017	TBD
09N95 Consumes Head	Maintenance; (part of Foster Firs project)	Hydrologist, Botanist and Engineer have provided input as part of Foster Firs project	Forest Service Funding	PA: Marc Young NEPA: Marc Young	Foster Firs Environmental Assessment Draft Decision Notice issued 9/25/15 .	2016	TBD
Placerville Ranger District		Duane Nelson, District Ranger					
17E16 Little Round Top	Maintenance	Recreation staff visited 2013; Engineer/Hydro to visit 5/14	Forest Service Funding	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: TBD	2016	TBD	TBD