



El Dorado County Resource Advisory Committee 2014/15 Projects Report

November 2016 Summary: 27 proposals were received for Title II funding provided by the 2014 and 2015 Secure Rural Schools payments to El Dorado County; 13 projects were funded with 3 additional projects provisionally approved if the other projects do not use the funding.

Project Number	Project Name	Funded Amount	Funds Spent	Funds Left	Status
ELD-1601	Caples Creek Equestrian Trailhead	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$0	Completed.
ELD-1602	Forest Trash Cleanup Efforts	\$4,500	1,240	\$3,260	Initiated. 5 clean up days accomplished.
ELD-1604	Meeks Creek Trail Maintenance	\$18,000	\$17,985	\$15	Completed.
ELD-1605	Twin Peaks OHV System Maintenance	\$35,000	\$3,000	\$32,000	Initiated. Site design is complete with costs of work. Coordination and planning with local volunteer organization South Tahoe Off-Road Motorcyclists initiated, several site visits complete.
ELD-1608	Volunteer Chainsaw Certification	\$7,140	\$0	\$7,140	Initiated. 3 classes scheduled for early 2017: January 13-14, February 10-11, and March 10-11.
ELD-1611	G-RD Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance	\$55,699	\$3,496	\$52,203	Initiated. Botany surveys completed.
ELD-1613	King Fire Invasive Plant Control	\$29,081	\$9,000	\$20,081	Initiated. 106 infestations treated.
ELD-1617	King Fire Archaeological Site Restoration	\$41,500	\$3,000	\$38,500	Initiated. Estimated completion 9/30/17.
ELD-1618	Bayview Trail Maintenance/Rehab	\$32,640	\$0	\$32,640	Funds obligated in a cooperative agreement. Project will be initiated and completed in early summer 2017.
ELD-1622	Leoni Meadows Camp / El Dorado Forestry Challenge Fuel Reduction	\$4,925	\$0	\$4,925	Project will begin after agreement is completed.
ELD-1623	Fontanillis Lake Backcountry Trail Maintenance	\$14,850	\$0	\$14,850	Initiated. In-kind work accomplished in September 2016. RAC funds to be spent in summer 2017.
ELD-1625	Tahoe Basin Forest Stewardship Day Volunteer Restoration Event Series	\$14,885	\$5,000	\$9,885	Initiated. Successful trail restoration project completed.
ELD-1626	Van Vleck Meadow Restoration - Phase 1	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	Implementation planned for summer 2017.
Totals		\$299,220	\$73,721	\$225,499	

Provisional Projects: ELD- 1620 King Fire Stream Restoration - \$41,080; ELD-1619 Cleveland Icehouse Forest Health-Fuel Reduction - \$25,000; ELD-1616 Middle Fork Cosumnes River CG Improvement - \$46,730.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Project Highlights



ELD-1601 Caples Creek Equestrian Trailhead

Located in the Eldorado National Forest at an elevation of 5600 feet, the trailhead consists of 15 individual trailer spaces and a day use cul-de-sac for parking 5 or 6 more rigs. It is currently a dry camp – no water or toilets. This is an equestrian community project funded by grants/donations and developed by equestrian volunteers.

From August 15 through August 17th, 2016 volunteers from the Backcountry Horsemen and the Elegant Ears Mule Club completed the final phase of the Caples Equestrian Trailhead project. Accomplishments for this phase of the project included re-establishment of existing drainage features on the 10N94A Road (approximately 3/10 of a mile). Also, 915 tons of gravel were applied to the roadbed to improve access to the trailhead and to prevent erosion and fugitive dust along the 10N94A Road. Additional gravel was also laid down in the parking area.

HISTORY

- 2011-2012: Study & approval processes.
- 2013: Survey & grade entire site trail extension to new trailhead.
- 2014: Gravel 12 spaces and repair trail bridge.
- 2015: Install official sign, add 2 bulletin boards and 6 hitching posts, and improve picnic area.
- 2016: Gravel entry road 10N94 and cul-de-sac. (RAC funding)

COMPLETED



ELD-1602 Forest Trash Cleanup Efforts

Members of PLINK are being reimbursed for mileage and dump fees associated with their cleanup efforts on the Eldorado National Forest. PLINK was very active throughout the summer and held 5 cleanup days (at least one cleanup day per month).



Project Highlights

ELD-1604 Meeks Creek Trail Maintenance

COMPLETED

Meeks Creek is one of the main tributaries of Lake Tahoe in Eldorado County. This project was designed to improve water quality, prevent erosion into the stream, and provide a better crossing for pedestrians and equestrians alike. The project involved reconstructing a stream crossing in the Meeks Bay Drainage along the Meeks Creek Trail in Desolation Wilderness. Workforce for the project included USFS employees and Youth Conservation Corps participants through a partnership with the Generation Green program (a different 6 person crew with a leader each week). Eroded trail on both the North and South sides of the stream crossing was replaced with rock steps and retaining walls. The water crossing was replaced with large stepping stones. The following are the project accomplishments; 658 hours of labor, 13 rock steps constructed, 1 water bar and drain constructed, 1 existing drain rehabilitated to make functional, 4 large stepping stones placed in stream to make a 5 stone water crossing, One 20'x6' retaining wall constructed on North side of stream, two 20'x1' delineation walls constructed on North and South side of stream.

North of Creek



Before: (looking at trail, north of Meeks Creek) erosion damaged, steep grade caused further erosion.

Meeks Creek



Before: unstable logs for crossing, eroded trail leading to creek, eroded bank between trail and creek.

South of Creek



Before: (looking at trail, south of Meeks Creek) steep grade caused erosion.



After: Rock steps reduce steepness of grade for reduced erosion and improved user experience, retaining walls on either side of the trail also reduce erosion and stabilize hillsides.



After: large stones for crossing, check steps in trail and platforms to reduce erosion, rock retaining wall and delineation wall between trail and creek to stabilize bank.



After: Rock steps reduce steepness of grade for reduced erosion and improved user experience, delineation wall along the trail to stabilize hillside.

Project Highlights

ELD-1613 King Fire Invasive Plant Control

In FY16, botany crews visited 106 infestations totaling 197 acres of invasive plant sites within the King Fire perimeter. Approximately 75% of these sites were treated using targeted herbicide treatments of aminopyralid and glyphosate applied with backpack sprayers. The majority of herbicide treatment focused on large patches of skeleton weed, scotch broom, Johnson grass, and the annual grasses medusa head and goat grass. The remaining sites were treated by hand-pulling or using pry-bars/shovels to dig up plants, primarily for isolated individual plants of scotch broom, yellow star thistle and Johnson grass. A single infestation of Canada thistle was found and sprayed, a single plant of Dyers Woad was found and pulled, and three knapweed plants were found and pulled. These three infestations were found along roads and are very uncommon species on the forest, thus they represent significant successes for the “Early Detection Rapid Response” approach. Treatments and monitoring will continue in FY17.



Treating Johnson grass using a backpack sprayer to apply glyphosate.



Scotch broom plants beginning to show treatment effects approximately two weeks after herbicide application.



Removal of a single scotch broom plant using a rock bar to pry out the roots.

ELD-1611 Georgetown RD Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance

In FY16, botany crews surveyed approximately 32 miles of trail for sensitive, watchlist, and invasive plants. Populations were flagged for avoidance during trail construction, and mapped with a GPS. New sites found during surveys include 6 new sensitive (3 HOPA, 1 PALA, 2 ERTR), 12 new watchlist (11 CHGR, 1 PICO), and 9 new invasive (1 AETR, 5 CYSC, 3 CHJU) plant populations. In addition, specific areas proposed for ground-disturbing work within the Traverse Creek Botanical Special Interest Area were surveyed with a larger buffer to ensure no effect to the listed species, *Packera layneae*. All data collected was entered into the USFS NRIS Database.

Additional work for the project was accomplished using non-project funds. The District Resource Officer, North Zone Botanist, and District Archeologist spent a day surveying the Kelliher Trail. Forest Service Aquatics Biologists did some analysis for the project in order to clear trail maintenance work within buffers set by the Aquatics Biological Evaluation/Biological Assessment. All of the remaining work for this project will be completed in Fiscal Year 2017.



Above: The District Archeologist visits the historic Kelliher Trail in order to ensure work will not adversely affect cultural resources.



Right: A botany crewmember hangs flagging to prevent disturbance to *Packera layneae* along the Traverse Creek Loop.

ELD-1617 King Fire Archaeological Site Restoration

Generation Green and OCTA Fuels Reduction on the Johnson Cutoff Project



Generation Green crew members finishing up fuels removal along a segment of the Johnson Cutoff.

A Generation Green crew worked with volunteers from the Johnson Cutoff Research Group (JCORG) – an affiliate of the CA-NV Chapter of the Oregon California Trails Association (OCTA) – to remove fuels from three segments of the Johnson Cutoff Wagon Trail, located atop Telephone Ridge in the King Fire burn area.

Last year, in 2015, members of the JCORG verified previously unknown segments of the Johnson Cutoff that retained high integrity atop Telephone Ridge. These segments had been inaccessible prior to the King Fire. Since the King Fire, new shrubs and grasses have continued to grow atop these wagon trail segments amongst dense concentrations of burned manzanita, thus causing the trail to be obscured once again, and risking an inability to re-locate these segments for protection during future project activities. Workers cleared brush, grasses, and burned manzanita from the historic wagon trail corridor.

Right: Small representative area of lithic scatter lacking ground cover where effects from erosion (i.e., rilling, pedestalling) were observed.



Above: Generation Green crew members prepare to remove dense vegetation from around bedrock milling feature.



Below: Bedrock milling feature after vegetation removal.

Generation Green Fuels Reduction and Erosion Control Project

A Generation Green crew carried out fuels reduction work using hand tools on a Native American site, which burned at high severity in the 2014 King Fire. The site consists of 26 bedrock milling features (outcrops and boulders) that contain a total of 47 mortar cups. In addition, there are six discrete lithic (flaked stone) scatter concentrations. Several of the bedrock milling features were covered with the burned remains of large manzanita limbs, which then proceeded to be covered by new post-fire shrub growth. These existing conditions would pose a renewed risk of effects to these already fragile features as a result of a future wildfire, and also would limit options for managing the site and surrounding landscape using a low intensity prescribed fire. Workers used loppers, handsaws, and pruners to hand cut and remove dense live and dead fuels away from the cultural features. Several of the lithic scatter concentrations were also undergoing post-fire erosion causing artifacts that were previously subsurface to become exposed and move downslope. The fuels material that was cut from around the bedrock milling features was strategically placed along denuded slopes where lithic materials were observed in order to reduce the effects from erosion.



Above: Erosive lithic scatter area beginning to get protected by placement of woody material and cut vegetation.

Project Highlights

ELD-1623 Fontanillis Lake Backcountry Trail Maintenance

Preparation for the work at Fontanillis Lake commenced with a site visit on June 30 to determine specific work plans for the volunteer TRTA/PCTA work crew and the contracted ACE work crew. TRTA, PCTA, ACE, and USFS staff took part in the site visit, as well as 2 volunteer crew leaders who volunteered a total of 20 hours.

An additional site visit was undertaken on August 9 with TRTA staff, a volunteer crew leader and the volunteer pack stock crew leader. This site visit was used to outline work needed to upgrade the approach trails for safe stock use. The volunteers dedicated a total of 23 hours on this day.

A workday was held on September 9 to prepare the trail for stock. 6 volunteers spent a total of 70.5 hours performing necessary upgrades to the approach trails.

The volunteer work trip was conducted between September 14 and September 17. 12 volunteers spent a total of 310 hours working alongside TRTA and USFS staff upgrading the trail to meet the 3 main project goals: 1) Rebuilding the outlet crossing, 2) Rehabilitating sensitive riparian areas, and 3) Improving the tread surface, drainage, and user experience along the Fontanillis shoreline.

Specifically, the following work was accomplished to USFS standards:

- ◆ 10 stone steps constructed.
- ◆ 1 drainage feature improved.
- ◆ 6 cubic feet of backfill was created and installed.
- ◆ 8 illegal riparian campsites were restored.
- ◆ 5 downed trees were removed, including one that had fallen across the outlet.
- ◆ 3.2 miles of trail were cleared of encroaching brush, including ½ mile of very heavy brushing.
- ◆ 1/8 mile of social trails were decommissioned.
- ◆ 1/8 mile of trail that had been abandoned due to a blowdown was restored and reopened.
- ◆ The horse ford was cleared of large rocks.

A total of 423.5 hours of volunteer effort has been dedicated to this project, including 99.5 hours of specialized work by skilled volunteer stock packers and 180 hours of skilled labor by trained, certified volunteer crew leaders. This exceeds the initial projection of 394 hours of volunteer work. Although originally planned for 2016, the ACE crews' schedule for the summer was overbooked so their work will take place in 2017.



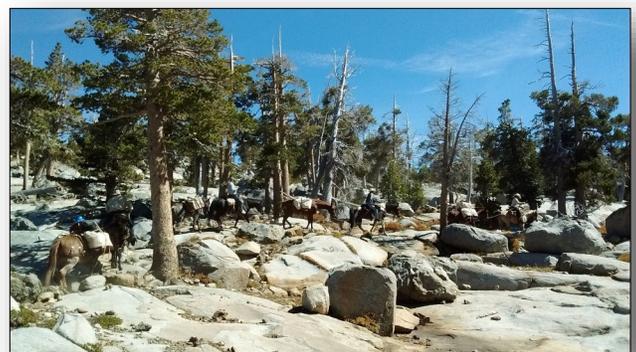
Above: The reconstructed southern approach to the lake outlet.



Left: The reconstructed northern approach to the lake outlet.



Two decommissioned campsites along the lake shore.



The stock train hauling tools and gear back from the work site.

Project Highlights



ELD-1625 Tahoe Forest Stewardship Day - Volunteer Restoration Event Series

Nearly 100 people came out on a Saturday to the Angora Burn and restored 777 ft. of trail by removing brush, rocks and sticks and helped 235 trees grow by lopping whitethorn and other plants away. The event was a success due to the volunteers, League core volunteers, California Conservation Corps and Generation Green students that came out.

