



# El Dorado County Resource Advisory Committee

## 2017 Summary

**Overview:** During the current grant cycle, 13 projects received Title II funding provided by the 2014 and 2015 Secure Rural Schools payments to El Dorado County with 3 additional projects provisionally approved if the other projects do not use the funding. At this time, 7 of the projects are completed, 6 are in progress, and 1 project withdrew allowing reallocation to the first provisional project.

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	\$2,061	\$2,439	Clean-ups in 2016 & 2017. Work will continue in 2018.
ELD-1604	Meeks Creek Trail Maintenance	\$18,000	\$17,874	\$126	Completed.
ELD-1605	Twin Peaks OHV System Maintenance	\$35,000	\$35,266	-\$266	Completed
ELD-1608	Volunteer Chainsaw Certification	\$7,140	\$4,322	\$2,818	3 classes completed in 2017. More classes to be scheduled for early 2018.
ELD-1611	Georgetown RD Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance	\$55,699	\$45,283	\$10,416	Trail maintenance work completed. Still some signage work to do.
ELD-1613	King Fire Invasive Plant Control	\$29,081	\$26,441	\$2,640	In progress. 60 infestations treated.
ELD-1617	King Fire Archaeological Site Restoration	\$41,500	\$27,971	\$13,529	In progress. Additional work in 2018.
ELD-1618	Bayview Trail Maintenance/Rehab	\$32,640	\$32,640	\$0	Completed.
ELD-1620	King Fire Stream Restoration	\$4,925	\$4,409	\$516	Project able to be scaled so could utilize funds to complete a smaller version of the project.
ELD-1622	Leoni Meadows Camp / El Dorado Forestry Challenge Fuel Reduction	----	----	----	Project cancelled. Funds redirected to first project on waiting list.
ELD-1623	Fontanillis Lake Backcountry Trail Maintenance	\$14,850	\$14,850	\$0	Completed.
ELD-1625	Tahoe Basin Forest Stewardship Day Volunteer Restoration Event Series	\$14,885	\$14,885	\$0	Completed.
ELD-1626	Van Vleck Meadow Restoration - Phase 1	\$10,000	\$7,111	\$2,889	In progress. Work will continue in 2018.
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$299,220</b>	<b>\$264,960</b>	<b>\$35,107</b>	

**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 Campground Improvement - \$46,730.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# RAC Activities Report

## New prospective RAC members

Outreach was conducted from March through September, 2017 and 18 applications for new committee members were received.

## Recognition of founding RAC members

On July 25, 2017, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors passed and adopted a proclamation recognizing the El Dorado County Resource Advisory Committee for its accomplishments in recommending projects that benefit and protect the resources on federal lands in El Dorado County. (See page 9)

## Field Trips to RAC Project Sites

On October 20, 2017, RAC veterans and prospective members visited the Caples Equestrian Trailhead Project and the Tahoe Basin Forest Stewardship Project for discussion with project managers about successes and challenges during implementation. On November 3, 2017, a second field trip visited the Georgetown Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance project, the King Fire Invasive Plant Control project, and the King Fire Archaeological Site Restoration project.

## Washington Office Update

Forest Supervisors have been informed that because there has been no reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools Act, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will not be reviewing nominations for new RAC members at this time.

## 2018 Outlook

An alternative format for public involvement is being considered. Instead of a formal federal advisory committee, there would be a cadre of volunteer leaders who would facilitate community discussions about project proposals and provide feedback to the forest. The name would change, but the acronym could be the same, such as the Eldorado Resource Action Council (RAC). Participation would be open to all. A field trip to visit another group of projects from the current grant cycle will be organized this spring. All projects are expected to be completed by September 30, 2018.



October field trip to Caples Equestrian Trailhead. Lucy Badenhop and Kyle Johnson explaining project.



October field trip reviewing restoration project in South Lake Tahoe accomplished as part of Stewardship days.



November field trip: New sign kiosk at Traverse Creek project.



November field trip: Nick Jarvis, Botanist, discussing invasive plant work.



# Proclamation

## OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO Recognizing the El Dorado County Resource Advisory Committee

**WHEREAS**, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 expands upon the Agricultural Reapportionment Act of 1908 which provides payments for roads and schools to the states that have National Forest System lands; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act "Act" also provides for the funding, through Title II, for projects that make additional investments in and create employment opportunities to support projects that improve the maintenance of existing infrastructure, implement stewardship objectives and restore and improve land health and water quality; and,

**WHEREAS**, with the passage of the Act Congress called for the creation of fifteen-member federal advisory committees throughout the United States, to be known as Resource Advisory Committees, to carry out the requirements of the Act to review and recommend conservation projects on federal and non-federal lands where these projects supported by Title II funds would benefit the resources on federal lands; and,

**WHEREAS**, the El Dorado County Resource Advisory Committee was established in 2010 to review project proposals and to make funding recommendations to the Forest Supervisor on conservation projects that benefit federal lands within the County of El Dorado; and,

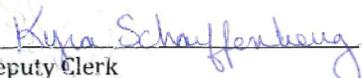
**WHEREAS**, the members of this first El Dorado County Resource Advisory Committee represented a diverse group of community interests that included education, conservation, timber, agricultural, environmental, government, utilities, tribal, recreation, ranching, historical and fire protection agencies and organizations from throughout the County of El Dorado; and,

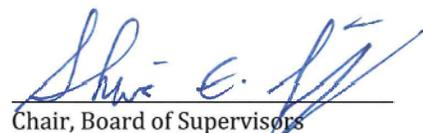
**WHEREAS**, the El Dorado County Resource Advisory Committee worked diligently on behalf of their organizations and the residents of the County of El Dorado through four grant cycles to provide recommendations that resulted in the funding of forty-five projects that benefit the resources on federal lands within the County of El Dorado.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado, does hereby join the Eldorado National Forest and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit in recognizing the El Dorado County Resource Advisory Committee for their united efforts to accomplish their directive under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act to recommend projects that benefit and protect the resources on our federal lands.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 25th day of July 2017.

Attest:  
James S. Mitrising  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
by:

  
Deputy Clerk

  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

## RAC Project Highlights

### ELD-1602 Forest Trash Cleanup Efforts

Members of PLINK (Please Leave it NRA Klean) are reimbursed for mileage and dump fees associated with their cleanup efforts on the Eldorado National Forest. PLINK held 3 cleanup days.



### ELD-1605 Twin Peaks OHV System Maintenance

Project accomplishments:

- ◆ Rerouted 2 segments of trail onto higher capability lands.
- ◆ Decommissioned and restored old trail alignments.
- ◆ Placed barrier posts along several areas to prevent off-route travel.
- ◆ Placed native logs and duff in several areas to restore damage from off-route travel.
- ◆ Regraded staging area to promote drainage, installed sediment retention features adjacent to staging area.

**COMPLETED**

## RAC Project Highlights

### ELD-1608 Volunteer Chainsaw Certification

Placerville Ranger District organized a chainsaw certification course in March for groups and individuals who perform volunteer work for the Forest Service. Volunteers who perform work that requires the use of a chainsaw, such as clearing trails of downed trees, are required to attend a two day course taught by certified instructors from the Eldorado Hotshots. The course requires one day of classroom instruction and a field day where participants receive hands-on experience and instruction. Volunteers provide an essential service and much needed support for the Forest Service. Additional classes will be scheduled in 2018.



Students listen and watch demonstration.



Student bucking a log.



Student cutting down a small tree.

## RAC Project Highlights

### ELD-1611 Georgetown RD Non-Motorized Trail Maintenance

In April 2017, a Student Conservation Association Leader Team worked on 15 of the non-motorized trails identified on this project. They were able to complete all of the 15 trails with the exception of about ½ of the Roanoak Trail and ½ of the Donaldson Trail.

In July 2017, two Forest Service Generation Green Crews (largely high school students) spent two days working on the trails at the Traverse Creek Botanical Interest Area. The crews repaired or installed drainage structures on the trails, cleared encroaching vegetation, constructed a trail reroute, installed steps in a rock section of trail and installed barricades to deter use of unauthorized trails.

In July 2017, a crew of 6 California Conservation Corps members installed a kiosk for a trail map of the Traverse Creek Botanical Interest Area Trails, additional drainage structures in the trail, painted sign posts, and repaired a section of a trail bridge.

- ◇ Maintenance was performed on 28.9 miles of non-motorized trails.
- ◇ 32 trail markers or trail signs were replaced or repaired.



Above: Before and after photos. Repairing, clearing, and defining the trail. Below: Crew at work clearing small trees and brush with a pole saw.



### ELD-1613 King Fire Invasive Plant Control

In FY17, botany crews visited 80 infestations and 20 new small infestations were found. 60 infestations were treated totaling 83 acres within the King Fire perimeter. Approximately 61 acres 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 22 acres 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. Infestations of Canada thistle, Dyers Woad, and spotted knapweed seem to be eradicated after last year's Early Detection Rapid Response treatments. An additional 7 sites that were found in 2015 appear to have been eradicated. The Johnson grass treated last year was about 90% effective. Treatments and monitoring are ongoing.



Treating scotch broom using a backpack sprayer to apply glyphosate.



Treating medusahead by applying aminopyralid as a pre-emergent at a site.



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

## ELD-1617 King Fire Archaeological Site Restoration

### 2017 Highlights

- ◇ The Generation Green crew performed brush removal and erosion control at one archaeological site.
- ◇ ENF engine and hand crews directionally felled trees at two archaeological sites.
- ◇ \$18,154 was obligated in a participating agreement with American Conservation Experience (ACE) for 3 weeks of work to be implemented during field seasons 2018-2020.
- ◇ Remaining funds for FY18 will be used to amend the ACE agreement to add an additional week of work, and to purchase tools to sustain the efforts initiated for this project.



Fire crews working on trees.

### 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: Protecting site from erosion by placement of woody material.

### Generation Green and OCTA Fuels Reduction on the Johnson Cutoff Project

In 2016 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.

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.



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



Bedrock milling feature after vegetation removal.

### ELD-1618 Bayview Trail Maintenance

**COMPLETED**



#### Accomplishments -

- ◆ Rock Wall Constructed: 38.5 ft<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Trail Armored: 13 ft<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Rock Steps Built: 60
- ◆ Rock Quarried/Gathered: 249 ft<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ Rock Transported: 240 ft<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ Soil Excavated: 150 ft<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ Social Trails Decommissioned/Restored: 1,250 ft
- ◆ Rock Fall Removed: 27 ft<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ Waterbars Repaired: 39
- ◆ Waterbars Cleaned: 9
- ◆ Rock Crush Gathered/Made: 73.5 ft<sup>3</sup>

The Bayview Trail (Forest Service Trail 17E04), is a 2.7 mile long trail in the Emerald Bay area, that provides access into Desolation Wilderness. Due to the trails proximity and the quick access it provides to Desolation Wilderness, the trail receives a very high volume of traffic and is one of the most heavily used wilderness trails in the country. The trail gains almost 1,500 vertical feet over the first 1.68 miles, making for a trail grade that is highly prone to erosion. In addition to providing access into Desolation Wilderness, the trail is highly used by hikers going to “Maggies Peaks” and is a popular loop option to the Eagle Falls Trail. The trail is also meant for equestrians, but due to the degraded condition before this project, was not commonly used by this user groups.

An 8-person American Conservation Experience (ACE) crew in partnership with the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) performed 6-weeks of maintenance on the Bayview Trail in the summer of 2017. The primary goal was to fix the existing trail conditions by bringing it up to USFS standards and protect the sensitive environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Many water bars, check steps and retaining walls had either failed or were on the verge of failing. The crew successfully accomplished the construction and repair of these erosion control structures as well as the decommissioning and rehabilitation of social trails. These upgrades will help reduce erosion and protect the sensitive watershed of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Additionally, public access and safety has been improved with improved accessibility for equestrian users. Finally, the crew members received valuable Leave No Trace, and Wilderness ethics, and job skills trainings over the course of the project and developed an understanding of the value of public service.



**Before:** This severely eroded section shows very challenging bedrock for users to pass by. Social trails were bypassing this section.



**After:** Steps were constructed to bury the jagged bedrock. This will prevent further erosion and the expansion of social trails.

## ELD-1620 King Fire Stream Restoration

**COMPLETED**

The King Fire burned over 97,000 acres during the fall of 2014, which negatively impacted many streams. In Soldier Creek (White Meadows area), the fire burned so hot that nearly all in-stream coarse wood, streambank and riparian vegetation, and soil cover was consumed. Despite a large amount of standing dead trees adjacent to the creek, very few have fallen into the creek since the fire. Significant erosion since the fire has caused debris flows and streambank erosion, which has impacted aquatic habitat due to loss of large wood within the stream channel.

To improve streambank stability and aquatic habitat, and reduce the potential for large debris flows, Hand Crew 25 from the Pacific Ranger District dropped approximately 300 trees across a range of sizes in Soldier Creek and constructed nearly 50 logjams.



Stream Channel: Before



Eroded Bank: Before



Eroded Bank: After



Stream Channel: After



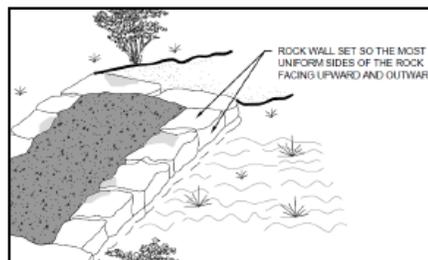
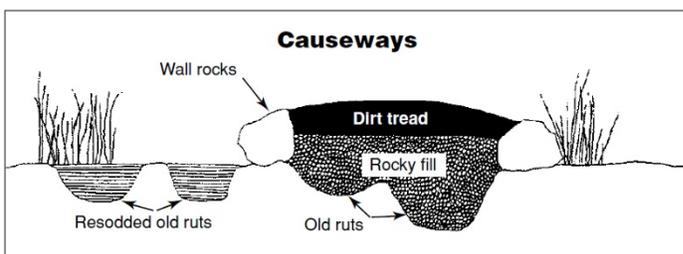
Log jam

## RAC Project Highlights

### ELD-1623 Fontanillis Lake Backcountry Trail Maintenance

**COMPLETED**

American Conservation Experience (ACE) partnered with the Tahoe Rim Trail Association to perform trail maintenance along the Tahoe Rim Trail/Pacific Crest Trail, within Desolation Wilderness. The focus of the project was to build a causeway through a heavily trafficked meadow near the outlet of Fontanillis Lake. In the Spring and into early-Summer, this meadow is heavily saturated and has historically seen the creation of social trails by users attempting to get past the wet areas. This caused damage to the meadow by creating multiple entrenched trails in the vicinity. The successful completion of the causeway has elevated the trail above the meadow, creating a durable and sustainable surface for users, while preventing further negative impacts to the meadow and allowing the area to rehabilitate in the years to come. The crew also built steps nearby to prevent further erosion on steeper sections of trail near the lake.



Source: CA State Parks Trails Handbook

A rock causeway is similar to a log turnpike, except the fill material is contained by rock walls. This is most suitable in rocky environments, where materials are plentiful and aesthetic compatibility can be maintained. There was an abundance of rock near the project site at Fontanillis Lake making this an appropriate solution.

When trails have been routed through meadows and multiple entrenched trails develop, causeways are used to consolidate these trails by providing one elevated trail where the tread is stable and firm. The abandoned trails are rehabilitated and returned to their natural state. A causeway is built to be inconspicuous. It should be the minimum height and width to bridge the problem area. The height is designed to provide a dry and stable hiking surface during the wettest conditions. In this location the causeway is approximately 6-12" above the ground surface with the tread width being 16-20" wide.



Crew working diligently.



Before: Trail cutting through wet meadow.



After: Causeway raises the tread surface 6-12 inches.

- ◆ Length of Causeway Built: 80 feet
- ◆ Cubic feet of rock moved and used for causeway: 195 ft<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ Cubic feet of crush rock placed in causeway: 55.5 ft<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ Linear feet of social trail restored: 160 feet
- ◆ Area of meadow protected: 8,200 ft<sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Rock Steps Built: 4
- ◆ Days Worked: 8
- ◆ Hours Contributed: 800

**Note: See 2016 report for the extensive work accomplished in previous year.**

# RAC Project Highlights



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

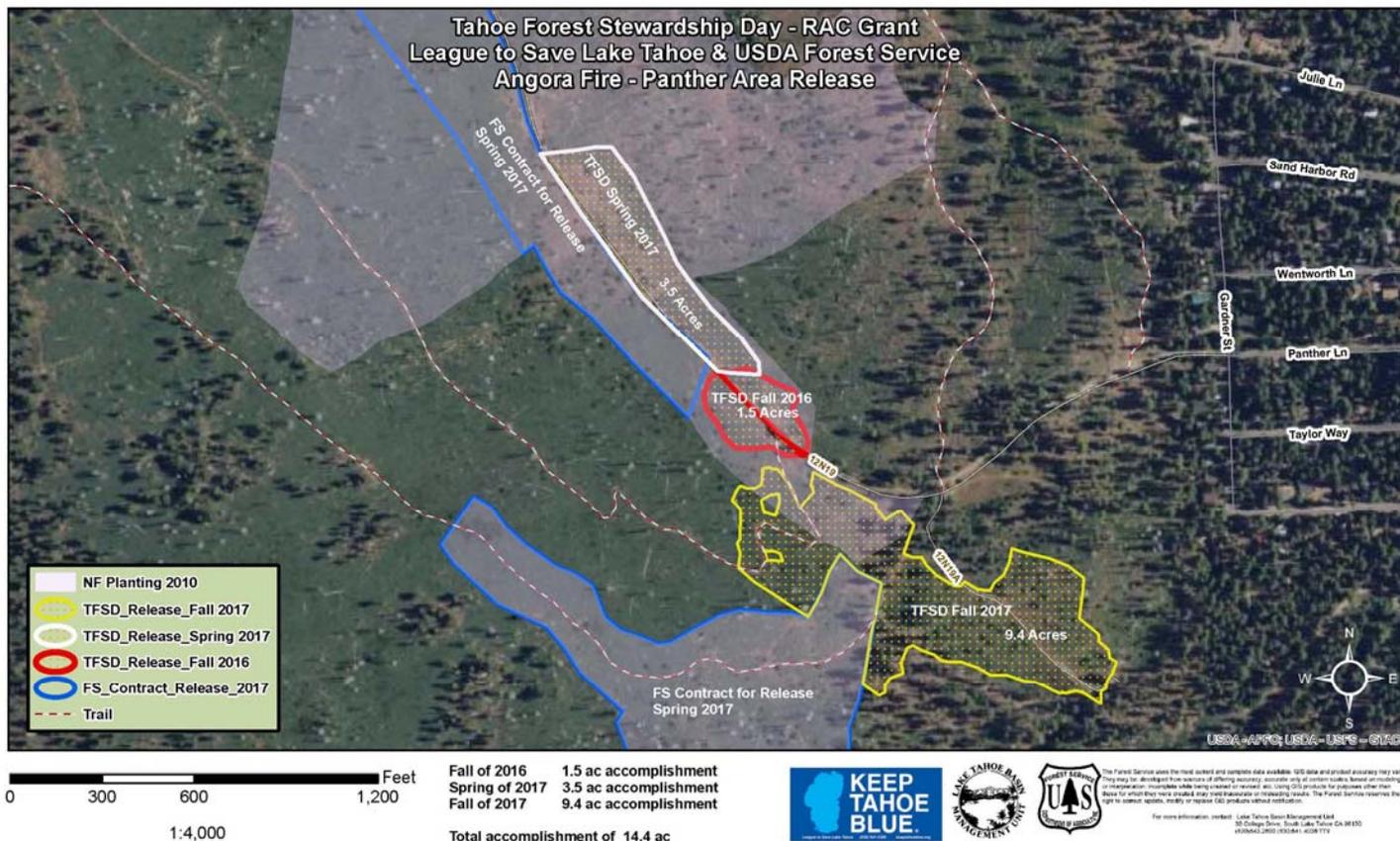
In 2017, the League to Save Lake Tahoe coordinated two hands-on restoration events in the Angora Burn area. On June 10<sup>th</sup>, 43 volunteers “treated” 400 native tree plantings covering 3.5 acres and restored 2,640 feet of trail.



On September 23, 2017, for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Tahoe Forest Stewardship Day, 200 volunteers and 8 partner organizations “treated” 2,255 native tree plantings covering 9.4 acres, and restored and maintained 5,000 feet of trail (even built some “new” trail).

This event included K-6<sup>th</sup> grade tailored restoration activities on-site...but most of the youth were more interested in doing “the real work”. After the work portion of the event was completed a community celebration with educational booths and activities was held at South Lake Brewing company after the work portion of the event was completed

You Tube video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhN7LPYFCgE>



### ELD-1626 Van Vleck Meadow Restoration: Phase 1

Members of the Elegant Ears Mule Association initiated the Highland Trail reroute in the summer 2017. This reroute was considered the highest priority for the trail work portion of the project to move the existing trail out of a wet meadow to a dry, upland location.

A Student Conservation Association (SCA) trail crew, working with Forest Service staff and volunteers from Elegant Ears, Backcountry Horseman, Motherlode Chapter, and the Desolation Wilderness Volunteers, are continuing to work on trail improvements. Work includes construction of hardened stream crossings, creating/reconstructing drainage features to reduce erosion, and restoring old trail segments along the Highland Trail. If time and weather allows, the crew will also work on the Loon Lake Trail reroute this fall. Work will continue in Summer 2018.

