



US Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit



Proposed Action for the
Valhalla Pier Erosion Control and Accessibility Retrofit
Project
El Dorado County, California

BACKGROUND:

The Valhalla Pier Erosion Control and Accessibility Retrofit Project is located north of Fallen Leaf Lake in El Dorado County, California. Specifically, the pier lies adjacent to Valhalla Hall and the Boathouse Theater within the Tallac Historic Site (refer to Figure 1).

The pier was reconstructed in 2002 following a storm event that damaged the facility; however the original connection to the backshore was not replaced at that time. The pier is popular with visitors year round as it provides access to unique views of Lake Tahoe.

PURPOSE AND NEED:

The purposes of the Valhalla Pier Erosion Control and Accessibility Retrofit Project include: (1) protecting the long-term water quality of Lake Tahoe by reducing existing sedimentation near the Valhalla Pier and (2) providing access to the pier consistent with Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG). Figure 2 shows the project location and current conditions which contribute sediment to Lake Tahoe.

Current site conditions surrounding the Valhalla Pier include undefined, user-created paths to the pier from the paved path within the historic site. A steep bank is eroded with gullies and visible tree roots due to uncontrolled user access. The Valhalla Pier does not meet the FSORAG requirement for providing universal access for the public, including people with disabilities, to public amenities.

PROPOSED ACTION:

The Valhalla Pier Retrofit Project is illustrated in Figure 3 and includes the following actions:

1. Remove the existing stairs at the end of the pier and extend the pier to the shore with a wooden structure 10 feet wide by 25 feet long that meets accessibility standards.
2. The pier extension would be made of materials with an appearance consistent with wood structures in the Tallac Historic Site. Visible concrete abutment

3. Construct a paved path to connect the Valhalla Pier to the existing paved bike path. This accessible path would be approximately 4 feet wide.
4. Construct stairs beyond the established backshore to connect the pier extension to the existing patio area surrounding the Boathouse Theater. Handrails would be painted to visually blend with the surroundings.

PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES:

Project design features are elements of the project that are applied in treatment areas. These features are developed based on Forest Plan direction and site specific evaluations in order to reduce or avoid negative environmental impacts of the proposed action. Project design features associated with this project include the following:

Soil Design Features

1. Erosion control and prevention of sediment transport for this project will be implemented in accordance with; *UDSA, Water Quality Management for Forest System Lands in California - Best Management Practices* (USDA 2000). This project will also be included in the Region 5, Best Management Practices Evaluation Program (BMPEP) monitoring sample pool and will be subject to temporary BMP (TBMP) monitoring evaluations while construction is ongoing.
2. Project activities will occur within the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) grading ordinance season (May 01 – Oct 15). If grading or movement outside of this window becomes necessary (i.e. to finish BMPs, etc.) a standard grading exception permit request will be submitted to the TRPA and Lahontan Water Quality Control Board (LWQCB) for approval. During periods of inclement weather, operations would be shut down until conditions are sufficiently dry and stable to allow construction to continue without the threat of substantial erosion, sedimentation, or offsite sediment transport.

Biological Design Features

1. All construction and earth-moving equipment are required to be weed-free. All off-road equipment used on this project shall be free of soil, seeds, vegetative material, or other debris that could contain or hold seeds of noxious weeds. "Off-road equipment" includes all construction equipment; it does not include, service vehicles, pickup trucks, and similar vehicles not intended for off-road use. Equipment will be considered clean when visual inspection by contract COR does not reveal soil, seeds, plant material, or other such debris.

2. All gravel, fill, or other materials are required to be weed-free. Use onsite sand, gravel, rock, or organic matter when possible. Otherwise, obtain certified weed-free materials from gravel pits and fill sources that have been certified weed free or approved by the LTBMU Botany Department.
3. Minimize the amount of ground and vegetation disturbance in the construction areas. Reestablish vegetation where feasible on disturbed bare ground to minimize weed establishment and infestation.
4. Use weed-free mulches, and seed sources. Seed mixes and mulch would be used to enhance the establishment of native plants. Where feasible, salvage topsoil from project area for use in onsite revegetation, unless contaminated with noxious weeds. All activities that require seeding or planting must utilize locally collected native seed sources when possible or seeds and plants approved by the LTBMU Botany department. Plant and seed material should be collected from or near the project area, from within the same watershed, and at a similar elevation when possible. Persistent non-natives such as *Phleum pratense* (cultivated timothy), *Dactylis glomerata* (orchard grass), or *Lolium* spp. (ryegrass) will not be used.
5. Staging areas for equipment, materials, or crews will not be sited in weed infested areas.
6. Weed infestations identified before project implementation that are within the project area or along travel routes near the project area will be hand treated or “flagged and avoided” according to the species present and project constraints. Ox-eye daisy is along the road near the Valhalla Estate, this infestation must be avoided. Ox-eye daisy is highly invasive and likely to spread if equipment moves through the infestation.
7. After the project is completed disturbed project areas would be monitored to ensure additional non-native invasive species do not become established in the areas affected by the project and to ensure that known non-native invasive species do not spread.
8. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be adhered to including installation of silt screening in the lake and surrounding the project areas in order to minimize impacts to the lake’s water quality and disturbance to fish species such as trout.
9. If any threatened, endangered, or sensitive species nests, nest trees, or evidence of breeding thereof is detected, the Forest Biologist will be contacted.

Heritage Design Features

1. Earth disturbing activities will be monitored by Heritage Resources personnel.

2. In the event historic properties are discovered during the implementation of this undertaking, all project related work must stop immediately, the LTBMU's Heritage Resources personnel will be notified at once and the procedures as set forth in Section 800.13 of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservations must be initiated.

Recreation Design Features

1. The public will be notified prior to construction activities and will be directed to areas to ensure their safety.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

The planned implementation date for the Valhalla Pier Accessibility Retrofit Project is August, 2009.

CONTACT PERSON:

The project contact person is Cheryl Schumacher, Civil Engineer, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 35 College Dr., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150, (530) 543-2858. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email address, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to comments-pacificsouthwest-ltbmu@fs.fed.us using the subject title "Valhalla Pier project".

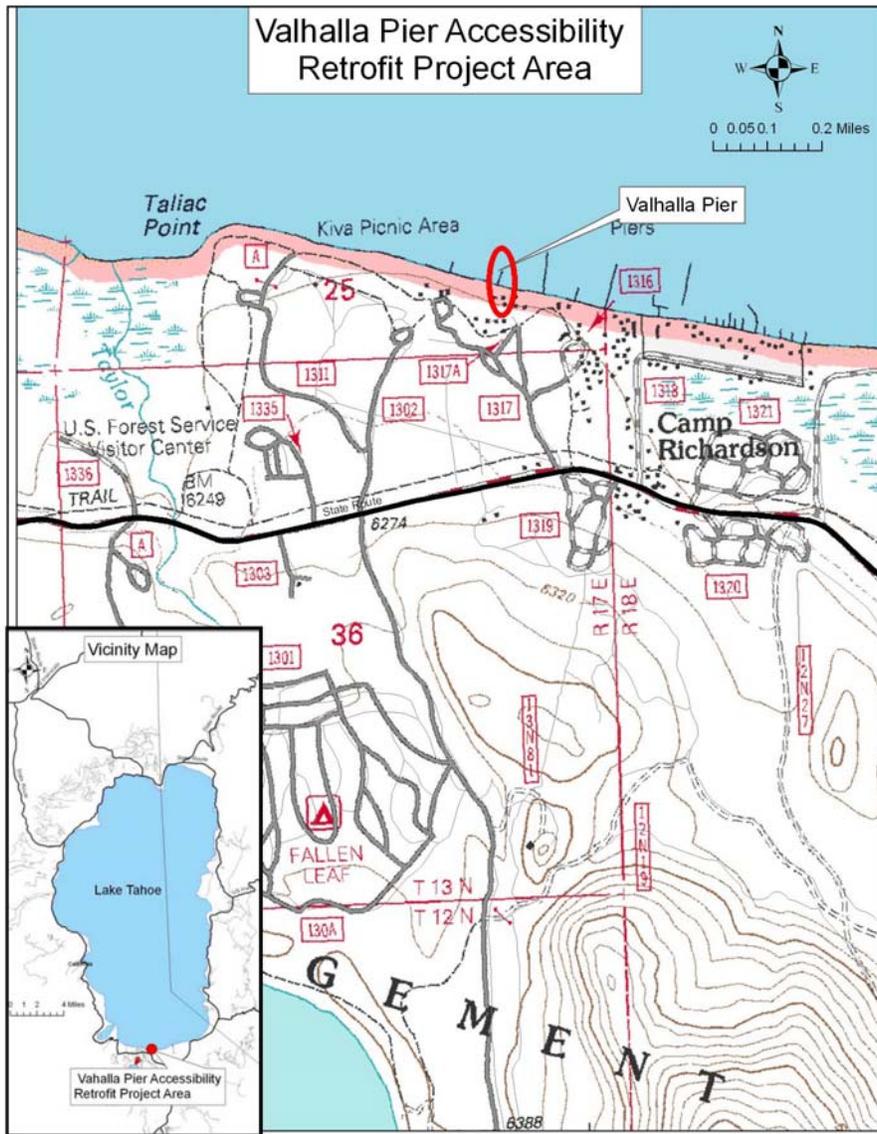
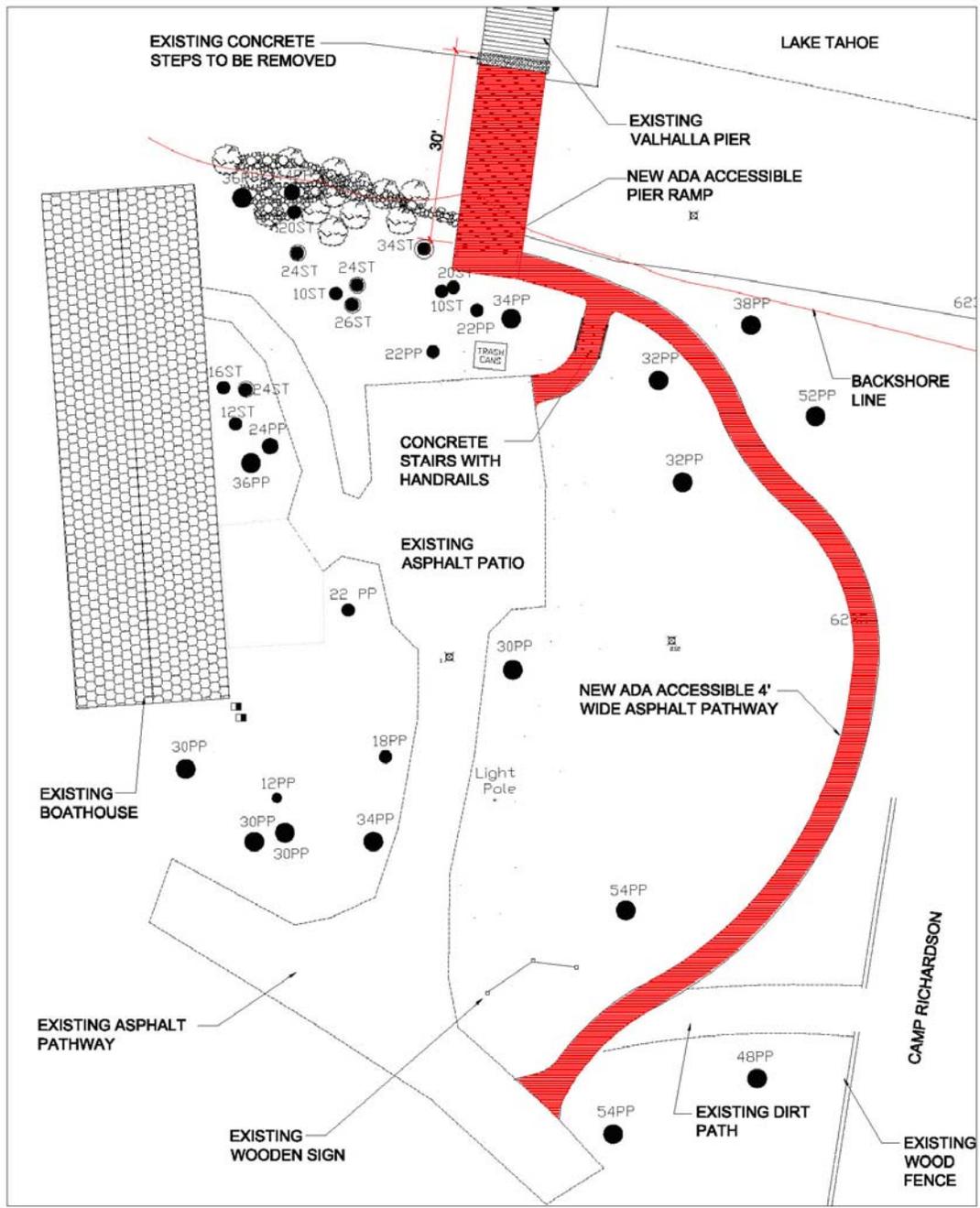


Figure 1. Valhalla Pier Accessibility Retrofit Project Area Map



Figure 2

**Valhalla Pier
Potential Sediment Source
Eroded Bank**



Scale 1" = 20'-0"



FEBRUARY 20, 2009

VALHALLA PIER ACCESSIBILITY RETROFIT
FIGURE 3.