

November 2014

Issue #4



42 Route Update

Six Routes Reopened for Public Use

"Substantial progress was made this field season to repair and reopen meadow routes. Volunteers and State OHV grant funding were key factors in those accomplishments.

*Laurence Crabtree
Forest Supervisor*

Over the summer and fall of 2014, six projects have been implemented on routes identified in the Eldorado National Forest Travel Management SEIS as not meeting Standard and Guideline #100 as it pertains to meadows. The necessary work has been completed in the field to reopen the following routes or portions of routes:

- Lower Richardson (14N39)
- Barrett, Meadows 5 and 6 (16E21)
- 47 Mile Road (11NY32)
- Schneider Camp Road (10N13)
- North Shanty Spur (16E33)
- Mule Canyon Road (10N14)

Lower Richardson, Stockton Camp, 47 Mile, North Shanty and Mule Canyon Roads have been reopened. Schneider Camp Road was reopened up to the parking area at the old barn spur road.

The work on Meadow 1 of Barrett 4wd Trail is planned for early summer 2015. At that time the Barrett 4wd Trail will be reopened for public use.

The work needed at Upper Richardson, Jim Quinn Spur and Woods Spur is planned for the spring/summer of 2015, and it is anticipated that those routes will be reopened for the 2015 season. It is also anticipated that Deer Valley/Clover Valley Trail will be reopened in 2015.

<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

Status of Planning Work

This summer an interdisciplinary team was convened to conduct a detailed field evaluation for 16 of the 18 closed routes. A hydrologist from Above and Beyond Forest Service team assisted with the evaluations. Of the other two routes, Strawberry (17E73) is being evaluated by Trails Unlimited Forest Service team, and Cosumnes Head (09N95) is being analyzed as part of the Foster Firs Project.

Analysis meeting the requirements of NEPA has been completed for all of the routes shown in Tier 1 of the *Eldorado National Forest Detailed Corrective Action Plan*, as well as five more projects from Tier 2.

In addition, an Environmental Assessment is in progress for the Deer Valley/Clover Valley Trail. This analysis is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2015.



Deer Valley field trip 7/14; photo by Shirley Harman

Lower Richardson

Over the weekend of July 12-13, 2014, Forest Service personnel worked with seventeen volunteers to repair the lower part of Richardson 4WD Road (14N39) at 3 locations where the road was impacting meadow hydrology.

Volunteers included members of the Lake Tahoe Hi-Lo's,



Volunteer Doug Barr helped to organize volunteers for the project

Dr. Smash Designs, North Tahoe Trail Dusters, Reno 4x4.com and other groups.

The work was focused on three locations where the road was impacting meadow hydrology (Meadows 1, 5, and 7). The volunteers helped with:

- Transporting approximately 16 cubic yards of gravel with jeeps and trailers from the Rubicon Trailhead to the work area. Due to the rough terrain, this consisted of an approximately 1 hour drive each direction.
- Spreading and compacting gravel on 4 rolling dips as well as an additional 15 feet on both sides of the rolling dips to increase their effectiveness and durability.

- Constructing catchment basins at the rolling dips and lining them with rocks.
- Scattering woody debris across areas above the road to reduce the movement of sediment towards the meadow.

The volunteers provided a delicious BBQ lunch for the work party, and some enjoyed a wonderful night camping at Miller Lake.



Transporting gravel for rolling dips

A group of seventeen volunteers and several Forest Service staff gathered for a highly successful work weekend in July 2014.

As a result of the volunteer work, approximately 1 mile of road 14N49 was reopened up to its intersection with the Pacific Crest Trail.



One of the newly constructed catchment basins on the lower section of 14N39, Richardson Road.

Schneider Camp Road

The work to address concerns along the Schneider Camp Road (10N13) was completed October 31, 2014.

Eleven large rolling dips were constructed in the road to intercept water that previously travelled down the road, eroding a channel into the meadow and carrying sediment off of the road and into the meadow.



One of eleven rolling dips constructed on Schneider Camp Road



Edge of new parking area and restored section of old Barn spur road

A small parking area was leveled and surfaced with aggregate rock at the intersection of 10N13 and a unauthorized spur road to the barn to provide parking for up to 5 cars for those using the nearby trails. The spur road across the meadow leading to the old barn has been blocked, and the portion immediately adjacent to the road restored by breaking up compaction and spreading woody material spread to encourage regrowth of meadow vegetation.

Improvements were also made at a stream crossing where the edge of the road above a large culvert was found to be eroding sediment into the stream. The road had been reconstructed above the culvert and the embankment reinforced with layers of large rock and soil and replanted with willow cuttings.



Embankment by culvert reconstructed with layers of rock

Schneider Camp road has been reopened to the point just past the new car parking area. The remaining portion of the route will be reopened after evaluation for listed species for that section is completed.

Barrett 4wd Trail

The Barrett 4WD Trail is a high elevation trail with a 10 out of 10 difficulty rating located in the Eldorado National Forest just west of the Desolation Wilderness. The trail is adopted by the Hi-Landers 4WD Club. The Barrett 4WD Trail was closed in 2012. The Eldorado National Forest Travel Management SEIS was completed in 2013, and the Barrett Environmental Assessment was prepared in 2014 outlining corrective actions to be taken at three meadows that were being impacted by the trail.

In September and October of 2014, a project was implemented to address the issues that were identified at Meadows 5 and 6 on the Barrett 4WD Trail.

This project, funded through a combination of California OHV Grants, Forest Service funds, and a RAC grant through Secure Rural Schools Title II funding, was a partnership involving personnel from Eldorado, LTBMU and Tahoe National Forests, a helicopter contract, a rock contract, Student Conservation Association (SCA) Crew, Trails Unlimited Forest Service Enterprise Team, and volunteers from the Hi-Landers 4WD Club.

Due to the remote location and trail difficulty, it was necessary to fly in the construction equipment, tools, materials and supplies by helicopter. Most project personnel hiked in several miles to the project area, and camped out for a week to complete the work. 4WD transportation for materials and supplies to the site and between work locations was provided by the Hi-Landers 4WD Club.



Helicopter transport of mini-excavator used for Meadow 5 trail reroute

Barrett Meadow 5 Reroute

The Meadow 5 reroute was constructed by Trails Unlimited and completed by Eldorado National Forest personnel and the SCA Crew. On the old section of trail to be restored, two culverts and a log crossing were removed and the drainages reshaped to allow water to flow from one part of the meadow to the other. Woody debris was placed in the trail, and compacted areas scarified and planted with chunks of native grass sod salvaged from the construction.



Portion of the Meadow 5 reroute after compaction



Restoration of abandoned trail section

Barrett Meadow 6

At Meadow 6, large rolling dips were constructed at both trail approaches to the meadow to divert water and sediment coming down the trail from entering the meadow. The trail crosses three small seasonal drainages within the meadow.

The approaches to these drainages were reinforced with riprap and permeable interlocking concrete block over filter fabric and gravel to reduce the tracking of sediment into the drainages as vehicles cross them, and allow

for hydrologic connectivity across the trail. The materials were flown in by helicopter, and installed by Forest Service personnel and the SCA Crew. The drainage bottoms were left unchanged for natural hydrologic functioning.



Hi-Lander's volunteer Lyle Hobart helping to transport project materials

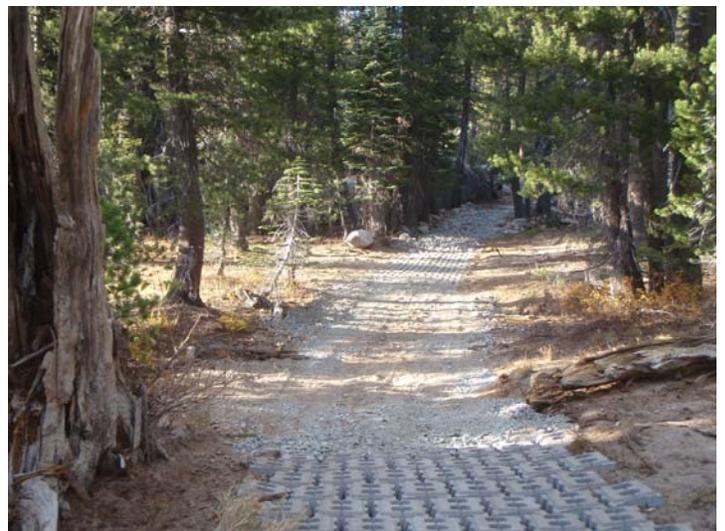


SCA Crew 5 at work in the early morning preparing grade for the block work at Meadow 6

"The work at Meadows 5 and 6 was completed October 8, 2014. Work at Meadow 1 is planned for early summer 2015. It is expected that the Barrett Trail will be reopened for public use in the summer of 2015."



Installation of block approaches at Meadow 6



Completed block approaches to drainage crossings at Meadow 6

Detailed Corrective Action Plan (Updated 11/17/14)

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, Amador District Ranger			
09N08 Stockton Camp Road	Road Maintenance (access to Stockton Camp)	Initial visit 11/13; Engineer/ Hydrolo- gist/ C&M to visit 6/14	OHV Planning Grant	<i>PA:</i> <i>Assessment:</i> Diana Erickson	September, 2014	Route was reopened 9/18/2014	Forest Service Funding
Pacific Ranger District				Richard Thornburgh, Pacific District Ranger			
16E21 Barrett Lake 4WD Trail	Trail Reconstruction	Completed 10/13	OHV Ground Operations Grant and For- est Service Fund- ing	<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; Mead- ow 1 planned for July 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, Placerville 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 com- pleted 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	Spring 2015	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, Placerville 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	July 2014— December 2014	Summer 2016	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	July 2015— Fall 2015	Fall 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, Amador DR			
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: TBD	9/14 - 12/14	Summer 2016	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	In progress. Estimated 2014	2015	TBD
Placerville Ranger District				Duane Nelson, Placerville DR			
17E16 Little Round Top	TBD	Recreation staff visited 2013; Engineer/ Hydrologist to visit 5/14	Forest Service Funding	PA: D. Erickson NEPA: TBD	7/15 - 12/15	Summer 2016	TBD