

**SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000
PUBLIC LAW 106-393
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM
USDA FOREST SERVICE**

Name of Resource Advisory Committee: Fresno
Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):
Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2009

2. Project Name: Snowmobile Stream Crossing Construction	3a. State: California 3b. County(s): Fresno
4. Project Submitted By: USDA Forest Service, High Sierra Ranger District	5. Date: 3-1-2009
6. Contact Phone Number: 559-893-2360	7. Contact E-mail: mrobinson@fs.fed.us

8. Project Location: High Sierra Ranger District	
a. National Forest(s): Sierra	b. Forest Service District: High Sierra
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) T8S,R26E,NW1/4,S17 - T8S,R26E,NW1/4,S18 See Appendix B and Map.	

9. Project Goals and Objectives: The Big Creek Snowmobile Trail and Bridge Project is a development project. The primary goal of this project is to construct two stream crossing structures that meet current Regional Forest Service design codes, and to improve standards of health and safety for the public. The bridge locations are at the Big Creek and Coon Creek stream crossings located on the District's 209 mile designated groomed snowmobile trail system.

10. Project Description:

a. Brief: The project involves the construction of two stream crossing structures on the groomed snowmobile trail system.

b. Detailed: The project will provide a 20 mile groomed intermediate riding snowmobile loop trail around the Huntington Lake basin area. The trail will connect the existing Grouse Creek Snowmobile Trail with the China Peak Snowmobile Trail. The key attraction for funding of this trail for Forest visitors is its convenient access and close proximity to the Huntington Lake Recreation Area. Winter facilities located in the area include two Winter Recreation Trailheads (Sno-parks), which service 234 miles of snowmobile trails of which 209 miles are groomed. Commercial facilities includes a resort which offers snowmobile rentals, sales, repairs and gasoline, a resort which offers cabin rentals and restaurant and a full service ski resort with rooms and a restaurant. These amenities have created a destination resort area.

The design, layout and construction of the 4.5 mile Big Creek Trail was completed in 2000. The project includes the construction of one 45 foot long and 16 foot wide bridge on Coon Creek and one 100 foot long and 16 foot wide bridge on Big Creek. The trail will connect existing trails and facilitate the grooming schedule when grooming the Huntington and Tamarack Winter Recreation

Areas. Completion of the project will provide snowmobilers with an excellent groomed riding experience adjacent to the many amenities described. The route will be available to ATV's, cross country skiers and snowshoers. This project addresses current safety concerns. During certain times of the year when creeks freeze over with snow bridges, local snowmobilers use this route to go around Huntington Lake and to access the Tamarack Ridge Winter trail system. During the Summer other users ford the creeks to access existing trails in the area. Construction of the bridges will complete the trail project and provide a safer year round travel route for all Forest visitors. Completion of the project will provide Forest visitors with a safer and more positive recreation experience.

The State has recommended the project (RTM-08-001) for funding to the Federal Highway Administration. The amount of funding requested is \$682,176.00. The program requires a 12% match in funds of which 5% must be a non-federal source for the project. The 12% amount is \$93,024.00. The engineer estimate for construction of the two bridges is \$775,200.00. The Forest will contribute a 7% match, \$54,264.00. The applicant is requesting a 5% match, \$38,760.00 from the Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? Yes XNo

Land Status: U.S.D.A. Forest Service

If Yes, specify:

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)

Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.

Restores and improves land health.

X Restores water quality

13. Project Type

a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)

<input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance	X Trail Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Decommission/Obliteration	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration
Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Control of Noxious Weeds
<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish Native Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
X Community Economic Benefit	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify):

b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): Construct two bridges..

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved: Two stream crossing improved with bridge construction.
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trail obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated:
Number of jobs generated: Construction phase (six).
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):
Direct economic activity benefit: Supports Winter Recreation Businesses in the area.
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: 10-1-09	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 9-30-10
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17. How will cooperative relationships among people that use federal lands be improved? List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities. This project will be a direct benefit to local residents, business owners and recreational users of Forest lands by providing safer snowmobile stream crossing. The District received \$260,000.00 for fiscal years 2009, 2010 and 2011 for the operation and maintenance of the snowmobile program. The funding source is a service agreement with the State of California Parks and Recreation Off Highway Vehicle funds. The District received \$41,000.00 from the Fresno County Parks and Recreation Department for fiscal year 2009 for the operation and maintenance of the snowmobile program. The funding from the State and County provide for Forest Service and contract trail grooming, trail maintenance, trail patrol, visitor information, law enforcement, facility maintenance and snow removal at the Sno-Parks. The Sierra Snowmobile Association has been actively involved in the District's winter snowmobile program since the 1970's. The association has signed an Adopt-A-Trail Agreement with the District for constructing, maintaining

and patrolling the snowmobile trail system. In 2008 the association volunteered 864 hours with an in-kind value of \$16,054.00.

18. How is this project in the best interest of the community? Identify benefits to communities.

This project will be a direct benefit to local residents, business owners and recreational users of Forest lands by providing safer snowmobile stream crossings. Winter recreationists give a boost to the local economy every winter and keep the business owners in business and their employee's employed through this season. The rental of snowmobiles in the area for 2008 grossed \$88,000.00. The sales of snowmobiles, parts and accessories have generated additional revenues for local businesses. Additional revenues are generated for lodging and food vendors. The funding for operation and maintenance supports contracts to local businesses for grooming, trash removal, and pumping of toilets. In addition, this funding pays salaries which in turn are spent in the local area.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

The Big Creek Snowmobile Trail and Bridge Project is a development project. The primary goal of this project is to construct two stream crossing structures that meet current Regional Forest Service design codes, and to improve standards of health and safety for the public. The bridge locations are at the Big Creek and Coon Creek stream crossings located on the District's 209 mile designated groomed snowmobile trail system. The design, layout and construction of the 4.5 mile Big Creek Trail was completed in 2000. Funding for the two bridges was approved by the Forest Service Capital Investment Program in 2003. These funds were reprogrammed to replace three of the eight existing structurally deficient log stringer bridges located on the snowmobile trail system. Construction on these three bridges was completed and approved by Forest Service Engineers on July 20, 2006.

The High Sierra Ranger District, located in the Sierra National Forest, provides an excellent destination winter recreation location for all visitors seeking to pursue snow related activities. The District's winter recreation trailheads are located on Highway 168, north of Shaver Lake, at both Tamarack Ridge, elevation 7600 feet, and Huntington Lake, elevation 7000 feet. Three trailheads service 234 miles of designated snowmobile trails. 209 miles of snowmobile trails are groomed throughout the winter season. The snowmobile trail system is linked together by a series of ten trail stream crossings over major streams and three highway crossings. The stream crossing sites are located in areas of the Forest not accessible to passenger vehicles, nor adjacent to public roads or streets. A snowmobiler can park at any of the three snowmobile trailheads and have access to the entire trail system. Of the 40 designated trails, some are loop trails and many are destination trails to scenic overlooks, lakes and areas of historical significance. The groomed trail system provides access to approximately 72,800 acres of public land available for open snowmobile recreation.

This project addresses current safety concerns. During certain times of the year when creeks freeze over with snow bridges, local snowmobilers use this route to go around Huntington Lake and to access the Tamarack Ridge Winter trail system. During the summer other users ford the creeks to access existing trails in the area. Construction of the bridges will provide a safer year round travel route for all Forest visitors. Completion of the project will provide Forest visitors with a safer and more positive recreation experience.

The District Hydrologist and Aquatic Biologist reviewed the project. The project was found consistent with the Sierra Nevada Framework and the Sierra National Land and Resource Management Plan. Proper implementation of best management practices will protect water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat by proactively preventing sediment and other hazardous materials from reaching streams.

Constructing bridges at these stream crossing will improve the watershed condition and water quality from a cumulative effects perspective.

There are two direct needs for the snowmobile bridge replacement project. First is a safe and relatively hazard free snowmobile trail system that is not dependent on snow bridges that wash out each year. The second need is to allow winter recreation on the Sierra National Forest to continue to assist in keeping local businesses open and local residents employed as close to year round as possible. There are two direct needs for the snowmobile bridge replacement project. First is a safe and relatively hazard free snowmobile trail system that is not dependent on rotting log stringers, eroding abutments or temporary crossings that have the potential for washing out each year. The second need is to allow winter recreation on the Sierra National Forest to continue to assist in keeping local businesses open and local residents employed as close to year round as possible.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Americorps	<input type="checkbox"/> CCC Crews
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):	

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials? Yes No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested:
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding: Recreation Trails Program: \$682,176.00. U.S.D.A. Forest Service: \$54,264.00.

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment) See attachment A

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.
- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:
- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.

Other, please explain:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ Kirby Molen

Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ Edward C. Cole

Forest Supervisor

Sierra National Forest

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	Column B Requested Title II Contribution	Column C Other Contributions	Column D Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	Complete			
b. NEPA/CEQA	Complete			
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering	Complete			
f. Contract/Grant Preparation	\$ 3,426.00			\$ 3,426.00
g. Contract/Grant Administration	\$ 3,927.00		\$ 56,848.00	\$ 60,775.00
h. Contract/Grant Cost	\$43,411.00	\$38,760.00	\$625,328.00	\$707,499.00
i. Salaries				
j. Materials & Supplies				
k. Monitoring	\$ 1,500.00			\$ 1,500.00
l. Other				
m. Project Sub-Total	\$52,264.00	\$38,760.00	\$682,176.00	\$773,200.00
n. Indirect Costs	\$ 2,000.00			\$ 2,000.00
o. Total Cost Estimate	\$54,264.00	\$38,760.00	\$682,176.00	\$775,200.00

NOTES:

- a. Pre-NEPA Costs
- g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.
- i. Cost of implementing project
- l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.
- n. Contracting/Grant Officer costs, if needed, are included as part of Indirect Costs.

ATTACHMENT A
MONITORING PLAN

**SNOWMOBILE STREAM CROSSING
RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

- A. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.

Forest resource personnel have reviewed the project to determine if there are environmental concerns and issues. The project has been reviewed for soil, hydrology, botany species, wildlife species, aquatic species and archaeology. Ecosystem management goals and objectives have been established. The goals and objectives are part of the environmental documentation.

- B. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:

Project managers will conduct the monitoring in conjunction with the resource specialists.

- C. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

\$1,500.00