Proposed Action
Priority Watershed OHV Route Restoration Project
Upper Big Creek and South Fork Willow Creek

USDA Forest Service
High Sierra Ranger District, Madera County
and
Bass Lake Ranger District, Fresno County

INTRODUCTION

In 2010, the Forest Service conducted a forest watershed condition assessment using a national protocol to determine the condition of watersheds across the Sierra National Forest. The purpose of the watershed condition assessment was to identify those watersheds that are in a deteriorated state and could possible benefit from a focused effort to restore the watershed condition. The Upper Big Creek and South Fork Willow Creek were identified as the forest's two Priority Watersheds. One of the management activities occurring in the watershed is Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use of system trails. Prior to 2010 the forest was allowing cross country access by OHV vehicles and many miles of non-system trails were created. These non-system trails will be referred to as non-system tracks. During an inventory of the areas in 2008, approximately 10.59 miles of unauthorized OHV routes were identified in the Upper Big Creek Watershed and approximately 10.37 miles of unauthorized OHV routes was identified in the South Fork Willow Creek. There is approximately 21 miles of non-system tracks in the two priority watersheds.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

In 2012, the forest submitted a proposal to the California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program for a grant to prioritize non-system tracks for restoration and to conduct an environmental analysis to restore non-system tracks in the Upper Big Creek and South Form Willow Creeks watersheds. These non-system OHV tracks have not had maintenance and many of them are actively eroding, degrading water quality from sedimentation and having negative impacts to aquatic habitat in Upper Big Creek and South Fork Willow Creek. In addition, the non-system tracks are not meeting several desired conditions and standards and guidelines for water quality and aquatic habitat in the 1991 Sierra National Forest Land Management Plan and 2004 Sierra National Forest Plan Amendment.

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is to restore 9.55 miles of non-system OHV tracks in the Upper Big Creek Watershed and 3.25 miles of non-system tracks in the South Fork Willow Creek Watershed. The non-system tracks were initially evaluated using the Forest's OHV Soil Monitoring Protocol to determine existing conditions. Tracks rated red have serious erosion and/or sedimentation concerns and need

immediate attention; tracks rated yellow have erosion and/or sedimentation problems that need attention; and tracks rated green have no erosion and/or sedimentation problems.

These non-system OHV tracks will restored by a combination of the following treatments:

1. Barricade and sign both ends of the trail to prevent use.
2. Subsoil the track to decompact the soils and allow regeneration of native vegetation.
3. Construct adequate water bars to prevent surface erosion.
4. Distribute down trees that are available in surrounding forest on route surface.

See Tables 1 and 2 for specific condition assessments of the tracks and the proposal to restore the tracks.

Table 1 - OHV Tracks Proposed for Restoration in the South Fork Willow Creek Watershed

Track ID	Length (ft.)	Length (mi.)	Area (ac.)	Area (ft^2)	GYR Rating	Green	Yellow	Red	Recommendation
BP105	1168	0.22	0.11169	4865	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,4
BP106	1179	0.22	0.11279	4913	R	0.00	0.00	100.00	1,2,3,4
BP122	2797	0.53	0.19230	8377	Y	0.00	67.40	32.60	2,3,4
BP133ext	879	0.17	0.10088	4394	Y	0.00	100.00	0.00	1,3,4
BP32	122	0.02	0.02245	978	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	0
BP33	371	0.07	0.02556	1113	R	0.00	0.00	100.00	1,3,4
BP38	1809	0.34	0.20768	9046	Y	0.00	100.00	0.00	1,2,3,4
BP40	262	0.05	0.03008	1310	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,4
BP43	2944	0.56	0.13516	5888	G	54.02	45.98	0.00	1,2
BP65	1470	0.28	0.16875	7351	G	78.00	22.00	0.00	3, 4
BP73	2865	0.54	0.15304	6667	G	55.60	11.66	15.08	1,3,4

Table 2 - OHV Tracks Proposed for Restoration in the Upper Big Creek Watershed

Track ID	Length (ft.)	Length (mi.)	Area (ac.)	Area (ft²)	GYR Rating	Green	Yellow	Red	Recommendation
AE-19	3582.49	0.68	0.33026	14385.97	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,2
AE-2	108.36	0.02	0.01036	451.48	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,4
AE-22	228.69	0.04	0.02187	952.87	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	0
AE-24	1564.44	0.30	0.14964	6518.50	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	0
AE-25	344.02	0.07	0.03291	1433.43	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	0
AE-28	2249.46	0.43	0.15235	6636.23	Y	78.12	0.00	21.88	3
AE-29	309.42	0.06	0.02960	1289.24	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	2,4
AE-3	113.10	0.02	0.01082	471.26	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	4
AE-4	1385.63	0.26	0.05410	2356.57	Y	64.96	0.00	35.04	3
AE-8	177.23	0.03	0.02034	886.17	Y	0.00	100.00	0.00	2,4
AE-9	185.69	0.04	0.02131	928.46	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	2,4
JH-2	811.48	0.15	0.09315	4057.42	Y	0.00	100.00	0.00	1,2,3,4
JH20	1492.67	0.28	0.14278	6219.48	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	0
JH24	572.65	0.11	0.05478	2386.05	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	2,4
JH-55	2341.44	0.44	0.22397	9756.01	G	81.48	18.52	0.00	1,3,4
JH-63a	813.54	0.15	0.07782	3389.75	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,3,4
JH-63b	146.87	0.03	0.01405	611.95	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,3,4
JH-66	538.75	0.10	0.03710	1616.25	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,3,4

JH-67a	312.07	0.06	0.02985	1300.27	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,3,4
JM-11y	1087.96	0.21	0.09990	4351.85	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	2,4
JM-13y	1976.81	0.37	0.10975	4780.75	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	0
JM-14y	4796.85	0.91	0.38722	16867.34	G	77.95	22.05	0.00	1,2,3,4
KB-10	201.84	0.04	0.01390	605.53	Y	0.00	100.00	0.00	1
KB-3	667.72	0.13	0.04599	2003.16	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	0
KB-33	1483.84	0.28	0.14193	6182.67	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	2,4
KB-34	2109.58	0.40	0.20179	8789.90	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	0
KB-38	160.88	0.03	0.01539	670.35	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	2,4
KB-40	882.80	0.17	0.08107	3531.20	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	4
KB-42	952.68	0.18	0.09113	3969.48	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,2,3,4
KB-43	183.52	0.03	0.01685	734.10	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	4
KB-44	467.90	0.09	0.04027	1754.13	Y	64.20	0.00	35.80	2,3,4
KB-46	1325.97	0.25	0.12683	5524.87	Y	50.44	0.00	49.56	1,2,3,4
KB-47	385.95	0.07	0.03692	1608.11	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	4
KB-48	204.78	0.04	0.01959	853.26	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	4
KB-49	216.31	0.04	0.02069	901.29	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	4
KB-55	159.32	0.03	0.01524	663.81	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,4
KB-6	1920.40	0.36	0.18369	8001.65	Y	50.54	49.46	0.00	1,2,4
KB-8	306.67	0.06	0.02933	1277.78	Y	0.00	100.00	0.00	1,2,3,4
KB-9	359.58	0.07	0.03439	1498.24	Y	0.00	100.00	0.00	1,2,4
KD-227	2611.92	0.49	0.24984	10882.99	Y	33.83	66.17	0.00	1,3,4
KD-228	169.95	0.03	0.01170	509.84	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	0
KD-231	1988.74	0.38	0.15181	6612.85	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,4
KD-232	168.60	0.03	0.01613	702.50	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,4
MF11	1052.23	0.20	0.07291	3175.86	Y	53.01	46.99	0.00	1,3,4
MF12	610.67	0.12	0.03543	1543.35	Y	52.73	47.27	0.00	3
MF14	1332.50	0.25	0.12236	5329.99	G	74.34	0.00	25.66	1,2,3,4
MF18	1754.23	0.33	0.16780	7309.28	Y	28.09	71.91	0.00	1,4
MF19	1375.12	0.26	0.13153	5729.65	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	4

MF21	53.89	0.01	0.00371	161.66	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	0
MF23	97.06	0.02	0.00668	291.17	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	0
MF9	87.04	0.02	0.00599	261.11	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,4
TH-02w	1373.86	0.26	0.12405	5403.46	G	100.00	0.00	0.00	0
TH-15z	601.10	0.11	0.05750	2504.58	Y	0.00	100.00	0.00	1,3,4