

A. List of Restoration Activities

This project proposes to restore several trails and trail segments within the Rock Creek Recreational Trails Area on the Georgetown Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest. The trail segments to be restored are generally ones that have been relocated or are in the process of being relocated, leaving the need to restore the remaining disturbed route.

Trails 9-1, 9-3, 12N18Y, and a portion of 12N19Y: During the monitoring of trail conditions and the trail inventory for the Rock Creek Trail System, it was observed that 0.1 miles of Trail 9-3 is in poor condition, which is contributing to soil erosion and adverse effects to water quality. This trail is being rerouted, and so the degraded portion of the trail needs to be restored. The adjoining portions of 9-1 (0.1 mile in length) and 12N19Y (0.2 miles in length) are also located along a ridge line and so cannot be properly drained, which is leading to erosion and degraded watershed conditions. 12N18Y (0.8 miles in length) is located on a fairly steep ridgeline, and so adequate drainage cannot be established and maintained. The trail tread has become entrenched lower than the surrounding ground level. This condition allows for water to concentrate and flow down the trail for long distances, increasing in volume velocity, with associated increased erosion. The trail segments 9-1, 12N18Y and 12N19Y are being rerouted, therefore necessitating the restoration of the degraded trail segments.

Trail 23-12: The 23-12 Trail does not serve as a part of the trail system in the Rock Creek Recreational Trails Area and is being replaced by allowing mixed use on Forest Road 12N82. This trail has required frequent maintenance due to its location. The restoration work is planned for the entire length of the 23-12 Trail, which is approximately 0.3 miles in length.

Portion of Trail NN13: 0.5 miles of Trail NN13 is located along a steep ridgeline, and cannot be properly drained or maintained. This has led to the trail becoming entrenched with associated increased erosion. The trail is being rerouted to a more appropriate location, and so the remaining portion of the trail is in need of restoration.

Portion of Trail 23-8 (also known as Trail 5 or the Ballarat Trail: Storm damage in 2005 and early 2006 washed out a culvert on existing Trail 23-8 (the Ballarat Trail or Trail 5). Following this storm damage, a temporary crossing was constructed in 2006. The temporary crossing will be replaced with a permanent bridge, and so the restored to section of trail crossing the stream will be restored to prevent additional erosion and allow vegetation to grow back. The length of trail to restore is approximately 120 feet long.

Restoration of these trails and trail segments will consist of installing barrier devices at the beginning and end of each trail to prevent vehicles from using the trails in order to achieve restoration. These barrier devices may be in the form of mounds of soil or barrier rocks. Branches, small trees and down logs from the vicinity of the trail would be dragged onto the trail to provide obstructions for travel and disguise from easy detection. The restoration would include use of either a Sweco trail dozer or an excavator to install drainage structures, break up the compacted layers of soil with ripper teeth, the tines of the excavator bucket, or in some instances with hand tools. Where feasible, the land forms would be restored and stabilized. Ground cover in the form of nearby natural leaf and litter or certified weed free straw would be spread over the bare soil to reduce erosion. Trail closed signs would be installed on both ends of the trail until the area has revegetated. The trail restoration would be monitored for the next few years to determine if activities were effective for closure and restoration.

B. How the Proposed Project Relates to OHV Recreation

The restoration of these trail segments and the associated rerouting of trails to more stable or otherwise appropriate locations will provide for a reduction in erosion and subsequent streambed sedimentation, while still allowing for the continued OHV use on these trails. Without these restoration projects, these trail segments would continue to contribute sediment to the Rock Creek watershed, degrading water quality and fish habitat. The rerouting of these poor trail segments and subsequent restoration of the abandoned trail segments will also reduce the extent and cost of future trail maintenance.

C. Size of Project Site

The combined length of trail to be restored is approximately 2.1 miles. Some of these trail segments are along old roads,

and so the width of trail to be restored varies from 36 inches to six feet or more. The total amount of area to be restored is approximately 1 acre.

D. Monitoring and Methodology

The project includes monitoring both for the effectiveness of the restoration and subsequent incursions into the restored areas. The sites will be visited by patrollers on a regular basis throughout the year to assure that the restored areas are not receiving unauthorized OHV use. One or more photo monitoring points will also be established on each trail segment to allow for measuring and recording the success of the restoration efforts. These points will be re-photographed at least two times each year for three years, and the results documented in a report.

E. List of Reports

Not Applicable

F. Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews

Not Applicable

G. Plan for Protection of Restored Area

As described in the project description (Item A), barriers will be installed at the access points to the restored areas to prohibit OHV use on the restored trails segments. Signs will also be installed informing the public that these are restored areas and that they are closed to vehicle use. The monitoring section (Item D) describes that these restored sites will be visited by patrollers on a basis to assure that the closures are effective, that signs are in place, and that the areas are returning to a condition.

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1. Project-Specific Maps

Attachments:

[Location Map](#)

[Vicinity Map](#)

2. Project-Specific Photos

Attachments:

[Photos of Rock Creek Restoration Project Trails](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: USFS - Eldorado National Forest
 Application: Restoration - Rock Creek Area

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____				
APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Eldorado National Forest						
PROJECT TITLE :	Restoration - Rock Creek Area	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :					
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration						
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>This project proposes to restore several trails and trail segments within the Rock Creek Recreational Trails Area on the Georgetown Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest. The trail segments to be restored are generally ones that have been relocated or are in the process of being relocated, leaving the need to restore the remaining disturbed route.</p> <p>Trails 9-1, 9-3, 12N18Y, and a portion of 12N19Y: During the monitoring of trail conditions and the trail inventory for the Rock Creek Trail System, it was observed that 0.1 miles of Trail 9-3 is in poor condition, which is contributing to soil erosion and adverse effects to water quality. This trail is being rerouted, and so the degraded portion of the trail needs to be restored. The adjoining portions of 9-1 (0.1 mile in length) and 12N19Y (0.2 miles in length) are also located along a ridge line and so cannot be properly drained, which is leading to erosion and degraded watershed conditions. 12N18Y (0.8 miles in length) is located on a fairly steep ridgeline, and so adequate drainage cannot be established and maintained. The trail tread has become entrenched lower than the surrounding ground level. This condition allows for water to concentrate and flow down the trail for long distances, increasing in volume velocity, with associated increased erosion. The trail segments 9-1, 12N18Y and 12N19Y are being rerouted, therefore necessitating the restoration of the degraded trail segments.</p> <p>Trail 23-12: The 23-12 Trail does not serve as a part of the trail system in the Rock Creek Recreational Trails Area and is being replaced by allowing mixed use on Forest Road 12N82. This trail has required frequent maintenance due to its location. The restoration work is planned for the entire length of the 23-12 Trail, which is approximately 0.3 miles in length.</p> <p>Portion of Trail NN13: 0.5 miles of Trail NN13 is located along a steep ridgeline, and cannot be properly drained or maintained. This has led to the trail becoming entrenched with associated increased erosion. The trail is being rerouted to a more appropriate location, and so the remaining portion of the trail is in need of restoration.</p> <p>Portion of Trail 23-8 (also known as Trail 5 or the Ballarat Trail: Storm damage in 2005 and early 2006 washed out a culvert on existing Trail 23-8 (the Ballarat Trail or Trail 5). Following this storm damage, a temporary crossing was constructed in 2006. The temporary crossing will be replaced with a permanent bridge, and so the restored section of trail crossing the stream will be restored to prevent additional erosion and allow vegetation to grow back. The length of trail to restore is approximately 120 feet long.</p> <p>Restoration of these trails and trail segments will consist of installing barrier devices at the beginning and end of each trail to prevent vehicles from using the trails in order to achieve restoration. These barrier devices may be in the form of mounds of soil or barrier rocks. Branches, small trees and down logs from the vicinity of the trail would be dragged onto the trail to provide obstructions for travel and disguise from easy detection. The restoration would include use of either a Sweco trail dozer or an excavator to install drainage structures, break up the compacted layers of soil with ripper teeth, the tines of the excavator bucket, or in some instances with hand tools. Where feasible, the land forms would be restored and stabilized. Ground cover in the form of nearby natural leaf and litter or certified weed free straw would be spread over the bare soil to reduce erosion. Trail closed signs would be installed on both ends of the trail until the area has revegetated. The trail restoration would be monitored for the next few years to determine if activities were effective for closure and restoration.</p>						
	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: USFS - Eldorado National Forest
 Application: Restoration - Rock Creek Area

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	OHV Coordinator	53.000	250.000	DAY	13,250.00	0.00	13,250.00
	Other-FPO	84.000	150.000	DAY	12,600.00	0.00	12,600.00
	Other-LEO	15.000	350.000	DAY	0.00	5,250.00	5,250.00
	Other-Trail Engineer	5.000	350.000	DAY	1,750.00	0.00	1,750.00
	Other-Recreation Tech	26.000	150.000	DAY	3,900.00	0.00	3,900.00
	Other-Restoration Volunteer	61.000	150.000	DAY	0.00	9,150.00	9,150.00
	Other-LE Patrol Captain	1.000	400.000	DAY	0.00	400.00	400.00
	Other-Recreation Officer	5.000	350.000	DAY	0.00	1,750.00	1,750.00
	Botanist	2.000	250.000	DAY	500.00	0.00	500.00
	Other-Soil Scientist	2.000	250.000	DAY	500.00	0.00	500.00
	Total for Staff				32,500.00	16,550.00	49,050.00
2	Contracts						
	Heavy Equipment Operator Notes : SWECO with Operator	11.000	700.000	DAY	7,700.00	0.00	7,700.00
	Other-Move In/Out	5.000	200.000	DAY	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Total for Contracts				8,700.00	0.00	8,700.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-Straw Bales	85.000	25.000	EA	2,125.00	0.00	2,125.00
	Signs Notes : signs and posts	10.000	100.000	EA	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				3,125.00	0.00	3,125.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	4x4 Vehicle Notes : Vehicle mileage for restoration crew, equipment operators, and monitoring patrols	1200.000	0.450	MI	270.00	270.00	540.00
	Other-Vehicle replacement	2.000	310.000	MOS	0.00	620.00	620.00
	Other-ATV Fuel and Maintenance	10.000	10.000	DAY	0.00	100.00	100.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				270.00	990.00	1,260.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Administrative Costs						
	Administrative Costs-Billing and Record	1.000	6600.000	EA	2,000.00	4,600.00	6,600.00
	Total Program Expenses				46,595.00	22,140.00	68,735.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				46,595.00	22,140.00	68,735.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				46,595.00	22,140.00	68,735.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: USFS - Eldorado National Forest
 Application: Restoration - Rock Creek Area

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	32,500.00	16,550.00	49,050.00	
2	Contracts	8,700.00	0.00	8,700.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	3,125.00	0.00	3,125.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	270.00	990.00	1,260.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	2,000.00	4,600.00	6,600.00	
Total Program Expenses		46,595.00	22,140.00	68,735.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		46,595.00	22,140.00	68,735.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		46,595.00	22,140.00	68,735.00	

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

This project is not expected to adversely affect wetlands, streams, creeks, or any threatened, endangered, or other special status species, based on the environmental analyses completed (Rock Creek Recreational Trails EIS and ROD (1999, supplemental dated 2006), the Ballarat Trail Bridge and Restoration DM (2009), the Rock Creek Recreational Trails reroute and Reconstruction EA and DN (2004), and the Off Highway Vehicle Mixed Use Re-Designation in the Rock Creek Recreational Trails Area DN (2006). These restoration projects were designed to reduce the impacts to water quality and to improve wildlife habitat by restoring drainage, ripping and mulching compacted trail segments, and allowing native vegetation to return to the restored areas.

ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

No cumulative impacts are expected from implementation of this project. The trail segments that are being restored are being replaced by reroutes or other alternative routes, and so will not change overall use patterns in the Rock Creek Recreational Trails area or in other parts of the Eldorado National Forest. This project is designed to reduce the potential for cumulative watershed impacts.

ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts

This project will not have adverse effects on steep slopes or highly erodible soils. The restoration efforts will include controlling drainage on the restored trail segments and will provide for mulching on steeper trail segments being restored. The project is designed to reduce erosion from these restored trail segments.

ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources

This project area does not include any State Scenic Highways nor is it visible from a State Scenic Highway.

ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials

- Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

The project is not likely to cause indirect significant impacts. As described previously, the trail segments that are being restored are being replaced by reroutes or other alternative routes, and so will not change overall use patterns in the Rock Creek Recreational Trails area or in other parts of the Eldorado National Forest.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

- [2004 Rock Creek reroute EA](#)
- [2004 Rock Creek reroute DN](#)
- [2006 Mixed Use EA](#)
- [2006 Mixed Use DN](#)
- [Additional Environmental Documents](#)

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is: 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 76% or more (10 points)
 51% - 75% (5 points)
 26% - 50% (3 points)
 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Failure to fund the Project will result in adverse impacts to: 7

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Domestic water supply (4 points)
 Archeological and historical resources identified in the California Register of Historical Resources or the Federal Register of Historic Places (3 points)
 Stream or other watercourse (3 points)
 Soils - Site actively eroding (2 points)
 Sensitive areas (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of sensitive habitats [1]
 Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of T&E species
 Other special-status species- Number of special-status species (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3) Enter number of special-status species

Describe the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the checked item(s):

The existing trail segments are now eroding at unacceptable levels, which is leading to soil loss along the trails and in the immediate vicinity of some segments of trails. There is also related sedimentation within the nearby streams, including Canyon Creek (associated with erosion from 12N18Y), Ballarat Canyon and Whaler Creek (associated with Trail NN13), and a tributary to Whaler Canyon (associated with Trail 23-8). All of these streams are within the Rock Creek watershed.

3. Reason for Project - Q 3.

3. Reason for the Project 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)
 Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)
 OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)
 Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)
 Management decision (1 point)
 Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)
 Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Reference Document

Rock Creek Recreational Trails EIS and ROD (1999, supplement dated 2006), Ballarat Trail Bridge and Restoration DM (2009), Rock Creek Recreational Trails Reroute and reconstruction EA and DN (2004), Off Highway Vehicle Mixed Use Re-Designation in the Rock Creek Recreational Trails Area DN (2006)

4. Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.

4. Measures to ensure success –The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful implementation 10

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each (Please select applicable values)

- Site monitoring to prevent additional damage
- Construction of barriers and other traffic control devices
- Use of native plants and materials
- Incorporation of universally recognized 'Best Management Practices'
- Educational signage
- Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area

Explain each item checked above:

Patrollers will regularly monitor these restored areas to assure that the barriers are in place and the closures are effective, that the signs are still in place, and that the restored areas have not been impacted by unauthorized OHV use. Dirt berms or barrier rocks will be installed to close off the restored trail segments and alternative trail opportunities will be signed and maintained to direct use away from the restored areas. The restored trail segments will be ripped or treated in other ways to break up the compacted soil and leaf litter and local top soil will be spread in places, which will provide a source of native seeds. Signs will be installed informing visitors that the area has been restored and that the area is closed in order that the area can recover.

5. Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.

5. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plans, route designation decisions) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- No (No points) Yes (5 points)

Identify plan

Multiple documents, including the Rock Creek Recreational Trails EIS and ROD (1999, supplement dated 2006), the Ballarat Trail Bridge and Restoration DM (2009), the Rock Creek Recreational Trails Reroute and Reconstruction EA and DN (2004), and the Off Highway Vehicle Mixed Use Re-Designation in the Rock Creek Recreational Trails Area DN (2006)

6. Primary Funding Source - Q 6.

6. Primary funding source for future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 0

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- Applicant's operational budget (5 points)
- Volunteer support and/or donations (3 points)
- Other Grant funding (2 points)
- OHV Trust Funds (No points)

If 'Operational budget' is checked, list reference document(s):

7. Public Input - Q 7.

7. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Numerous public meetings were held regarding the rock creek Recreational Trails EIS throughout the more than 10 year period that the EIS was in progress. Other public meetings have been held in regards to the other environmental analyses. Further insights from the public were shared during various Rock Creek Recreational Trails Collaborative Forum meetings which are meetings held that are open to the public.

A notice was posted on the Eldorado National Forest website homepage on March 2, 2009, notifying the public that the Forest was developing a grant application and that comments in regards to that application were requested.

On March 2, 2009, approximately 300 letters and 600 emails were also mailed to individuals and groups interested in OHV recreation on the Forest. These letters notified our OHV users that our preliminary application was available for review and that comments on the application were welcome.

We also notified the public about the grant applications at a public meeting on April 2, 2009.

8. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 8.

8. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 1

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 4 or more (4 points) 2 to 3 (2 points)
 1 (1 point) None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

California Enduro Riders Association

9. Scientific and Cultural Studies - Q 9.

9. Scientific and cultural studies will

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Determine appropriate Restoration techniques (2 points)
 Examine potential effects of OHV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)
 Examine methods to ensure success of Restoration efforts (1 point)
 Lead to direct management action (1 point)

Explain each item checked above

10. Underlying Problem - Q 10.

10. The underlying problem that resulted in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively addressed and resolved 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- No (No points) Yes (3 points)

Explain 'Yes' answer

The underlying problem associated with the segments of the 9-1, 9-3, NN13, 12N18Y, and 12N19Y trails are that these segments are located on ridgelines (very steep ridgelines in some cases) where adequate drainage cannot be provided and so unacceptable erosion is occurring. These trail segments are being rerouted to avoid this situation. These restored areas will have the berms broken down so that water is no longer concentrated along the trail segments and the compacted layers will be broken up so that water can infiltrate into the subsoil. The water crossing at 23-8 will be replaced with a bridge and the live water crossing will be restored. This will reduce the delivery of sediment and other contaminants into the tributary to Whaler Creek. The segment of 23-12 that is being replaced by allowing mixed use on Forest Road 12N82 will eliminate the need for 23-12 and will reduce future maintenance needs on this trail segment.

11. Size of sensitive habitats - Q 11.

11. Size of sensitive habitats (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) within the Project Area which will be restored 1

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- Greater than 10 acres (5 points)
- 1 – 10 acres (3 points)
- Less than 1 acre (1 points)
- No sensitive habitat within Project Area (No points)