

#### **A. Statement of Development Activity**

This development project involves approximately 8.9 miles of trail construction, 0.5 miles of trail reconstruction, construction of 3 bridges and installation of three prefabricated vault restrooms in the Rock Creek Trail System on the Georgetown Ranger District. The trail construction would involve 11 trail segments. The trail reconstruction would be performed on one trail. Nine of these trails are designated for motorcycle, mountain bike, equestrian and hiking use. Two of the trails are designated for all terrain vehicles, motorcycle, mountain bike, equestrian and hiking use. Four of these trails move traffic off of roads and puts people on trails. Five of the trail segments replace steep and poorly designed trails with trails that have a rolling gradient and design elements that would provide for lower maintenance costs in the future. One of the trail segments resolves unauthorized travel on private land. The last trail segment would access a new bridge to replace a hardened stream crossing. The Forest Service plans to prepare at least two trail construction contracts for approximately 7.7 miles. The Forest Service plans to construct approximately 1.2 miles of trail composed of the shorter trail segments with employees and volunteers.

This project includes the construction of the bridge for the lower Rock Creek Crossing along the 23-25 Trail (also known as the 1 Trail). This bridge is estimated to be 70 to 80 feet long. This bridge is estimated to cost approximately \$270,000 and be constructed with a metal superstructure. Currently, motorcycles cross the creek through a low water ford. There is also a 30 foot long bridge to construct crossing Canyon Creek for the 01 Trail. This bridge is estimated to cost approximately \$127,000 and consist of a metal superstructure. The third bridge is on the Ballarat Trail (5 Trail) and it would replace a temporary crossing constructed in 2006 after large storms destroyed the culvert crossing. It would be of wood construction and span approximately 20 feet. The Forest Service plans to contract the metal bridge construction. The Forest Service plans to construct the wooden bridge using its employees, volunteers and an inmate crew. The trails that access these bridges are designated for motorcycle, mountain bike, equestrian and hiking use.

This application would provide for the installation of two prefabricated vault toilet buildings at the Mace Mill Staging Area and one vault toilet at the Bald Mountain Staging Area. Currently, the Forest Service rents portable toilets as the rest room facilities at Mace Mill Staging Area. Up until, October 2008, a portable restroom was provided at the Bald Mountain Staging Area. In 2008, two portable toilets were destroyed by vandals. The septic company has refused to put another portable toilet at Bald Mountain Staging Area, because of the vandals have not been apprehended.

#### **B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation**

This development project will enhance OHV recreation by providing an additional 8.8 miles of OHV trails. These trails would replace sections of road that are used to connect the trail loops. A narrow section of trail designated for ATV use would be reconstructed to meet Forest Service standards for ATV trails. The construction of bridges in this project would remove the motorcycles from crossing perennial streams thereby reducing the potential for petroleum spills and sedimentation from the trail approaches to the stream crossings. This project will provide permanent restrooms to replace the portable restrooms that have been subject to loss and damage from vandalism.

#### **C. Size of the proposed development**

The 8.8 miles of trail construction and 0.5 miles of trail reconstruction would be added to the Rock Creek Trail System that has approximately 55 miles of multi-user trails and 50 miles of roads available for OHV recreation. This project includes the construction of 3 trail bridges. The Rock Creek Trail System currently has 7 trail bridges. This project provides 3 permanent vault toilets, (2 at Mace Mill Staging Area and 1 at Bald Mountain Staging Area). Currently, there are two portable restrooms at Mace Mill Staging Area and no portable toilets at Bald Mountain Staging Area.

#### **D. Timeline for Project Completion**

Attachments:

[Rock Creek Trail Development Timeline](#)

#### **E. Location and Description of OHV Opportunities**

There are OHV opportunities located on the Poho Ridge, Hunters Trail, Hales Crossing Trail and the Hell Hole 4 Wheel Drive Trail located on the Georgetown Ranger District. There are also OHV opportunities located on the Gold Note Trail System on the Amador Ranger District located about 26 miles to the southeast of the Rock Creek Trail. The Elkins Flat Trail System located approximately 28 miles southeast of the Rock Creek Trail System also provides off road motorcycle riding opportunities. The Sugar Pine OHV Trail System on the American River Ranger District also provides OHV opportunities and it is located approximately 18 air miles north of the Rock Creek Trail System. California State Parks operates the Mammoth Bar Auburn State Recreation Area for OHV recreation approximately 13 air miles west of the Rock Creek Trail System.

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**1. Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans**

Attachments:

[Vault toilet drawings](#)

**2. Land Tenure Certification**

**3. Project Specific Maps**

Attachments:

[Rock Creek Trails map 1 of 5](#)

[Rock Creek Trails map 2 of 5](#)

[Rock Creek Trails map 3 of 5](#)

[Rock Creek Trails map 4 of 5](#)

[Rock Creek Trails map 5 of 5](#)

**4. Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Attachments:

[Rock Creek Trails Photos](#)

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

6/2/2009

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<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	USFS - Eldorado National Forest		
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	Rock Creek Trail Development	<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	<p>This development project involves approximately 8.9 miles of trail construction, 0.5 miles of trail reconstruction, construction of 3 bridges and installation of three prefabricated vault restrooms in the Rock Creek Trail System on the Georgetown Ranger District. The trail construction would involve 11 trail segments. The trail reconstruction would be performed on one trail. Nine of these trails are designated for motorcycle, mountain bike, equestrian and hiking use. Two of the trails are designated for all terrain vehicles, motorcycle, mountain bike, equestrian and hiking use. Four of these trails move traffic off of roads and puts people on trails. Five of the trail segments replace steep and poorly designed trails with trails that have a rolling gradient and design elements that would provide for lower maintenance costs in the future. One of the trail segments resolves unauthorized travel on private land. The last trail segment would access a new bridge to replace a hardened stream crossing. The Forest Service plans to prepare at least two trail construction contracts for approximately 7.7 miles. The Forest Service plans to construct approximately 1.2 miles of trail composed of the shorter trail segments with employees and volunteers.</p> <p>This project includes the construction of the bridge for the lower Rock Creek Crossing along the 23-25 Trail (also known as the 1 Trail). This bridge is estimated to be 70 to 80 feet long. This bridge is estimated to cost approximately \$270,000 and be constructed with a metal superstructure. Currently, motorcycles cross the creek through a low water ford. There is also a 30 foot long bridge to construct crossing Canyon Creek for the 01 Trail. This bridge is estimated to cost approximately \$127,000 and consist of a metal superstructure. The third bridge is on the Ballarat Trail (5 Trail) and it would replace a temporary crossing constructed in 2006 after large storms destroyed the culvert crossing. It would be of wood construction and span approximately 20 feet. The Forest Service plans to contract the metal bridge construction. The Forest Service plans to construct the wooden bridge using its employees, volunteers and an inmate crew. The trails that access these bridges are designated for motorcycle, mountain bike, equestrian and hiking use.</p> <p>This application would provide for the installation of two prefabricated vault toilet buildings at the Mace Mill Staging Area and one vault toilet at the Bald Mountain Staging Area. Currently, the Forest Service rents portable toilets as the rest room facilities at Mace Mill Staging Area. Up until, October 2008, a portable restroom was provided at the Bald Mountain Staging Area. In 2008, two portable toilets were destroyed by vandals. The septic company has refused to put another portable toilet at Bald Mountain Staging Area, because of the vandals have not been apprehended.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
1	<b>Staff</b>						
	Other-Survey Crew	10.000	650.000	DAY	0.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
	Other-OHV Manager	20.000	214.000	DAY	3,166.00	1,114.00	4,280.00
	Other-Trails Specialist	70.000	324.000	DAY	10,897.00	11,783.00	22,680.00

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

6/2/2009

Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
Heavy Equipment Operator	5.000	288.000	DAY	691.00	749.00	1,440.00
Other-Volunteers	50.000	140.000	DAY	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Other-Recreation Technician	20.000	170.000	DAY	2,721.00	679.00	3,400.00
Other-Dist. Resource Officer	10.000	360.000	DAY	1,719.00	1,881.00	3,600.00
Other-Forest Recreation Officer	10.000	435.000	DAY	2,087.00	2,263.00	4,350.00
Other-Civil Engineer	5.000	361.770	DAY	362.00	1,447.00	1,809.00
Other-Landscape Architect	9.000	408.000	DAY	1,248.00	2,424.00	3,672.00
<b>Total for Staff</b>				22,891.00	35,840.00	58,731.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>					
Other-Trail Construction	7.700	28353.000	MI	104,794.00	113,524.00	218,318.00
Other-Trail Bridge Construction	1.000	397350.000	EA	190,728.00	206,622.00	397,350.00
Other-Prefabricated Vault Toilet Bldgs.	3.000	16000.000	EA	16,320.00	31,680.00	48,000.00
Other-CDF/CDC Inmate Crew	2.000	241.000	DAY	236.00	246.00	482.00
<b>Total for Contracts</b>				312,078.00	352,072.00	664,150.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>					
Other-Wooden Bridge Materials	1.000	6500.000	EA	3,185.00	3,315.00	6,500.00
Other-Signs	24.000	60.000	EA	640.00	800.00	1,440.00
<b>Total for Materials / Supplies</b>				3,825.00	4,115.00	7,940.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>					
Other-Vehicle mileage for pickup	3500.000	0.720	MI	1,210.00	1,310.00	2,520.00
Other-Pickup FOR	3.000	396.000	EA	0.00	1,188.00	1,188.00
Other-ATV FOR	2.000	170.000	MOS	0.00	340.00	340.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
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 Application: Rock Creek Trail Development

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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-ATV Fuel	10.000	2.700	EA	27.00	0.00	27.00
	Other-Mini-excavator/ Sweco Fuel & mtce	1.000	500.000	EA	240.00	260.00	500.00
	<b>Total for Equipment Use Expenses</b>				1,477.00	3,098.00	4,575.00
5	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
6	<b>Others</b>						
7	<b>Administrative Costs</b>						
	Administrative Costs-Payroll, etc.	1.000	4500.000	EA	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
	<b>Total Program Expenses</b>				340,271.00	399,625.00	739,896.00
	<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>				340,271.00	399,625.00	739,896.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				<b>340,271.00</b>	<b>399,625.00</b>	<b>739,896.00</b>

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

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	22,891.00	35,840.00	58,731.00	
2	Contracts	312,078.00	352,072.00	664,150.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	3,825.00	4,115.00	7,940.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	1,477.00	3,098.00	4,575.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		<b>340,271.00</b>	<b>399,625.00</b>	<b>739,896.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		<b>340,271.00</b>	<b>399,625.00</b>	<b>739,896.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>340,271.00</b>	<b>399,625.00</b>	<b>739,896.00</b>	

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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 will reduce sediment delivery to streams in the Rock Creek drainage, will eliminate motorcycles from traveling through live streams, and will provide for sanitation facilities at the most popular staging areas serving the Rock Creek Recreational Trails area. One of the key issues identified in the Rock Creek Recreational Trails FEIS was transportation of sediment into the adjacent water courses. A number of mitigation efforts were identified in the FEIS, and part of that mitigation included replacing or reconstructing segments of the existing trail system that were contributing sediment to the streams. This project includes approximately 4 miles of trails to be constructed or reconstructed to reduce sediment delivery to streams (trail 016, 018, 020, 9-1, 9-3 and 12NY19 as shown on Map 1). The three bridges proposed in this project will reduce sediment delivery into streams from the trail approaches to the streams, and will reduce the potential for petroleum fluids entering the streams from motorcycles traveling through the water. In the past, motorcycles have fallen over while crossing some of these streams, leaking gasoline and other petroleum products.

The project would contribute to the reduction of sediment delivery from stream crossing 19.22 tons per year compared to 40.13 tons per year for the no action alternative for direct effects. 52 percent of the sediment delivered to stream channels is produced from crossings on private land. The sediment delivery from roads and trails is 248 tons per year for indirect effects. Based upon field observations and water quality monitoring data (located in the project file), the increase in the suspended sediment and turbidity will not cause a nuisance or adversely affect beneficial uses of water and the stream power increase would not accelerate in-channel erosion to a level that would result in an increase in risk of adversely altering channel banks and channel substrate.

(Refer to page 4-34 and 4-35 of the Rock Creek Recreational Trail Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement.)

The Biological Evaluation for the Rock Creek Recreational Trail Environmental Impact Statement determined that implementation of this project may affect individuals but would not likely result in a trend towards federal listing for the California spotted owl and northern goshawk. (See page 4-90 for the Rock Creek Recreational Trails RDEIS).

The potential effects to the California red-legged frog from the project include crushing of individuals from motor vehicles and loss of individuals and habitat from sedimentation. The risk of crushing the red-legged frog is low, because the acres of road and trail within potentially suitable habitat is very low and wet weather closures reduce traffic during the wet season dispersal period for the frog. The Biological Assessment dated March 5, 1997 determined that the preferred alternative (Alternative 6) may affect but not likely to adversely affect the California red-legged frog. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion concurring with this finding on March 27, 1997. (See page 4-98 & 4-99, Rock Creek RDEIS)

The Biological Evaluation and Assessment for the Rock Creek Trail Reroute and Reconstruction Project for wildlife determined that the construction and reconstruction of trails may affect individuals but not be likely to cause a trend toward listing or loss of viability for the pallid bat, northwestern pond turtle and foothill yellow-legged frog. The Biological Evaluation and Assessment for wildlife finds that there would be no adverse effect on threatened, endangered and Region 5 sensitive species. (Refer to page 8 of the Environmental Assessment for Rock Creek Trail Reroutes and Reconstruction, March 2004).

The Rock Creek Trail Reroute and Reconstruction project that involves the construction of several of the project trails will have no effect on proposed, threatened, endangered or Region 5 sensitive species occurring on the Eldorado National Forest (Refer to page 11 of the Rock Creek Trail Reroutes Environmental Assessment).

The reduction of road and trail mileage for this project (22 percent of Alternative 1) would result in an increase in undisturbed sensitive plant habitat. However, the risk of introducing non-native seed on the remaining routes would increase as a result of substantially increased recreation use. The biological analysis for sensitive plants determined that there would be no direct effect on the habitat of Pleasant Valley mariposa due to the absence of this plant along routes. (Refer to page 4-56 of the Rock Creek Recreational Trail RDEIS)

#### **ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project**

A cumulative watershed analysis was conducted for the Rock Creek Recreational Trails area. The analysis divided the Rock Creek Recreational Trails area into 16 watersheds. Using equivalent roaded acres as the unit of measure for the cumulative watershed effect, there was a net decrease of equivalent roaded acres in 13 of the watersheds. Two of the watersheds showed no change in the equivalent roaded acres and one watershed showed a net increase in the equivalent roaded acres. Even though there was one watershed that showed an increase, it was regarded as a minor change because it was less than 0.1% of the equivalent roaded acres. (See pages 4-35 to 4-46 of the Rock Creek Recreational Trails RDEIS)

The cumulative effects to California spotted owl and northern goshawk and their habitat were determined to be negligible. Projects such as timber harvest, fuelbreak construction and silvicultural treatment were included in the cumulative effects analysis. Trails and roads designated for recreational use would combine to retain a low to moderate habitat rating for the goshawk. Due to the reduction of conifers, the loss of cover may increase the disturbance factor for the goshawk. (See pages 4-76 & 77 and 4-90 & 91 of the Rock Creek Recreational Trails RDEIS)

The cumulative effects of fuel break maintenance, thinning and timber harvest to the northwestern pond turtle may initially provide minimal impacts to wintering habitat. If sufficient cover is removed by these activities, the turtle could be more vulnerable to collection while migrating to and from wintering sites. Other ongoing activities may provide a threat to the turtle, but this is considered minor. The risk may be lower with this project, because there is decreased access to the area compared to Alternative 1. (See pages 4-77 and 4-99 of the Rock Creek Recreational Trails RDEIS).

For the Rock Creek Trail Reroutes and Reconstruction project, a determination was made that there are no cumulative effects to California red-legged frog, California spotted owl, northern goshawk, Pacific fisher and foothill yellow-legged frog. This project is not expected to contribute to cumulative effects to the pallid bat in the Rock Creek Trail Reroute project area. There may be some cumulative effects to the northwestern pond turtle due to disturbance. Since the proposed activities under this project improve aquatic habitat, cumulative effects from incidental mortality of northwestern pond turtles would likely be low.

This project is expected to reduce the potential for adverse cumulative watershed effects in spite of the new disturbance proposed, since most of the trail reroutes are designed to improve drainage and reduce erosion and sedimentation. (See page 11 of the Rock Creek Trail Reroutes and Reconstruction Environmental Assessment)

A sound analysis was conducted for the Rock Creek Recreational Trails. This analysis determined that OHV sounds may reach objectionable levels at an estimated 29 homes, when there are no winds. The cumulative effects of project would be the impact of OHV sounds combined with other sounds that may occur in the area, such as equipment used for trail construction, trail maintenance, logging, mastication of vegetation, aircraft, chainsaws, other motor vehicles, dredges, firearms and generators. The effect of these sounds would be decrease the expectations of a primitive experience free from intrusive sounds. (Refer to page 4-164 of the Rock Creek Recreational Trails RDEIS)

The traffic associated with recreation use of the trails will remain a small percentage of the overall traffic in all alternatives. Even if all other uses of the roads remained constant, the projected traffic associated with travel to the trails would account for only 0.3 to 1.1 percent of the total traffic on the Wentworth Springs Road. (See page 4-174 of Rock Creek RDEIS)

The implementation of Alternative 6 is not expected to substantially add to cumulative effects on the Pacific Deer herd because 1) forage habitat is improving, 2) change in area of increased risk of disturbance by opening the northern portion of the critical deer winter range is a small percentage of the total and further reduced by wet weather trail closures, 3) there is no clear evidence that disturbance results in lowered reproductive rates or survivorship and 4) the Pacific Deer Herd appears to be of sufficient size and distribution to be maintained across its range. (See page 45 of Final Rock Creek Recreational Trails Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, 2006)

#### **ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts**

The erosion hazard rating was calculated for the Rock Creek Recreational Trails area. The erosion hazard rating is an assessment of risk of sheet and rill erosion. The maximum erosion hazard ratings are for soils with no cover. The ratings are for comparative purposes only and do not reflect existing conditions or conditions of tread segments themselves. Nearly half of the Rock Creek Area has a moderate maximum erosion hazard rating. This is noteworthy, considering that much of the area is steep, than many of the soils range from shallow to moderately deep, and that the erosion hazard rating assumes no soil cover. Soils in the area are relatively resistant to erosion, partly because they contain high amounts of iron oxides and organic matter, both which promote strong surface aggregation. The soils also have a high surface gravel content, which provides some protection from raindrop impact.

There were 4.18 miles (6 percent) of OHV trails with a very high erosion hazard rating. The erosion hazard rating showed 22.45 miles (32 percent) of OHV trails with a high erosion hazard rating. The erosion hazard rating showed 42.22 miles (61 percent) with a moderate erosion hazard rating. 0.35 miles of the OHV trails was not rated.

In 1994, a field assessment of critical trail segments was made. Trail segments at stream crossings, in riparian influence areas and on steep gradients were evaluated. The results of the analysis are summarized on page 4-6 of the Rock Creek Recreational Trails RDEIS. Steep trail segments were stable or had slightly eroding treads on about two-thirds of the segments observed. Over three-fourths of these trail segments needed moderate to heavy repairs, primarily to repair drainage structures. Heavy repairs needed mostly in hardening trail beds.

The risk of damage from off-trail use is low and the area affected would be very limited. The risk may be somewhat higher with this project due to the increased recreation use. The risk may be increased locally for a short period of time in the vicinity of vegetation treatments. In coordination with the law enforcement project and the ground operations project, regular patrols and periodic monitoring would help prevent off-trail use, or more quickly identify where it is occurring so that action can be taken to prevent off trail use. (See page 4-12 of the Rock Creek Recreational Trails RDEIS).

Approximately 36 acres are dedicated to recreation uses under this project. This includes 7.5 acres of newly constructed trail and 2.5 acres of staging area construction.

Sediment yield in this alternative would be approximately 431 tons per year from trails. This is the third lowest sediment yield in all alternatives and is 41 percent lower than the existing conditions. (Refer to page 4-13 of the Rock Creek Recreational Trails RDEIS).

This project has very limited cumulative effects to soils when considered in combination with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable activities. Other activities in the area, which have dedicated land to uses other than growing vegetation include roads, communication sites and residential development on private land. Combined, these are a minor component of the 23,612 acres of the analysis area. (See page 4-14 of the Rock Creek RDEIS).

**ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources**

This project will not have any potential damage to scenic resources within the viewshed of a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. The project area does not contain a state scenic highway nor is not located in the viewshed of 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)? (Please select Yes or No)  Yes  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 significant indirect impacts. Mountain bike riders would see some improvements in their recreation opportunity due to the reduction in the size of the winter range seasonal closure. The effects to hikers and those who prefer a non-motorized recreation experience would be similar to those under Alternative 3, namely they would be impacted the most. Although trails in the Crosier Loop area would be non-motorized from November 10 to May 1, there is little hiking use in that area. The seasonal closure would most likely benefit hikers and equestrians in the Swansboro area who prefer a non-motorized experience.

Future increased demand for trail recreation could be met with this project. Contacts would likely increase in the future as population growth leads to both increased trail use and general use of the forest. Additional residents on adjacent private land may be affected by OHV sounds as residential development continues. Some people have indicated the trail opportunities in the Rock Creek area were one of the influences of the decision to move to the area. This opportunity could continue in the future, but it is not seen as a significant growth inducing factor. (See pages 4-216 and 4-17 in the Rock Creek RDEIS)

Equestrians would be able to ride the trails to be constructed by this project.

The Alternative 6 (includes this project) is expected increase the use levels of the project site when compared to Alternative 1 (existing conditions). (See page 4-137 of the Rock Creek Recreational Trails RDEIS)

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

Attachments:

- [2004 Rock Creek reroute EA](#)
- [2004 Rock Creek reroute DN](#)
- [2009 Ballarat Trail Bridge DM](#)
- [2006 Rock Creek SEIS & ROD](#)
- [Additional environmental document 1999 EIS](#)

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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 5

(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 2a., 2b., & 2c.**

**2. Natural and Cultural Resources**

- a. Natural and Cultural Resources: Species 2

Enter the number of special-status species that are known to occur in the Project Area

Number of special-status species 10

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

- No special-status species occur in Project Area (5 points)  
 One to five special-status species occur in Project area (3 points)  
 Six to ten special-status species in Project area (2 points)  
 More than ten special-status species occur in Project area (No points)

**b. Habitat**

- b. Natural and Cultural Resources: Habitat 2

Potential Effects on special-status species habitat (Check the one most appropriate)

Special-status species habitat is known to occur in the Project Area (if YES, enter number of species).. (Please select Yes or No)  Yes  No

Habitat for special-status species known to occur in Project Area (enter number of species) 10

Reference Document

Rock Creek Recreational Trails Supplemental (2006) and Final (1999) Environmental Impact Statement. Eldorado Habitat Management Plan (2006), Environmental Assessment for Rock Creek Trail Reroutes and Reconstruction (2004)

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

- No special-status species habitat is known to occur in the Project area (5 points)  
 Habitat for one to five special-status species is known to occur in Project area (3 points)  
 Habitat for six to ten special-status species is known to occur in Project area (2 points)  
 Habitat for more than ten special-status species is known to occur in Project area (No points)

**c. Cultural Resources**

- c. Cultural Resources 3

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

- Project would provide additional protection to cultural sites (5 points)

- Project area has no known cultural sites (4 points)
- Identified cultural sites in the Project area will not be affected (3 points)
- Project impacts to cultural sites will be mitigated (No points)
- Project has unavoidable detrimental impacts to cultural resources (No points, Project application will be returned to Applicant without further consideration)

Reference Document

Archaeological Reconnaissance Report No. R-2004-0503-3-0014, Rock Creek Trail Reconstruction, Rock Creek Recreational Trails Supplemental (2006) and Final (1999) Environmental Impact Statement, Environmental Assessment for Rock Creek Trail Reroutes and Reconstruction.

**3 Diversified Use - Q 3.**

3. The Project is designed to provide for diversified use 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ATV  | <input type="checkbox"/> 4X4                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M.C. | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Utility Vehicle (RUV) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowmobile      | <input type="checkbox"/> Dune buggy, rail                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |   |

Describe the nature of the facilities for each item checked above:

Two of the trails to be constructed are designated for ATV and motorcycle use. One of the trails to be reconstructed is for ATV and motorcycle use. The other 9 trails are designated for motorcycles and will be single track trails.

**4 Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 4.**

4. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan that supports the need for the Project? 5

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

- No (No points)  Yes (5 points)

Identify plan

Rock Creek Recreational Trails Supplemental (2006) and Final (1999) Environmental Impact Statement. Environmental Assessment for the Rock Creek Trail Reroutes and Reconstruction (2004).

**5 Recycled Materials - Q 5.**

5. The Project makes substantial use of recycled content building materials such as 5

- Materials diverted from landfills
- Recycled plastic lumber
- Fly ash content concrete

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

- No (No points)  Yes (5 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Recycled plastic lumber and fly ash content concrete would be used for the bridge construction. Paving blocks would be recycled from the temporary stream crossing for the Ballarat Trail and used to harden the trail tread for the wooden bridge approaches for the Ballarat Trail and other locations. Trail signs and markers made from recycled plastic would be utilized for the new trails. The steel bridges would have components that are manufactured 95-100% recycled steel.

**6 Sustainable Technologies - Q 6.**

6. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as: 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Repaving with permeable asphalt
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Practices that meet U.S. Green Building Council LEED Silver standard
- Water efficient landscaping
- Low-flow plumbing fixtures
- Utilizing local building materials

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

No (No points)

Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Water conservation is an important component of the sustainable technology being used in this project. All of the landscaping at the Rock Creek Trail System is naturally occurring with no artificial watering. The toilet buildings to be installed are vault toilets, so they do not require water for operation other than a small amount of water to facilitate pumping of the waste. Any paints, stains or sealants would be made from low volatile organic compound emission materials for the bridges and signs.

**7 Sustain Existing OHV Recreation - Q 7.**

7. The Project is designed to sustain existing OHV Recreation 3

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

Project directly improves or sustains existing OHV Opportunity (3 points)

Project improves support facilities associated with existing OHV Opportunity (2 points)

Project involves construction of a facility associated with new OHV Opportunity (No points)

**8 Motorized Access - Q 8.**

8. The Project improves facilities that provide motorized access to the following nonmotorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

Camping

Birding

Hiking

Equestrian trails

Fishing

Rock Climbing

Other (Specify)

**9 Public Input - Q 9.**

9. 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

The project was developed with public input employing the following:  
Meetings with the general public to discuss project. The Rock Creek Recreational Trails Environmental Impact Statement had meetings to discuss the project. There have been numerous meetings with the Rock Creek Collaborative Forum (stakeholders) to discuss the implementation of the Record of Decision for the Rock Creek Recreational Trails.

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

**10 Utilization of Partnerships - Q 10.**

10. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(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, Trail Bike Sportsmen Association, Sierra Trail Dogs, Friends of the Eldorado, Leo Vince Corporation, District 36 Motorcycle Sports Committee

**11 Primary Funding Source - Q 11.**

11. 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):

**12 Offsite Impacts - Q 12.**

12. Offsite impacts relative to the Project Area (e.g., sound, fugitive dust, runoff) have been addressed: 4

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

- No (No points)       Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

The Rock Creek Recreational Trails Supplemental (2006) and Final (1999) Environmental Impact Statements address sound, fugitive dust, runoff and sedimentation effects to the Project Area with mitigation and management requirements. The plans specify a 0.50 mile buffer to reduce sound effects for existing residences around OHV routes. Dust abatement is required at the staging area for recreation events if soil conditions are dry. A wet weather and snow trail closure criteria are in place to reduce soil erosion and trail damage effects.

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**13 Riparian/Wetland Issues - Q 13.**

13. Does the Project Area contain Riparian/Wetland issues? 0

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

No (10 points)

Yes (if yes - respond to item below)

The Project utilizes the following techniques to prevent damage to, or restore Riparian/Wetland areas

6

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

Re-routes to divert trails away from Riparian/Wetlands areas (2 points)

Well documented evaluation and monitoring strategies (list reference document) (2 points)

Provide bridges instead of wet crossings (2 points)

Provide sanitary facilities (2 points)

Restrict public vehicular access in Riparian/Wetland areas by placing physical barriers (e.g., gates, fences, bollard, boulders) (2 points)

Reference Document

Rock Creek Recreational Trails Supplemental (2006) and Final Environmental Impact Statements