



Eldorado National Forest

*Carson Pass
Resource and Habitat Protection
and Restoration Grant*

*Project Report
FY 2006*

Amador Ranger District



Abstract

The 2006 Resource and Habitat Restoration Grant for the Carson Pass REA project provided funding for an additional Wilderness Ranger, Jon Erickson. Under the supervision of the Amador Ranger District Lead Wilderness Ranger, Sean McGinnis, Jon provided rewarding and challenging projects for our volunteer partners working in the Carson Pass Management Area (CPMA) of the Mokelumne Wilderness. Completed projects included technical trail repair, campsite restoration and resource protection.

The 2006 FDAS Resource and Habitat Restoration grant played an important part in providing safe and durable trails to USFS standards for the public hiking in the CPMA. The trails targeted for repair and rehabilitation in 2006 were located at elevations above 8000' where heavy snow melt runoff and steep terrain require diligent erosion control and maintenance. There is only limited trail maintenance funding currently made available to the Eldorado National Forest, consequently the recreation fee program and this FDAS grant enabled additional trail maintenance and site rehabilitation work to take place.

This FDAS grant also enabled on-going campsite restoration and campsite removal within the CPMA. The existing inventory of designated sites were restored, and new user-built campsites were removed and naturalized.

This report chronicles the partnerships and contributions of our volunteer organizations through the display of before and after photographs of funded project work.



Project Report

Winnemucca Lake Trail

The Winnemucca Lake Trail starts from the Woods Lake Trailhead. This trail climbs gradually at first, and then steeply climbs two miles to Winnemucca Lake. It is heavily used by hikers as well as equestrians due to its close proximity to the Woods Lake Campground and Woods Lake Picnic Area. Upper sections of this trail have gradually eroded over time due to a lack of natural drainage and only few maintained rock water bars and rock steps.

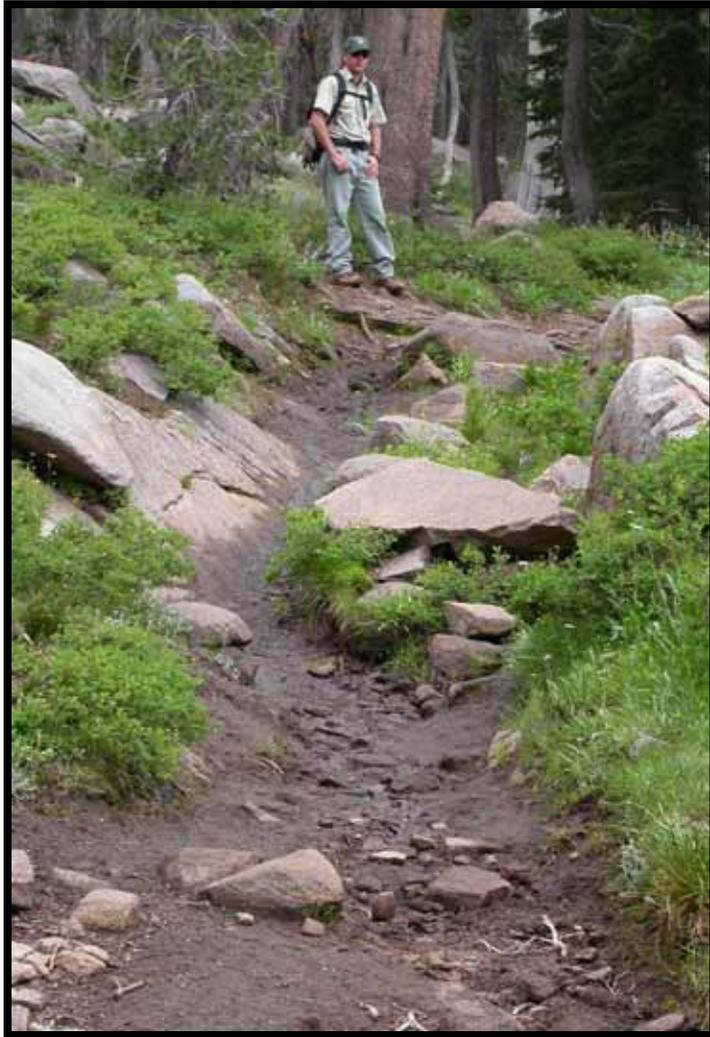
Sections of this trail requiring immediate attention were identified, both outside of the Wilderness boundary and inside the Mokelumne Wilderness, and work was prescribed and completed. A Honda Power carrier was used to transport rock steps and gravel fill outside the wilderness. Two tons of gravel fill was quarried and moved by four llamas, provided by Rudy Stauffer of *Crystal Springs Llama*, from locations outside the Wilderness boundary to work sites within the Mokelumne Wilderness.

Dan Quayle and Bill Smith, members of the *Mokelumne Wilderness Volunteers*, assisted in the loading and unloading of gravel and completed trail reconstruction and restoration assignments.

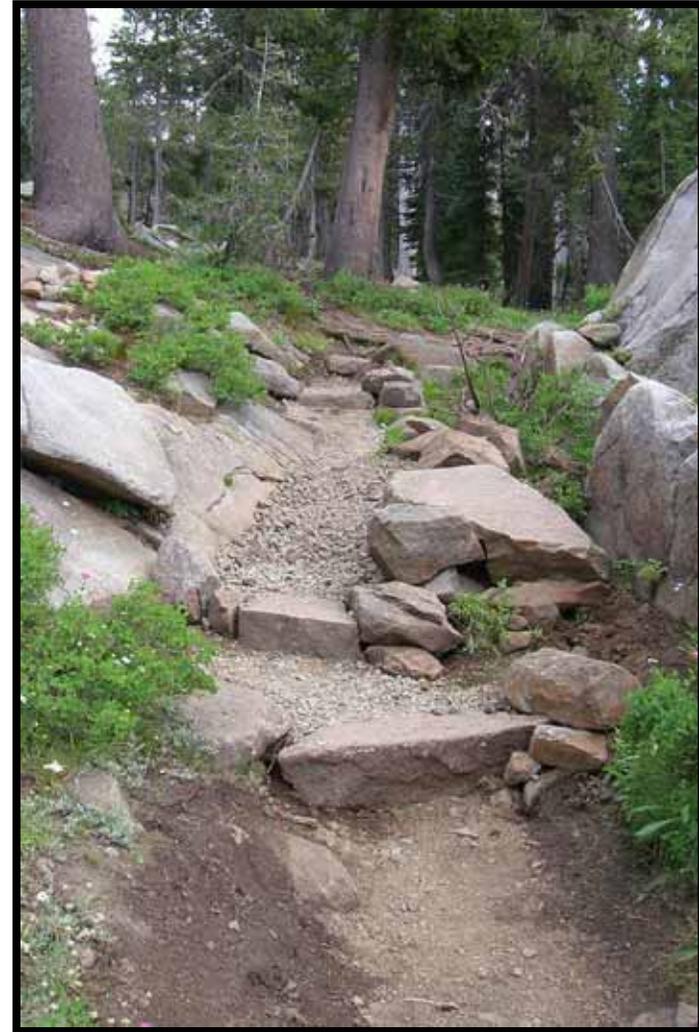
Students from the *Webber Institute* of Stockton, California camped in the Woods Lake Campground and enthusiastically participated in our trail reconstruction and restoration project, providing much needed trailhead clean-up.



Step Construction: *Winnemucca Lake Trail*
Volunteer Partners: *Mokelumne Wilderness Volunteers*



Before



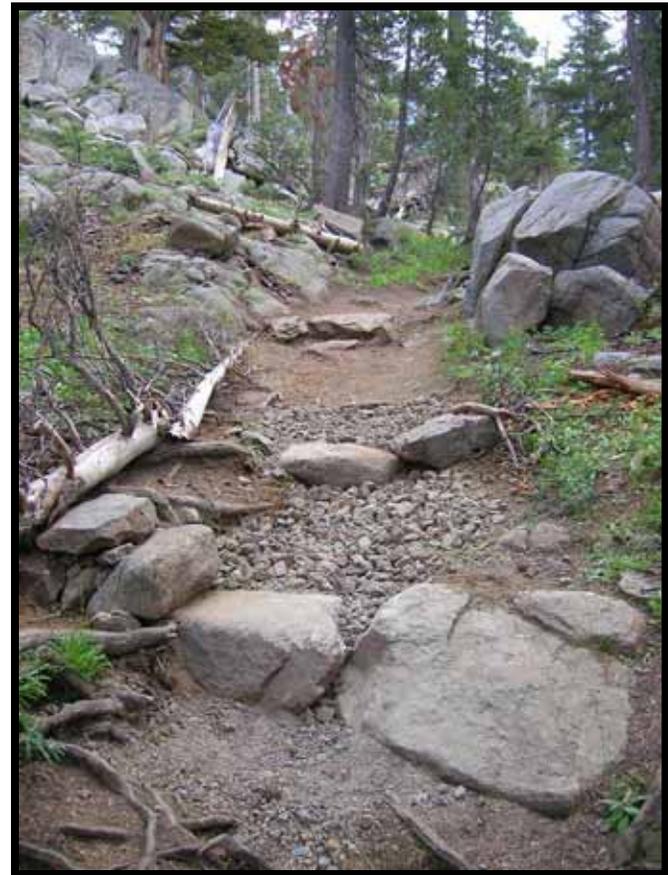
After



Before

Tread Rehabilitation:
Winnemucca Lake Trail

Volunteer Partner:
Mokelumne Wilderness Volunteers



After



Braided Trail Blockage:
Winnemucca Lake Trail

Volunteer Partner:
Webber Institute



Before



After



Trail Tread Repair:
Winnemucca Lake Trail

Volunteer Partner:
Webber Institute





Webber Institute Volunteers



Thank You for your hard work!



Additional Resource & Habitat Protection & Restoration Work in the Carson Pass Management Area

Jon Erickson, Wilderness Ranger hired thru FDAS funding, contacted hundreds of Wilderness visitors during the course of his project management and volunteer supervisory duties. Topics covered included backcountry ethics (Leave No Trace), campsite selection, wilderness regulations, natural history and the importance of Recreation Fee funding. Jon's efforts were crucial in the on-going implementation of the Mokelumne Wilderness Management Plan. He removed thirty illegal campfire rings and restored fifteen designated campsites within the Carson Pass Management Area (CPMA).

Rudy Stauffer, of Gold Country Llamas of El Dorado County, provided 4 llamas in support of the removal of two hundred pounds of barbed wire from a pristine meadow adjacent to Round Top Lake. The wire was cut and folded into manageable sections by members of the Mokelumne Wilderness Volunteers and then safely packaged, packed out and then disposed.

At the Carson Pass Visitor Center, Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association (ENFIA) volunteers disseminated information about the management of the Mokelumne Wilderness and counseled thousands of visitors on leave no trace practices and Wilderness ethics. Jon Erickson was an important point-contact in assisting the ENFIA volunteers with up-to-date information about the CPMA.



Barbed wire removal: *Round Top Lake*
Volunteer partner: *Crystal Springs Llamas*



Jon Erickson, Wilderness Ranger

Assisted by Jeff Weaver, Volunteer



Before

**Campfire Ring Removal &
Site Restoration:**
*Carson Pass Management Area:
(Frog, Winnemucca, Round Top
& Fourth of July Lake basins)*



After



Project Promotion

Posters displayed at the Carson Pass Parking Lot and at the Winnemucca and Woods Lake Trailheads highlighted how Recreation Fee contributions funded our restoration efforts.

Daily public contacts by members of the Eldorado N.F. Interpretative Association (ENFIA), Mokelumne Wilderness Volunteers (MWV), and District Wilderness personnel conveyed the significance and importance of this Recreation Fee funding.





Signing

Trail and Campsite Restoration Projects

*In the Carson Pass Management Area
Of The Mokelumne Wilderness*

***Are Funded In Part
By Your Recreation Fees!***

**For More Information:
Contact the Amador Ranger District
(209) 295-4251**

Before



After



Displayed Poster



Achievements

The Carson Pass and Woods Lake Trailheads, located off of Highway 88 on the Amador Ranger District, provide access to several popular trails leading into the Carson Pass Management Area (CPMA) of the Mokelumne Wilderness. The high level of visitor use, sometimes over 300 visitors per day during summer months, puts tremendous pressure on this valuable resource. The CPMA is intensively managed to reduce human related impacts. Overnight camping is only permitted at designed campsites, and campfires are not allowed.

The recreation fees collected at these two trailheads are used to help fund, in part, Wilderness Ranger patrols and management activity. In association with our volunteer partners, the 2006 FDAS Resource and Habitat Protection Grant awarded to the Amador R.D. enabled the following achievements:

Sixteen rock steps constructed; one rock water bar constructed; thirty campfire rings removed; fifteen campsites restored; 200 lbs of barbed wire removed; two trailhead informational signs repaired; twenty five miles of trails cleared of downfall and hazards in the CPMA with supplemental maintenance of erosion control structures; and over 300 volunteer partnership person-days logged!

Report Prepared By: Jon Erickson, FDAS Wilderness Ranger



External Contributions

Volunteer Organization	# of Person Days	Contribution Description
Eldorado N.F. Interpretive Association (ENFIA)	300	Resource Protection & Interpretation (Round Top Botanical Area), Wilderness Education, Designated Campsite Reservations (CPMA)
Mokelumne Wilderness Volunteers (MWV)	30	Public Contact, Habitat Restoration, Trail Repair & Maintenance, Resource Protection
Webber Institute Of Stockton	22	Trail Repair & Trailhead Clean-up (Winnemucca Lake Trail/Woods Lake Trailhead)
Gold Country Llamas	5	Resource protection (Barbed Wire Removal), Trail Reconstruction (Gravel transport)