# Beckwourth-Crocker Multi-Purpose Trails Project

## Project Description and Location

The Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth Ranger District has been coordinating with Federal Highways Administration for the past several years in their efforts to realign and pave the section of the Beckwourth-Genesee Road (Forest Highway 177) between the town of Beckwourth and Red Clover Valley (Figure 1). Once the remaining gravel portion is paved, it will no longer be legal for Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use and OHV users at Crocker Campground will no longer have access to Red Clover Valley or Dotta Canyon. As part of an agreement with Federal Highways and Plumas County, the Forest has committed to analyzing a proposal to provide alternate access that can be used by OHV users, bicyclists, hikers, and equestrians. In the Plumas National Forest Travel Management decision this area has been identified as a hub of increased demand for suitable recreation facilities. In addition, this proposal responds to the goals and objectives outlined in the 1988 Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), page 4-24.

The proposed actions are part of a broader resource management program, under the authority of the 1988 Plumas National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), as amended by the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) SEIS and ROD (USFS PNF 1988, USFS PSW 2004).

The project is located approximately 11 miles north of Beckwourth, California, and about 3 miles east-of Lake Davis. Trail analysis would occur within all or portions of T23N and T24N, R14E, Sections 33, 32, 31, 30, 29, 25, 19, 20, 23, 14, 15 and 9, Mt. Diablo Base Meridian.

## Purpose and Need

The District is proposing to develop a multi-purpose trail connecting the Crocker Campground with Red Clover Valley. The trail system identified would be a safe network designed for the OHV traveler and would be capable of accommodating multiple user groups (hikers, non-motorized cyclists, and equestrians). The purpose of the Crocker Multi-Purpose Project is to provide alternate access from the Beckwourth-Genesee Road to Red Clover Valley. The current road is scheduled to be paved which will eliminate the current use by OHVs. This Multi-Purpose Trail would also provide access from Crocker Campground to northern portions of the District which are currently inaccessible to OHV use. This trail would consider safety, aesthetic, and resource concerns while improving the quality and availability of recreation opportunities. In addition, a staging area located off highway 177 at the intersection of Forest Road 24N23 would provide access to Dotta Canyon.

## Proposed Action

The Proposed Action was designed to meet the Purpose and Need discussed above.

In addition to project specific design features, standard operating procedures (SOPs) would be implemented. SOPs represent standard mitigations intended to minimize potential for adverse resource effects.

There are two alternatives being proposed:

* Alternative 1 – the trail would begin at Crocker Campground, utilizing an existing skid trail on the west side of Crocker Guard Station to Forest Road 24N49Y, then connecting to Forest Road 24N64X (quarry road) to the Beckwourth-Genesee/Red Clover Valley intersection (Crocker Mountain Quadrangle # 33). This route would need route definition and safety upgrades (Figure 1).
* Alternative 2 – the trail would begin at the Crocker Campground, utilizing the existing skid trail on the west side of Crocker Guard Station of Forest Road 24N49Y to the top of Crocker Mountain. On Turner Ridge 0.2 miles of new trail would tie into 0.2 miles of existing skid trail and Forest Road 24N53YA, across Turner Ridge on the Lake Davis side to County Road 112, and continue to Bagley Pass Road. This trail would provide a unique opportunity for the OHV traveler by opening up a relatively unexplored slope of Crocker Mountain. The trail would also meet the need to connect the Crocker Campground to Red Clover Valley and Dotta Canyon (Crocker Mountain #33, Grizzly Valley #32 quadrangles). There are short segments of new trails that would be constructed to complete the route (Figure 1).

Under both alternatives a staging area would be constructed at the intersection of Forest Highway 177 and Forest Road 24N23.

## Project Schedule

The Responsible Official expects to make a decision on this project as early as Spring of 2014.

## Decision to be Made

The Responsible Official for this project will be the Beckwourth District Ranger. The Responsible Official will decide whether to implement one of the alternatives in this proposal, implement an alternative as stated in the Proposed Action, as modified by an alternative, or to not implement the project at this time.