

Memorandum

For the Administrative Practices Committee of March 3, 2015

TO: Administrative Practices Committee
FROM: Peggy Davidson
DATE: February 24, 2015
SUBJECT: Scotts Flat Lake - Recreation Trails Proposal Phase II

RECREATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Hear report on the proposed phase II of the Scotts Flat Trail.

BACKGROUND:

The Forest Trails Alliance, led by Zach Anderson, constructed the Scotts Flat Trail from Highway 20 in Nevada City to the Scotts Flat Campground which is about 4.5 miles. The group worked with about 75 volunteers and built not only the trail but built a Stone Arch Bridge (at the boat launch parking area) and provided a few benches at different look out locations. When the trail was complete the District and Forest Trails Alliance signed an Adopt-A-Trail Program for continuous maintenance of the trail.

A presentation was provided to the MR&R Committee on February 24, 2015 for Phase II of the Scotts Flat Trail, and a presentation will be made to the Board of Directors on March 25.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

It has been requested that the District to take care of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process that will be required for the new trail. Staff will provide additional information at the meeting on the ability to do the CEQA, and a budget will be provided.

Attachments (1):

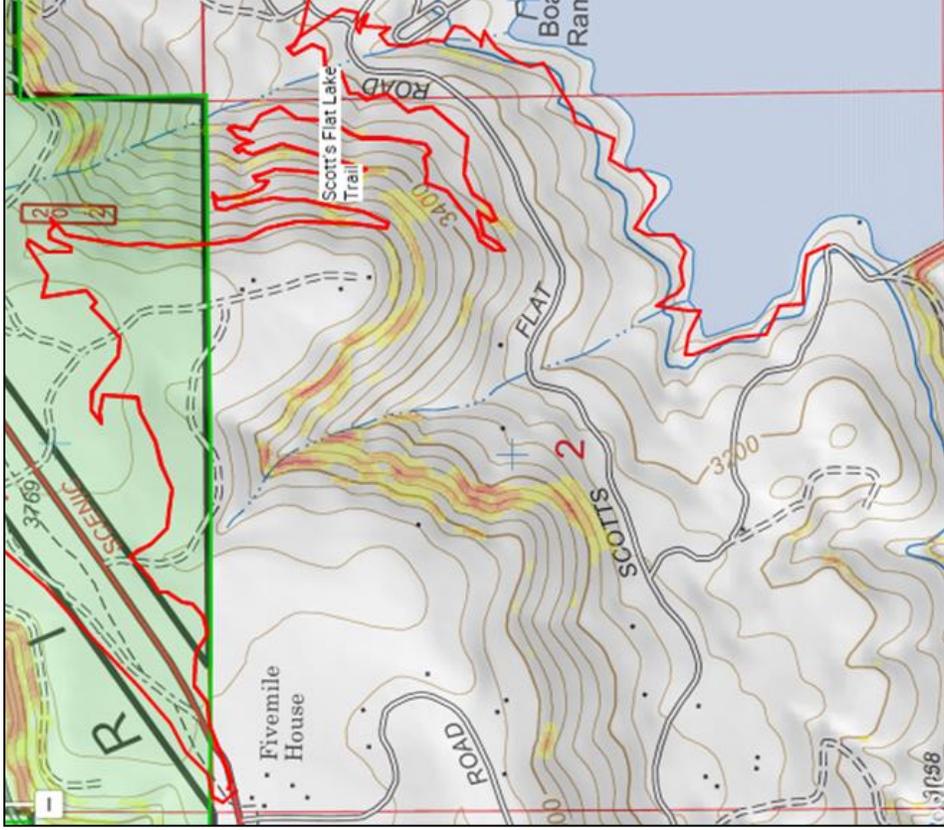
- The Scotts Flat Lake Recreation Trails Proposal Phase II

Scotts Flat Lake Recreation Trails Proposal Phase II

A collaborative effort between Nevada Irrigation District and
Forest Trails Alliance



Phase I- Summary



- Constructed 4.5 mile trail to replace unsustainable illegal trail
- Phase I effort valued at \$130,000
- Old Trail: 0.75 miles and grades up to 25%
- New Trail: 4.5 miles and average grade below 5%
- New trail provides critical linkage to 20-mile Pioneer Trail
- New trail has estimated usage of 200 people per weekend (volunteer count)
- 75 volunteers on construction crew
- Project effort created group of stewards who have been maintaining trail
- Stone Arch Bridge and rest benches have served as attraction and highlight

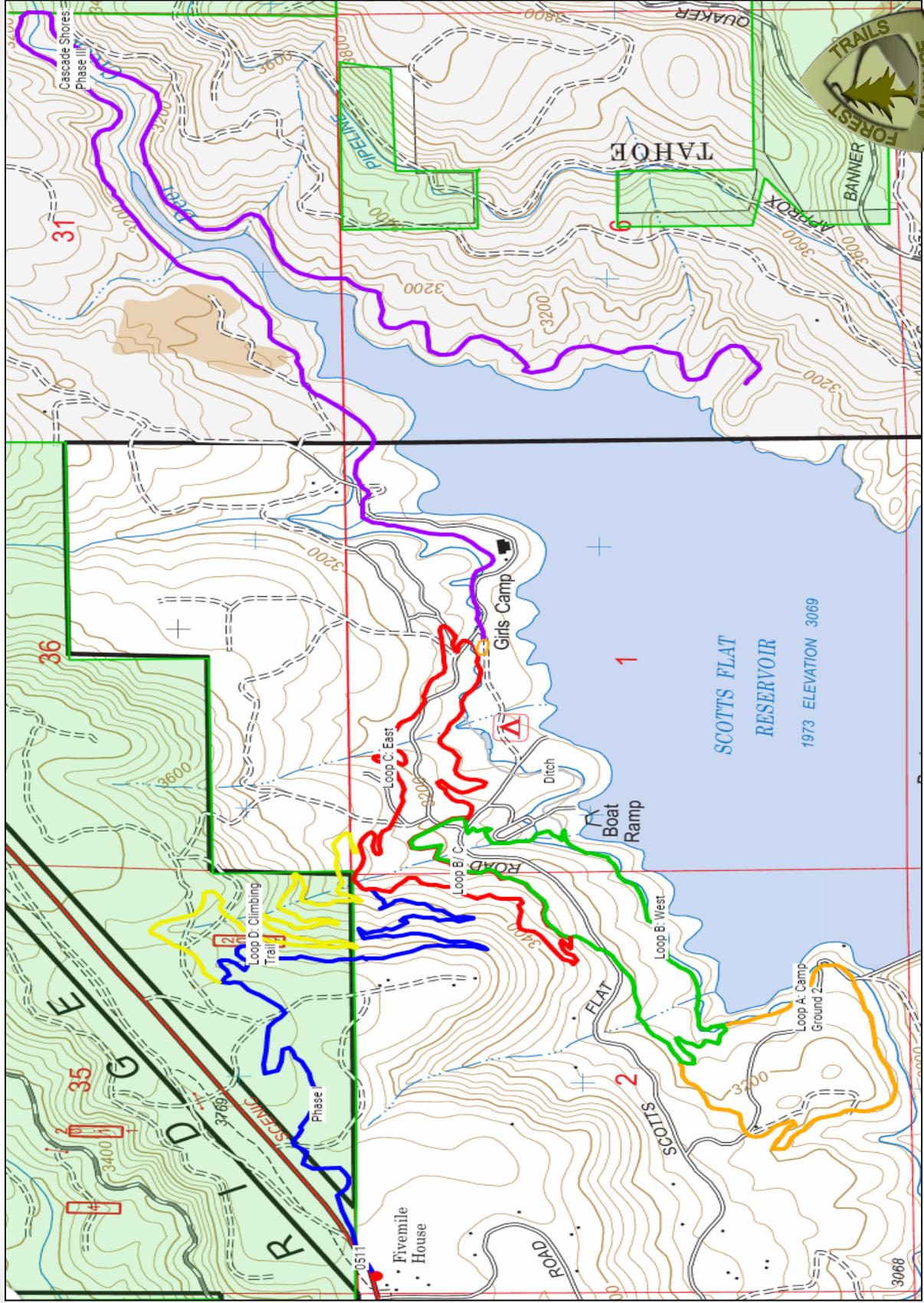


Phase II- Overview

- Will add an additional 4.93 miles of sustainable trail (9+ total system miles)
- Create loop options that improve user experience and direct trail traffic from operations area
- Construct a return trail to ridge that will reduce pedestrian traffic on road and provide a slow moving trail traffic option (bikes uphill only)
- Create more trail options close to lake for visitors and campers
- Develop maintenance protocol for existing and proposed trails
- Upgrade existing Lake Trail infrastructure
- Develop fee use staging/ parking area for trail use separate from lake and camping operations (future addition)
- Provide maps and signage to promote and manage trail use

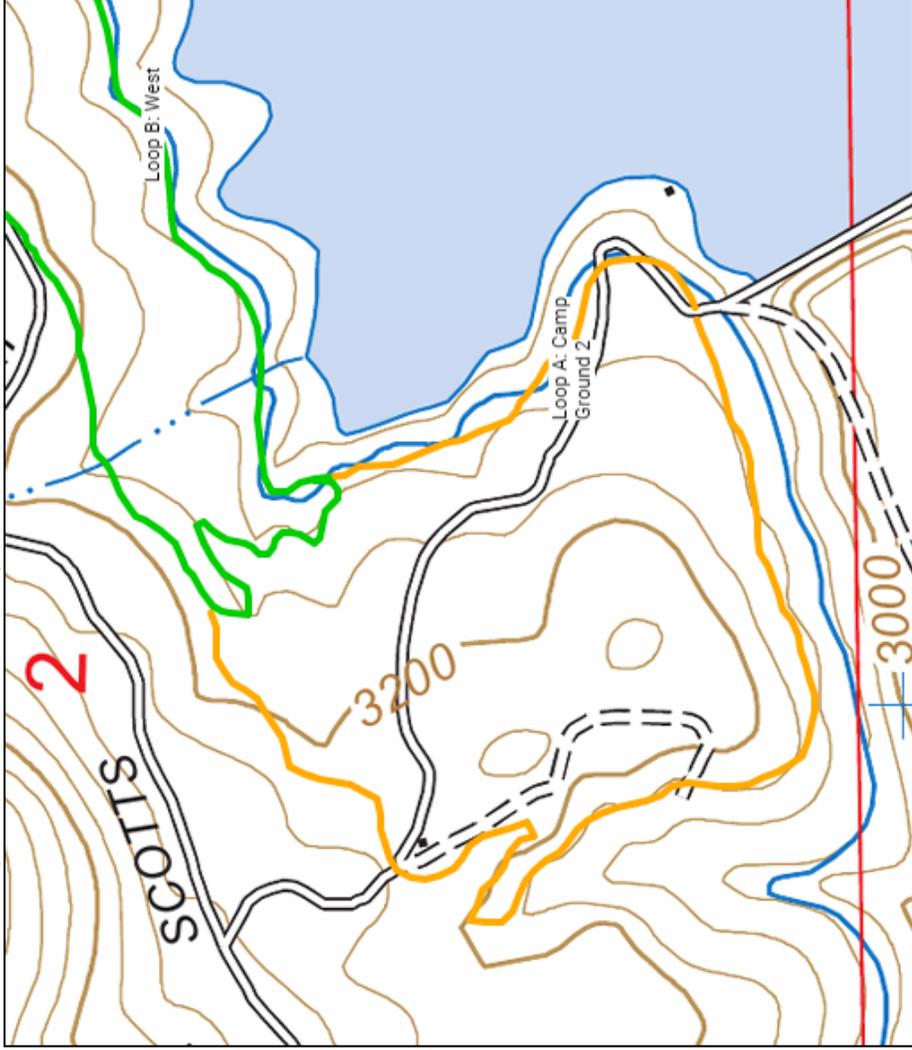


Phase II- Trails and Connectors



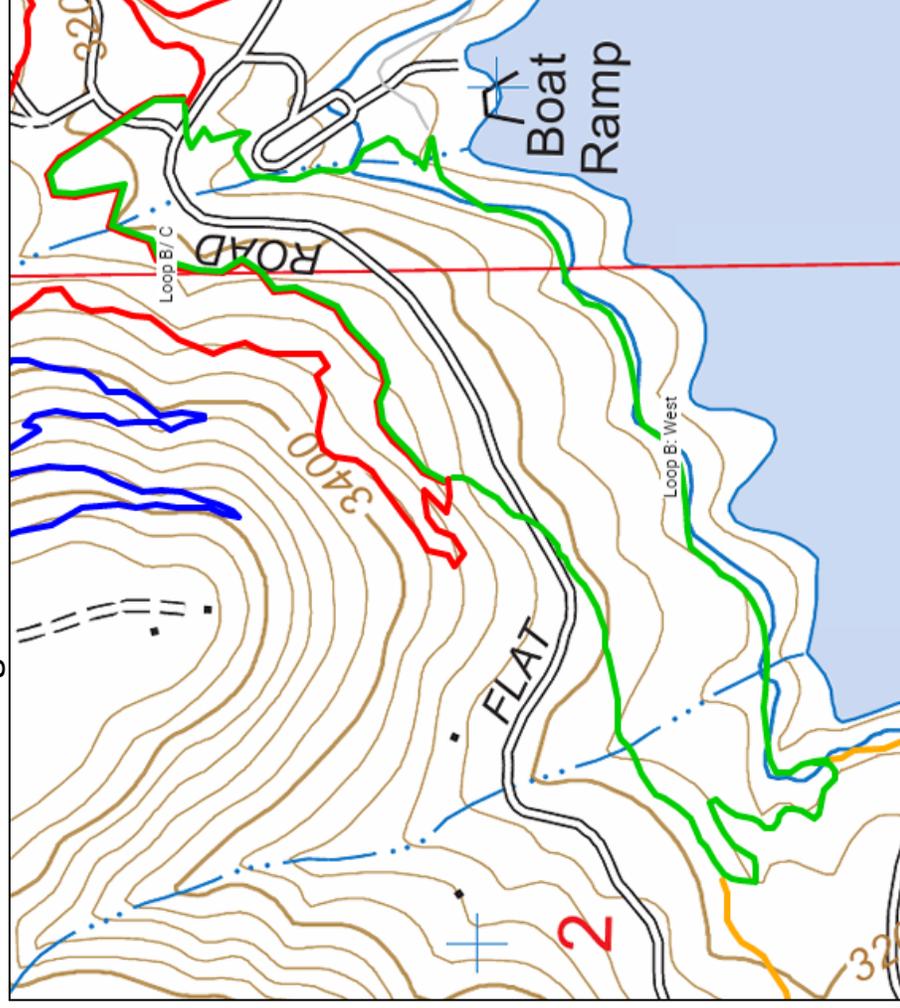
Loop A: Camp 2 Loop

- 1.4 mile loop that extends existing irrigation ditch trail past dam to loop around Campground 2
- Will avoid operations area and Campgroup 2 sites
- Provides alternative to going across dam and will provide access to trails for campers in this facility



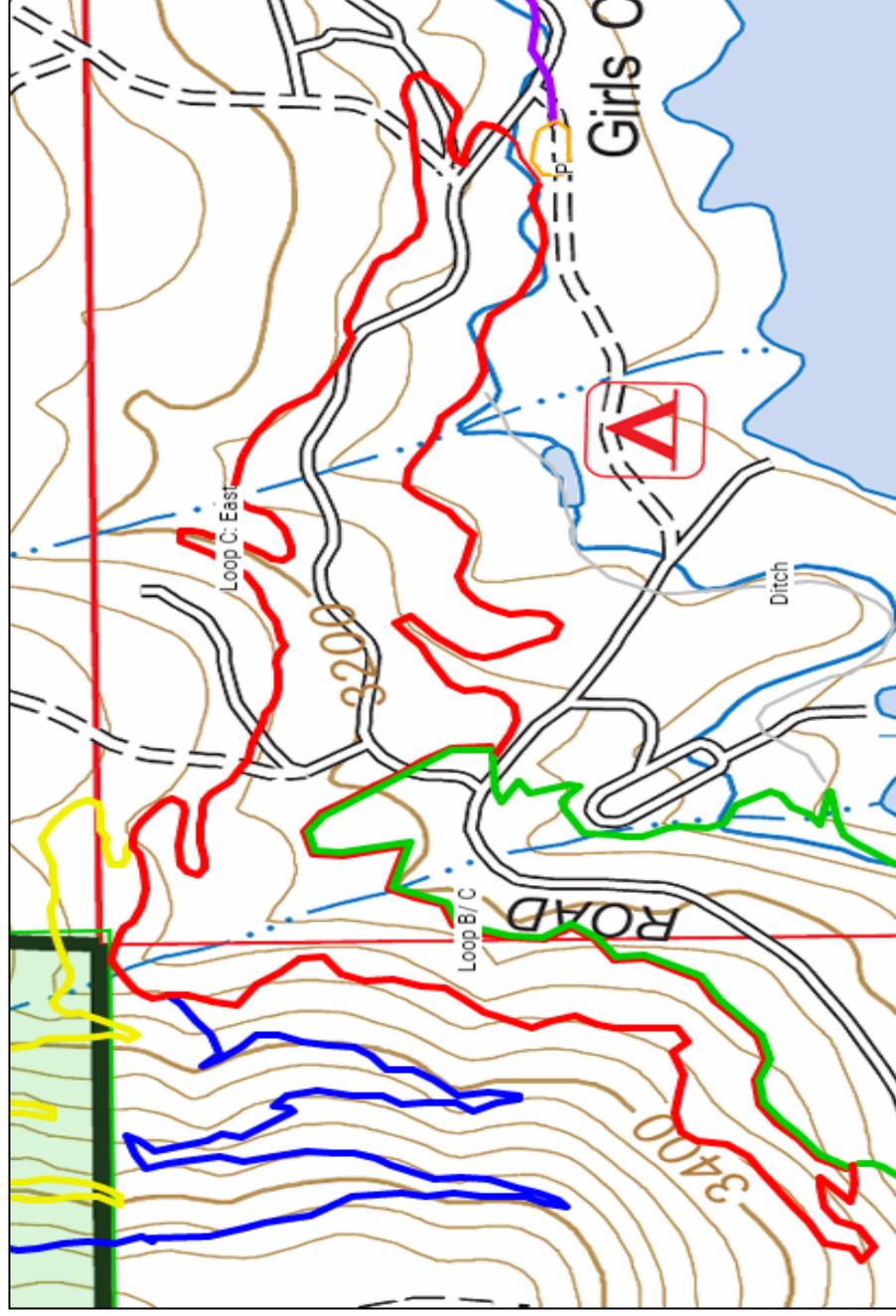
Loop B: West Loop

- 2.1 Mile loop trail that connects campground II, park entrance, existing trail, and future lake trail
- Gives entire trails system connectivity and loop options
- Utilizes Phase I Trail
- 1 new bridge



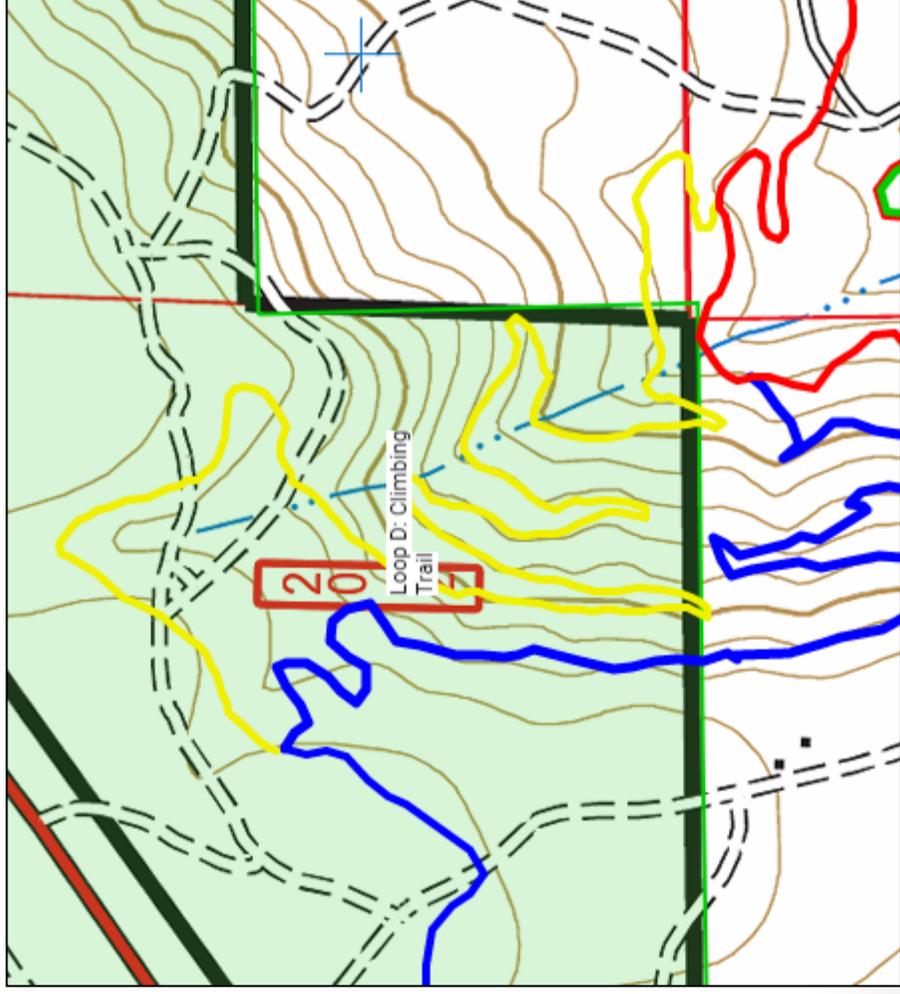
Loop C: East Loop

- 2.75 Mile loop trail that connects campground 1, future fee parking/ staging area, ridge trails, and future lake trail
- Directs users away from Camp Ground 1 operations
- Gives entire trails system connectivity
- 1 new bridge



Loop D: Climbing Trail

- 1.7 Mile trail that will climb from Lake Loop up to the Pioneer Trail
- Provides an alternative route to riding up narrow and busy paved road
- Provides slow moving trail traffic option (bikes uphill only)
- Improves user experience and reduces potential user conflict
- Will utilize 4 new bridges



Phase II- Management and Timeline

- Forest Trails Alliance will manage project and communicate on all aspects of project with NID Recreation Manager, similar to Phase I
- FTA Project Management Team will consist of 5 experienced individuals who will coordinate all aspects of project.
- Work will be completed by 30 trained and insured trail crew leaders under the direction of management team.
- Mechanized, saw work and other technical aspects will be limited to crew trained in this area.
- Each trail will include one public volunteer light duty workday for promotion and community inclusion.

Estimated Timeline: Phase II

2015 Spring- Complete CEQA and NEPA

2015 Fall- Construction (condition dependent)

2016 Spring- Trails Completed and ready for use



Phase II/ Phase III- Estimated Cost

A: Camp 2 loop 1.4m	
6000ft+ Cat 3 NST (narrow surface trail)	\$18,000.00
1600ft Cat 1 NST existing reconditioning	\$1,600.00
Signage	\$1,100.00
	\$20,700.00
B: West loop 2.1m	
5000ft Cat 1 existing	\$0.00
3000ft Cat 3 NST	\$9,000.00
3100ft Cat 1 existing reconditioning	\$3,100.00
12ft pedestrian bridge	\$12,000.00
2 @ ditch drain crossings	\$8,000.00
Signage	\$1,425.00
	\$33,525.00
C: East Loop 2.75m	
6200ft existing	\$0.00
8500ft Cat 3 NST	\$25,500.00
12ft pedestrian bridge	\$12,000.00
Signage	\$1,275.00
	\$38,775.00
D: Climbing Trail 1.7m	
8975ft Cat 4 NST	\$36,000.00
3 @ 12ft pedestrian bridge	\$36,000.00
8ft pedestrian bridge	\$7,000.00
Signage	\$900.00
	\$79,900.00
Design and Layout	\$17,290.00
Phase II Total	\$190,190.00
E: Cascade Shores Trail 4.2m (Phase III)	
22,200ft Cat 3.5 NST	\$77,700.00
30ft pedestrian bridge	\$80,000.00
	\$157,700.00
Design and Layout	\$ 15,770.00
Phase III Total	\$173,470.00

- The contract value of Phase II proposed work is estimated at \$190,190
- Environmental Studies (CEQA) would be done completed by NID/ USFS.
- Forest Trails Alliance will complete project planning and construction.
- Construction costs will be funded through grants and civic fundraising.
- Volunteer maintenance program will be managed by NID and FTA .



Phase II- Maintenance Program

- Maintenance is critical to any recreational trail facility.
- Completed volunteer maintenance should be done to professional standards and overseen by NID management.
- FTA will provide assistance to NID in developing community wide volunteer maintenance signup website.
- Community-wide approach reduces perception of bias for one particular user group and creates a stronger relationship with community.



Summary

- Scotts Flat Lake Trails System expansion shows NID's commitment to recreation and community
- Would bring system total to 13.2 miles of trail (currently 4.5 miles)
- Project run as a community collaborative
- Expansion creates additional value for NID recreation users, day and overnight
- Project creates community of trail stewards through new maintenance program
- NID savings benefit \$493,600 (Phases I, II, and III)

Scott's Flat Lake	
Recreational Trails System	
Phase I	\$ 130,000.00
Phase II	\$ 190,190.00
Phase III	\$ 173,470.00
Total System Mileage	13.20
Total Value	\$ 493,660.00

