

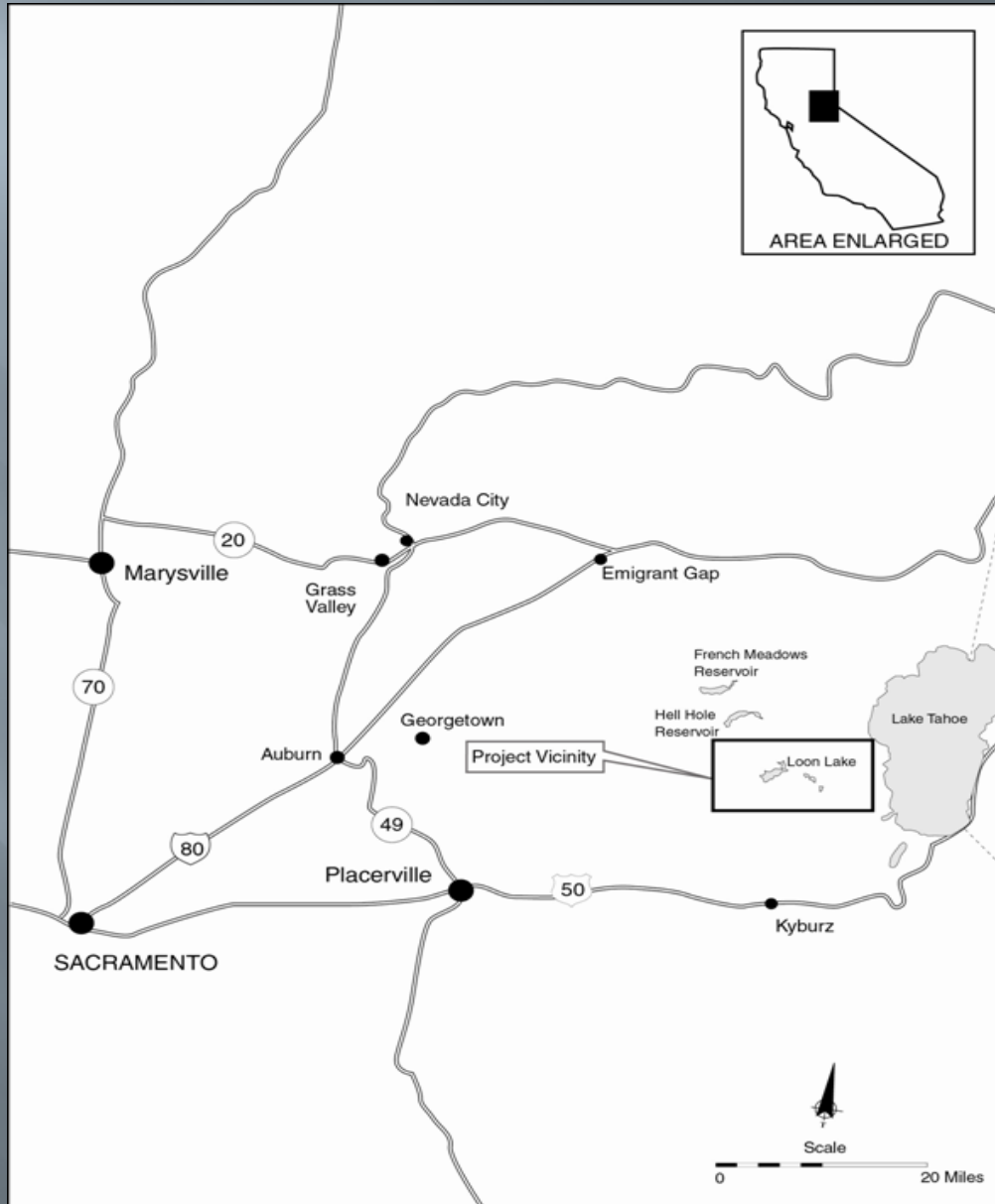
RUBICON TRAIL EASEMENT AND RESOURCE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



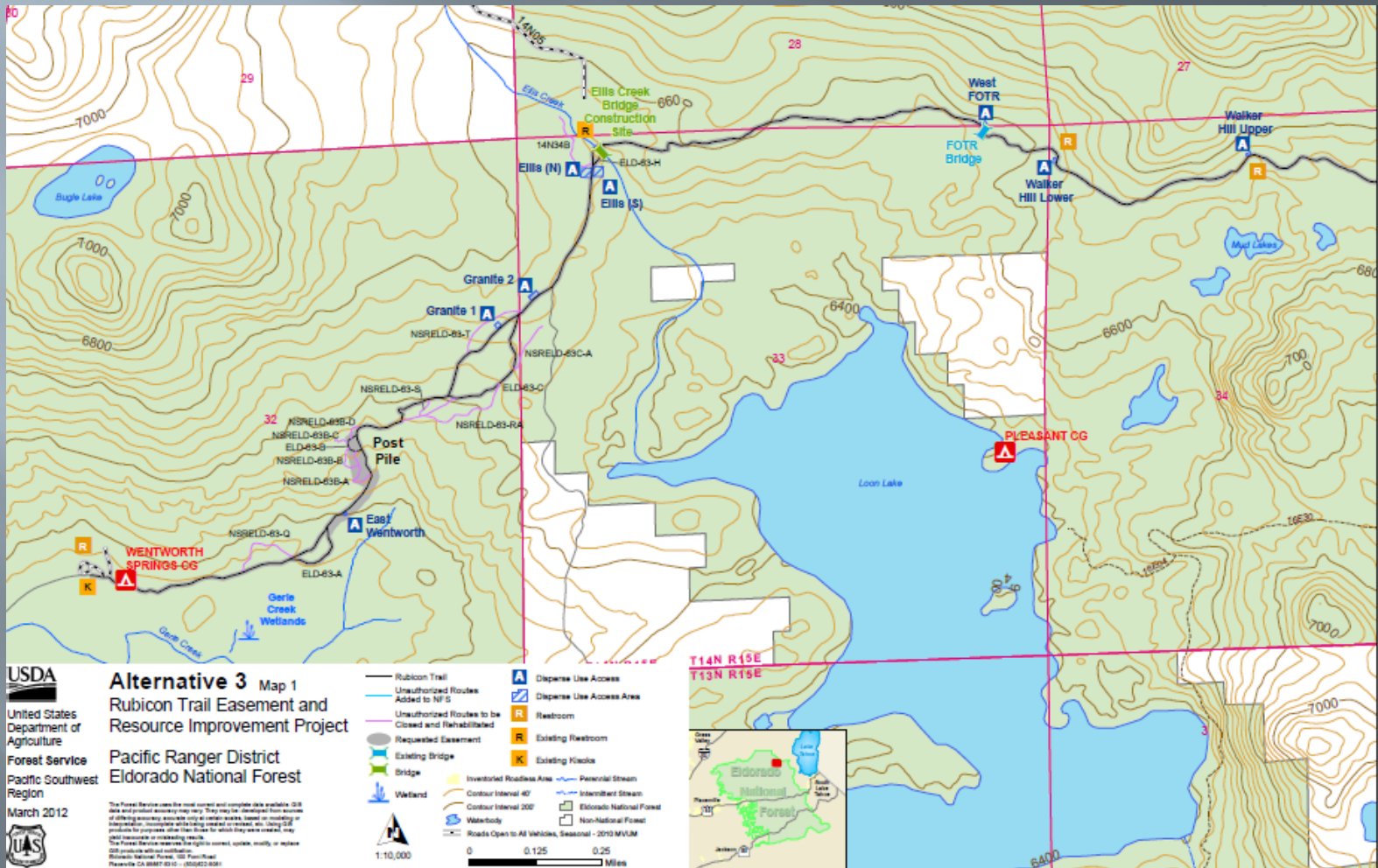
Today's Presentation

- General project overview
- Purpose and need for the decision
- Public issues
- Selected alternative
- Questions?

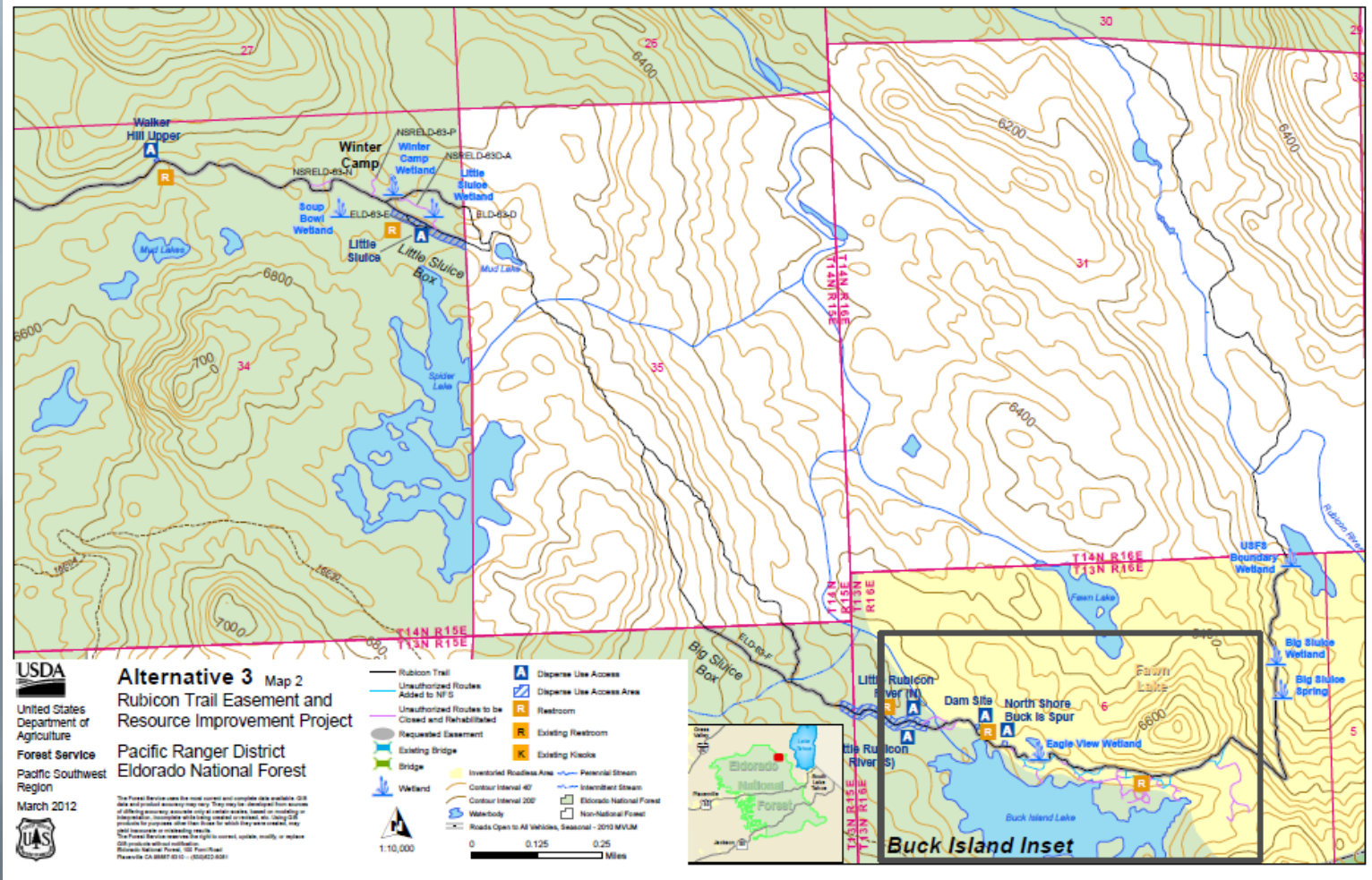
Project Vicinity



Map 1

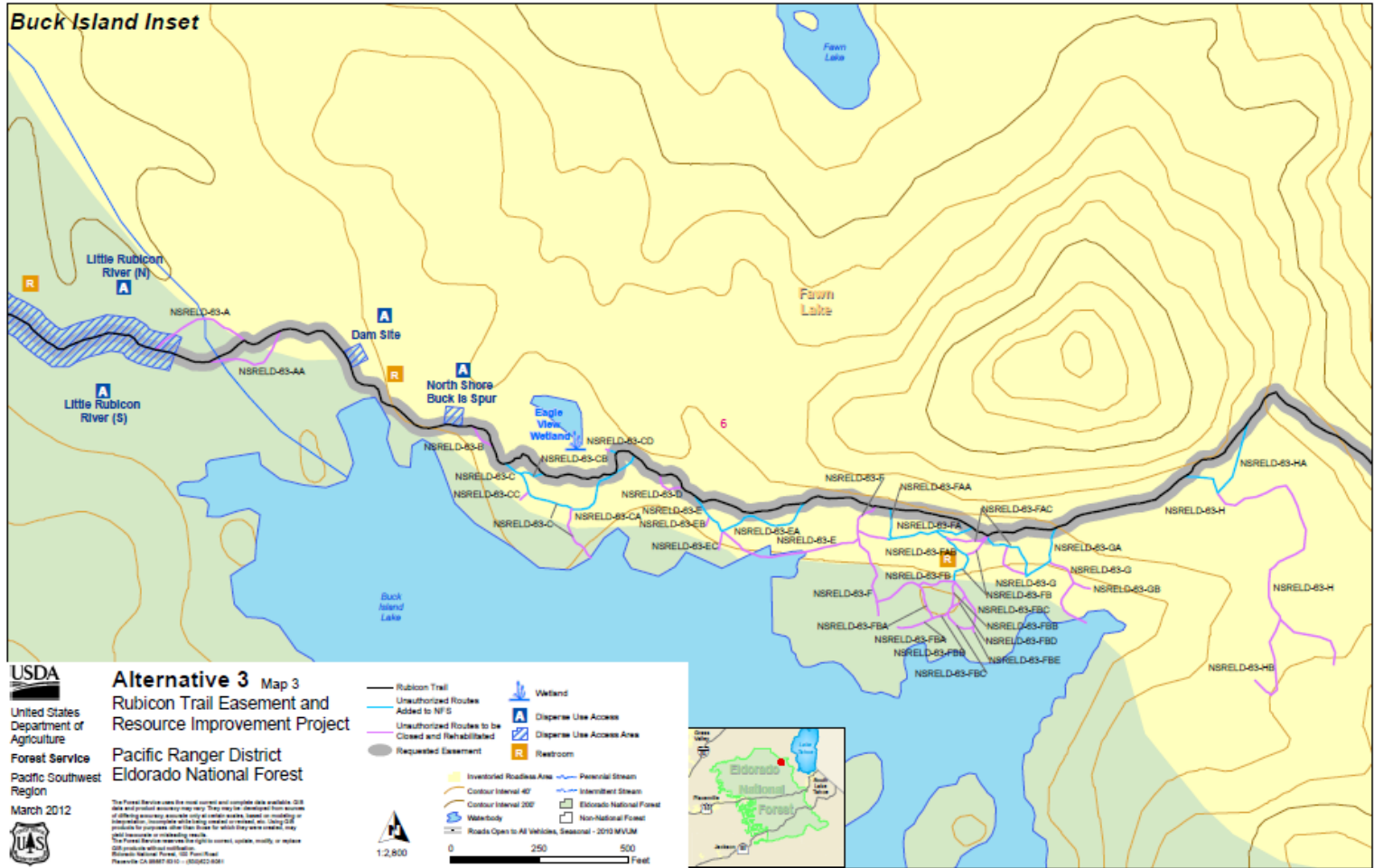


Map 2



Map 3

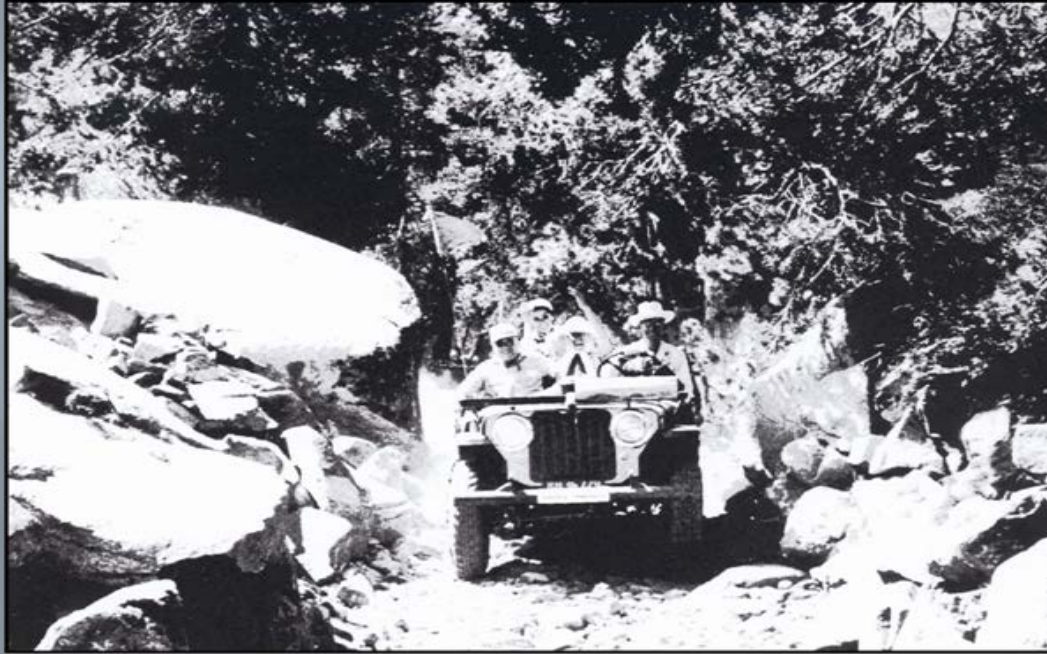
Buck Island Inset



History



History



Past and Present



Present



Purpose and Need

- ▣ There is a need for a clearly defined right of way for the Rubicon Trail along with clearly defined authority and responsibility for its upkeep.
- ▣ There is a need to reduce sediment delivery to Ellis Creek.
- ▣ There is a need to reduce runoff from the Rubicon Trail that has the potential to discharge sediment and other waste into waters of the state.

Purpose and Need

- ▣ There is a need to address human waste disposal from public users of the Rubicon Trail.
- ▣ There is a need for limited additions to the Eldorado National Forest Transportation System.

Issues From Scoping Comments

- ❑ Use during wet season causes damage to resources.
- ❑ Spectator parking resulting in large numbers of people concentrated at Soup Bowl and Little Sluice cause damage to resources.
- ❑ Use on and off the trail, including camping, is impacting riparian areas, riparian species, and adjacent forests.
- ❑ Overly large bridge proposed at Ellis Creek will cause adverse impacts to riparian areas and species and is inconsistent with the historic nature of the trail.

Issues From Scoping Comments

- ▣ Buck Island bridge will degrade the view and setting and there is on environmental basis for building it.
- ▣ One toilet located in the Little Sluice area is inadequate to address dispersed use along the length of the trail.

Issues From Scoping Comments

- ▣ Requiring a bridge at the Buck Island Lake Outlet will be expensive and the funding may not be available, so without construction of the bridge vehicle use across the creek could be restricted.

Selected Alternative

- ▣ Issue a National Forest Roads and Trails Act (FRTA) easement to El Dorado County for the Rubicon Trail, where it crosses National Forest System lands within the Eldorado National Forest, which will allow the County to conduct on-going maintenance within the right of way and ensure County responsibility for actions within the easement.
- ▣ The easement would be generally 25 feet each side of centerline with variant widths at Post Pile and Little Sluice.

Selected Alternative *continued*

- ▣ Authorize El Dorado County to remove the existing FOTR timber structure bridge and replace it with a three sided bottomless arch.
- ▣ Authorize El Dorado County to construct an elevated rock ford at the Little Rubicon River crossing below the Buck Island Lake Outlet.

Selected Alternative *continued*

- ▣ Authorize El Dorado County to construct a prefabricated steel truss bridge approximately 60 feet downstream of the existing Ellis Creek ford. The bridge will be 16 feet wide and 70 feet long.

Selected Alternative *continued*

- ▣ Authorize El Dorado County to install and maintain erosion control features along the Rubicon Trail from Wentworth Springs Campground to the county line as described in the Rubicon Trail Saturated Soil Water Quality Protection Plan (SSWQPP) Technical Report and as described in the project plans for implementation.

Selected Alternative *continued*

- ▣ Authorize the construction and maintenance of 6 vault toilets along the Rubicon Trail in areas where concentrated use is occurring. Toilets may be constructed by El Dorado County, Eldorado National Forest, or others.

Selected Alternative *continued*

- ▣ Move the toilet at Wentworth Springs Campground out of the flood plain.
- ▣ Close and rehabilitate approximately 2.23 miles of unauthorized routes (37 routes).
Rehabilitation methods include pulling natural barriers across closed routes, installing waterbars, posting signs, and scattering forest debris.

Selected Alternative *continued*

- Add .43 miles of unauthorized routes (15 short spurs) to the National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) as motorized 4WD trails open to high clearance vehicles to allow for access to dispersed recreation.

Selected Alternative *continued*

- ▣ Add 12 motor vehicle use areas (outside of the easement) in order to provide locations where vehicles may park off of designated routes.
- ▣ Implement Saturated Soil Management for wet season vehicle use of the Rubicon Trail Easement.



- ▣ *“The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the national forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.”*