

## **Brockliss Bridge Project Speaking Points**

- In 1992 Congress designated the Pony Express Route a part of the National Historic Trails System.
- The Federal Management and Use Plan by the National Park Service determined the Brockliss site on the Pony Express Trail to be a ***“high potential site.”***
- The historical site is approximately 167 miles East of San Francisco, CA, or approximately 67 miles east of Sacramento the State Capitol of CA, or 22 miles east of Placerville, CA and only 7/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile from Pacific House, CA and the State Highway 50 corridor.
- Within 2.5 hours there are approximately 5.5 million people, many of who, enjoy recreation in El Dorado County, and on the Eldorado National Forest en-route to South Lake Tahoe, CA, and points beyond.
- Recreational needs on public lands in California are increasing at a tremendous rate as people seek refuge from metropolitan areas.
- People are recognizing the importance of multiple use trails for their health sake.
- The Brockliss project provides a tremendous opportunity to enhance public awareness, and appreciation for an important piece of California history.
- Prior to its closing, the Eldorado National Forest Visitor Information Center, that was located on Highway 50 just east of Placerville, CA reported receiving an average of 35,000 visitors per year.
- The Brockliss recreational area trails, have the potential for even greater use, than higher elevation trails, and offer a high quality recreational experience.
- This project lends itself to the vision in the El Dorado County Trails Master Plan, to connect the El Dorado Trail and the trails of the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails.
- It has greater than average scenic value and the opportunity to ***“Step Back In Time, Within Your Mind.”***
- This project will provide a continuous trail for this segment of the Pony Express National Historic Trail, and the California Trail.
- With the completion of this project visitors will be provided easy year-round access to a unique recreational area within El Dorado County.
- This project would provide a ***missing*** and ***major link*** of trail in the goal for multiple use trails from Sacramento, CA to South Lake Tahoe, CA.
- Since 1978 volunteer/members of the California Division of the National Pony Express Association has donated approximately \$900,000 of in kind service. This does not include personal mileage or equipment. It also does not include twenty-four years of administrative cost towards this project. ***This project gives back to the community that which was taken away in 1988.***