



# Rubicon Trail 2019 Annual Report

---

*Report Prepared by Vickie Sanders & Justin Williams*

Report of maintenance activities, volunteer projects and summary of the 2019 Rubicon season.

# **Rubicon Trail 2019 Annual Report**

2019 has been a year of change for the County. I will explain all the changes in the County Activities section of this report because there are many details. This year we had late snow on the trail that would not seem to melt. This was the first time in my twenty years that we had to take a backhoe in on 14N05 in July to clear snow so we could access the vaults at Ellis Creek.

Whereas it was a late start to the season, it was an extended season into November, again not typical. But many enjoyed the trail in the fall as use was heavy into October.

This was also a year that we lost several significant individuals that contributed and impacted many of our lives as well as the trail. I will miss them greatly some of them daily. We all have memories about this trail and it has always been about the people for me. We lost two important people this year, Steve Morris and Dana Holland. Steve was like a father to me. I still can't talk about him without tearing up. He is not Rubicon to me he was so much more, so I have to stop there. I will always remember Dana as the Green Bridge guy. When we started to plan the re-decking project, I could not let anyone touch that project until I ran the project by Dana. Of course he was all in and wanted to run the project. He did an amazing job and put a group of people together that I cannot find the words to describe. This project was one of the top on my list of projects that the volunteers completed in record time. Both of these individuals will be missed by many, their impact was huge.

## **Adopt a Trail Program**

Fifteen different segments were established in 2014 and adopted. As of 2019 there are now sixteen segments in El Dorado County. Although the season was off to a late start our Adopt a Trail groups did the best they could with the shorter summer season. We had more general maintenance this year from our Adopt a Trail rather than big projects in their adopted segments. Hopefully 2020 will be a better year for the Adopt a Trail groups as the County will have a more streamlined process with a new data collection application.

Not every segment had an official inspection this year by the Adopt a Trail groups. The County was able to take a DOT engineer out to get the BMP inventory done from the Tahoma staging area all the way out to the Loon Lake staging area. With the data collected along with the new data collection application, we are hopeful the program will be much more efficient for all of our groups in 2020. In the spring we will be contacting all of our groups to confirm whether they would like to continue their obligation to the

Rubicon Trail and the County Adopt a Trail program. There could be some segments available, if you or anyone you know is interested in possibly adopting a segment please contact our office.

The sediment removed in 2019 was 8.93 cubic yards which was the result of 357 buckets worth of sediment removed by volunteers. You can see the history below.

Year	Number of Buckets	Cubic Yards of Sediment Removed	Year Type
2014		5.51	Drought year
2015	620	15.52	Drought year, warm temps, lack of snow pack
2016	436.5	10.91	Average snow pack, large rainfall amounts in fall
2017	678.50	16.96	Well above average
2018	556	13.90	Below normal
2019	321	8.93	Large snow pack, late melt. Late snow November.

Below is a recap of all sixteen segments as reported by the Adopt a Trail volunteers.

1. The Francis Cow Camp segment was adopted by Mud Suckers 4WD. This segment of the trail is from Airport Flats turn off to Wentworth Springs camp ground. All BMP's in this segment were inspected by EDC. This segment is in good shape but there were a few BMP's that will need attention next season. These areas that require work were not red, meaning they did not need to be addressed immediately. 2020 they will address the areas of concern and are very excited to get the work done.

The assessment for this segment was completed El Dorado County Parks, Justin Williams.

No photos available.

2. The Wentworth Springs segment of the trail was adopted by Madhatter's 4X4 club. This segment of the trail is from Wentworth Springs campground to the Intertie. The improvements on this segment of the trail are functioning as designed. There were 78 five gallon buckets that equate to 1.95 cubic yards of sediment removed from the RED's in this section. There were also a few downed trees removed. After 65 hours of volunteer work, all RED's where clean, trees removed and no problems were seen or noted for this section.

The assessment and maintenance for this segment was completed on July 13th.



3. The Loon Lake Intertie #1 segment was adopted by The Gate Keepers Jeepers. It goes from the Loon Lake Kiosk to Whale Bones. There were many different improvements made to this segment of the Trail in 2018. Most which are holding up great and functioning as intended.

After a total of 9 hours of volunteer work, a total of 69 five gallon buckets that equate to 1.73 cubic yards of sediment was removed from the existing RED's by The Gate Keepers Jeepers.

The assessment for this segment was completed on August 22, 2019.



4. The Loon Lake Intertie #2 segment from the Whale Bones to the Intertie with the Rubicon Trail. This segment was adopted by Auburn Jeep Club. This segment also has granite slabs that were treated with Bio Response for spills. 36 five gallon buckets that equate to .90 cubic yards of sediment were removed from this segment.

The assessment for this segment was completed on July 6, 2018.



5. The Ellis Creek segment of the Rubicon Trail is from the Intertie to what we here at the County call 1.6. This segment was adopted by Hangtown Night Krawlers. After last year's (2018) inspection and maintenance the Hangtown Knight Krawlers asked if we could split up this segment. Doing that made this segment more manageable for their group. Sediment captured and removed from this segment was 76 five gallon buckets that equate to 1.90 cubic yards. After 40 hours of volunteer work all RED's were cleaned and ready for winter.

The assessment to this segment was on October 5, 2019.

No photos available.

6. The "new" segment is known as 1.6 to Walker and was adopted by Ruff Stuff. This segment was split from the original Ellis Creek segment. 2019 was the first year for this segment and for Ruff Stuff in the Adopt a Trail program, we are so glad to have Ruff Stuff onboard. Sediment captured and removed from this segment was 60 five gallon buckets that equate to 1.50 cubic yards. After all of their volunteer work all RED's were cleaned and ready for winter.

The assessment was completed July 17, 2019.

No photos available.

7. The Walker Hill segment is from below Walker Rock to the Benchmark above Walker Hill. This segment is adopted by Rusty Folena and Hangtown Crawlers.

The RED's were not cleaned out this season. The assessment for this section was completed by El Dorado County Parks, Justin Williams. All BMP's will be cleaned and repaired as needed in the spring.

No new photos available.

8. The Soup Bowl segment is from the crest above Walker Hill to Winter Camp. This segment was adopted by MTA, but they have given it up to join forces with another group. We are currently looking for a new adoptee to take over this segment and if you or anyone you know is interested please contact our office.

The assessment for this segment was completed by El Dorado County Parks, Justin Williams.

No photos available.

9. The Little Sluice segment goes from Winter Camp to the property line at Spider Lake. SLO Crawlers adopted this segment of trail and have performed maintenance to this area for several years. Winter Camp is in this segment. They moved rocks that were placed from the helicopter to armor the breast walls and form drainage down the left side of the trail.

The assessment was completed on July 18, 2019.



10. The Arnold's Rock segment is located from the property line at Spider Lake to Egg Rock (Indian Bypass) and was adopted by Russ and Janice Watkins with the help of MTA (Mountain Transit Authority).

After 24 hours of volunteer work all BMP's were identified and described as working properly and in no need of repair or service.

The assessment in this section was completed on July 20, 2019.

No new photos available

11. The Old True Big Sluice segment is from the Old Sluice turn off to Egg Rock was adopted by Placer County Crawlers. There are no RED's in this segment. After 28 hours of tossing rocks and moving trees and debris off of the trail. This segment of the trail looks great and all BMP's are functioning as designed.

The assessment and maintenance was completed June 29, 2019.

No new photos available.

12. The Mechanic's Pit segment is from Egg Rock to the Buck Island Dam and was adopted by ECV 86 of Georgetown. The BMP's to this section are functioning as designed. Bio-response was also applied to areas as needed. After 12 hours of volunteer work all BMP's were identified and improvements done and ready for winter.

The assessment and maintenance for this section was completed October 5, 2019.



13. The Buck Island segment is located from Buck Island Dam to the Dive Off. This section was adopted by El Dorado Rock Crawlers/Daystar Products. The BMP's are functioning as designed.

The assessment for this segment was completed El Dorado County Parks, Justin Williams.

No new photos available.

14. The Big Sluice segment is located from the Dive Off to Sawtooth and was adopted by Jeep USA. Staff flew in with Jeep USA in September and evaluated the area. Work is scheduled for spring of 2020. However using hand tools the drainage was dug in the area of Scout Hole.

The assessment was done by Pearse Umlauf and Justin Williams on September 24, 2019.

15. The Rubicon Bridge segment is from Sawtooth to the Rubicon Bridge and has been adopted by Metal Cloak.

The assessment for this segment was completed El Dorado County Parks, Justin Williams.

No photos available.

16. The Rubicon Springs segment is located from the Rubicon Bridge to the County Line and it was adopted by Jeepers Jamboree. Jeepers Jamboree inspected this segment in July. All BMP's were functioning as designed. Rock was added at property line and a few large boulders were moved out of the trail.

The assessment was completed by Kevin Arnold on July 20, 2010.



## 2019 Project List

The 2019 project list was on our website and projects were claimed by groups, clubs and individuals. The highlighted projects were completed.

Project	Project Description	Justification	Adopt a Trail Segment	Project Claimed By
Kiosk Volunteer	Volunteer at any of the Trailheads to provide education to the users	Education	EDC	
Bathroom Door springs (kiosk)	Install springs to Loon Lake restroom	Doors caught in the wind and are being bent.	EDC	AJC
Signs for the restrooms with logos, FS, County, RTF, and FOTR.	This was to put more education inside the restrooms. Needs to be developed and printed.	This was a suggestion by RTF. The county agrees but has just not had time to put something together.	EDC	RTF
Alligator Pit RED (possible excavator work)	Enlarge RED and remove sediment from lead off ditch	The sediment from the hill fills this RED quickly. Rock armoring the hillside would help to reduce the sediment. The lead off ditch to Alligator Pit needs to be cleaned out for better drainage.	Gatekeepers Jeepers	RTF & Gatekeepers Jeepers
Walker Hill lower new RED	Install new RED and clean out add corduroy. Upside is dug out add RED	This project was very successful when first installed by FOTR. The area just needs to be cleaned out for maintenance due to the capture of sediment in the area.	Hangtown Crawlers/Rusty	Hangtown Crawlers
Walker Hill upper delineation around rocks	Add rock and logs to stop widening in this area	Vehicles are widening the trail in this area and driving on vegetation.	Hangtown Crawlers/Rusty	Hangtown Crawlers
RED above Walker add two more	Install additional RED's to handle sediment. Look at SSWQPP as to where the other two RED's were planned but never installed.	The RED at the top of Walker fills fast, additional RED's or lead off ditches are needed higher up to reduce the flow.	Hangtown Crawlers/Rusty	Hangtown Crawlers
2- Waterbars on Big Sluice	AAT would like to add 2 waterbars to their section to divert the water off the trail	This recommendation came from the AAT at the time. We need to evaluate the area to see if and where additional waterbars need to be installed.	Jeep USA	
Trail Delineation	Delineate the trail, working with county staff to delineate the trail in areas.	To keep the trail users on the trail and not creating new trails.	EDC	
Foot Bridge RED Rubicon Springs	Add RED to the lead off ditch by the caretaker's cabin. We will do this once during Jamboree with Camp Rubicon.	Rock was added in front of the caretaker's cabin in 2016. A lead off ditch was installed to drain this area. An RED is needed to collect any sediment before entering into the river.	Jeepers Jamboree	
Restroom at Lower Walker	Paint the restroom shell	Maintenance	Hangtown Crawlers/Rusty	AJC
Restroom at Upper Walker	Paint the restroom shell	Maintenance	Hangtown Crawlers/Rusty	AJC
Restroom at Soup Bowl	Paint the restroom shell	Maintenance	SLO Crawlers	AJC
2-Restrooms at Little Sluice	Paint the restroom shell	Maintenance	SLO Crawlers	Jeff Yahraes
Restroom at Arnolds	Paint the restroom shell	Maintenance	SLO Crawlers	Jeff Yahraes
First Restroom at Buck Island	Paint the restroom shell	Maintenance	ECV 86	
Second Restroom at Buck Island (Before stream crossing)	Paint the restroom shell	Maintenance	ECV 86	
Third Restroom at Buck Island (Other side of the dam)	Paint the restroom shell	Maintenance	EDRC	EDRC
Axle Rock	Add boulders to ledges	Maintenance	Slo Crawlers	
Top of Whale Bones	Trail Delineation (blocking illegal routes)	Maintenance	AJC	AJC

As you can see some Adopt-a-Trails groups took on more projects than just their segments.

## Volunteers

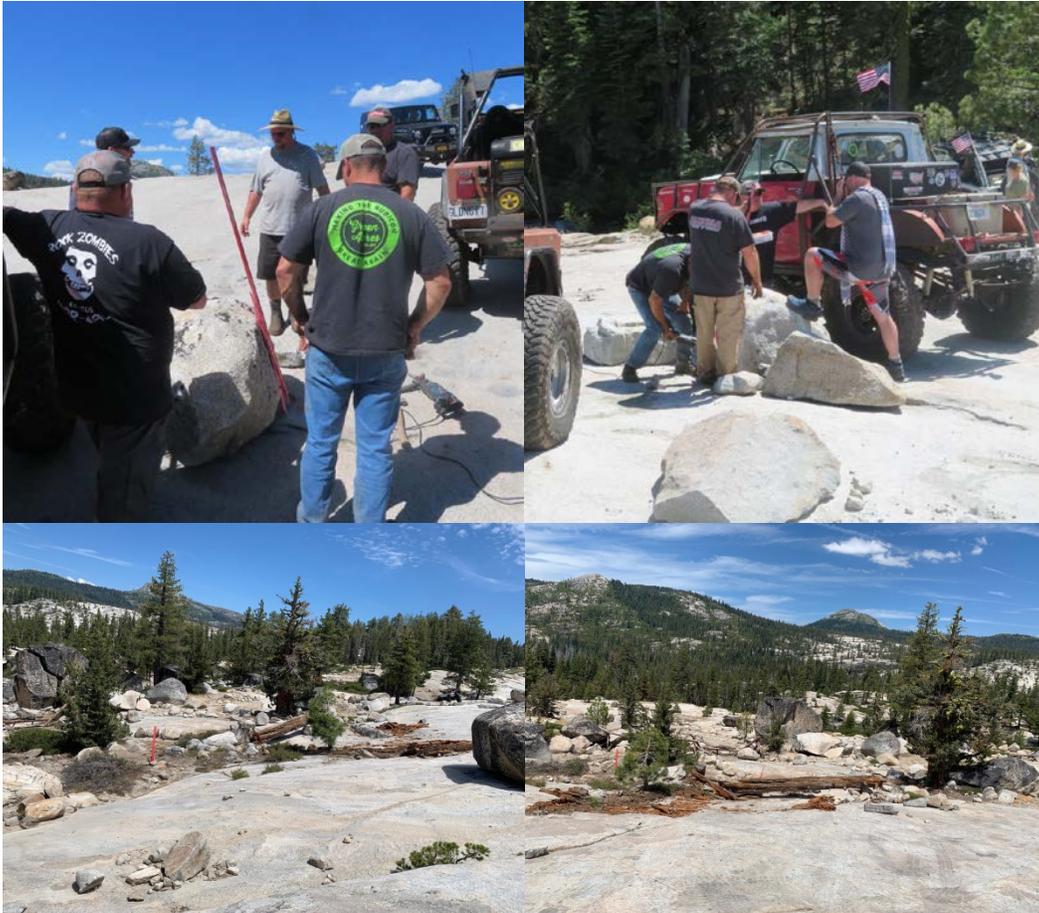
Auburn Jeep Club (AJC) once again took on more projects. They have an adopt a trail segment but also brought in equipment and help delineation at the top of Whale Bones as well as adding rock to other areas of the trail and to the bridge approaches.



Jim Ingram noticed some complaints about oil spills and stepped up to get a group together and clean it up. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, Jim, some Green Acres Peeps and others stepped up to help on this event. This is an example of the community paying attention to what was needed and getting it done. 120 bottles of bio used.



Trail delineation was also done by Green Acres at the area by Hot Rock. Forest Service delineators were added to the rocks helping to keep the users on the trail. Logs were also used as barriers. This is a location where I have seen many get confused. Starting them off on the right trail is important and hopefully users will pay attention when they are further in on the trail.



The County has contributed supplies to the repeater project at Green Acres developed by Tim Green and others. I will be honest I do not understand a bit of it and I guess I don't have to because the experts have it down. This provides additional coverage for the HAM system and provides the APRS system which has proven to be vital for winter inspections. This is a great addition to the Spider Lake repeater and creates redundancies of coverage for communications on the trail. Winter inspections have to be completed and if we did not have the additional coverage we would have failed to meet our obligations. We have to monitor the employees when out in the winter. Thank you for all your efforts on this.



### Rock Zombies

June 15, 2019 the Rock Zombies had their bikini car wash. This was such an amazing fund raising event for the Rubicon Trail. So many people attended the event in support of this active club. I attended this event and everyone in the club busy supporting a good cause their positive attitude and fun atmosphere was infectious. They decided to donate the money raised to the County for the pumper truck. They awarded the County \$4,000 at the Steaks and Stories event. There was a lot of work, planning, organizing and washing vehicles that went into this event and I cannot express enough my thanks to this club for all their efforts.





### **Steak and Stories**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Steaks and Stories event was held on August 17, 2019. This year the event was moved from the bowl to the property owned by Tim Green. Once again the Green family and the Green Acre Peeps did an outstanding job with outreach and participation. It was estimated 500-600 people were in attendance. This event is an effort to educate the new users on expected behavior on the Rubicon. It was also to unite previous users and groups to come together for the benefit of the trail. The response has been overwhelming. This is not a fund raising event but users wanted to donate at the event. So the donations were given to the County to be used towards the pumper truck project. \$5,029 was donated. The community really came together for the trail. This is such a wonderful event. It was heartwarming to see the confidence the community has in the County doing the right thing for the trail. We are all working together in the right direction. I cannot thank the community enough for attending this event, donating and educating one another on the history, proper use and behavior on the trail. Peer to peer is the best way to get the message out.





### **Pirates Annual Clean Up**

This year was the 22nd Annual Pirates Clean Up was on November 2, 2019. The most disappointing items found by the Pirates were the campfire pits and white flowers in dispersed campsites. The fire pits had chew cans, cigarette butts, aluminum cans and foil left in them; those items DO NOT just go away when you toss them into the fire people. As for the white flowers we have installed many restrooms along the trail to help prevent this from happening. If you are camping further away from a provided restroom than you want to walk to, we do offer tinkle trash bags and wag bags at our kiosk at Loon Lake. The Pirates also treated all the oil spills they found along the way with Bio Response. All in all there was not a whole lot of trash removed, every trash bag on their rigs were full in total there were 5+ bags removed. El Dorado County would like to say thank you to the Pirates of the Rubicon for your respect and dedication to the trail.

### **County Activities**

#### **Staffing**

In the past the county had a contract with the Rubicon Trail Foundation (RTF) for mid-trail staff services. This year the county made the decision to try something different and hired staff through the County to work at the kiosk. The staff provided educational information to the user. We were fortunate to hire Stephanie Lemon who has grown up on the Rubicon and was a welcome addition. I hope you were all able to meet Stephanie and get the supplies you needed. We hope to have Stephanie back next year. We will hire two for this position in 2020, please contact the office if you are interested in this position.

Volunteers also worked the kiosk, which was a welcome reminder of how it had been done many years ago. Volunteers are always welcome, and thank you to those who donated their time.

**Pumping**

Another change was the decision to take over pumping of the Rubicon Rest stops. 2019 the pumping service was done by RTF under contract with the county (See county contracts). Thank you for providing this service and proving that it could be done.

But the county taking over this service is not an overnight process. Once the decision was made, the county allocated the funds to build a pumper trailer which will work as a backup method in case the truck was out of service.



The County reached out to the user community to help build a pumper truck for the County to operate. We could have put it in a grant application but if a grant funds the vehicle you cannot get funding in the future to operate it. So for long term we are better off to build it without grant funding. We put the request out and have had an overwhelming response. It is amazing to see the help from the user community. To date these are the donations that have been received:

Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)	F550 truck valued at \$15,000-\$22,000
Marlin Crawler	\$13,543
B.F. Goodrich	\$5,000
Warn Winches	2-winches & 1 recovery kit valued at \$4,300
Rugged Radios	Radio valued at \$423
Rock Zombies	\$4,000
Steaks n Stories	\$5,030
RTF	\$5,000



John Young	\$1,000
Auburn Jeep Club	\$3,000
Total Donations to date	\$36,573

We picked up the truck on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are working on a contract with WFO to build the truck. A list of parts will be posted and we will be looking for donations of the parts and pieces to put this truck together. Our goal is to have it ready by June 2020.



The County paid RTF for this service through a grant from the State. We will take that funding and hire an extra help position to assist Justin with the pumping. Look for this job posting in January if you are interested.

**MOU**

El Dorado County has also been working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with California State Parks, Placer County, Tahoe National Forest, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and Eldorado National Forest. This MOU is to document the cooperation between the parties to manage, maintain and enhance the Rubicon Trail to foster; a seamless user experience; the trail’s long-term sustainability and availability to the public; user safety and education; the protection of the natural, cultural and historic resources along and surrounding the trail; and the enforcement of regulations along the entire length of the trail.

The State signed the document on October 24, 2019. El Dorado County Board of Supervisors approved and signed the MOU on November 19, 2019. The MOU approved by the Placer County Board of Supervisors on January 14, 2020.

This MOU will allow the Counties to work together on maintenance activities. It provides El Dorado County the ability to write grants for the trail as a whole.

**Maintenance**

## **14N05**

14N05 has proven to be a vital part of the Rubicon system for the County. This is a service road for the restrooms located at Ellis Creek. In July with the late snows we took a backhoe into 14N05 to remove the snow berms that remained from the long winter. We could not wait any longer as we needed to get the vaults pumped. Justin removed the berms and added rock to the approaches of the bridge. Justin then took the backhoe over to Wentworth Springs Campground where the drainage was blocked and it was too deep to make it to the campground. Repairs were also done to the stream at Wentworth Spring right after you leave the pavement. But by the time we made it back to this location it was 11:00 p.m. and we both were exhausted. Justin also installed a new exhaust fan on the restroom at Ellis Creek.

The upper administrative gates on 14N05 were damaged due to heavy snows and a downed tree from the previous year. Department of Transportation (DOT) repaired the gate in September. Thank you DOT bridge crew.

DOT also inspected the bridges at Gerle Creek and Ellis Creek. In August after receiving a call of a concern on the Green Bridge, DOT Bridge Superintendent completed an inspection of the bridge and found it to be in good shape. I appreciate the response of our DOT bridge crew and the assistance they give us on the Rubicon. DOT continues to support the trail and provides amazing service for us. Thank you DOT.

Whereas the Parks Division is responsible for maintenance and operations, there are many County departments that assist the division on the trail. DOT, Planning, Building, Surveyor, Environmental Management, Assessor, County Counsel, Sheriff's Office, the Chief Administrative Office and the Board of Supervisors all work together for the good of the trail. I mention these because there are many departments working behind the scenes for the trail. The community has a team supporting the trail. Most you will never see, but the help they give my division is so appreciated. Thank you to all of you.

## **Placer County**

There are two issues worth mentioning on the Tahoe side of the trail. There is an issue that has been going on for several years regarding snow removal and blocking access to the trail. Snow is actually being illegally dumped at the entrance making access more difficult or impractical to most. Doug Barr communicated the issue to Placer County, El Dorado County, RTF and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The issue was not resolved and Doug continues to keep this as propriety for all of us. In December, Doug, John Briggs and members from all agencies attended a meeting on site to discuss possible solutions. RTF and I were unable to attend the meeting. Signage was discussed and it appears the signs are up. Placer County is working on other options that will help on this issue. I will post updates as they develop.

Another thing that happened on the Placer side was that Tahoe National Forest took a Spider Excavator on the trail end of November to do some work near Cadillac Hill. This was a project without much notice. I informed Doug Barr and Bob Sweeney about the possible work with no date determined. I informed the Parks Commission on November 21<sup>st</sup> about the possible work. Sunday night November 24<sup>th</sup>, about 6:00 p.m. I received an email that the work would start at 8:00 a.m. Monday. I informed Doug and Bob of the work and both made it work and were present. Around eleven water bars were dug above Cadillac Hill. There was no rock hardening added. There were discussions of closing some bypasses. Doug and Bob called me and expressed concern about the work that was completed.

I scheduled a follow up meeting with Tahoe National to discuss the work and concerns of the users. Doug and Bob were in attendance. I feel we were able to communicate how we operate on the Rubicon and discuss projects before we move forward whenever possible.

Tahoe National is committed to the Rubicon Trail. For the Placer side it was thought that Placer County was responsible. Whereas the County maintains the public rights of way they do not have an easement are not responsible for maintenance. Therefore the Forest Service stepped up. I appreciate the commitment the Forest Service has made and we will continue to work with them. It is a learning process for all agencies and it takes time. You will hear more about projects on this side of the trail in 2020.

## **Events**

### **International Sportsman's Expo**

The County attended the International Sportsman's Expo in January again with State Parks OHV unit. We had a Rubicon display and educated the youth on trail etiquette and proper use.

### **Rock Crawlers and Brews**

We were invited to the second annual Rock Crawlers and Brews event in Carson City. This is a fun event, with a flex ramp and balance event made with logs. There were users from California and Nevada. I look forward to this event ever year.

### **County Fair**

The County had a booth at the El Dorado County Fair. State Parks OHV Division and Jeepers Jamboree participate with us and added so much to our display. This year we had many vehicles on display which really brought the crowd. On Sunday Jeepers Jamboree and the Rubicon Trail Foundation sponsored an event called the Rubicon Challenge in the grandstands for the second year. Once again it was very successful.

Local Rubicon users put on quite a show for the crowd. The challenge hill was very difficult. Finally one participant made it to the top. Local merchants donated to the challenge hill making it a \$2,000 prize. The County is working with Jamboree on the event for 2020.

### **Jamboree**

We attended Jeepers Jamboree on Friday night. We handed out bandanas at breakfast on Saturday morning. This was once again a wonderful event and we thank the Jamboree for their support.

Jamboree had a UTV Jamboree trip. Justin attended this event and found it to be a wonderful trip. It was a three day with wonderful food and locations on the Tahoe side that the razor had not been too. Thank you for including us on this test run.

### **OHV Commission Tour**

August 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> the State Off-Highway Commission requested a two day trip on the Rubicon Trail. With this two day trip they were able to see the work completed on the El Dorado side and look at the work needed on the Placer side of the trail. There were around 50 people in attendance and the commissioners had such positive things to say. It was a type of wheeling many of them had never done.

There were presentations made at Ellis Creek Bridge, Little Sluice, Buck Island, Observation, and the section by Miller Creek where we are worried about losing the trail. (This is a section that we have a planning grant to look at a re-route.)

Volunteer driver were provided by the RTF. Funding for the food was also provided by RTF. Jeep USA prepared the meals and provided personnel. It was a wonderful trip and a great way to showcase all the efforts of all the agencies, volunteers and user community.

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, I made a formal presentation to the commission at their meeting in Kings Beach. I was able to give the history and background on the Clean Up and Abatement Order and more of the efforts to date. It was effective because they had just experienced the trail.



### **Marlin Crawlers**

We were invited to attend the Marlin Crawler Roundup. As with all events, unless we are invited we respect your events and will attend upon request. This was our first time at this event and it was wonderful. Such wonderful participants and Marlin and Christine were amazing hosts. I thank you so much for allowing us to attend. I thank you again for the generous donation. Marlin donated half of the proceeds to the County for the pumper truck and the other half to RTF. RTF donated their half to the County for a total of \$13,543 which will go directly into the build of the truck. RTF gave another \$5,000 on top of their half. Thank you all for the donations and the invitation to attend the event.

### **July 4, 2019**

On July 4<sup>th</sup> Justin drove the County Jeep with Supervisor Novasel in the South Lake Tahoe 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. It was a great way to get the Rubicon at this event and

Supervisor Novasel was so happy to be in the jeep. She is usually in a corvette or a smaller vehicle. It was amazing to see how excited she was to be in this Rubicon vehicle with the County seal. I hope we can do this again in 2020.



### **Veteran's Day Parade**

We attended the Veteran's Day Parade in Folsom. It was an honor to have Veteran Heidi Philips riding in the County Jeep. This was a very heartwarming event. It meant a lot to Heidi and the other veterans. There were about 8 other jeeps that were with us representing the Rubicon Trail.



### **Hangtown Christmas Parade**

We were in the Hangtown Christmas Parade in Placerville. We had kayaks on top of the Jeep and built a float called the Rubicon Flyer. This was a wonderful event and we hope to build more on the float next year and have more jeeps with us. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with this event.



## **County Contracts**

The County had one contract with the Rubicon Trail Foundation, which provides for pumping and cleaning of the 10 toilet units on the Rubicon Trail.

- One at lower Walker Hill
- One at upper Walker Hill
- One at Soup Bowl
- Two at Little Sluice
- One at Arnolds Rock
- Four at Buck Island

The contract provided for the units to be pumped twice a month or as needed depending on use and time of year. They may not be pumped as often during the shoulder season, which can be April, May, September, October and November. The amount the county spent on this contract in 2019 was \$17,740. RTF maintained a log for each location as to when units were pumped and cleaned (log is attached).

This contract also includes cleaning and stocking of the units identified above as well as the Loon Lake restroom and the Ellis Creek restroom. This is usually twice a week. The amount spent by the County for this service in 2019 was \$2,340.

Sweet Septic is the commercial septic hauler that pumps the septic vault located behind the Ellis Creek restroom; the Ellis Creek vault restroom and the Loon Lake restroom vault. The amount spent by the County for this service in 2019 was \$2,523.

## **Inspections**

Inspections are done as conditions warrant. Since 2012 when the inspections began staff can read the conditions very well. Knowing when a melt may occur, monitoring the amount of snow and temperatures to calculate potential melt. This potential melt would be the reason for meeting the conditions of closure per the easement agreement. The

monitoring season runs December 1<sup>st</sup> through June 1<sup>st</sup> as conditions exist. These were the following inspection dates for last season:

January 24, 2019  
March 25, 2019  
May 7, 2019  
May 22, 2019

There were no closures during this season.

### **Hazardous Material Removal**

El Dorado County's Environmental Management Division has hazardous material sheds located at the three staging areas for the Rubicon Trail. In 2019 the materials were not removed from those sheds. The materials will be removed in the spring 2020.

### **Education**

In 2019 the focus will be Stay on the Trail, Save the Trail. There is only one Rubicon.



The 2020 educational campaign will be spills. Message is the same with just a little change to the design.





## Law Enforcement

### OHV Unit Recap

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office used State OHV Grant monies to patrol the Rubicon Trail as the primary focus but also patrolled the Barrett Lake Trail and other OHV areas within the County. This year we spent 558 hours patrolling the trails. We contacted approximately 5400 trail users and 2722 vehicles in 2019. On the enforcement side, the majority of our problems were resource damage, illegal fires, vehicle registration violations, lack of helmets, and off-trail travel. We responded to several calls which ranged from lost / injured persons to disabled vehicles. Deputies assisted in medically evacuating several critical injuries. Deputies issued 61 warnings, and 10 citations. Warnings were for the following: no helmets on ATV's/side by sides, open containers, blocking trail, off-trail travel, loud music, campfires. The Sheriff's OHV Unit attended several events away from the Rubicon such as: Toys for Tots, National Night Out, Red-Ribbon Week, car shows, and other community events. These events are used to educate the public on the laws and regulations governing the OHV areas of the county.

Season	Major Events	Stats			
		Vehicles	Persons	Warnings	Cite/Arrest
2013: Tim Peterson solo Deputy		3,846	7,803	187	0
2014: Tim Peterson/Steve Wunschel	Helicopter Crash, Small fires, King Fire, Rollover on Big Sluice, SAR	4,199	8,879	140	1/1
2015: Tony Broadfoot/Jeremiah Hamon	7 SAR's, 7 Veh. Rollovers, 5 M.A., Dis. Veh's, Illegal shooting, fires, attended multiple event	7,146	15,846	46	1/1

<b>2016: OHV OT by committee</b>	<b>Citations for Registration/Resource/Parking 3 medical aides/1 death Problems: Trespass/Alcohol/Illegal Camping/Abandon Vehicles</b>	<b>2,654</b>	<b>7,158</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>7/1</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>Off-Road Travel &amp; Resource Damage</b>	<b>2,156</b>	<b>5,005</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2018-Tim Peterson</b>	<b>Citations-1 vehicle code expired registration, 4 Illegal Fire.</b>	<b>4,557</b>	<b>7,640</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2019Tim Peterson</b>	<b>Citations were for registration</b>	<b>2,722</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>10</b>

## Grant

The Rubicon Trail, Operations and Maintenance (O&M) expired on 10/31/2019. This grant was for routine maintenance activities in the amount of \$218,043, \$151,910 in grant with \$66,133 in match. The O&M grant funded the also included the main functional services such as refuse disposal, restroom cleaning and pumping and staff. The Education grant expired on 9/30/2019 in the amount of \$67,691, \$48,941 in grant with \$18,750 in match. The education grant included funding for trail staff and bandana. The grant program for State OHV kicked off in January 2019. Staff submitted 5 applications in 2019. Staff also coordinates with Placer County, Tahoe National Forest and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit on the application. The following was submitted and the status is below:

Grant	Grant Amount	Match Amount	Total	Status
G18-03-06-G01-O&M	\$564,972	\$188,324	\$753,296	Funded
G18-03-06-P01-Planning	\$102,925	\$38,040	\$140,965	Funded
G18-03-06-R02-Restoration	\$41,395	\$9,525	\$50,920	Funded
G18-03-06-S01-Education	\$67,189	\$34,719	\$101,908	Funded
G18-03-06-D01-Development	\$239,975	\$86,250	\$326,225	Not Funded

The grants that were funded will go to the board for approval in January 2020. The O&M grant will provide for additional rock to be dropped on the trail and work to be done on Cadillac Hill working with Tahoe National Forest.

The Education grant funded the bandana for 2020 and will staff the kiosk again. The Planning grant will fund looking into a re-route of the trail around Miller Creek where the hillside is sliding.

The Restoration grant provides for restoration activities where routes need to be re-routed or off trail travel has occurred and we need to block it and restore the area. The Development grant was for a maintenance yard for the County to store the equipment needed for maintenance of the trail. It was decided we should resubmit in 2020 for this grant.

### **Board of Supervisor Actions in 2019**

In 2019 the Board of Supervisors took the following action for the Rubicon Trail:

- April 2, 2019, the Board approved a budget transfer from the Green Sticker Trust Fund to fund the septic pumper trailer to serve as a backup method for waste disposal on the Rubicon Trail.
- April 23, 2019, the Board approved a new department-specific class of Parks Trail Maintenance Worker (extra help) to provide assistance with trail maintenance activities on the Rubicon.
- November 19, 2019, the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Placer County, Tahoe National, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and Eldorado National Forest. (The MOU is described about under County activities).
- December 10, 2019, the Board accepted with appreciation the donations from clubs and individual for the County pumper truck. (This project is discussed above under County activities).