

## Trail Locations

During the workshop, participants were also invited to provide suggestions for specific trail alignments. Working with a GIS application showing existing parks, trails, roads, water features, and other landmarks in El Dorado County several participants directed the consulting GIS analyst to add alignments in desired locations. Following the workshop, other suggested alignments were also provided via email to the project team. The Georgetown Recreation District also provided a series of maps developed by Divide trail user with recommendations for trails and staging areas.<sup>25</sup> Many of the proposed regional trails were the same or very similar to those already identified for future implementation in the 1990 Hiking and Equestrian Trails Master Plan.

### 8.3 Parks Workshops

Three additional workshops were held to gather community input focused on parks. These were held in Pollock Pines (April 13, 2011), Diamond Springs (April 20, 2011) and Greenwood (April 27, 2011). Each meeting evolved into a unique public participation forum using different types of activities tailored to capture the localized interests of participants.

#### Pollock Pines Workshop

The workshop at the Pollock Pines/Camino Community Center was attended by nine people. Given the small number of attendees, the workshop was structured as an interactive discussion about park opportunities, issues, and priorities. The following ideas and concerns were expressed.

- Pollock Pines Community Church is considering developing a small park with picnic areas and play structures on church owned property that would be available for community use. What other private/public partnerships are possible?
- A portion of the EID property along the eastern boundary of Forebay Reservoir is currently unimproved. Participants were interested in exploring the potential for additional passive recreation use such as trails, play structures, and picnic areas to complement the existing recreation activities allowed at Forebay Reservoir. EID is currently planning and designing the El Dorado Forebay Remediation Project that will result in an enlargement of the facilities to meet dam safety requirements and increase the emergency water supply. The project is scheduled for construction in

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<sup>25</sup> Many of the suggestions pertained to existing undesignated local trails and identified the need for neighborhood and community connectivity plans. These are discussed further in Chapter 9.

2013 or 2014. The potential for expanding the passive recreation uses around the reservoir would need to be compatible with the remediation project.

- There seems to be adequate space south of Pony Express Trail to construct a dedicated pedestrian/bicycle trail. The exact width of the right-of-way and private property boundaries would need to be researched. This would be an important non-motorized transportation route as well as a recreation resource.
- Providing a bicycle/pedestrian/equestrian connection from Pollock Pines to Sly Park would connect the commercial opportunities in town to the park visitors without increasing vehicle trips on the already crowded Sly Park Road. It would also be a valuable recreation resource for both the park visitors and Pollock Pines residents. The alignment would involve multiple property owners including the ENF.
- There is a lot of informal winter use at Fresh Pond with people parking at the old gas station. Perhaps a public/private snow park could be developed.
- The population of the area includes many retired people who already see the area as a “park”. They are primarily looking for places to get out and walk or enjoy other passive activities.
- The County-owned 26-acre site is projected to be very expensive to build as planned because of the terrain. Maybe it should only be used for trails, picnic areas, vault restrooms, etc. that aren’t so expensive to build. It could then also function as a place for travelers to pull off U.S. Highway 50 for an extended picnic break and draw people into town for shopping, gas, etc. Alternatively, could the County sell the parcel and use the proceeds for other projects in the area?
- The Eldorado National Forest is actively considering a different approach to improving facilities adjacent to populated areas such as Bridal Veil Picnic Area, versus wilderness areas, recognizing the greater demand for day use.
- People routinely walk the EID ditch alignment in Pollock Pines. The alignment crosses approximately 50 private parcels, and is not a designated public facility. As with all EID facilities, potential use for public recreation depends on various factors including whether or not EID has the authority to grant public access, and operational and safety considerations. If access could be secured, a possible route would be from the EID pump house at the Reservoir 1 water treatment plant, along the ditch, and around Forebay Reservoir to the managed recreation area. Any trails would also need to be compatible with the El Dorado Forebay Reservoir Remediation Project.
- Ecotourism is really important to the Pollock Pines economy. How can County park and trails initiatives support this?
- With so many retirees living in Pollock Pines, there is great potential to leverage volunteerism for park and trail projects, stewardship, patrols, and fundraising.