

**Donner Memorial State Park Road and Trail Management Plan  
Initial Study and Negative Declaration  
Public Comments and Department Responses**

<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>State Response</b>
<p>From Sierra Pacific Industries: SPI has had historic access to its property via two existing road segments located in the southwest corner of the DMSP. It appears that one road is shown as "abandon" and the other is shown as "remove" on the Plan Recommendations Map. These sections are the westernmost portions of the Crest Divide Road and South View Road, respectively. The proposed RTMP would eliminate the ability for SPI to access its property.</p>	<p>The main Crest Divide Road is not slated for abandonment but was recommended to be gated and then maintained, reengineered, or reconstructed as necessary for sustainability. Thereby access to SPI properties would be retained. The South View Road is not recommended for abandonment. South Bowl Road-1 was recommended for removal but, based on this comment, will be changed to "monitor" pending a formal easement between SPI and the Department. This recommendation has been added to the plan as UC-4.</p>
<p>Coldstream trailhead parking: over the past several years the Coldstream Road Trailhead at the gate has become a nuisance area as a result of overuse. Most cars parked there are day use park users. The RTMP recommendations should include moving the gate back to its previous location to the northeast (close to the intersection of Coldstream Rd and Deerfield Dr.) to maintain more of your parking demand onsite instead of in the public ROW and Caltrans property, while capturing parking fees from those day users for trail maintenance costs, etc. The new trailhead parking lot design should include a dog waste bag dispenser and waste bin.</p>	<p>The plan recommends that this access point be developed as a trailhead. As such it is expected to include basic amenities such as parking and trash cans. However, the provision of dog waste bags is an operational issue that will depend on current funding and staffing resources in the district and not within the scope of a Road and Trail Management Plan.</p> <p>The current location of the gate was agreed upon by those who use the gate including the Department, Caltrans, landowners in Coldstream Canyon. It cannot be returned to its previous location near Coldstream Rd and Deerfield Drive because of the frequency with which Caltrans vehicles need to pass through that point to access their staging area.</p> <p>Pursuant to an agreement with the US Forest Service, public access must be maintained to Coldstream Canyon year-</p>

	<p>round. Thus, the gate can be closed during summer when users can pass through the park’s kiosk and campground to reach Coldstream Canyon. However, during the winter when the kiosk is closed, the gate must remain open.</p>
<p>The gate on Coldstream Rd should be closed year round. Closing it during the winter would better maintain the consistent snow surface for recreational users and snow machine commuters. Every year the snow surface is destroyed by people testing their 4-wheel-drive truck's capabilities producing ruts, getting their cars stuck, and leaving them in the middle of the road obstructing the ROW. Leaving this area open for the season to motorized travel with no enforcement present leads to rampant illegal camping, dumping, vandalism of public and private property, etc. Recent years have seen a significant increase in Christmas tree cutting on park property as the kiosk and campground are closed, but it is early enough in the season that Coldstream Rd is still accessible via car. This is just one example of criminal activities occurring between September and May, which is why the gate should be closed and locked.</p>	<p>Coldstream Canyon Road must remain open year-round as a public right of way held by the County of Placer, as well as pursuant to an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service. Thus, the gate can be closed during summer when users can pass through the park’s kiosk and campground to reach Coldstream Canyon. However, during the winter when the kiosk is closed, the gate must remain open.</p> <p>Changes to gate operations would require an amendment to the current Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Forest Service as well as agreement by area landowners. It is likely that the County of Placer may also have concerns about access to the public right of way.</p>

<p>The RTMP recommendations should include an additional hike/bike trail from the Coldstream trailhead through the floor of the valley to mitigate user conflicts on Coldstream Road. The only hike/bike trail immediately ascends up towards Schallenberger Ridge (JPs trail), which is not what the masses are able to physically do. There should be a hike bike trail paralleling Coldstream Road to the Horseshoe Bend at the railroad to eliminate human powered vs engine powered user conflicts, which have increased in recent years and will exponentially increase as the Town of Truckee Coldstream Specific Plan of 700+ residential plus commercial area builds out.</p>	<p>There are already two routes along portions of the canyon floor that are not fully utilized – Coldstream Canyon Road and Ponds Road. It was determined that the need for additional routes did not warrant the new impacts to natural and cultural resources that would be generated by development of additional redundant routes. If use increases in the future, discussions with the U.S. Forest Service and the County of Placer to allow for closure of the roads to vehicle use by the public may be necessary.</p>
<p>The RTMP recommendations should include an increase in miles of trails in Coldstream Canyon to accommodate the numbers of users you should be anticipating.</p>	<p>Between JPs Trail, the proposed Donner Lake Rim Trail, the Ponds Road, and the Coldstream Canyon Road the canyon already has numerous routes that traverse it. Given the railroad alignment, private inholdings, and overall topography of the area, additional routes were not recommended</p>
<p>The RTMP recommendations should include bringing back winter trail grooming. There used to be a groomed cross country trail around the campground areas that is a desperately needed amenity for this community. This park serves all of Truckee, the largest population center in the region, as well as being located on the I80 corridor attracting masses of users. Please bring back the winter trail grooming.</p>	<p>Winter trail grooming is dependent on operational considerations such as budget allocations, staffing, and volunteer coordination in the district. These types of operational issues are not within the scope of this plan. This issue can be brought to the District Superintendent for consideration.</p>

<p>I believe your planning of this project is very out of date, as stated in your report the inventory and trail recommendations were compiled in 2002, your planning is already almost 20 years behind. The park use has increased exponentially over that time and many conflicts are occurring between different types of users. This will continue unless there is more planning to keep various types of users apart.</p>	<p>An initial inventory of roads and trails was conducted in 2002, but due to its limited scope did not have a significant impact on plan recommendations. No new roads or trails or significant modifications to roads or trails have occurred since that time. The inventory was verified and expanded upon to include GPS location data in approximately 2017. This inventory was used to develop the plan maps. Recommendations were based on stakeholder input that was collected 2015 and 2016 and on-going, regular communications with partnering agencies and non-profits. This information will be added to the plan.</p>
<p>I believe more trails are needed in the Lakeview area but abandoning Lakeview Canyon Road will put people’s lives at risk. This road is the only means of egress for local Coldstream residents in case of a fire moving up Coldstream Canyon. It is also the road that CalFire uses to fight fires in the Donner Summit and Anderson Peak areas.</p>	<p>The plan does not call for Lakeview Canyon Road to be abandoned. Instead it calls for the road to be improved for sustainability and two bridges were recently replaced. The plan does call for the road to be gated and residents and public agencies, such as the US Forest Service and CalFire, will be provided with the combination. In addition, the proposed new Summit Canyon Access Trail will provide new trail opportunities to the Lakeview Area.</p>
<p>The Donner Lake Rim Trail (Rim Trail) was envisioned by the Board of Directors of the Truckee Donner Land Trust (Land Trust) in 1993. The Board wanted to showcase the spectacular backcountry of the Donner Lake basin by building a loop trail for the public to use on the ridges and peaks surrounding the lake. The project was launched in 1995 and is one of the key projects in the Land Trust’s portfolio. The trail will also serve as a regional connector to many other trails in the Truckee and Donner Summit area including USFS proposed trails in the Five Creeks area along the Highway 89 South</p>	<p>Thank you for the comments.</p>

<p>corridor as well as recently completed Land Trust trails on the Royal Gorge property. The 12 miles that are currently built are on the north side of Donner Lake with a new 5-mile section that was completed in 2018. Completion of that section now ties the existing Rim Trail to trails like the Pacific Crest Trail and the Hole in the Ground Trail in the west to the large, Trout Creek Trailhead to the east that serves as a hub to many other trails in the area.</p>	
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