

**Appendix S-1**

**Ralston Picnic Area and Cartop Boat Ramp  
Inventory**

**DEVELOPED RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY AND ACCESSIBILITY FORM**

Name of Facility:	<b>Ralston Picnic Area and Car Top Boat Ramp</b>
Type of Facility:	Picnic Area, Boat Launch, Day Use Facility
Managing Agency:	USDA Forest Service – Tahoe National Forest – American River Ranger District
Date of this Inventory:	July 23, 2008
Inventory Prepared by:	Sandra Walter-Perry (ENTRIX) in consultation with Ed Moore and William Davis (TNF) and Vicky Jowice (ENF)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SITE:**

Ralston Picnic Area and Car Top Boat Launch is located on the northwest shore of the Middle Fork American River arm of Ralston Afterbay. The area includes five picnic sites, a small parking area, and an unimproved boat launch. Other amenities include a single unit pre-cast concrete bathroom (CXT). Potable water is not available at this site. The site is operated by the Forest Service with funds provided by PCWA under the current FERC license agreement.

**OVERALL CONDITION OF FACILITY:**

<p><b>Condition of Facility:</b> Overall, the picnic area is in fair condition. The parking area is paved with a chip seal surface that is in fair to good condition. The CXT is relatively new and in good condition. Each of the picnic sites includes a heavy wood table and a pedestal grill. The tables are in poor to fair condition and all of the grills are in fair condition. Signage ranges from poor to fair. The boat ramp is unimproved (e.g. not paved) and is in fair condition, meaning it is functional but needs grading.</p>
<p><b>Accessibility Conditions:</b> The CXT is accessible. However, none of the picnic tables or grills are accessible. The picnic sites are relatively unimproved with native surfaces. None of the sites are considered accessible due to insufficient clear space, obstacles such as brush and rock, and level changes. The parking area does not include any designated handicap parking areas.</p>
<p><b>Health and Safety Concerns:</b> The pathway to Site 5 is too steep and does not meet USDA-FS trail standards. Fire danger due to overgrown vegetation. Abandoned fire ring at Site 4. No potable water. Poison oak. Hot and exposed.</p>
<p><b>Environmental and Cultural Concerns:</b> 19<sup>th</sup> century mining ditch (FS-05-17-54-478) located upslope from picnic area.</p>
<p><b>Comments:</b> This facility appears to be oversized for the amount of recreation use it receives. In addition, it is not being well maintained. Consider resizing the facility to reduce maintenance costs, focusing on improving sites that can be leveled to meet accessibility standards and sites with shade.</p>

**DEVELOPED RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY AND ACCESSIBILITY FORM**

**SITE FEATURES**

Feature	Quantity or Dimensions	Location or Description	Material	Type	Cond	Accessibility						Comments
						Accessible (yes/no)	Needs Leveling	Obstacles present	Brush or hazard trees	Excessive Slope	Other	
<b>Bathroom</b>	Single-unit CXT	At northeast end of parking area.	Pre-cast concrete	Vault	Good	Y						In good condition.
<b>Tables</b>	5	One located at each picnic site.	Painted wood	Heavy	Poor to Fair	N					X	All tables are in fair to poor condition due to damage (split boards, cracks), graffiti, and deteriorated paint. None meet accessibility standards. The table at Site 5 is missing a bench.
<b>Pedestal Grills</b>	5	One located at each picnic site.	Steel	NA	Fair	N	X	X			X	Grills are not accessible either due to height, insufficient clear space, or both. The grills are set in concrete-filled corrugated steel. At Sites 1 and 4, the base is exposed due to erosion, which limits access to the grill.

DEVELOPED RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY AND ACCESSIBILITY FORM

**SITE FEATURES (continued)**

Feature	Quantity or Dimensions	Location or Description	Material	Type	Cond	Accessibility						Comments
						Accessible (yes/no)	Needs Leveling	Obstacles present	Brush or hazard trees	Excessive Slope	Other	
<b>Garbage Containers</b>	1 (2-bin)	Adjacent to CXT.	Steel	Bear-proof 32-gallon	Good	N					X	This garbage container is in good condition but is not considered accessible due to the design of the handles.
<b>Boat Ramp</b>	Approx. 12-15 feet wide by 95-125 feet long, depending upon water level.	Between Sites 1 and 2.	Native surface	Car top launching.	Poor	N	X	X		X	X	Overall, the ramp is in poor condition but is functional for launching car top boats. The boat ramp is unimproved with a native surface, which has eroded. The ramp is narrow, steep, and launching is somewhat complicated by the presence of a large barrier rock in the middle of the ramp. The ramp does not meet accessibility standards due to excessive slope, the surface materials, and the presence of obstacles.

DEVELOPED RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY AND ACCESSIBILITY FORM

**PARKING, ROADWAYS and TRAVEL PATHS**

Feature	Quantity or Dimensions	Location or Description	Material	Cond	Accessibility						Comments
					Accessible (yes/no)	Needs Leveling	Obstacles present	Brush or hazard trees	Excessive Slope	Other	
<b>Access Road</b>	Approx. 260 feet long by 20 feet wide (one and a half lane).	As measured from FR 23 to beginning of parking area.	Aggregate (chip seal)	Good	Y						Surface of entrance road is showing some deterioration. Rocks present on entrance road from adjacent slope. See detailed road survey for additional information.
<b>Turn out</b>	Approx. 1,300 square feet	Small turn out area located southwest of Site 1.	Aggregate	Fair	Y						Small unimproved turn out that can accommodate 1-2 vehicles.
<b>Parking Area</b>	Approx. 5,000 square feet, including area in front of boat ramp.	Adjacent to picnic area.	Asphalt chip seal.	Fair to Good	N					X	Parking area surface is in good condition. Main parking area can accommodate 6 vehicles. No trailer parking. Not striped. No designated handicap accessible parking stalls. Edge of parking area is delineated with barrier rock located along entrance to ramp, along southeast boundary of parking area, and between parking area and CXT.

DEVELOPED RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY AND ACCESSIBILITY FORM

**PARKING, ROADWAYS and TRAVEL PATHS (continued)**

Feature	Quantity or Dimensions	Location or Description	Material	Cond	Accessibility						Comments
					Accessible (yes/no)	Needs Leveling	Obstacles present	Brush or hazard trees	Excessive Slope	Other	
<b>Pathway (Trail)</b>	Approx. 350 feet long. Width varies from about 2-4 feet.	Connects main picnic area to Site 5.	Native surface	Poor	N	X	X	X	X	X	The trail does not appear to be maintained and does not meet USDA-FS condition standards for trails. The trail is relatively steep. Vegetation (including poison oak) is encroaching on the trail. The trail is not accessible due to excessive slope, presence of brush, obstacles (rocks), narrow width, and unconsolidated surface material.

DEVELOPED RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY AND ACCESSIBILITY FORM

**SIGNAGE**

Type of Sign	Location	Qt	Material	Cond	Wording/Graphics	Remarks	Accessibility Notes
Site Identification	Entrance	1	Painted MDO plywood board on painted wood posts	Fair	TAHOE <i>National Forest</i> PICNIC GROUND Ralston	Functional but paint is peeling and in poor condition. Partially obscured by vegetation.	Lettering is partially obscured by vegetation
Road Identification	Entrance	1	Painted aluminum sign on PTDF post	Good	23-04		
Regulatory	Entrance	1	Steel sign with painted lettering on steel post.	Poor	NO CAMPING	Post is rusted. Wording on sign is faded and nearly illegible.	Poor lettering contrast
Traffic	Entrance, at end of traffic guard rail	1	Aluminum sign on steel post	Good	Caution sign - yellow and black diagonal striping		
Regulatory	Adjacent to sites #1 and 2 and between sites #3 and #4	3	Steel signs with painted lettering on steel posts.	Poor	NO CAMPING	Posts are rusted. Wording on signs is faded and obscured by rust.	Poor lettering contrast
Regulatory	Adjacent to site #5	1	Painted steel post	Poor	NO CAMPING (vertical)	Post is rusted. Wording is partially obscured by vegetation.	Not visible from pathways, lettering obscured by vegetation.
Information Board	Adjacent to toilets	1	Painted MDO plywood mounted on steel posts	Fair	none	Front is functional but paint on back of sign is peeling and in poor condition.	