



# FOOTHILLS ANGLER GROUP FACILITIES PROJECT LIST FOR THE RECREATION PLAN



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This document presents the Foothills Angler Group's summary of projects needed in order to begin the process of restoring project-damaged habitat, and enhancing the number and size of Rainbow and Brown Trout populations, as well as the numbers and diversity in BMI, in the bypass and peaking reaches.

## **Proposal for projects to be included within the Recreation Plan document.**

### **General Matters**

- Where the words “prohibit motorized vehicle access” appear in the text, the justifications include (without limitation) the following: to eliminate serious safety conflicts with hikers, anglers, and other visitors encountering motorcycles on steep side hills, erosion and trail damage, motorcycles in the river itself, and threat of wildfire in one of the only unburned canyons.
- Additionally, as overall items, prohibit camp fires away from developed camp grounds; provide adequate fire rings or other protective improvements in improved camp grounds; and ensure that all existing and new trash containers are bear-proof.
- Manage the project in such a manner as to not hinder designation of the Rubicon River and the Middle Fork American River as “Wild and Scenic” under applicable federal and state statutes.
- Make improvements to facilitate reintroduction of anadromous species into the Middle Fork American River. Examples might include elimination of fish barriers at Rucka Chucky by providing a way around the barrier, and at the Tunnel Chute by rewatering the Horseshoe Bend streambed in accordance with a proposal to be submitted by Tom Bartos (see below).
- Wherever campgrounds (and other “hardened” facilities) are specified as PM&E measures, they should to the maximum extent practicable, comply with all federal and state laws relating to disabled persons.

### **Specific Recreation-Related Projects For the Bypass Streams**

The following list addresses improvement and other projects on or near bypass streams, by reach from top to bottom, for ease in following the list’s logic and organization.

#### **A. Projects related to the Rubicon River**

1. Improvements for USFS Road 21 area:
  - Repair Road 21—full of pot holes and worse
  - Improve signage for access to Hales Crossing area from Road 21
  - Clearly mark trailhead for access to Hale’s Crossing at or near end of the dirt road; ban motorized vehicle use of trail
  - Mark trail intersection on east side of Rubicon, pointing to Parsley Bar; ban motorized vehicle use of trail
2. Improvements in the area above and at Ellicott’s Bridge:

- Prohibit motorized vehicle access to 14E09 (Hunters Trail), 14E11 (Deer Creek Trail), and 14E04 (trail to Hale's Camp) in such a manner as to eliminate serious safety conflicts with hikers, anglers, and other visitors encountering motorcycles on steep side hills, erosion and trail damage, motorcycles in the river itself, and threat of wildfire in one of the only unburned canyons
  - Provide signage for access to historic Ellicott's Ranch
  - Repair Hunter Trail signs
  - Provide new trail from Hunter Trail down to Rubicon between bridge and South Fork confluence; ban motorized vehicle use of trail
  - Provide new trail from Hunter Trail down to Rubicon between South Fork confluence and Hale's Crossing; ban motorized vehicle use of trail
  - Provide new "hardened" campground to replace informal campground at the south end of the bridge; include adequate toilet and trash facilities
3. Nevada Point Trail
- Improve signage at Georgetown side trailhead
  - Trail improvements needed: rebuild bridge washed out in 1997 flood; trail maintenance on both sides
  - Continue the ban on motorized vehicle use of trail
4. Improvements for Pennsylvania Point/Buckeye Flat area:
- Improve signage at intersection of Blacksmith Flat Road and USFS Road 14N25G, indicating Rubicon River angler access
  - Perform maintenance on footbridge at base of OHV trail
  - Repair washed out trail on the Georgetown side of the Rubicon; ban motorized vehicle use of trail
  - Install toilet facilities at the informal camping area that exists at the base of the trail, along with trash containers.
5. Projects at and near Oxbow Reservoir:
- Boat ramp improvements: pave ramp; provide ample parking for vehicles, including trailers; provide a restroom
  - Ralston picnic area: Replace existing tables; add more tables and enlarge picnic area
  - Create a "hardened" public campground on or near Oxbow Lake with adequate trash and toilet facilities
  - Create a trail down to the Rubicon beginning just upstream of Ralston p/h, and extend it across the bedrock face on river right adjacent to the first large pool; ban motorcycle use of trail
- B. Projects Related to the Middle Fork American River
1. Improvements for French Meadows Res. Area
- Provide trail from Road 96 near dam down to MF below dam, and along the stream for 1 mile; ban motorized vehicle use of trail
2. Improvements at Interbay:

- Provide trail access from powerhouse upstream to MF; ban motorized vehicle use of trail
  - Provide parking area for anglers
  - Provide restroom and trash management facilities for anglers at parking area
  - Provide adequate fish screening, including structural improvements, to protect fish from entrainment
3. Improvements at Ralston Picnic Area
- Improve and extend trail from picnic area along MF upstream for an additional 1 mile; ban motorized use of trail
- C. Projects Related to Long Canyon Creek
1. Improvements to Middle Meadows campground on Long Canyon Creek
- Improve signage for campground
  - Improve campground with adequate tables, parking sites, trash receptacles, and fire pits
  - Provide adequate restroom
2. North Fork Long Canyon Creek
- Improve public access via road down to the Hell Hole tunnel crossing; ban motorized vehicle use of trail
3. North and South Forks, Long Canyon Creek, at diversion facilities
- Improve diversion facilities to prevent entrainment of fish
  - Install facilities to prevent public from blocking minimum flow pipes
  - Improve diversion facilities to provide for upstream migration of adult fish and downstream migration for all age classes of fish.
4. Improvements at Ramsey Crossing area
- Improve parking area
  - Post anti-litter signs
  - Provide trash receptacle
5. Improvements at Blacksmith Flat Area
- Perform repairs and maintenance on interpretive area
  - Improve trail down to Long Canyon Creek for angler access and provide adequate trailhead signage; ban motorized vehicle use of trail
  - Extend this trail to the footbridge across Wallace Creek; ban motorized vehicle use of trail
6. Improvements at “upper bridge” on Long Canyon Creek
- Install adequate restroom and trash facilities with three or four “designated” campsites with concrete table and fire ring and barrier rocks well defining where vehicles can go. No water system so no need for fees and first come first served.
- D. Projects Related to Duncan Creek
1. Improvements at Duncan Creek diversion area

- Provide angler parking near bridge across creek
- Provide restroom for anglers
- Provide picnic tables near bridge
- Provide trash receptacle near picnic area/campground
- Improve makeshift campground near bridge to “hardened” status
- Improve and mark trail from access road down to gauging station; ban motorized vehicle use of trail
- Improve diversion facilities to prevent, to the maximum extent practicable, entrainment of fish.
- Improve diversion facilities to provide for upstream migration of adult fish and downstream migration for all age classes of fish.

