



Toms Place to Lower Rock Creek Connector Trail Proposal

Submitted by Mono County Sustainable Recreation and funded by Community

Service Area 1 (CSA1) to: United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service,
White Mountain Ranger District

Proposal Date: March 2024

Proponent Name: Mono County

Ranger District: White Mountain

County: Mono

Requested Action: Future agency project list

General Location: Toms Place

Purpose, Background:

Mono County Sustainable Recreation and CSA1 wish to support and increase new non-motorized multi-use trails in South Mono County. One short-term goal is to legalize historic trails. This informal or non-system trail has no trailhead, signage, or facilities. This trail receives significant use and no maintenance. A second goal is to utilize existing public facilities (parks, campgrounds, parking areas) as access / exit nodes, build new trails to connect these facilities and access our local communities.



East of Crowley Lk Dr & Rock Ck Rd intersection (looking west)

The Toms Place to Lower Rock Creek Connector is an existing trail approximately 1.3 to 1.6 miles in length depending on route. Options to legalize this route include approximately 1.34 miles of Forest Service Roads, 2.03 miles of user created routes, and/or to re-route .86 miles for better management and sustainability of a steep section of user created trail. These routes and segments are shown on Map 1 and the map key is attachment 2.

Implementation:

Implementation of this trail project includes:

1. Legalize approximately .96 miles of existing high use trails to 18-to-24-inch tread width shown in blue & orange.
2. Decommission .06 miles or 332 feet of a steep user created trail down to section 1 of Lower Rock Creek Trail shown in blue.
3. Re-route the steep downhill trail at approximately .3 miles to 18-to-24-inch tread width shown in purple.
4. New uphill travel route out of Lower Rock Creek Canyon approximately .56 miles to 18-to-24-inch tread width. This segment might give southbound cyclists a non-US 395 route down to Lower Rock Creek Road shown in yellow.
5. New prescribed/approved regulatory and wayfinding signage providing information such as location of trail, allowable uses, and trail etiquette.
6. Any NEPA/CEQA studies, construction, signage, and on-going maintenance will be funded by Mono County (CSA1),

Converting non-system trails to system trails involves bringing these sections of trail up to Forest Service multi-use non-motorized trail design standards which includes Best Management Practices and providing regular maintenance. Mono County and Inyo National Forest have formal agreements with seasonal trail maintenance program(s) in place.



Looking east before SCE substation & FS sewer plant

Environmental/Heritage:

Any necessary surveys and reports will be paid for by Mono County (CSA1) as part of any necessary environmental review.

Other Benefits and Goals

While this trail connects to a very high use trail in the area, it also creates additional opportunities in the future for dispersing trail users and use existing facilities.

- At the eastern side of Rock Creek Road and Crowley Lake Drive intersection, there is parking along the old highway. The paved width is approximately 36 feet and is currently used for parallel parking in both winter and summer (CSA1 goal to use existing infrastructure),

- The upper access point on Crowley Lake Drive is about 900' east of Toms Place Resort which has lodging, food, water, trash, and restrooms (CSA1 goal connecting to businesses),
- This trail provides access to Sunny Slopes residents via the US 395 undercrossing and Owens Gorge Road (CSA1 goal to connect communities),
- It has already been stated but this trail exists, it is a high use trail now, and yes some reroutes are needed to prevent additional erosion and create better uphill access, the trail is under and over utilities easements for a portion of the route, and other sections are on Forest System Roads (including 4S120 & 120D, 4S120K & 120L), and

- Project is consistent with Mono County General Plan, and Regional Transportation Plan.
- Finally, Mono County will pay (via CSA1) for all studies, construction, and regular on-going maintenance.



FS Rd 4S120L looking west – Birch Fire scar 2002
and old highway mixing table

Future efforts:

CSA1 projects in the next 2-5 years - not a part of this proposal: *the trail in red (future concept) could connect both French Camp and Holiday campgrounds where families and users could ride from their campsite. Water, restrooms, and trash facilities are available. Part of this trail could utilize the Birch Fire scare of 2002. About 900' above the Holiday Campground entrance, there is an informal parking area.*

Map 1 Toms Place to Lower Rock Ck Trail



