

DONNER PASS ROAD SHOULDER EROSION CONTROL SITE IMPROVEMENT AND RESTORATION

Project Summary

A section of Donner Pass Road approximately 1 mile west of Donner Summit was built over 70 years ago in very loose erodible soils and bedrock where roadway cuts are as high as 65 feet and as long as 300 feet or more with slope angles approaching 36 degrees (73 percent). These barren roadway cut slopes have been an ongoing source of erosion and sediment runoff onto the highway as well as downgradient properties, surface waters, and other natural resources. The site is situated near Sugar Bowl Ski Resort, and the South Yuba River and Lake Van Norden are the receiving waters for the sediment-laden runoff originating from the erosion prone slopes.

The eroded slopes are located on Placer County road right-of-way and would include up to one acre of land restoration and upgrading of storm water drainage and treatment facilities to improve the water quality of the South Yuba Water Watershed.

Specifically, grant funding would be utilized to rehabilitate the roadway slopes with mechanical and/or native vegetation treatments to both improve water quality and the aesthetics of this scenic roadway. Dilapidated drainage facilities would be replaced and/or upgraded to better contain and treat slope and road storm water runoff.

Restoration efforts would be applied to design, permitting and construction of long-term, permanent slope mitigation measures. Benefits to watershed restoration would be measured by improved drainage controls and reduced sediment runoff thereby increasing the quality of roadway runoff that drains to into the South Yuba Watershed near the headwaters of the South Yuba River.

This project will significantly improve the water quality of roadway runoff in the area and beautify a section of road considered a scenic byway that runs adjacent to existing recreational facilities and natural resources enjoyed by the public.

The total project cost is estimated at \$1,020,000. We have \$20,000 available through traffic mitigation fees allocated by Placer County. Total grant being requested is \$1,000,000.