



State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Donner Memorial State Park Proposed High Sierra Crossings Museum Project Information

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is the Lead Agency for the proposed High Sierra Crossings Museum at Donner Memorial State Park and is preparing a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this project. Your comments and participation at this meeting will help us define and evaluate the potential environmental effects of constructing and operating this new facility within your community.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project site is located in Donner Memorial State Park, which is within the city limits of Truckee, in Nevada County, California. It is at the eastern end of Donner Lake and borders Donner Pass Road (old Highway 40), which parallels Highway 80 East. The proposed site covers approximately five acres.

The proposed Visitor Center building would have approximately 10,000 square feet of floor space. The structure would be constructed to satisfy current seismic safety codes, access compliance regulations (American with Disabilities Act), life safety and fire standards, and energy conservation regulations and guidelines.

The building would provide room for the following functions:

- Lobby/Orientation Area
- Public Restrooms
- Theater (Multi-purpose Room)
- Exhibit Space
- Gift Shop
- Employee support spaces adequate for the operations of the building

Approximately 56,000 square feet of paved, pay-for-use parking would be constructed to serve the new Museum, along with a paved access road, approximately 24 to 26 feet wide and 480 feet in length. Access would be from an encroachment, approximately 70 feet in width, onto Donner Pass Road. A left turn lane and acceleration/deceleration lanes would also be constructed on Donner Pass Road, in cooperation with the Town of Truckee and California Department of Transportation. A disembarking area for buses would be constructed at the front entrance to the building and the parking lot would have a designated area for up to three buses. Four ADA-compliant parking spaces would be provided near the building. The parking lot would accommodate a minimum of 70 regular motor vehicles, in addition to the ADA and bus parking. Overflow parking for cars, RVs, and buses would be available in the existing Emigrant Trail Museum parking lot.

Utilities, consisting of water, sewer, gas, electric power, and communication lines, would be installed to the facility from existing providers to the park. All the utility lines would be underground. A packaged pump station with duplex grinder pumps would be installed near the Visitor Center building, with connections to the Truckee Sanitary District's main sewage line on Donner Pass Road.

Two trails are directly associated with the Museum project - an interpretive trail around and adjacent to the Museum building, and a foot trail connecting the existing Emigrant Trail Museum and the proposed High Sierra Crossing Museum. These may extend beyond the five-acre primary site boundaries.

During Operation

The existing Emigrant Trail Museum will be converted to Park offices, once the new Museum is in operation. Restrooms at the existing facility will remain open to the public.

The new Museum would be open for visitors seven days a week, from 9 am - 4 pm. Hours may be extended until 5 pm during the summer months, if staffing permits. The facility may also be used for special events during or after regular hours of operation.

The parking lot will be open until sunset year round. The interpretive trail will be closed during the winter months and no snow removal will occur on the trails.