

FRRS/Portola Railroad Museum

Model Railroad Layout Proposal

April 3, 2004

Current Layout

The current layout measures 12' x 18', comprises of 5 independent ovals, and one point to point branch line (point to point because of an out of service turnout to the 5th oval. Evaluation of the current layout's condition is that it is poor but repairable for reliable continuous operation that does not require an attendant.

The problems with the current layout

- Roadbed is uneven in places with warped and or kinked track.
- Open joints at railhead connections.
- Poor access for maintenance as by estimate, 65% of the layout is hidden trackage.
- Un-wired turnout machines and sidings.
- Decaying and in places, incomplete Scenery.

Recommended fixes for current layout

- Replace track in bad areas.
 - Close joints with new track.
 - Wire sidings for operation.
 - Re-do the ground foam that is in place by using a Styrofoam cutter, make it less bumpy, add rock castings, blend in ground cover.
 - Ideally, replacement of current layout as listed below.
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Proposed New layout

After a lot of discussion, and measurement of the gift shop and the layout's current location, we would like to propose a new layout eventually replace the current layout, the new layout will be built in two phases and more reflect the Western Pacific railroad and it's passage through the Feather River canyon.

Phase 1

- Removal of current layout, save what we can off of the layout for future use.
- Utilize the east end of the gift shop from north to south wall, and expand west 2 feet, creating a 14' x 23' layout.
- Layout designed for both member operations after hours, and continuous run during museum hours of operation.
- Phase 1 will highlight specific locations such as James, Pulga or Tobin, Twain, Paxton with Indian Valley representation, Keddie Wye, Quincy Jct with Quincy RR Representation, Williams Loop, Spring Garden, Clio with Sierra Valley & Mohawk Representation, Mabie, and Portola. Loops at James and Portola will duck under the layout in two helix's that will allow for both continuous running, and hidden staging for period display trains
- No specific time period set for modeling time frame.

Phase II

- After Gift shop moves to Depot in Parking lot, expand phase 1 to fill entire room with the layout.
- Expansion stretches distance modeled to Stockton to Portola, with Tidewater Southern branch at Stockton end of the layout. Locations added to modeled area include Haggin, Binney Jct, and Oroville.
- Continuous running remains via aforementioned Helix system.
- Improved Ability to model specific locales such as Keddie, Williams Loop, and Clio.

