

2015 Volunteer Projects Report



Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center

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2015 Volunteer Report for CSERC

2015 was an impressive year for our Center's volunteer restoration projects. We succeeded in engaging more people in more projects on public lands than we ever have before. **In 2015, we completed 26 volunteer project days with 219 participants and 1,423 hours of labor donated to get the work done!**

As usual the projects that CSERC organized and coordinated were incredibly diverse in resources and locations that were restored by the work accomplished by volunteers. Quantifying the impact that these projects have is difficult because there are benefits above and beyond the actual restoration value. There is the increased pride of stewardship and conservation ethic by participants, or the positive influence they have on their peers in the future, or the visitors whose recreational activity is improved due to the restored environment they experience. These benefits are difficult to measure, yet they are very much a result of the workday efforts.

Other benefits of CSERC's projects are easy to define: thousands of non-native invasive plants were removed from 5 acres of national forest land; 31 acres of meadows were protected or restored; 5 miles of damaging off-road vehicle routes in sensitive habitats were naturalized; ten locations in the forest that are critical habitat for rare animal and plant species benefitted from restoration work; eight watersheds were directly improved by volunteer restoration projects; nine popular recreational locations were cleaned up and restored; and 2.5 miles of wilderness hiking trails were maintained! *To see the details of what was actually done, please look through the attached Project Log Description that describes each project.*

In addition to our highly successful year of performing restoration work, CSERC received the National Award for Stewardship on US Forest Service lands (after being nominated by the Stanislaus National Forest). That award was given to CSERC for work that our staff and volunteers completed in 2014. This was a huge honor that reflected the quality of work that our organization consistently aims to achieve.

We would not be attempting the extensive amount of work we accomplish every year if it wasn't for the support of REI. With REI support, our staff is able to spend the many hours that are necessary to identify and plan projects, to coordinate the events and volunteers, and to follow up with both the land agencies and participants after the work is done.

Please take a few minutes to look through CSERC's 2015 Volunteer Projects Report to get a sense of the positive impact that our volunteers have made on our public lands in the Northern Yosemite region.



2015 Volunteer Project Log -

Project date	Project objective	Time/total donated	# of participants	Details
1. April 18 th	Crandal Peak OHV Restoration	7 hr project (119 hours donated)	17	Blocked and naturalized over 1 mile of unauthorized motorcycle route on sensitive lava cap habitat.
2. May 5 th	Spring fencing near Lake Moran	9 hr project (27 total hours donated)	3	Helped to build new fencing around 1 acre spring/seep site where sensitive plants were identified
3. May 19 th	Spotted Owl OHV protection	5 hr project (25 hours donated)	5	Blocked unauthorized wood-cutting road that intruded into nesting pair of Spotted Owl habitat
4. May 22 nd	Mt. Lady Slipper fencing	9 hr project (36 hours donated)	4	Built fencing exclosures around sensitive plant occurrences within the Rim Fire burn area
5. May 29 th	Mt. Lady Slipper fencing	9 hr project (27 hours donated)	3	Built fencing exclosures around sensitive plants in the Rim Fire (total area between 2 days = about 1 acre)
6. May 30 th	Lake Moran Meadow fencing	9.5 hr project (171 hours donated)	18	Built new meadow fence around approx. 5-acre meadow site to protect sensitive plant species.
7. June 2 nd	Cable Meadow workday	5 hr project (25 hours donated)	5	Repaired fence and pulled weeds at CSERC-adopted meadow site (about 1-acre)
8. June 5 th	Long John Meadow fencing	7 hr project (21 hours donated)	3	Repaired damaged fence line around 4 + acre site, within Rim Fire burn area.
9. June (throughout)	Weed pull Rim Fire	4 hr project (4 hours donated)	1	Pulled noxious plant species within Rim Fire burn area.
10. June 11 th	Crab Meadow fencing	5 hr project (65 hours donated)	13	Set up "take-down" fence at Crab Meadow fen (about 2 acre site)
11. June 15 th	Jawbone Allotment Fencing	8 hr project (32 hours donated)	4	Repaired damaged fence line around 7 + acres of meadow, within Rim Fire burn area.
12. June 27 th	Deer Creek (upper) OHV	6 hr project (78 hours donated)	13	Blocked and naturalized over 1 mile of unauthorized OHV route in area with sensitive plants and rare wildlife.
13. July 11 th	Weed pull in Carson-Iceberg Wilderness	8 hr project (72 hours donated)	9	Pulled bull thistle and wooly mullein from 3 acre meadow site in Carson Iceberg Wilderness.
14. July 20 th	Jawbone Allotment fencing	6.5 hr project (19.5 hours donated)	3	Finished repairing damaged fence line around 7 + acres of meadow, within Rim Fire burn area.
15. July 21 st	Beardsley PVC pipe removal	5 hr project (45 hours donated)	9	Removed about 500-700' feet of old PVC pipeline in riparian habitat with SO and Goshawk PACs.

16. July 25 th	South Fork Stanislaus OHV	6 hr project (78 hours donated)	13	Blocked and naturalized about .75 mile of unauthorized road access to the river; blocked 5 dispersed camping sites to vehicle access along river.
17. August 8 th	Chain Lakes trail maintenance	8.5 hr project (102 hours donated)	12	Brushed and improved drainage (building water bars) on 2.5 miles of hiking trail.
18. August 22 nd	Deer Creek OHV restoration	6 hr project (54 hours donated)	9	Blocked and naturalized over 1.5 mile of unauthorized OHV routes in area with sensitive plants and rare wildlife and riparian restoration needs.
19. Sept. 1 st	Bell Mountain OHV	7 hr project (70 hours donated)	10	Blocked unauthorized hill climb with debris, spread erosion control rice straw, and installed straw wattles/silt fence as needed. Blocked with large debris about .75 mile unauthorized motor vehicle route that borders roadless area
20. Sept. 26 th	Clavey River OHV restoration	6 hr project (60 hours donated)	10	Installed (dug holes and put in ground) 30 8"x8" wooden bollards to stop vehicles from driving in forest along the Clavey River in popular dispersed camping area (watershed protection).
21. Sept. 30 th	Riverside Day Use stewardship	4 project (36 hours donated)	9	Stained 6 picnic tables, 12 benches, 1 10-foot bridge, and one informational sign. Built two waterbars on river access trail to slow erosion. Picked up trash (about 75 lbs) along .5 mile of N. Fork Tuolumne River.
22. Oct.7 th	South Fork Road scotch broom weed pull	4.5 hr project (27 hours donated)	6	Removed over 1000 Scotch broom bushes in an area about .5 acre in size.
23. Oct. 12 th	Lake Moran fence takedown	7 hr project (35 hours)	5	Took down the seasonal fence that volunteers built in the Spring.
24. Oct. 10 th	Lyons Meadow restoration	5 hr project (65 hours donated)	13	Picked up thousands of bullet casings at meadow site being used as a shooting range. Install straw wattles at creek crossing to reduce erosion. Blocked unauthorized vehicle hill climb affecting Lyons Creek watershed.
25. Oct. 24 th	China Flat wire removal	6 hr project (102 hours donated)	17	Cut and hauled out over 7000 feet of down wire along trail that parallels the Middle Fork Stanislaus River.
26. Oct. 26 th	Crab, Fiddlers, Burt Reed fences takedown	6 hr project (30 hours donated)	5	Took down seasonal fenceline around 4 acres of restoring meadow habitat.
1423.5 hours total service 219 people participating				



**1. Crandal Peak OHV
restoration – April 18, 2015**



**2. Spring fencing (near Lake
Moran) - May 5, 2015**



**3. Spotted Owl OHV
restoration – May 18, 2015**



4.& 5. Mountain lady slipper orchid, fencing project – May 22 and 28, 2015



6. Lake Moran fence installation project – May 30, 2015 *and*

23. Lake Moran fence takedown (seasonal) – October 12, 2015





7. Cable Meadow fence repair and weed removal – June 2, 2015 (left and top)

8. Long John Meadow fence repair- June 5, 2015 (bottom)





10. **Crab Meadow fencing** - June 11, 2015 (above)

11. **Jawbone meadows fence repair** – June 15, 2015





12. Deer Creek OHV restoration – June 27, 2015 (above, left)

13. Arnot Creek/Carson Iceberg Wilderness Weed Pull – July 11, 2015 (below)





14. Jawbone meadows fence repair – July 20, 2015



15. Beardsley PVC pipe removal – July 21, 2015



16. South Fork Stanislaus OHV restoration- July 25, 2015 (above)

17. Chain Lakes trail maintenance – August 8, 2015 (below)

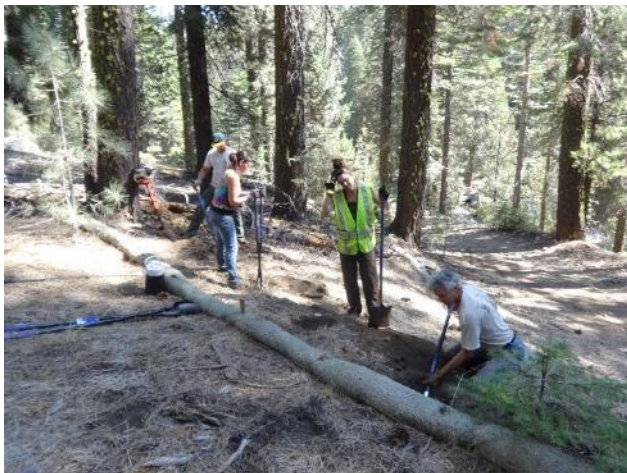
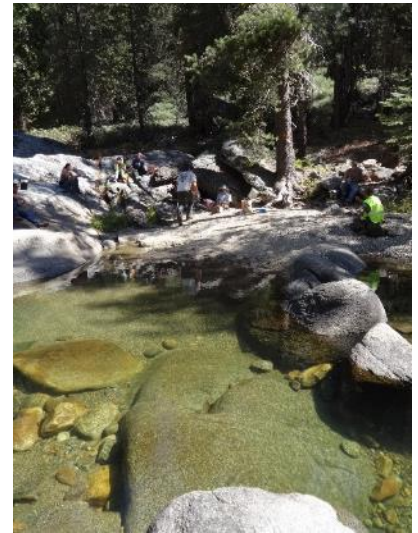




18. Deer Creek OHV restoration – August 18, 2015.



**19. Bell Mountain OHV naturalization and restoration –
September 1, 2015**



20. Clavey River OHV restoration – September 26, 2015



21. Riverside Day Use
September 30, 2015 (left)

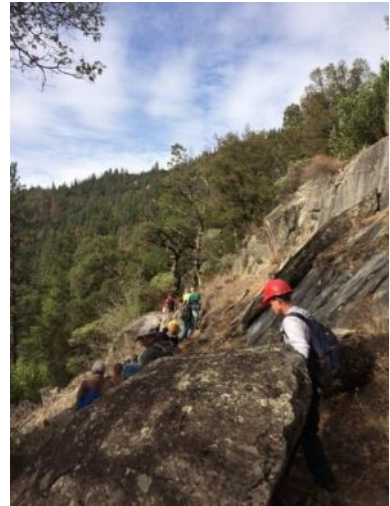


22. Scotch Broom weed
removal – October 7, 2015
(below)





23. Lyons Meadow restoration –
October 10, 2015



25. China Flat wire removal – October 24, 2015



26. Crab Meadow, Fiddler's Green Meadow, and Burt Reed Meadow seasonal fence takedown – October 26, 2015