



2017 Volunteer Report



Central Sierra Environmental Resource
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CSERC's 2017 Volunteer Report

Once again, it was another memorable year for stewardship on the Stanislaus National Forest. In 2017, we completed 10 volunteer workdays with 96 total participants and 591 hours of time donated. As a result, public lands were benefited in the following ways:

- We planted nearly 1,000 conifer tree seedlings in a high-severity burn area.
- More than 7 acres of meadow and stream habitat were protected and/or restored through fence building and streambank stabilization work.
- A significant number of invasive bull thistle was removed from a sensitive meadow habitat.
- 1.5 miles of trail were brushed, trimmed back and maintained.
- Illegal OHV routes were naturalized and restored.
- Survey efforts to locate mountain lady's-slipper helped increase data about the location and status of the rare plants.

Protecting at-risk resources and restoring degraded areas on public lands are a pivotal part of ensuring these unique places thrive into the future. Efforts by volunteers over the years have demonstrated that hard work, dedication and perseverance do make a difference for the health of forests and watersheds. This 2017 Volunteer Project Report highlights some of the positive impacts that volunteers made on public lands in the Northern Yosemite region this past year.

2017 Volunteer Projects Overview

1. March 28, 2017 -- **Rim Fire Tree Planting**. 8-hour project, 24 people. Volunteers planted nearly 1,000 conifer seedlings in a high-severity burn area on the Groveland RD. Total hours donated = 192.
2. May 20, 2017 -- **Trout Creek OHV Restoration**. 6-hour project, 14 people. Installed straw wattles, signs and covered illegal routes along Trout Creek. Total hours donated = 84 hr.
3. June 15, 2017 -- **Upper Fiddler's Green/Leland Gully Meadow Fencing**. 4.5-hour project, 6 people. Put up a seasonal fence around a restored meadow. Total hours donated = 27 hr.
4. June 24, 2017 -- **Meadow Invasive Weed Pull**. 7 hours 6 people Total hours donated = 42 hr.
5. June 27, 2017 -- **Mountain Lady Slipper Surveys** 4 hours 3 people. Total hours donated = 12 hr. Surveyed and documented plant occurrence in an area on the forest.
6. July 8, 2017 -- **Crab Meadow Fence Re-build**. 7 hours 12 people. Total hours donated = 84 hr. Rebuilt fence surrounding a 2-acre portion of meadow where sensitive fens occur.
7. August 5, 2017 -- **Deer Creek OHV Restoration** 4.5 hours 11 people = 49.5 hr. Installed straw wattles, laid down hay and repaired wooden fence posts to reduce erosion and deter use of hillsides in a popular OHV area.
8. October 3, 2017 -- **Crab Meadow Fence Takedown** 5 hours 3 people = 15 hr. Took down seasonal fence.
9. October 7, 2017 -- **Westside Trail Maintenance** 5 hours 9 people = 45 hr. Trimmed back overgrown shrubs, trimmed grass, installed signs, and removed rock debris along trail.
10. October 17, 2017 -- **Upper Fiddler's Green/Leland Gully Meadow Fencing**. 5-hour project, 8 people. Total hours donated = 40 hr. Took down seasonal fence and streambank stabilization

Total participants -- 96 volunteers
Total hours donated – 591 hours

Project 1. Rim Fire Tree Planting -- March 28th, 2017

Nearly 1,000 trees were planted by volunteers in a severely burned area of the Rim Fire.



Project 2. Trout Creek OHV Restoration -- May 20th, 2017



Staff and volunteers installed signs, laid straw wattles and moved branches to cover, naturalize and deter use of illegal OHV routes - reducing future sediment erosion into Trout Creek (shown at left).



Project 3. Fiddler's Green/Leland Gully Meadow Fencing Set-up -- June 15th, 2017, and Project 10. Fence Takedown and Streambank Armoring and Stabilization -- October 17th, 2017.



Not only did volunteers' set-up and takedown the fence surrounding this restored 5-acre meadow, but in October volunteers also helped the District Hydrologist to armor streambanks with large cobble and woody debris to maintain the integrity of the restored stream channel.



Project 4. Invasive Weed Removal -- June 24th, 2017.

Volunteers spent the day pulling invasive bull thistle plants in a meadow within the Rim Fire footprint under the guidance of a Forest Service Botanist.



Project 5. Mountain Lady's-slipper Survey Work -- June 27th, 2017.

The mountain Lady's-slipper (scientific name, *Cypripedium montanum*) is a rare species of orchid found across Western North America. Although its range is large, its distribution is low, and it is considered a vulnerable species (according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, IUCN). The plant has maroon, purple or brown-colored twisted petals (or sepals) and a large white pouch, flowering in spring and early summer. Fun fact: like other orchids, the Lady's-slipper parasitizes on soil fungi to acquire nutrients and water.



CSERC staff and volunteers surveyed an area of the national forest to search for the rare plants. During the surveys, numerous individual plants were found, and two new undocumented locations were added to the USFS database!

Project 6. Crab Meadow Fence Rebuild -- July 8th, 2017, and Project 8. Crab Meadow Fence Takedown -- October 3rd, 2017.



In July, volunteers rebuilt a fence surrounding a 2-acre portion of Crab Meadow to continue protecting sensitive fens within the meadow. In October, CSERC staff returned to take the fence down for the winter season.



Project 7. Deer Creek Restoration Work -- August 5th, 2017.



Volunteers installed straw wattles, scattered hay, and repaired wooden fence posts to deter illegal use by OHVs of areas along Deer Creek. The wattles and hay reduce the movement of sediment into the adjacent stream (see pictures to the left taken during and after volunteers spread the hay and installed the straw wattles on a bare, eroding hillside).



Project 9. Westside Trail Maintenance -- October 7th, 2017.



Volunteers installed signs, trimmed back shrubs and grasses encroaching onto the trail, and removed rock debris from nearly a 2-mile stretch of the trail.

