



VOLUNTEER REPORT



2018

Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center ~ www.cserc.org ~ (209)586-7440

CSERC's Volunteer Report

CSERC strives to make the greatest difference for our local watersheds by motivating volunteers and connecting them to the areas in greatest need of restoration and protection. 2018 was another productive year of hard work, dedication and fun with a great group of volunteers. We completed 11 volunteer workdays with 92 total participants and 690 hours of time donated by volunteers. In addition, CSERC staff contributed 415 hours planning the projects and working alongside our volunteers. As a result of all this hard work, our National Forest benefited in the following ways:

- Volunteers and staff planted nearly 1,000 tree seedlings working alongside young people from AmeriCorps NCCC.
- 2.5 miles of trails were repaired for drainage issues and signed for public use.
- Approximately 10 acres of meadow habitat was protected from cattle by installing and repairing fencing.
- Multiple illegal OHV routes were blocked and restored to control erosion issues.
- Campfire rings were reconstructed at 5 campsites and seeds were collected and spread to re-vegetate over-used areas.
- Trash was removed from campsites along the Clavey River.

All these benefits to our local forest and watershed would not be possible without volunteers who are willing to roll up their sleeves and make a difference. **If you are not yet on our email list, and would like to be added to receive project notifications in 2019 please contact Liz Gregg at lizg@cserc.org or call (209) 586-7440.**

CSERC's 2018 Volunteer Project Summary

1. March 19th - **Rim Fire tree planting** - 10 hour project, 7 people. Volunteers planted 250 conifer seedlings in a high-severity burn area on the Groveland Ranger District. Total hours donated = 70
2. March 29th - **Rim Fire tree planting** - 8 hour project, 16 people. Volunteers planted 700 conifer seedlings in a high-severity burn area on the Groveland Ranger District. Total hours donated = 120
3. May 5th - **Sugarpine Railroad Trail maintenance** - 6.5 hour project, 6 people. Volunteers helped repair drainage issues along the 2.5 mile section of trail and install signage for trail users. Total hours donated = 39
4. May 17th - **Long John Meadow fence repair (day 1)**- 8 hour project, 5 people. Volunteers helped patch breaks in the fence to keep the cattle out. Total hours donated = 45
5. June 7th - **Crab Meadow and Leland Gully fence set-up** - 7.5 hour project, 12 people. Fences were put up around two meadows to protect a fen and a restoration project from damage due to cattle. Total hours donated = 90
6. June 17th - **Long John Meadow fence repair (day 2)** - 8 hour project, 11 people. Volunteers finished patching the breaks in the fence to effectively keep the cattle out of the meadow all season. Total hours donated = 88
7. July 14th - **Long Valley campsite restoration** - 7 hour project, 5 people. Fire rings were reconstructed to be smaller, campsites were cleaned up and signs were installed to show the restoration area. Total hours donated = 35
8. August 25th - **Bourland Mountain OHV restoration** - 7 hour project, 13 people. Bollards were installed and illegal trails were blocked with debris. Total hours donated = 91
9. September 25th - **Long Valley seed collection** - 7.5 hour project, 6 people. Seeds were collected and scattered in the tilled restoration areas at 5 campsites to re-vegetate over-used areas. Total hours donated = 45
10. October 9th - **Crab Meadow and Leland Gully fence take-down** - 5 hour project, 5 people. Fences were taken down around two meadows after the cattle had left to protect the fences from damage during the winter. Total hours donated = 25
11. October 18th - **Clavey River clean-up and Trout Creek OHV restoration** - 7 hour project, 6 people. Trash was cleaned up at campsites along the Clavey river and illegal OHV routes were blocked to prevent erosion at Trout Creek. Total hours donated = 42

RIM FIRE TREE PLANTING MARCH 19 & 20

In 2013, the Rim Fire burned over 250,000 acres of habitat. CSERC has been partnering with the Forest Service and Tuolumne River Trust to replant high severity burn areas. Over two days in March of this year, 23 CSERC volunteers gathered in the Groveland Ranger District to plant almost 1,000 trees. Our volunteers donated 190 hours of hard work to get the job done while working alongside young people from AmeriCorps NCCC.



SUGARPINE TRAIL MAINTENANCE MAY 5

The Sugarpine Railroad Trail that runs along the Stanislaus River is a popular walking and biking destination for many of the area's residents and visitors. This year in May, CSERC volunteers and staff headed out to the trail to repair drainage issues by clearing ditches and rebuilding swales. This work will help prevent the trail from eroding into the Stanislaus River. CSERC volunteers also helped the Forest Service to install signs for trail users. Six volunteers donated 39 hours of work to keep the trail in good condition.



LONG JOHN FENCE REPAIR MAY 17 & JUNE 17

The fence at Long John meadow protects a restoration project from damage by cattle. CSERC maintains this fence each year so that the meadow and streambanks can recover from over-grazing, pocking and chiseling by cattle. Unfortunately, the fence suffered substantial damage last year with dozens of breaks in the barbed wire. Heavy snow loads in the winter can actually break the barbed wire. It took two days to complete the repairs, and 16 volunteers donated 133 hours of labor to help CSERC get the job done.



CRAB & LELAND FENCE SET-UP JUNE 7



The fence at Crab Meadow protects two fens, and the fence at Leland Gully protects a meadow restoration project from cattle. These fences are designed to be put up in the spring and laid down in the fall to protect them from damage due to heavy snow loads. In June, prior to the arrival of cattle, 12 volunteers gathered with CSERC staff and the Forest Service to reassemble the fences in record time. Volunteers donated 90 hours to protect these two important meadow areas.



LONG VALLEY CAMPSITE RESTORATION JULY 14

In July this year, CSERC staff and volunteers helped the Forest Service to restore over-used and degraded campsites at Long Valley. The soil had become compacted and a number of illegal OHV routes had been created between the campsites. The Forest Service installed barriers and CSERC staff and volunteers helped to move and rebuild campfire rings further from the creek. Volunteers also installed signs for the restoration areas. Five volunteers contributed 35 hours of work to restore five campsites and protect Long Valley creek.



BOURLAND MTN. OHV RESTORATION AUG. 24



In August this year, CSERC staff and volunteers worked on blocking illegal trails near Bourland Mountain. Volunteers installed bollards and scattered debris over illegal trails near a creekside campsite. They also spread rice straw to help prevent erosion of the campsite into Bourland Creek. Overall, 13 volunteers donated 91 hours of work.



LONG VALLEY SEED COLLECTION SEPT. 25

In September, CSERC volunteers returned to the dispersed campsites at Long Valley to help re-vegetate areas that had been over-used and compacted. Earlier in the month the Forest Service had tilled these heavily compacted areas and installed barriers to prevent anyone from driving on them. The seeds collected represented a broad array of native plants growing in the area. Six volunteers provided 45 hours of labor to help restore this beautiful valley.



CRAB & LELAND FENCE REMOVAL OCT. 9

In October every year, after the cattle have left the forest, CSERC staff and volunteers return to Crab Meadow and Leland Gully to take the fences down for the winter to prevent them from being damaged by snow. Unfortunately, at Crab Meadow this year a tree had fallen on a portion of the fence. While there was evidence that the cows had grazed inside the fence, the damage was not extensive. Next year we will be repairing the fence. Five volunteers donated 25 hours of labor to help CSERC protect the fences from further damage.



CLAVEY CLEAN-UP & TROUT CREEK OHV OCT. 18

In October, CSERC volunteers helped block illegal OHV routes, install signs and spread straw to prevent erosion. After a beautiful lunch by the Clavey River pools, we cleaned up dispersed campsites so that the trash would not wash into the Clavey River this winter. Volunteers collected enough trash to fill the back of the Forest Service truck. Six volunteers donated 42 hours of hard work to protect the watershed.

