



2014 Semi Annual Newsletter



Donate Today, you can Double Your Money due to a matching grant up to \$4,000 until December 31st and get a tax write off. We are a 501c3 nonprofit, ID # 57-114790. You can donate on line at www.trailcrew.org or mail a check to HSVTC at 2020 E. Birkhead, Fresno, CA 93730

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Special points of interest:

- Volunteer hours spent this year
- Value of these volunteer hours to our partners
- Eight organizations partner on Trail Crew projects.
- Nine organizations partner with the ERT team to clean up our public lands

This Years Accomplishments

Thank you for supporting the High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew, if you are a person that volunteers out on the trail or supports our organization we appreciate the support. We and our partners gain from our work and the people who volunteer gain from the satisfaction that Stewardship of our public lands leaves with them. Helping out on a trail in our public lands is a great experience. Great work was completed in 2014. We had seven Back Packing Trips, two Base Camp Trips, five Day events and two Environment Reclamation Team Operations. These events involved 336 trail work

volunteers, 55 other event volunteers, 34 Environment Reclamation Team volunteers and 5 related to the operations required to run trail crew. That is a total of 435 volunteers equaling 9,439 Trail work volunteer hours 925 other event volunteer hours 900 Environment Reclamation Team hours making a total of **11,264 hours volunteered this year.** Using the Forest Service value for a volunteer hour of \$22.55 that give a **volunteer value of \$254,403.**

We have built new relationships this year. There are a lot of new faces on trail



crew trips, new people are supporting our organization and people are enthused about volunteering. Thanks to all of our leaders and core group that keeps this operation running. There is no doubt that we would not be here without your help.

Partners we worked with this year

We started in March and still are not finished working on projects with our partners this year. We worked with the State of California State Parks at Millerton Lake, Sierra National Forest, Sequoia National Forest, Inyo National Forest, Tree Fresno, the Foothill Conservancy, Crespi Carmelite High

School and Wilderness Outreach. All of these organizations assisted with Trail crew Projects in 2014. The Volunteer Environmental Reclamation Team was assisted by, Yosemite Resource and Conservation District, Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project, the California Department

of Fish and Wildlife, Army National Guard, Forest Service law enforcement officers and the Northern California Reclamation Coalition. We thank all of our partners for their support and look forward to their future support.

Base Camps and Day trips



Big Meadows crew

We had seven events this year, four base camps and four day events. Big Meadows was our biggest event by far, mainly due to Rick Chappell's hard work. We had almost forty people attend. At one point there were

five work crews out doing trail maintenance. Edison and Courtright were great as well even

though we were snowed out of Courtright. The Edison Crew created a water crossing for stock and even with the snow the crew at Courtright had a great time and got a lot of trail work finished. Day trips included Millerton lake where a crew of eight to ten people reinforced a steep bank with rock. Fancher Creek a partnership with Tree Fresno that is an ongoing project transforming a canal trail neglected for

thirty years into a new trail. The Foothill conservancy projects a partnership with Fresno State that is a continuing effort to create safe trails for the public on conservancy land. The 50th celebration of the Wilderness act was celebrated in a number of ways this year HSVTC. partnered with the Sierra National Forest to rent Chukchansi park. Booths were provided for outdoor vendors and the generation green kids

Fundraising, Grants and Funding

Donate Today, Double your Donation and get a tax write off. All donations up to \$4000 will be matched until December 31st. Lets raise \$8,000 before next year. Phillip and Uma Edwards has offered to match donations up to \$4,000. We are a 501c3 nonprofit, ID # 57-114790 We are a Donate at www.trailcrew.org or by mail to HSVTC 2020 E. Birkhead Fresno, Ca 93730.

Fundraising Drive Now through December 31st \$4,000 match

Funding generated by you and individual supporters \$10,000

Corporate Funding and Grants provided \$58,000

Environmental Reclamation Team funding \$18,000

It costs a lot to run HSVTC. We have costs like any other business support is needed. We also are keeping every event Free

You, our members and supporters took advantage of a \$5,000 match opportunity provided by Dr. Eric Hansen and raised a combined \$10,000 this year. A

personal donations from Phillip and Uma Edwards of \$2,000. Corporate Matching by, Boeing, B of A, Save Mart shares, and State of California employees fund, produced several thousand dollars. Virginia Adams Foundation, REI, Sorasis the National Forest Foundation and federal grants

adding up to 58,000. Environmental Reclamation Team funding was provided by The Humane Society Wildlife Fund, Yosemite Sequoia Regional Resource Development Council, Chukchansi Tribe and Integral Research Ecology Center adding up to \$18,000. Thank you all for your support

Back Packing Trips

Inyo National Forest Thousand Island Lake trip was our first trip on the Inyo in a long time, we hope to be running another trip in the Inyo in the near future. We had two trips on the California Riding and Hiking Trail, this is a continuation of the work in the last two years with Wilderness Out-

reach, two trips are planned for next year. We had two Ansel Adams Wilderness trips in 2014 and plan on having two trips next year if possible. We also had a trip into the Jenny Lakes wilderness that successfully opened a loop trail system that had been closed for years by cut-

ting at least 80 trees. These trips represented the efforts of about 80 volunteers and addressed some serious safety and trail damage issues. Seeing the completion of several multi year projects next year is exciting



Ansel Adams August

Volunteer Spotlight

Crew Leaders who helped on trips this year were great and we really appreciate their efforts. Tony Cortez lead one of the Ansel Adams Wilderness crews doing a great job as usual. Phillip Edwards lead the PCT Thousand Island Lakes crew on the Inyo. Rick Chappell was the trip leader for the Big Meadows trip with the help of many crew leaders, Brian Fagundes was the trip leader for the Jenny Lakes Wilderness trip. Jim Wall lead one the An-

sel Adams trip and assisted with base camps and day trips. We definitely could not have had successful trips without the leadership and effort of these people. Adam Hogan our intern From Northern Michigan University was instrumental in helping out this year He went on numerous trips loaded an unknown amount of trucks and equipment and all around helped with everything that needed to be done. Bob Geerts has been around all summer

and helped out with the caretaker position at the Minarets Work Center and with the everyday operations at the Willow Lodge. Dave Brow and Marlane Fleming cooked for several back packing and base camp trips. Linda Boudreau continues to volunteer in the office every week. Thank You all for your support.



Jim Wall and Brian Fagundes

Environmental Reclamation Team

The HSVTC is involved in these operations to help clean-up the garbage and chemicals polluting our public lands left caused by illegal trespass grows. The chemicals used and left behind are killing our wildlife and polluting our water supplies. Volunteers and law enforcement personnel cleaned up a Combined total of 20

sites, removed 64 helicopter net loads, 289 bags of garbage and 23 miles of irrigation tubing weighing about 8 tons. 12,300 lbs of chemicals were used in these sites with about 30% left behind. There were two operations this year one in October and one in November. The Northern California operation in October was a

partnership with the Integral Ecology Research Center and included at least five other volunteer organizations. The central California operation in November involved at least three volunteer organizations. Both of the operations were supported by at least four law enforcement agencies who supplied labor and security.



Oak Flat Crew

Future Plans

Two matching fundraising campaigns per year, one at the end of the year in December That would be now. and one at the begging of the season. **New trips being scheduled for next year** Yosemite National Park base camp, Mendocino National Forest, Monarch Wilderness Sequoia

National Forest back packing trips. Returning trips being scheduled for next year, **Back Packing trips**, two California Riding and Hiking trips, two Ansel Adams Wilderness trips, and the continuation of the Manter Burn Project. **Base Camps** that are being scheduled, Big Meadows, Courtright,

Camp Nelson, and Edison. **Day Trips** that are being scheduled, Millerton and Eastman Lakes, Fancher Creek, Foothill Conservancy, Trout fest and Christmas Tree Lane. **Crew Leader training in April and a new more interactive web site coming.**

New trips next year:
Yosemite National Park
Mendocino National Forest Trails
Monarch Wilderness

Our information and Mission

High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew

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Find us on the web at trailcrew.org or on our Facebook page at High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew

Rocking it since 1998



Our Mission is: "To develop and empower volunteers of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds to enjoy in the participation of preservation and stewardship, and restoration of our public lands and facilities"

We have been working on trails in the Sierra mountain range in California since 1998. We have repaired and constructed countless miles of trails, repaired structures and cleaned up tons of trash on your Public lands.

Please support our efforts to keep doing good work, visit our web site for more information about our organization. Volunteer get out there and experience the great outdoors with like minded people that want to give back and preserve our public lands.

Challenges and opportunities heading forward

We have number of opportunities going forward. Given the size of the operation and the number of trips, equipment involved and logistics we need at least two employees that are full time and possibly an intern to make HSVTC a success. This fact leads to fundraising, always a challenge and an opportunity. This year we have new people willing to give to our organization, Corporations that are now matching private contributions and grant funds that did not exist

before. These are great steps forward and look good for our future. We like many other non profit organizations are finding it harder to obtain grants for operating costs as opposed to project funding. This fact is forcing most non profits to publicly look for operating funds, we are no different. We will be running campaigns for operating funds in 2015, any help would be appreciated.

Leadership, We have great volunteer leaders, we however need more as we increase the number of trips we are attempting. Some new people have volunteered and new

training is being lined up, basically we need people to volunteer to be leaders.

Volunteers are needed to help out with cooking on trips, at our offices on a daily basis and yard work however we need more people to share the load. We need mechanics, computer techs, book keeping people and people who are interested in assisting with local marketing events. We have far more opportunities than challenges moving forward, we just need to make sure we see the opportunities.



Tools Big Meadows