



PROGRESS REPORT November 2013

Big Grizzly Creek

Trail maintenance was completed in late June which included removing tree limbs, pine cones and other debris from the trail. New woodchips were applied where needed. The trail continues to be one of the most popular trails in the development and is used frequently by Grizzly Ranch owners. The redwood furniture will be sanded and sealed in June 2014.

Beckwourth Crossing and Deer Run

Trail maintenance was completed in late June. The cabinet on the backside of the kiosk sign was damaged by snow which didn't allow the lid to close properly. Ken Parnell, a homeowner at Grizzly Ranch, volunteered to remove the cabinet lid and make repairs. Ken owns a sign company in southern California and offered to help the Conservancy with other signage projects pro bono as the need arises. I met with him in August to review trail signs that needed to be maintained and we discussed the need for interpretive signage along the creek. I will be working with Ken in the spring to make a punchlist of tasks he is willing to help with. He may be a great beneficiary to the Conservancy.

Other Conservancy Trails

No trail maintenance was carried out on the Sally Peak/ East Ridge Trail or the Bucks Crossing Trail this year. Maintenance is expensive due to the steepness of the terrain and these trails are not used as much as the Creek or Beckwourth Crossing Trails. So maintenance is limited for now to every 3 years. Once the Conservancy becomes more financially stable, we will increase maintenance to every other year on these trails. I met Ken Parnell on the Bucks Crossing Trail in August and he agreed to design and fabricate some Conservancy signage for posting on the sales kiosk. The kiosk will be moved to the end of the paved road on South Grizzly Ranch Road and the trail map will be posted.

Trail Map

The current trail map needs to be updated to reflect new trail segments that were developed in 2008 and to update the location of information kiosks along the trails. Ken Parnell offered to help the Conservancy revise the existing trail map. We will meet in the spring to go over the changes. The plan is for Ken to revise and print copies for distribution to Grizzly Ranch owners and to post the map on kiosks at the Creek and Bucks Crossing.

Web Site

No improvements were made on the web site in 2013 due to budget constraints. The proposed 2014 budget includes funding for revisiting the web site design and content and making some needed changes. We plan to add a site for the annual Outdoor Education Day with Portola Schools and an interactive site on wildlife sightings and related stories. We will also improve efforts to advertise the web site so it gets more use from owners.

Community Outreach Program

We continue to limp along with the outdoor education program with Portola Schools. Last year, Dave Valle, the Portola High School Science Teacher, brought his 10th grade class to Grizzly Ranch to monitor the water quality and biota in Grizzly Creek and to hike to Sally Peak. Dave will not be bringing his class this fall but will make plans to visit Grizzly Ranch in the spring. I am also in contact with several teachers at R.C. Carmichael School who recently completed outdoor education training from the Learning Landscapes Program. Since there is interest in taking kids outdoors, I hope this opens the door for a grade school program at Grizzly Ranch. I will pursue this option over the winter with teachers who took the training.

Accomplishments Anticipated in the First Quarter 2014

- Prepare financial documents for Board review for End-of-Year 2013
- Prepare tax documents for submittal to the CPA and 1099s for vendors
- Finalize the 2014 budget and provide to Board for review and approval
- Begin discussions with Dianne Verhasselt on web site enhancement
- Continue discussions with the Portola Elementary and High School teachers to plan the Outdoor Education Program in 2014. Look for opportunities for synergy with the county's Learning Landscapes program
- Begin to work on conceptual plans for interpretive signs and revisions to the trail map for review by the Board and Ken Parnell
- Brainstorm ideas with the Board of Directors for Conservancy sponsored events in the spring and summer, including fundraisers and social events.

With the declining Conservancy budget, we will make every effort to reduce the cost of operations and will minimize funds for project activities until the Conservancy's financial condition becomes more stable. As the real estate market rebounds, we are confident that sales will increase in the next couple of years which will allow us to expand our program but for now we will remain conservative unless the Board decides otherwise.

4456 Grizzly Road, Portola, CA 96122 t 530.832.9926 f 530.832.9865
www.grizzlyranchconservancy.org