



PROGRESS REPORT October 2014

Tree Thinning and Removal

To comply with State fire safe codes, hazard trees and an overabundance of small trees were removed from the Conservancy parcel at Beckwourth Crossing. The lower branches on large trees were limbed to avoid creating fire ladders and the slash was chipped and spread out over the property. This activity will keep the Conservancy land in compliance with state law and will reduce fuels that could be detrimental in a wildfire situation.

Furniture Maintenance

A coat of wood sealer was applied to the redwood furniture along the creek trail and at Beckwourth Crossing to protect these assets. Another coat will be applied next year and then the furniture should be adequately protected for 2-3 years. The furniture is holding up very well in light of the winter conditions but periodic treatment is needed to insure their longevity.

Fire Pit Improvements at Beckwourth Crossing

Following approval by the Board of Directors, Williams Construction converted the wood burning fire pit at Beckwourth Crossing to propane to encourage more use of the facility. President Norris reported that gas-fired pits are often used in other residential developments in the west. Use of the fire pit will need to be moderated but overall it should be much safer than wood burning fires which require firewood and more oversight to reduce fire danger. Operating procedures for the fire pit will be developed and approved by the Board of Directors.

Web Site

Improvements to the web site continue at a slow pace. If we have another good year for revenues, the Board should consider allocating more funding to make the site fully operational. The web site is a critical tool in communicating the activities and accomplishments of the Conservancy to owners at Grizzly Ranch. We have a great framework in place and now we need to add some functions that will make it more attractive for users. Sharon Verhasselt continues to be very helpful as a web designer and is available to complete the web site with Board approval.

Trail Map Revisions

One of the most used and appreciated Conservancy asset are the hiking trails. Positive feedback from property owners indicate that people are very interested in trails close to home, and use the existing trails frequently. Executive Director Lindquist has meet with several Grizzly Ranch residents to annotate the existing trail map with new trails and corrections on the existing trails with the intent of producing a new trail map that is more accurate and comprehensive. Lindquist will provide a draft of the new map for Board review in the first quarter 2015. The map provides a good opportunity for positive public relations and visibility for the Conservancy and I think it will be well used.

Community Outreach Program

Executive Director Lindquist is working with Dave Valle from Portola High School to sponsor another outdoor education day at Grizzly Ranch. The event in 2013 was canceled due to issues with transportation to conduct stream monitoring away from the school property. Dave thinks these issues will be resolved in time to reschedule the outing in spring 2014. Lindquist is working with Dave to schedule new dates. Dave reported that the students look forward to this field trip each year and he is pleased that Grizzly Ranch Conservancy is providing this valuable opportunity for his students and to continue the water quality sampling in Big Grizzly Creek.

FireWise Workshop

Executive Director Lindquist is working with the Plumas County Fire Safe Council, GRI, GRGC and the Grizzly Ranch HOA to develop a FireWise Program at Grizzly Ranch. The program will provide education to property owners on how to reduce fire risk on their lots and will include developing a grant proposal for state funds for tree thinning to reduce fire fuels. These activities will benefit all stakeholders at Grizzly Ranch and will keep the Ranch in compliance with state laws. An assessment of properties is being conducted to identify high risk areas to help prioritize thinning activities.

Accomplishments Anticipated November 2014 to March 2015

- Continue to improve the Conservancy web site. When complete, e-mail an announcement to Grizzly Ranch owners and describe the new features
- Continue to revise the existing trail map. Provide a draft to the Board in the first quarter 2015
- Develop guidelines and directions for use of the outdoor fire pit at Beckwourth Crossing
- Continue to work with Portola schools to schedule another outdoor education day at Grizzly Ranch
- Schedule additional educational workshops on relevant environmental topics through the spring and summer
- Work with Van to promote sales of the botanical book at the Pro Shop
- Continue to provide feedback to the Grizzly Ranch FireWise Committee on ways to reduce wildfire risk at Grizzly Ranch
- Conduct end-of-year administrative duties to maintain the Conservancy's nonprofit status and to prepare financials for audit