



PROGRESS REPORT April 2015

Trail Map Redesign

The trail map is being updated to include new trails, to improve the graphics and clarity, to correct a few inaccuracies and to generally make it a more user-friendly and functional tool. We have researched trail maps prepared by other organizations and are working on a design that will be cost effective to produce and easy to follow. The map is important since it demonstrates the diversity of trails and other outdoor activities here at Grizzly Ranch. Feedback from existing owners indicates that most people use the trails and appreciate the Conservancy's efforts to maintain them. **More trail head markers and directional arrows should be considered for the future. Existing markers need to be refinished.**

Fire Pit Improvements at Beckwourth Crossing

The fire pit was installed as planned in October 2014. A flyer was prepared to announce its completion which will be distributed in the next HOA mailing to owners. Operating procedures and safety rules will be displayed at the site following Board approval. Overall the propane fire pit should be safer than wood burning but oversight will be required. **A new drawer at Beckwourth Crossing will need to be built to hold maps and fire pit directions since the previous drawer fell apart.**

Adventure Park for Kids

A conceptual plan was developed by GRI to add amenities for kids at Big Grizzly Creek for experiencing nature and to provide opportunities for environmental education. The details are still being worked out but the plan will be provided to the Board for review and approval once it is finalized.

Web Site

Improvements to the web site continue. We have a great framework in place and now we need to add some functions that will make it more attractive for users. We prepared text for several sections and improved some functions that were not working properly. **Progress will require Sharon Verhasselt's assistance for inputting new features.**

Community Outreach Program

Dave Valle from Portola High School has been contacted. The Conservancy will sponsor another outdoor education day at Grizzly Ranch in May. We are working with Dave to schedule new dates and to plan a program. 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 to continue the water quality sampling in Big Grizzly Creek.

FireWise Workshop

We are continuing to support efforts by 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 including the Conservancy and will keep the Ranch in compliance with state laws. An assessment of fire risk was completed in early 2015 which will be used to identify high risk areas to help prioritize thinning activities.

Accomplishments Anticipated April 2015 to October 2015

- Continue to revise the existing trail map. Provide a draft to the Board in the second quarter 2015. Printed copies ready by June.
- Develop guidelines and directions for use of the outdoor fire pit at Beckwourth Crossing. Store copies in drawer at Beckwourth Crossing
- Identify new trail head markers needed and obtain a cost estimate.
- Continue to work with Sharon to improve the Conservancy web site as budget allows.
- Continue to work with Portola schools to plan another outdoor education day at Grizzly Ranch
- Coordinate spring trail maintenance, drawer replacement, and furniture sealing.
- Work with insurance company to update insurance rates
- 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.
- Brainstorm fundraising opportunities
- Conduct end-of-year administrative duties to maintain the Conservancy's nonprofit status and to prepare financials for audit