

Roads and Trails- The dirt road approaching our property has some relatively jarring small bumps, but no major ruts. The Green and Red trails have been recently re-cleared, and the White trail will need a little maintenance. The Blue trail needs even more work. The Red trail is entirely passable for the whole loop, but does have one small patch where poison oak is near the trail. I plan to get that flagged soon.

Buildings/grounds/equipment- Our weather station is now transmitting data again. Both the internal and the external battery had expired, and the Stevens datalogger “ate” the data that had been stored on it. Our data is currently on the VDV website, but we have a contract for Western Weather to host it. We currently have two porta potties, including one larger ADA-compliant unit and they are serviced semi-weekly. Two hunting dogs have appeared on our trail cameras and one was seen at the gate. I don’t know where they came from or how long they plan to stay. Let me know if you see them.



Gold Creek Usage- Our April 27th Open House featuring Emily Cobar was a wonderful event attended by nearly 40 Faculty, Staff, and family members. Committee members (and some extra helpers, thanks Jonathan!) grilled up a lovely veggie burger feast, complimented by the potluck offerings. I performed two days of weed maintenance on the 25th and 26th. Our prior-scheduled work parties were canceled due to low interest. On April 26th, Doug Fischer replaced internal and external datalogger batteries. HRS restoration crews have been onsite and will continue through next week. They have been seen using string trimmers. This week, Shannon DeVaney and Grace Sroya have both taken students onsite for field trips.



Abiota- Gold Creek is still flowing! Some stretches have significant amounts of green algae. One quarter inch of rain has been received, recorded, and transmitted by our weather station rain gauge within the last week. That adds to the 1.16" received by the manual gauge near the parking area. We are well above 20" of Water Year rainfall, even with the possibility that some was missed.

Biota- There is so much flowering onsite right now! There has been a little drying of the annual grasses, but the site is still very lush. In addition to much Black Sage flowering, the Yerba Santa, Scrub Oak, Manzanita, and Bush Poppies are all blooming. A yucca at the start of the Green trail is beginning its bloom. The sound of bees is noticeable throughout the site. Poison oak is apparent in many areas near the White Trail and in at least one area immediately along the Red Trail. Shannon reported a gopher snake and some Pale Swallowtail butterflies on her trip this week.

