



NEWSLETTER – SPRING, 2021

Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers {A California Non-profit Corporation, Registration #CT0171922}
Wilderness Office • Summit Ranger District
Stanislaus National Forest • 1 Pinecrest Lake Road • Pinecrest, CA. 95364 •
www.swv1.org

Save The Date – Season Opener!

SWV will hold our annual season opener and training and is planned for an in-person meeting. The meeting will be compliant with CDC guidelines for safety around Covid-19. See below for details. A separate message will be sent out requesting an RSVP so we can plan appropriately for refreshments, etc.



Pinecrest Amphitheater, Pinecrest Lake, California

WHEN: We will be holding our season opener on Saturday, May 22 starting at 10 am PDT.

WHAT: This will be an IN-PERSON meeting

WHERE: The meeting will be outdoors (weather permitting) at the **Pinecrest Lake Amphitheater** (where the movies are held in the summer). We will be socially distanced and masks will be required when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Presidents Message – Jeff Hawley

To our Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers, our partners and the Community:

This past year has been a challenge for all of us, for our families, our jobs, our recreation. Covid-19 has touched so many of us in any of these dimensions, impacting physical and financial health and restricting our activities to prevent further spread of this virulent bug. The last season was essentially “no season”. Only two projects were carried out — logging out the trail from the



View north from Burst Rock, Emigrant

Waterhouse trailhead to the wilderness border (23 trees) and trail maintenance and sign maintenance/repair on the Highway 4 side. But things are changing – vaccinations are increasing, and the infection rates and mortality rates are declining. This is opening up the opportunity for SWV volunteers to resume contributing to the health and restoration of wilderness through our projects.

The snowpack is roughly 50% of normal this year which will mean access to the front and back country will likely be sooner than later. No significant precipitation is forecast for the next 3 weeks in the long range forecast as of this writing. Because of some heavy snow storms and high wind events

early in the winter, there will likely be a lot of trail clearing needed this season. Any reconnaissance on trail conditions is needed and greatly appreciated.

Read on to see what actions are planned for this coming season.

Forest Service Update – Joel Silverman

Joel Silverman, Wilderness Manager on the Stanislaus Forest provided updates on known trail conditions/openings. Some key points on the Forest Service operations for this season are:

- Summit Ranger Station — The Forest Service is discussing if Summit will be open to visitors this season and how to best accommodate visitors with appropriate Covid safety protocols. Confirmation of opening is pending.
- Wilderness Permits — the process used last season, either phoning in a request or using the on-line link (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/stanislaus/specialplaces/?cid=stelprdb5361242>)
- Status of the Forest – Emigrant Wilderness Side
 - Highway 108 eastbound is open to Kennedy Meadows
 - Highway 108 westbound is open from 395 to Sonora Pass; the pass is still not open as of this writing.
 - Crabtree road is open to Aspen Meadows; travel beyond Aspen Meadows is still closed due to snow drifts
- Trailheads open:
 - Bell Meadows – road reported as improved; ability to cross Bell Creek unknown; needs reconnaissance
 - Kennedy Meadows
 - Shingle Springs
- Carson Iceberg Wilderness
 - Clark Fork Road is open to Arnot Creek/Disaster Creek; both trailheads open
 - Fence Creek / County Line road is currently closed and gated; hazard trees need to be removed prior to opening
- Highway 4 Corridor
 - Silver Valley trailhead is open
 - Less info on road conditions and or trail access at this time
 - Likely multiple projects to manage trail clearing and signage needed this season



Clark Fork Road Heading North – Fire Burn Area

Annual Meeting Details

- Logistics: Saturday, May 22, 10am at Pinecrest Amphitheater. Directions to follow. We will be providing water, coffee and snacks will be provided; other details regarding lunch etc. will be announced shortly.
- Introductions: quick introduction of members and new members attending
- JHA's: Volunteers have to annually sign that you have read and understand the Job Hazard Analyses for the various jobs we perform. We are potentially offering an electronic method of reading and signing the JHA's. An announcement on the final process for JHA's is forthcoming.

- Project Discussion, Calendaring, Assignments: The goal of this exercise is to identify various projects, assign dates and have volunteers sign up for the various projects. Most of these projects will be a one-day project. We will include a proposal for a multi-day project.
- Open Discussion: time to discuss open items, planning, strategy, projects, etc.

Training

The Forest Service requires that volunteers be certified in several areas if they are leading or participating in specific activities including use of the crosscut saw or chainsaw.

Note: due to the pandemic, any first aid/CPR, crosscut or chainsaw certification that would have expired this year is extended for one year.

SWV in alliance with the Forest Service and our own staff will be offering the following trainings:

- First Aid/CPR – required as part of either the crosscut or chainsaw certification. All “saw” certifications are dependent on a valid, active
- First Aid/CPR certification. Dates are undetermined. If you are interested in getting this certification, please respond ASAP with your interest.
- Crosscut recertification: Dave Moser will be offering a 1-day crosscut training to recertify any crosscut-certified sawyers in need of recertification. Please send your request for training directly to Dave Moser at DaveMoser53@hotmail.com
- Crosscut New Recruit training: If there are candidates that have never been certified for crosscut, Dave will be offering a 2-day certification course, dates to be determined.
- Chainsaw recertification: any candidates with current chainsaw certifications requiring renewal, please contact Dave Moser to get your recertification scheduled: davemoser53@hotmail.com



Wildflowers, Horse & Cow Meadow



Fungus on forest floor, trail to Waterhouse Lake

