

## Spring and Summer 2010 Work Parties

The spring and summer of 2010 will bring with it not only warmer weather but also a great opportunity for all San Joaquin Sierra Unit members to volunteer their time, talent, horse riding skills, and packing abilities.

We have four (4) different occasions to ride and work in the high country in 2010:

1. Six (6) separate reconnaissance trips for two (2) to four (4) people each in May and June
2. A week-long work project at Edison Lake from June 19<sup>th</sup> through June 26<sup>th</sup>
3. A week-long work party at Crown Valley from July 18<sup>th</sup> through July 25<sup>th</sup>
4. Five (5) separate trash collections in various wilderness areas, which should be two (2) or three (3) day trips

During May and June we will be conducting reconnaissance trips. These trips will consist of from two (2) to four (4) riders each and will usually be one (1) day only. On these we will be recording trail hazards by using GPS points and taking pictures. The monitoring sheets will be turned into Sierra National Forest personnel, and they will use our information to develop maintenance plans and prescriptions for trail repair. These trips can be done during the week or on a weekend. More information will follow at a later date. Please contact Ted Fischer at (home) 855-8599 or (cell) 341-3060 for more information or to volunteer.

### Summer Trip #1 - Lake Edison

June 19<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>

By: Ted Fischer

Public Lands Liaison

Contact: (Home) 855-8599 – (Cell) 341-3-60

Our first week-long work party will take place in the Edison Lake area from June 19<sup>th</sup> through June 26<sup>th</sup>. This year we will be camping at the Cunningham Pack Station as we did in 2009. Our cooking staff has changed, and we welcome Joe and Carol Kaminski as our new “cookies.” We are grateful to them for taking charge of these duties and look forward to their delectable meals. We want to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to Katie Horst for her many years of hard work putting together fantastic meals, which were often the highlight and most talked-about part of our trips.

This year we will be:

1. Providing packing support of supplies and materials to Forest Service crews working in the area.
2. Assisting forest service crews with man power as needed to accomplish their tasks
3. Conducting routine trail maintenance in the Edison Lake area, specifically, but not limited to, the Devil’s Bathtub Trail, Good Dale Pass Trail, Mono Creek Trail, Graveyard Lakes Trail, and the Margaret Lakes Trail.

Come one, come all as you can drive to your campsite, eat on an outdoor table, enjoy conversation and songs by the campfire, and work and ride in the coolness of the high country. More information will follow at a later date.

## Summer Trip #2 - Crown Valley

July 18<sup>th</sup> through July 25<sup>th</sup>

By: Ted Fischer

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Our second week-long trip will be into Crown Valley from July 18<sup>th</sup> through July 25<sup>th</sup>. This will give us our second opportunity to work trails and promote the gentle use, care, and development of our back country. We'll depart from the Rancheria Trailhead on July 18<sup>th</sup> with our saddle stock and pack animals. We will ride in about eight (8) miles where we will set up camp on the private property of the Johnson and Stombach families. We are extremely grateful to these families for their gracious and generous invitation to use their land. Our base camp will not only give us a place to set up our kitchen and our tent city but also will give us a place to high line our animals when they are not in the meadow grazing. Once again we'll enjoy delicious meals from Joe and Carol Kaminski, our camp cooks. Our jobs will include clearing trees and brushing as well as giving general maintenance to the Crown Valley Trail, Spanish Lakes Trail, and other trails in the Spanish Lakes area.

In 2009 our unit also worked this area but spent almost the entire week on the Geraldine Lakes Trail. Allen Clyde, owner of Clyde's Pack Stations, stated, "The work you did on the Geraldine Lake Trail last year was marvelous...some of the best trail work I have ever seen! Thank you!"

This work project is limited to about twelve (12) people, so check your calendars and let me know if you want to participate.

## High Country Trash Collections

Here is a great opportunity to saddle up your horse and pack animals and ride into the sunset. This year our unit has been asked to conduct five (5) separate trash collections in the wilderness. These will be two (2) or three (3) day trips, usually with camping the first night at Edison Lake Trailhead and normally camping out one (1) night and returning to the Edison Lake Trailhead. These trips will probably be taken in July, August, or September. On our past trash collection trips we have had two (2) to three (3) riders and two (2) to three (3) pack animals. What an exciting way to escape the Valley heat and fulfill a part of the purpose of our unit:

1. To perpetuate the common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness
2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational use
3. To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of our national forest and wilderness areas

By

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