



## **FRIENDS OF BOGGS MOUNTAIN**

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### **NEWSLETTER**

Volume 4, Issue 4

**November 2008**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

We held our quarterly board meeting last month and elected a new President, David Thiessen. David lives in Cobb, mountain bikes, hikes and has devoted many hours working on projects, including Interpretive Trail sign construction and installation, trail maintenance, and our summer TALKS program. He has been acting secretary this past year and a board member for more than 3 years. David is one of those rare individuals that you can't help but like as soon as you meet him.

Re-elected Secretary and stepping back in after a 3 year break is Peg Landini. Peg lives in Cobb, loves hiking and is a founding member and helped lay the groundwork for making FOBM a non-profit 501C3 organization. Always cheerful and precise in her work, we're very happy to welcome her back.

Our outgoing President, Rick Hamer, has held that position since the very beginning, over 5 years ago. He not only did all the research for our becoming a non-profit, he has always conducted our meetings in a professional, productive manner, keeping us on course and confident in our decisions. The past few years, Rick's work has taken him to all corners of the country, making it necessary for him to fly back just to be here for our board meetings, arriving right from the airport just in time. We are very grateful for all of Rick's generosity and help over the years and we will miss having him presiding over our meetings. We wish him the best always.

Also resigning from the board after 5 years of service is founding member and Vice President Tom Smythe. Tom is an avid mountain biker and he has been designing, building and maintaining trails in Boggs for more than 12 years. He probably knows the forest trails better than anyone, and with that knowledge and his trusty GPS, he has updated, improved and added new trails to our maps every time we've had them reprinted. The hours he has volunteered working in Boggs are off the page. Tom continues to volunteer his free time improving our trails and making Boggs Forest a more enjoyable experience for all users. His many accomplishments are greatly appreciated.

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## State of the Forest Report

By: Wayne Connor, Forest Manager

The state of the forest is very busy these days and actually on the cusp of being productive. Kim and I have been shuttling back and forth between Boggs Mountain and Sacramento since May, dealing with the new and improved 2008 forest management plan and all of the associated environmental documents. On November 4 the Board of Forestry approved the final versions of the Management Plan (MP), the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), the Initial Study (IS) and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP). The Board also reviewed and approved the Official Response to Public Comments (OR). Our Maximum Sustained Productivity (MSP) document is completed, which allows us to submit Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs). In fact we have one THP in the system, which should be having a Pre-Harvest Inspection (PHI) next week. I seem to be running out of Acronyms, so that will be enough of that. Seriously, on behalf of the staff at Boggs Mountain I would like to thank everyone who participated in the process and contributed comments and support. These documents have been "works in progress" for a long time. This is your forest after all.

You might have noticed all of the tractors, graders, loaders and trucks working on the roads. Senior staff at the Cal Fire Sonoma-Lake-Napa unit got so tired of hearing my pleas for road maintenance equipment that they sent every piece of iron in the unit to Boggs Mountain. This is a good example of "Whining will get you everywhere". That's OK...pride is over-rated anyway. Meanwhile, we will be concentrating on "winterizing" the most well traveled roads and prepping some others for a re-shaping and re-surfacing project next spring. The "coup de gras" will be a big ol' rock crusher that will be here in May to manufacture a stockpile of gravel. The long-term result will be a year-round, low maintenance road system that will cease its migration to the Pacific Ocean.

In the "Other projects of interest" department...the end of fire season means the start of the burning season! We will initially concentrate the broadcast burning on the areas above the 100 road on the north (read as wet) of side of the forest. Burning of the needles and ground litter between the 100 road and "B"/"Grizzly" trails will vastly improve the fire safety back there during the summer months. We also have a few hundred piles to vaporize all over the forest. Bill (a.k.a. Ben) Franklin will have his "Brush Hog" operating between Calso Camp and the 600 road just before the Holidays. He will be doing some pre-commercial thinning in some of the over-crowded pine stands, as well as gobbling up brush along the western property line to make the neighborhood a little more fire-safe

**TAKE A HIKE!**

Burn some calories, get some fresh mountain air and enjoy the workout. Choose a hike or two from our schedule below that work for you, and put the dates on your calendar now. Rain cancels. Are you on our TAKE A HIKE reminder list? Need more information? Email [friendsofboggsMountain@earthlink.net](mailto:friendsofboggsMountain@earthlink.net) or call Boone at 928-5819

**Saturday, December 6 at 10 am** – 3 mile easy to moderate. Carpooling to more remote trails.

**Sunday, December 28 at 10 am** – 6-7 mile moderate to difficult. Carpooling to more remote trails.

**Saturday, January 10 at 10 am** – 4.5 mile moderate.

**Saturday, February 14 at 10 am** – Valentines Day 5 mile moderate to difficult. Carpooling to more remote trails.



***Beginnings of an official horse camp on Boggs Mtn Demonstration State Forest (BMDSF)***

*by  
Assistant Manager  
Kimberley Sone*



Horse back riding has grown in popularity over the recent years on the State Forest. One of the management measures for BMDSF is that the Forest shall maintain a rustic outdoor recreational experience within a working forest environment. This management measure ensures that public use of the State Forest is encouraged so that visitors may experience a variety of outdoor recreational activities as well as educational opportunities.

Pursuant to 14CCR 1425, horses are not allowed overnight except in designated horse camps only. Currently, there are no designated horse camps established on BMDSF. The number of horseback riders has increased substantially over the recent years. Horses are typically hauled on trailers to the Forest. Horse trailers usually park at the main entrance to the Forest across from the Forest Office. This site is an established parking lot where many visitors park to hike, mountain bike, and horseback ride. The parking lot is also adjacent to the Boggs Mountain Helitack Base. As a result, this area is very active with visitors and also with the CAL FIRE helicopter which

frequently responds to incidents. An established horse camp within the State Forest would alleviate user conflict issues as well as provide a secure place to unload horses away from the helicopter activity.

Currently, there is an area where the Forest Staff recommends horse camping. It is an unofficial camp area located at the intersection of Roads 500 and 400 (in between Roads 530 and 400). The use of this site requires a Special Use Permit. However, no facilities are located at this site. The Forest Staff proposes to establish this area as the official horse camp. Minor grading will be necessary. The area is composed of an open forest where little construction will be needed. This area will consist of one campsite with ample area for parking horse trailers and setting tents. The site will consist of one campfire ring, one or two picnic tables, one small kiosk, one sign, a few hitching lines, and a manure pit.

An Environmental Review Report and a Notice of Exemption has been completed for the project and submitted to CAL FIRE Sacramento Headquarters for review. It is anticipated that the environmental documents will be filed and accepted in late November. Consultation with the Backcountry Horsemen of California (Lake-Mendo Unit) has already begun. Once the environmental documents are accepted, work may begin at the site. It is anticipated that the Backcountry Horsemen will be actively involved in the project.

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**MEMBERSHIP NEWS:** We are excited to announce that we have another lifetime member, Lynne Dodson. Lynne lives in Buckingham and hikes in Boggs with her cute little white, blue eyed pooch Frankie when her busy schedule as an accountant allows her the time. This brings our total of lifetime memberships to 6! Thanks Lynne.

We are also very thankful to our **renewing members:** Tim Battaglia, Cobb; Mike Kasper, Cobb; Inez Wenckus, Cobb; David & Linda Miller, Cobb; Alan & Angie Siegel, Kelseyville; Reikor Deacon & Saro Fleishman, Cobb; Jerry & Joanna Mann, Charlotte, NC; William Lincoln, Hidden Valley; John & Pat Meyer, Cobb; Jane Thanx, Cobb;

And our **new members:** Backcountry Horsemens Association of Lake & Mendocino County; Brien & Kathey Crothers, Cobb; Shaw & Helen Whitney, Cobb; Jeff Shields, Cobb; Roger Duke, Alameda; Joe Mathews, Calistoga; Kathy & Vinny McEvoy, San Francisco.

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## Senior Project

My name is William Phelps and I am currently concluding my senior project for Middletown High School. I spent 18 hours in Boggs during the last two weekends (11 hours the

first weekend and 7 hours the last one...) . The first 11 hours plus 4 additional hours from last weekend were spent improving the signage throughout Boggs Forest. It took 15 hours to drive throughout Boggs checking every trail sign, armed with a rake, a shovel, a sign ponder, signs, and a book of numbers and letters. My tasks included replacing broken signs, clearing path entrances, and adding missing road numbers to the back of signs. The other 3 hours were spent on Hobergs Loop, with other helpful volunteers, fixing a drainage and water flow issue along with trimming overhanging branches. The other volunteers, I learned, were all very friendly and conversational.

The reason I chose to volunteer in Boggs Forest was my desire for repayment. I wanted to give back to the organization, Friends of Boggs Mountain, that has made my mountain biking experiences safe and enjoyable. My senior project has been fun and very successful mostly do to the guidance of Mr. Boone Lodge and Mr. Joe Mathews. I'd like to thanks them both for their contributions.



## **TRAILS TO THE FUTURE**

Boggs Forest is made up of 3,493 acres of mountain splendor that we all enjoy and appreciate. Some of us explore the 22 miles of trails on foot, some on mountain bikes and some by horseback. The trails in Boggs allow us the right of way to come more closely in touch with our natural surroundings and to soothe our psyches. They serve our needs extremely well, and by concentrating our use to this thin ribbon of tread, it spares the larger landscape from being trampled. Bringing us close to nature, trails also have the capacity to instill in us a desire to protect the environment and to find ways that we can play a hands on role in repairing and maintaining the areas we have come to know and enjoy. Those of us who help maintain our trails develop a vested interest in using them wisely when the work is done.

We invite you to join us in our ongoing commitment to maintain and protect our trails and the environmental impact they have on the forest. There is something for everyone to do, and the experience is invigorating and rewarding.

If you are not on our Trail Maintenance notification list, please let us know.

Trail Maintenance schedule:

Saturday, December 13 at 9 a.m.

Sunday, January 18 at 9 a.m.

Saturday, February 21 at 9 a.m.

Sunday, March 22 at 9 a.m.

Saturday, April 18 at 9 a.m.

We meet in the parking lot and frequently carpool to less accessible trails.

Always be prepared for weather conditions, have work gloves and bring water.

If you have tools you would like to work with or share such as McLeod's, pulaskis, loppers, clippers, saw, rake or shovel, bring them along. We will have extra tools available also.

For more information, email back or call Boone at 928-5819.

The October 25<sup>th</sup> trail work volunteers were Tom Smythe, Tim Battaglia, Mike Kasper, Mark Tolleson, Larry Corridon, Boone Lodge, Karen Sullivan and Kim.

On November 15<sup>th</sup> our trail work volunteers included Tom Smythe, Mike Kasper, David Thiessen, Mark Tolleson, Jeanne Welch, Boone Lodge, Jennifer White, William Phelps, Karen Sullivan, Kim and Mike Riley.