

Roads and Trails- Since our Workshop, an additional two inches of rain has fallen, deepening the existing rut patterns and making the road slightly more rugged to drive. It is still a 2wd road, and the flat areas up top are starting to dry out. In general, Red, White, and Green trails are easily passable, and the Blue trail is still more rustic than the others. Part of the Blue Trail can be accessed from the White Trail, but it is obstructed by a fallen tree and poison oak in its upper portions.



Buildings/grounds/equipment- Spring sunshine is currently helping the site dry out from the final storm of Winter. Our site remains largely how it was at the Spring Workshop. The toilet has not been recently maintained, as the Gump driver is hesitant to enter our site when the roadway is wet.

Gold Creek Usage- On March 1, Mike, Pavla, and Rob were onsite for work that included removing a downed tree and raking the Green Trail. We also cleared out the hilltop area that is the site of the Indian Rings. We also trimmed a new path through the meadow section of the Red Trail. On March 7, we held our Spring Workshop, attended by approximately 22 faculty members from 8 campuses as well as our student worker Kayla Gutierrez. A variety of our experienced faculty members collaborated to put together a smorgasbord of onsite training: Vered guided the Green Trail and shared Block House specimens, Rob guided the Red Trail and extracted a soil profile sample, Shannon shared an interactive display of trail camera images, Dustin facilitated a Nature Journaling exercise, and Mike led a streamside hydrology and water testing tutorial. Participants were able to assemble their day's activities as they chose.

Abiota- Nearly an inch and a half of rain fell in the 48 hours preceding our Workshop, and the last 10 days has brought approximately 2 inches. None of these storms led to any noticeable erosion onsite. Gold Creek currently has flow throughout the entire site. Even with a very late start to our water year, our current 2024-25 total (starting Oct 1) is now over 12". Near-term forecasts are for warm and dry conditions.

Biota- All onsite vegetation appears green, vibrant, and well-watered. Small grass has sprouted as ground cover throughout the site. There is minimal flowering, with the exception of Bush Poppies and their pops of bright yellow. In late February, I saw two nematodes swimming in a small pool in Center Creek. I also discovered a young pine, verified by others as likely an Aleppo growing near the Blue Trail. Although not a native variety, this may be the only pine growing on our property.

