

Roads and Trails- The dirt road, recently rutted to “4wd only”, has since been repaired by Johnson. It still requires care and the soft repaired spots could erode. There is a large puddle outside of the gate that has attracted some “donuts” from other road users. Much of that water flowed from a small drainage that is just inside the gate, from the North of the road.



There may be an opportunity to reroute this water at the roadway, reducing future flooding. The paved road has some sand debris, but no major obstructions. I have not inspected many of the trails, since crossing the creek to access the Red or Blue trails is not advised at this time. The erosion-control work performed by Rob and myself appears to have functioned very well! The stream crossing up the canyon along the Gold Trail is currently not accessible either.

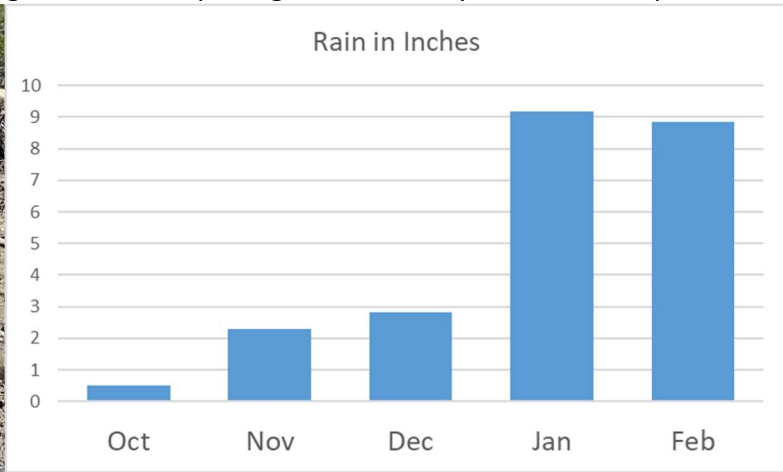
Buildings/grounds/equipment- All main buildings are in good shape. The pavilion is still in need of repair. No further damage came to the burnt pedestrian bridge during the most recent rains. The porta potty is currently functional and has been serviced.



Gold Creek Usage- No student usage of the site has occurred so far this semester, and should not until the road access is improved.

Abiota- . Since our last meeting, the weather station has received in excess of 10 inches of rain, including approximately 8 inches in a 48hr period. Our Water Year total (since October 1) is just over 25 inches, with several inches more forecast this week. Between January 13 and February 25, the rain gauge near the parking area received enough rain to overflow. It is unlikely that our site received any snow, since the snow level on Feb 25 was between our site and Yerba Buena Saddle. There is a possibility that it snowed somewhere on our site on 3/1, but the rain gauge and temperature data don't show any snowmelt at the weather station. Our restoration team installed “Straw Wattles” perpendicular to the stream channel in Spring Creek. These erosion-control tools are usually used parallel to a stream, like a levee or berm. I'm not aware of them being indicated to use in a stream. This is a potential violation of laws regarding State Waters.

The rain events may have produced decade (or longer) recurrence interval flow in some of our small streams, and it is upsetting to think that passage of biota may have been impacted.



Biota- The annual invasive grasses have gone to seed! Manzanita is flowering. In other parts of the San Gabriels, poppies have begun to bloom as well. It will be an interesting year to monitor the timing of when vegetation species declare "Spring" to have begun. I have seen deer prints in some of the soft alluvium along the small waterways. I also saw an owl overhead. I have not directly observed any of the mammals that make appearances on the remaining trail cameras.

