

Roads and Trails- The dirt road is still nice and smooth! The parking area vegetation was removed during a recent work day, so it is now possible to drive the entire paved road (including our parking loop) without brushing against vegetation. The shoulder of the road area is still overgrown. The Green and White trails have been cleared. The Red trail is cleared (with a lot of attention to its starting ascent) except for a segment of the meadow that will get some attention soon.



Buildings/grounds/equipment- In general, the grounds remain dry, with numerous ground squirrel holes. One large oak tree did fall in mid-October. It was growing between the streambank and the dirt portion of the road near the end of the Green trail. It contained abundant green foliage and unripe but full-size acorns, but unfortunately the fire-damaged trunk gave way. It was cleared from the roadway, which it was partially blocking. Our weather station transmitter was swapped out, thanks to a site visit from Doug Fischer, and is now reporting data to Western Weather. We are working on a new contract which will provide a totally new user dashboard to access real-time data. Unfortunately, the ground squirrels have damaged some wires belonging to older sensors (wind vane, anemometer, rain bucket) so they will need to be repaired. The porta potty should be serviced by Gump, as there is a temporary combination lock installed on the gate for them (combo: 7623).



Gold Creek Usage- There have been no official class visits during the past month, but Field Trip season starts soon, with the following calendar events planned: Rob on 11/16, Shannon on 11/20, Vered 11/21 and Mike 12/6. Thanks to Beth, Pavla, Bob, and Gabi who joined me for one of the 10/18 or 10/20 work days. We cleared the aforementioned oak, as well as the parking area, the poppies near the block house, and the Green, White, and Red trails. We did reschedule our 10/19 work day to avoid a planned LAVC heavy brush clearance day, but they ended up having trouble securing the rental vehicle and did not show. They are trying to reschedule for 11/16-17.



Abiota- Gold Creek currently has no flow.

Biota- As expected, vegetation is very dry onsite. Numerous mule deer have been seen onsite, likely aware that our site is a refuge during deer season in the adjacent National Forest. Anecdotal evidence is that the Bridge Fire this summer caused many local animals to seek refuge in unburnt areas, increasing densities in our area of the San Gabriels. During our work days, we did see a (dead) field mouse and I saw a Tarantula Hawk Wasp, which has yet to be reported on inaturalist.

