

Anticipated Impacts of the Railroad Fire to the Outdoor Education Program at Calvin Crest

- **Giant Sequoia:** The area where our classes went to see giant sequoias, The Shadow of the Giants, was an area of very intense fire. It is only open to forestry and firefighting personnel at this time, so we have not yet been out on the trail. It's possible that some of the mature sequoias survived the blaze, but as we always taught students - sequoias are fire resistant, not fire-proof. We are making plans to adjust our curriculum to go down to the Sherwood Forest area of Calvin Crest, where we have young and mature sequoias as well as logging stumps for students to see and learn about. We will post that curriculum on our website soon.
- **Miwok:** We lost the replica Miwok Village in the fire. Much of the Miwok trail is in an active burn area and therefore we do not know exactly what it looks like, but we are working on re-structuring the Miwok class in light of these changes. The content of the Miwok class is certainly teachable without the village.
- **Rock Your World:** The mass wasting area was not a part of the burn area, and we anticipate that that portion of the trail is intact. The fire did burn along the trail to Gethsemane Falls, but the waterfall itself is surrounded by green foliage. Once the fire has burned completely out, we believe that we can resume taking students out on this trail for class.
- **Orienteering:** Due to tree mortality associated with bark beetles, we had already lost our orienteering course prior to the fire burning through the area. We hope to re-build an orienteering course elsewhere and resume the class soon.
- **Initiatives:** The "Nitro Crossing" built initiative (the rope swing to the platform) was lost to the fire, but the "Incomplete Bridge" survived. There are no other known impacts to the class at this time.
- **Nature Trek:** The burned area includes the trail used for the chaparral habitat, but the rest of the trail is not in the burn area. As many teachers were already not utilizing the chaparral habitat for the sake of time, the impact to this class is minimal.
- **Survival:** While we have not been out on the trail, it was not part of the burned area and we do not anticipate any changes, other than a hard look at the way we teach the fire building portion.
- **Free Time:** Our archery range and rock wall are still standing and usable. The fire did burn through the area with the zipline, but we had already ceased using it due to one of the trees being hit by bark beetles. We will follow existing plans to build a zipline as soon as possible. Our lake is interestingly lower than usual due to firefighting efforts, but, similar to drought years, we can still use the paddle boats. Loggers' Jamboree is unaffected.
- **Evening Program:** There may be some changes to the trails we take for night hikes, but the content of the program will not change. The amphitheater where we sing outside when it is warm enough is intact.
- **New Class!:** We are excited to turn this fire into an opportunity to teach students about wildland fires, including prevention, suppression, and fuels management. When the fire cools we will have an excellent case study that includes areas of low-intensity and high-intensity burn. After fire season, we may have the opportunity to record first-hand accounts of this fire in particular. We will post this curriculum to the website soon. (Teachers, if you have ideas for this class, please feel free to get in touch with me as it is in-progress!)