

PRIORITY OF THINGS TO BE
ACCOMPLISHED AT BUZZARDS' PEAK

AS OF APRIL 20, 1991

- I. Since we have just experienced the first of what could develop into a very costly repair of damaged equipment situation, this area ranks first on our list.

Beginning with the main electrical feed to our property (near the "comfort station"), work should begin immediately to remove any and all branches, limbs, and other obstructions to having clear electrical lines throughout the entire system; to the water pump, to the mechanical room, within the shower area, all around the cooking area, to the top of Buzzards' Peak, lighting in the eating area, people area and tenting area. We must make sure that each and every foot of the line is completely clear.

Equipment/materials necessary:

- a. Very long tree trimming cutters
- b. Extension ladders (approximately 20')
- c. Wood saws and (possibly) a chain saw
- d. Manpower

Once this is completed the first time, it will require very little effort in the future to maintain it, but it is something that must be repeated at least twice a year... in the spring and again in late fall or early winter.

- II. Erosion. This is a major problem that we will be faced with from now on, especially since we are about five years late in getting started controlling it.

Areas of first consideration:

1. The road from the gate to the big cedar tree, then to the cuts where the trailer home once sat, then to the culvert on entering the biking area. We must start at the water well and work in both directions in controlling the flow of water.
2. The road that has developed from the culvert, near the storage shed (old pigeon house), up to the cooking and shower area.
3. The trail up to Buzzards' Peak... especially the lower half.
4. The people/biking area. Here we can see the beginning of a specific drainage area developing and it must be acted on before it resembles our road into the area.

SEPT.
ACTIVITY
WEEK/NOV
CRATER

5. Starting with the big ravine, slightly east by southeast from the southern corner of the stage, about 250 yards (on the adjoining property), following the three runoffs causing the ravine to grow, back to their origin and setting up small dikes or water diversions, so that the water will flow elsewhere or stopping the flow completely. This one problem, like all drainage problems, must be monitored within specific time periods after we have knowledge or receive signs of a heavy rainfall.

Equipment/materials necessary:

- a. Rocks, broken concrete and dirt
- b. Sackrete and trowel
- c. Shovels (long and short handled)
- d. Picks, hoes and sledge hammers
- e. Wheelbarrows
- f. Lots of strong backs!

III. Firewood:

Every year there are always trees that have died, been blown down, or felled by lightning. Because of this there is a wealth of wood available for runs and/or activity weekends. As the result of a brief survey made on April 20th, we are aware of at least three large trees that are available for cutting up and transporting to the cooking area, after they are first thoroughly treated for fire ants. This needs to be done **now** because the more limbs, trees, and wood cuttings that hit the ground and are not removed, the more the fire ants take over.

Location of some of these trees:

- a. On the Property Line Trail, north of the Buzzards' Peak area.
- b. A leaning tree over the small drainage ditch between the people area and the tenting area.
- c. On the right side of the trail leading to Buzzards' Peak, about halfway up the trail.

There are, I am sure, others as well.

WORDS OF CAUTION:

1. If the tree is still standing but is dead, DO NOT BURN if it is an oak tree! If you do not know what kind of tree it is; find out before proceeding.
2. If the tree is lying on the ground, make sure you handle with care, as it is likely to be the family home

of fire ants. Treat an area near the tree, roll it onto the treated area, and check back a couple of weeks later to see if it is safe to work on it.

3. Keep your eyes open for snakes and scorpions under fallen tree trunks or leaves. However, you are far more likely to find scorpions under rocks than fallen trees. In moving rocks; first turn it over by using your foot or some type of pole to protect your hands. Should you be stung by a scorpion, never apply hot water or heat to the wound, but apply ice packs or ether (under pressure) to slow the flow of blood carrying poison to the heart and throughout the body.

IV. Clearing and clean-up:

At the beginning of each Spring the grass will grow faster than we can keep it cut, since it grows constantly and we cut it perhaps once each month. Also, during the winter, the wind blows down limbs of all sizes in the cleared areas. It doesn't take long for the fire ants to find this new food supply. Therefore, each Spring we must mount a clean-up campaign to protect that which it has taken us almost six years to clear for use as people, biking and tenting areas. For example; it required an average of eight people working at least one full weekend over two ten month (working) years, to clear the area from the (former) windmill to within approximately twenty feet of the biking area.

We need at least two people working a full day each month until July to keep the grass mowed, the tenting area clear of fallen trees and limbs, and to cut out the new growth that has occurred since the past winter.

Of the thirty-three plus acres that comprises our site, less than fifteen acres has been really worked on. The balance of this acreage needs to be cleared of fallen trees, limbs and undergrowth, lower limbs trimmed from some trees, and some scrub trees need to be thinned out so as to nurture the more desirable larger trees.

- V. Clean out the culverts to allow a free flow of water through same to prevent having the entrance road and the road between the old fire pit and the biking area cut by the flow of water.
- VI. Before everyone departs the area on activity and/or run weekends, insure that all cans, bottles, etc. are bagged and placed in the garbage rack located in the cut near the old pigeon house.
- VII. We desperately need to spread good top soil in the people and biking areas; where the grass has long since

disappeared due to vehicular and normal foot traffic. Once the top soil has been spread (after the final fall function), a hardy strain of grass should be planted. Needless to say, the vehicular traffic in these areas **must** be drastically curtailed, until such time as this new grass is well along. The desired top soil for this project is not available on our property, except just outside the entrance to the main gate. It is the large ravine located on the adjoining property that holds the top soil, on either side of and at the beginning of, the drainage ditches.

VIII. Repair and paint picnic tables.

IX. Repair and paint stage.

X. Treat outhouse with liberal amounts of water and then lime, and still more water and more lime, every single time we have people on the property.

XI. Clear out the "bays" where the old trailers were located for use by recreational vehicles.


XII. On either side of the road from the gate down to the outhouse, clear out spaces for use by various sizes of campers, trailers, motor homes, and other vehicles. Remember, the road across the small drainage ditch leading into the people and biking area was to have been used **only** by vehicles making deliveries to the cooking and cold storage area.

NOTE: In addition to the foregoing, consideration should also be given to the following projects:

1. Building an additional outhouse.

2. Building a "sound booth" near the stage.

3. *EMPTY EVEN KITCHEN AREA - C.C.M.L.*



Walter F. Bennett
Land Management Committee