



KERN RIVER VALLEY HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Protecting the natural, scenic, agricultural & historic lands of the Kern River Valley
through stewardship, restoration and education

P.O. Box 1249 • Lake Isabella, California 93240 • (760) 379-3379

2016 Year End Progress Report

Wow! The fourth quarter was extremely active, topped off with rain and even snow on Christmas and New Years mornings.

Hot Springs Valley Wetlands Acquisition



HSVW January 1, 2017

hot springs keep the wetlands green.

Bob Barnes photo

Escrow – The close of escrow is eminent. The Audubon California (Jay J. and Sugrid E. Wimberly Wildlife Fund) and the River Parkways/Natural Resource Agency grants have been funded into escrow and with the hundreds of donations from the “Grassroots” & “Over the Top” campaigns we were financially ready to close escrow by year-end. However, a title issue arose. You may recall that family members own undivided interests. One of the owners passed away and his interest was transferred to his daughter in a manner that raised questions with the title company. Our partner The Trust for Public Land is working with the title company and the landowners/broker to resolve the situation.

Post-acquisition Costs – Once we own the property the next effort is under standing what’s there and beginning to get it ready for public visitation. This entails fence and gate repairs; signage as required by the grants and to recognize all donors; a wetlands delineation survey; baseline surveys: of plants, the Alkali Mariposa Lily, animals, birds, butterflies, etc.; evaluation of the wetland enhancement potential; and initiating development of a formal plan for public use.

South Fork Sass’n Cathy – To assist with fundraising for the Hot Springs Valley Wetlands project Cathy Paradise is running for Whiskey Flat Mayor. Supporting her Mayor bid will directly benefit the HSVW project. Other ways to help keep this project moving forward are to go to the KRVHF “Donate” page at www.krvhf.org/donate or mail checks to KRVHF, P.O. Box 1249 Lake Isabella, CA 93240.

Bob Powers Gateway Preserve



December 16, 2016

rains arrive

Bruce Vegter photo

Wetland Enhancement – You’ll recall that on 9/28/16 construction started, after years of delay, for the 2nd phase of wetland enhancement at the Preserve. Excavation was completed on October 14, 2016. However, the inline control structure did not arrive in time, so it and a couple of other water control features were not installed prior to the rains.



October 2016

at work



excavation complete

Tom Anderson photos

Visitor Center – It was necessary to carve the visitor center site out from the existing Preserve lease between the County and the Heritage Foundation in order to locate a visitor center on the Preserve. The lease amendment to accomplish that has been signed by both parties, including the Board of Supervisors and became effective November 8, 2016.

The County is negotiating with the Forest Service and the Corp of Engineers to move forward with a visitor center that would provide a government-to-government lease between the County and the Forest Service, while accommodating other tenants including BLM, KRV Chamber of Commerce and the Heritage Foundation.

This is a very complex situation with a lot of hurdles to be crossed before it is a done deal.

Alkali Mariposa Lily Bulb Harvest (Salvage) - With construction of a visitor center some portion of the Alkali Mariposa Lily population will be displaced. This has been of concern to ourselves as well as the agencies. The Heritage Foundation has been proactive in addressing these concerns in order to assure the sustainability of the Lily. First, a professional lily count was done for the second year in a row, which show that the lilies are wide spread over the Preserve and not just in the proposed visitor center location. Next, we worked with the County to minimize the visitor center site footprint and its location. Third, under the technical supervision of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden (RSABG), lily seeds were collected and placed in its long-term seed bank for possible future use. Finally, again under the technical supervision of RSABG, a harvest (salvage) of Lily bulbs was conducted on October 27, 2016. The harvest team included the RSABG Team Leader and seven KRVHF volunteers. As a result we have 120 bulbs at RSABG in a three-year program of storage, propagation and maintenance that will be available, if needed, for reintroduction at the Preserve.



October 27, 1916

Alkali Mariposa Lily Salvage (Harvest)

Tom Anderson Photos