

## Lower Willows Trail Service Project – Anza Borrego State Parks

Thursday, 31 October thru Sunday, 3 November 2013

This service has been held every year since the late 1980's and has been the principal reason this trail is able to remain open. Many parts of the trail traverse next to or across the creek from Katarina Spring. While the cool willows make for enjoyable desert riding they completely close the trail in a year's time. Backcountry Horsemen from the San Diego and San Gorgonio Pass units have been the principle "caretakers" of this trail. The past several years the San Gorgonio Pass unit brought 4 brush saws and did the cutting of the overgrown willow, cat's claw and other spiny brush. This year they are not available and the San Diego Unit will continue the service but have decided to fund 2 trail crews from La Cima Camp. The trail crew will do the brush cutting and volunteers will be needed to remove the brush from the trail. State Parks has graciously donated Vern Whitaker horse camp for us to use the 4 days in exchange for this trail work.

So here is the plan ..... arrive on Thurs. and camp until Sun. in exchange for 1 day of trail work. You may choose to work either Friday or Saturday or both as many of us do. There are a very few openings for folks who can't do trail work now to stay in camp, tend to the stock and other chores in camp. Otherwise, the expectation is for everyone to do what they can on the trail. No one is expected to work any harder or longer than they can but as the saying goes, many hands make light the work. We actually have a good time together, build friendships and memories that can last a lifetime. We will have a camp fire (depending on the weather) in the evening with a pot luck dinner, sharing of stories or other fun adventures. We have invited a few guests to join us on Saturday night.

The unit will provide some tools but feel free to bring your own. Pitch forks are the best for collecting the brush and loppers are handy to trim. Bring a hat, gloves, sun screen, water, sturdy shoes that can possible get wet and snacks. We drive out to 3<sup>rd</sup> crossing and hike in from there. There is also a need for few guys to go with the La Cima crew on Thursday and Friday to identify the trail and how far to cut the brush. The unit will have insurance for this to be a "public" event so feel free to invite your friends; neighbors and anyone else who would like to help keep trails open to the public.

***The unit needs to be sure we have a sufficient number of volunteers to accomplish the work in the one weekend so we are asking everyone to let us know you are coming.***

Questions ? or to register - email [public.lands@bchcsd.org](mailto:public.lands@bchcsd.org) or call 760 789 5185, if you want to mail the form please send to : BCHC-SD 236 Oak Street, Ramona, CA 92065

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of stock you are bringing: \_\_\_\_\_ max of 45 corrals

Work day: Thursday(guys only)   Friday   Saturday   Please indicate which you can do.

Campsites are first come first serve. There is a large overflow area available. Hot showers and flush toilets available.