Devil’s Bathtub/Mono Creek Trail Work

Forest: Sierra
Ranger Unit: High Sierra Ranger District
Wilderness Area: Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses
Trip Date: 6/24 - 28, 2018
Start TH & End TH: Mono Creek Trailhead

Trip Stats:

Volunteers Attended:
- Lori Pontious
- Kelly Thorpe

Volunteer Hours Donated: 48
- Scouted 5.5 miles of trail documenting fallen trees
- Made contact with several groups of hikers
- Assisted Backcountry Horsemen in clearing the trails

Pictures
Note: Most of the pictures have the Date and GPS location printed on them.

Sunday: Mono Creek trail scouting, from the other end of the lake toward the Mono Creek Trailhead.
About ¼ mile from trailhead sign. Asked the BHC volunteers using the chainsaw to return for this one. **No Status Update...**
This was three sets of multiple fallen trees. BHC volunteers hopefully finished this on Thursday.

Need a status update on these trees from BHC
Tuesday: Trail work with the Backcountry Horsemen, Devil’s Bathtub Trail

The trailhead sign was missing and the plexi cover broken.
Date & Time: 09/09/2023 10:07 AM
Position: 38° 54' 24.68" N, 121° 46' 32.00" W
Altitude: 7400 ft
Utm Zone/Wgs-84
Azimuth/Bearing: 207° NNE/54° 54' E
Zoom: 1.8X
After
After the above, the horsemen went ahead of us, and we walked part way up then turned around when Joe called it a day and stashed the tools at the intersection of Devil’s Bathtub trail and the crossover trail.

**Wednesday:**

Kelly and I were provided with horses. We joined Joe and Jim at the intersection of Devil’s Bathtub and crossover trails, and he took pictures of the work done with the bucking saw while there. The wrangler, Kelly and I rode farther up the trail to remove several small trees, and I did not get pictures of all of them.
Thursday: From the intersection of Devil's Bathtub across the Graveyard Cutoff to the Goodale Pass trail, then back to the trailhead.
Another shot of one of the trees in the above pictures.
Another side of the above tree. These were cleared within a mile east of the junction of the Crossover trail and Devil’s Bathtub trail. Sorry, No “after” picture.
Date & Time: Thu Jun 28 12:55:18 PDT 2018
Position: +037°24.30.5' / -118°58.50.6'
Altitude: 8669 ft
Datum: WGS 84
Azimuth Bearing: 304° True
Distance: 5464 miles True
Zoom: 1X
There were a number of leaning trees on the crossover trail that we removed with our smaller saws. None of them required the crosscut saw. I did not get pictures of all of them.
Cedar on the Goodale trail. We took an overhanging small tree down in the same location.
A screenshot of Todd’s scouting trip, identifying trees down on the trails. I am missing some pictures. All volunteers were communicating well, except for when it came to getting all the pictures together!
ATTN: USFS These two trees were above the wilderness boundary on the Goodale Pass trail. We did not have the bucking saw since Joe took it with him on the mule, and so informed him that they would need to return the following day with it to clear them. They are about 5-10 minutes of walking apart, less than half a mile between them.
Summary:

Kelly and I arrived Saturday evening. On Sunday we scouted the Mono Creek trail between the ferry dropoff and the trailhead. We removed a few smaller trees with our Silky saws, and documented larger trees that required the chainsaw (outside wilderness boundaries).

The Backcountry Horsemen came in midday Monday, and we showed Joe our pictures plus Todd’s pictures of the overnight scouting trip he took on Saturday - Sunday. Joe brought five volunteers.

On Tuesday the volunteers split into a wilderness team and a chainsaw team, and hit the trails. Kelly and I hiked up early and the riders caught up with us. We bucked a tree out of the Devil’s Bathtub trail, removed some small, easily-lifted trees from the trail on the way to the junction, and cleared the branches of a very large pine out of the trail. The horsemen cleaned some logs out of the stream crossing. Joe and another volunteer rode ahead to the junction with the crossover trail and stashed the tools, and we returned to the pack station.

On Wednesday, a wrangler was available so Kelly and I were provided horses by the pack station for the day. Unfortunately some very demanding clients delayed our departure but we arrived at the aforementioned junction to help Joe and Jim finish cutting and moving trees there, then rode up the trail toward the Devil’s Bathtub to clear a few small remaining trees down in that trail. The tools were again stashed, this time at the first series of trees down along the crossover trail, and we returned to the pack station.

On Thursday Kelly and I, plus another BCH volunteer who was unable to bring a horse, hiked nine miles - up the Devil’s Bathtub trail, across the crossover trail, and down the
Goodale Pass trail. Joe joined us with a mule which carried the heavier tools for us. We cleared many smaller messes out of the crossover trail as well as the trees pictured above. The trail is clearly used less often than the other trails. By midafternoon Joe had to take the mule down to retrieve the crew with the chainsaw, so we continued on foot with the smaller Silky saws. Returning down the Goodale Pass trail, we removed small trees, leaving two trees near the wilderness boundary that require a crosscut saw, and one tree near the trailhead that the volunteers with the chainsaw had not yet cleared. The chainsaw crew spent Thursday on the trails outside the wilderness boundary clearing the trees along the Mono Creek Trail. Joe indicated they would be able to clear the remaining two trees in the wilderness without our assistance the following day so we departed for home.

The trail to Devil’s Bathtub is clear. The crossover to Goodale Pass trail is clear. The Mono Creek trail is clear of trees to the end of the lake, though some brushing along the last mile before the ferry dock at the east end would be helpful to hikers. The Goodale Pass trail as far as the junction with the crossover trail is clear, the trail past Graveyard Meadow to the pass was not scouted.

We encountered a few day hikers, a small troop of scouts heading for Graveyard Lakes, and one individual with a very large pack (see separate email). And of course the pack station customer that delayed our departure on Wednesday, who had originally wanted to head to Frog Lake, but had to reroute to Graveyard Lakes.

Next Steps:
Identify next trails to be worked/scouted in the area. Margaret Lakes loop? Mr. Cunningham was receptive to providing packer support.
Campsites around Devil’s Bathtub need some remediation, per Todd’s scouting trip. Some work remains to be done in Dinkey Wilderness.