



## **WildPlaces' Mission**

WildPlaces is a community based non-profit organization located in Springville, California in the foothills of the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Our mission is to preserve, support, and protect California's natural and rural places and the people of these landscapes through volunteer driven habitat restoration, natural and cultural education, and career development.

Contents:

- I. WildPlaces and the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program in Kennedy Meadows
- II. Final River Clean-up of the Year on Sept 30th: 300 Pounds of trash removed
- III. Nursery Work Day at the Springville Nursery
- IV. Volunteer Opportunities
- V. Fall Calendar

### **I. California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program at Kennedy Meadows**

On September 4th WildPlaces staff and volunteers traveled to Kennedy Meadows in the extreme eastern edge of Tulare County and the Sequoia National Forest to provide logistical support and outdoor education to a group of six High School youth from the the Lake Isabella area. The group was brought by the Kernville branch of the Owens Valley Career Development Center specifically to participate in the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP).

WildPlaces was represented by Director Mehmet McMillan, Program Coordinator/AmeriCorps Member Ian Herrick, and volunteers Chico Garza and James Harbison. WildPlaces provided valuable input on low-impact camping, natural history and ecology of the Sierra, aquatic macroinvertebrate identification and water quality assessment, native culture, and health.



A group from OVDC Kernville doing an archaeological survey in Kennedy Meadows.



WildPlaces Director Mehmet McMillan (left) helps out with the survey.



A student from OVDC Kernville displays an obsidian biface projectile point made by the ancient people of the Sierra.

## **II. Rio Limpio Number Three: 300 Pounds of Trash removed by 50 hard-working volunteers!**

On Sept 26th (our last river clean-up of 2009) volunteers removed approximately 300 pounds of garbage from the Tule River as well as painting over a tremendous amount of graffiti at Peace Hole that had marred the natural beauty of our public lands. Big thanks to all our hard working volunteers. Individuals and groups traveled from as far as Exeter and Visalia to participate. Participating groups included the Tulare Boys and Girls Club out of Visalia, Granite Hills High School, Porterville College, CSET, and the YMCA of Visalia.

We are happy to report that there has been a definite reduction in the amount of garbage along the Tule River this summer. More and more people are now aware that they need to pack out their trash, and the word is spreading!

WildPlaces' clean-ups are now part of the region-wide Great Sierra River-Clean up organized by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, who helping non-profits and other agencies to coordinate clean-ups on Sierra rivers in conjunction with the Great Coastal Clean-up which happens every September on beaches world-wide. Though Rio Limpio was not held on same date as other clean-ups, it is important to remember that

this is a local AND world-wide effort to reduce garbage on our public and private lands.



Volunteers from Granite Hills High School remove graffiti at Peace Hole. Photo by Ann Garner.



Volunteers remove trash from near the river. Photo by Ann Garner.



The Tule River...without trash or graffiti.



WildPlaces placed trash bag dispensers and Spanish-language signs about garbage at several popular sites along the Tule River, such as this one at the Stairs. The amount of trash was greatly reduced after trash bags and information were made available to the public.

### **III. Work Day at the Springville Nursery Sept 12 2009**

A small group of volunteers met WildPlaces Board Member Peyton Ellas and Program Coordinator/AmeriCorps Member Ian Herrick at the Springville Native Plant Nursery on September 12th to install some new emitters (donated by Crouzet's in Porterville -- thanks!) and to pot up some willow cuttings taken by students during an Immersed in the Wild event in August (see the September WildUpdate).



Volunteer Nicole Celaya and WildPlaces Board Member Peyton Ellas with a willow that got a larger pot for a home on September 12.



Gabriel, a local High School student (on the right), installed most of the emitters and learned a lot about plant biology from Program Coordinator/AmeriCorps Member Ian Herrick (center). Volunteer Nicole Celaya is taking care of the nursery for WildPlaces.

#### **IV Volunteers Needed During Apple Festival Oct 17th**

Springville's Apple Festival will be on October 17th 2009 and WildPlaces will have an educational booth with fun activities for kids open to the public. If you would like to volunteer to hand out information and educate the public (and have fun) please call 559 539 5263 for more information.

Are you interested in volunteering? Do you have a group that needs a project? Or would you just like to work with plants for an hour or so? WildPlaces can accommodate you! In addition to needing volunteers during the Apple Festival, we are currently looking for someone to write and distribute press releases. Training is available. Contact [ian@wildplaces.net](mailto:ian@wildplaces.net) or call 559 539 5263 if you are interested.

#### **V Fall Calendar**

Oct 16-18th: Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference, North Tahoe Conference Center in Kings Beach, CA

Oct 17th-18th: Springville Apple Festival

Nov 7th- 11AM-4PM Kaweah Lands and Arts Festival at the Kaweah Oaks Preserve in Visalia, CA

Nov 21: Restoration at Blue Oak Ranch with Sequoia Riverlands Trust and local youth

Are you on Facebook? Join the [WildPlaces Group!](#)

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