

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park 2017-2018 Financial & Operations Report



Presented by Sonoma Ecology Center
Sugarloaf Ridge State Park
2605 Adobe Canyon Rd., Kenwood, CA 95452
www.sugarloafpark.org



SONOMA ECOLOGY CENTER (TEAM SUGARLOAF)

OPERATING RESULTS July 1, 2017– June 30, 2018 Sugarloaf Ridge State Park

OCT, 2017 FIRE IMPACTS SUMMARY

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park 2017-18 Operations were significantly impacted by the North Bay Fires of October 2017. Over 75 percent of the park's approximately 4000 acres burned in the fires (map on page 4), lasting from late evening of Oct 8th until Oct 18th, 2017, when fire crews and rain stopped its progress. The fire was fully contained on Oct 31st. On the first night of the fire, the park was evacuated by park staff with assistance from DPR staff. Staff also evacuated many neighboring private residences. Substantial damage to the park occurred during the event, including severe wind and fire damage to woody vegetation, damage to road and trail infrastructure, loss of several park residences, damage to benches, tables, and other visitor infrastructure, and damage to electrical and water systems. The park remained closed to the public while DPR and CalFire conducted restoration of fire lines and other suppression-caused damage, and utilities were restored. Park staff with professional volunteer assistance reconstructed miles of damaged trails, including steps, retaining walls, and bridges, along with benches, tables, signage, and other visitor features. The public was allowed to return to the park in February, and camping fully reopened in late April, after hazard trees were confirmed safe or removed. Up to and beyond the period of this report, park staff, DPR, contractors, and park volunteers continue to repair damaged trails, bridges and infrastructure. The park has otherwise returned to normal operations.

HOURS OF OPERATION

- Day use hours are 6 am to 10 pm in the main park; 6 am to 8 pm below the entry Kiosk.
- Open 365 days per year for day use and camping
- Visitor Center Official Hours are 9 am – 5 pm on Saturday and Sunday and 3-7 pm on Friday afternoons between May 1 and Sept. 30. The Visitor Center is also open 4-8 hours per weekday when volunteers or paid staff are in the office.

INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

- Sonoma Ecology Center hosted over 25 K-8 school field trips to the park
- Sonoma Ecology Center hosted two one-week summer science camps and two three-day youth backpacking class
- Interpretive Visitor Center open 3 pm to 7 pm Friday (Seasonally) and 9-5 on Saturday (Seasonally), 11-3 Saturday Sunday year round. Trained docents assist visitors in understanding the park and its features.
- Regular nature hikes were held throughout the year. Last year over 150 hikes and other events were held in the park. Topics included
 - Natural History
 - Plant Ecology
 - Wildflower Hikes
 - Mushroom Hikes
 - General Ecological Hikes
 - History Hikes

- Geology Hikes
- Fitness and Therapy Hikes (Parks Rx Program)
- Sugar shuttle between the regional park and Sugarloaf
- Regular campfire programs during the Summer.

MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

In addition to our normal activities, this year we had the fire recovery rebuilding efforts.

These efforts included:

1. Trails
 - a. Cleared 20 miles of trails of debris, branches, low hanging limbs and over 50 downed trees
 - b. Rebuild 2 miles of trails damaged by fire lines and fire breaks
 - c. Rebuild 15 retaining walls
 - d. Rebuild over 50 steps
2. Bridges
 - a. Temporally replace Meadow Trail Bridge (40 feet)
 - b. Rebuild Canyon Trail Bridge (30 feet)
 - c. Rebuild Red Mt. Horse Bridge (20 foot).
 - d. Repair Goodspeed Bridge which was failing
3. Campground
 - a. Clean up and cap 2 destroyed bathrooms in campground
 - b. Remove or trim 30 trees damaged by fires.

Nonprofit staff and volunteers repaired and maintained the trails in the park. Repair activities were managed by Sonoma County Trails Council and included:

- Repair lower Bald Mt. Trail, Vista Trail and Brushy Peaks Trail
- Repair washouts on Hillside Trail, Canyon Trail, Brushy Peaks, Vista Trail, and Headwaters Trail.

Other Routine Maintenance included:

- Mowing High Ridge Trail to the Red Barn
- Brushing Brushy Peaks Trail, Headwaters, Red Mountain, Meadows, Hillside, Bald Mt. and Goodspeed trail within the main part of park.
- Brushing Quercus, Headwaters, Maple Glen and Wildcat in the McCormick Addition.
- Mowing roads in McCormick Addition

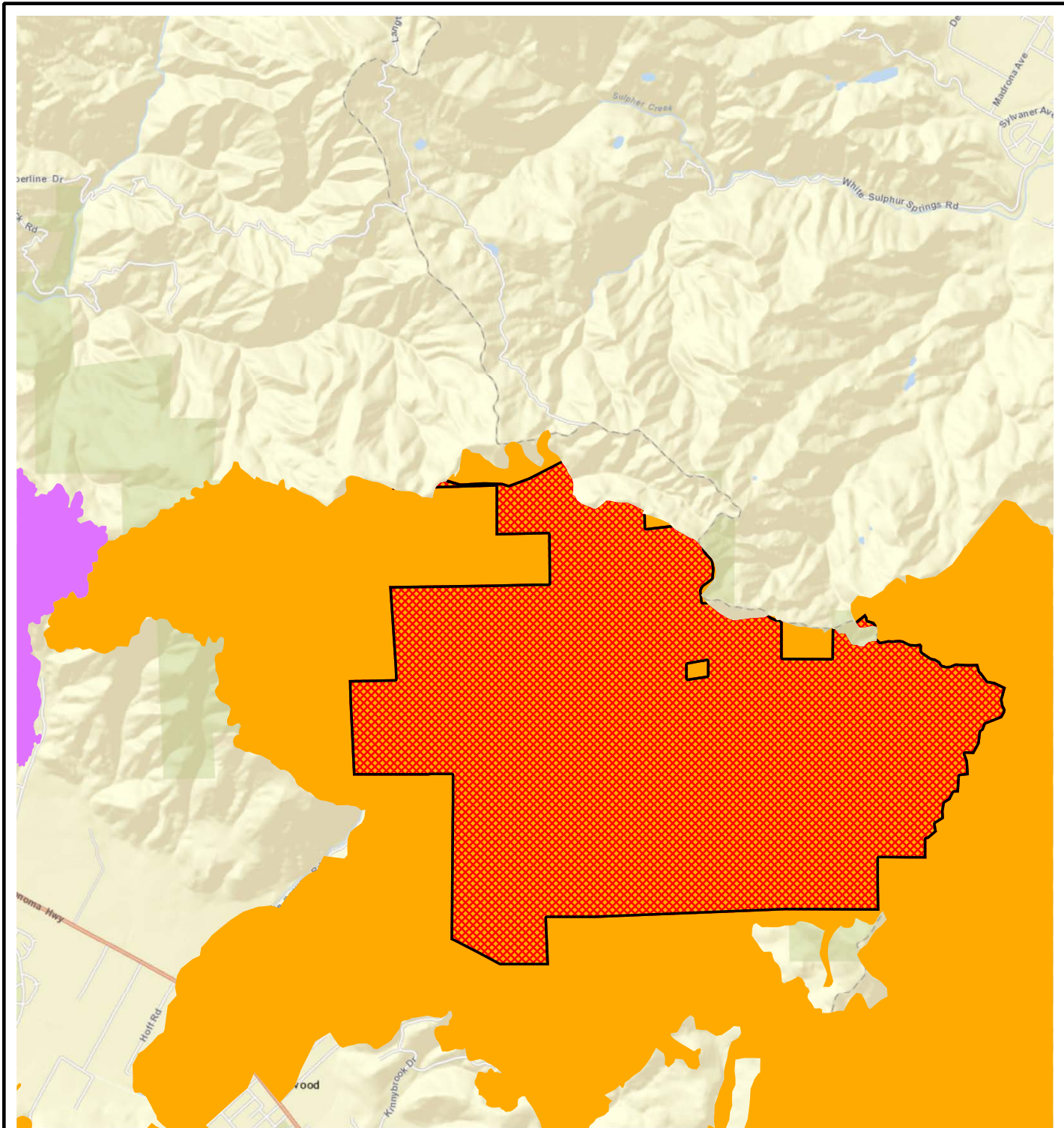
Along park roads we cleared all culverts, and ditches.

CONCESSION OPERATIONS

The Robert Ferguson Observatory continued to operate under a concession agreement with the state.

CAMPGROUND

The campground was staffed by a two part-time managers and volunteer camp hosts. The Campground is managed by United Campgrounds Conferences and Retreats. (UCCR) under contract with Sonoma Ecology Center.



on of fire extent will need to be mapped and verified with on-the-ground surveys.

Team Sugarloaf / Sonoma Ecology Center Income Statement

For the Year Ended June 30, 2018

For the period July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

Operating Revenue	2018		
Entrance Fees	78,389.08		
Camping Fees	180,955.53		
Programs and Events	24,611.46		
Retail Sales (Including Wood)	37,914.09		
Grant Allocation	36,826.20		
Contributions	52,337.01		
Other	(256.21)		
Total Operating Revenue	410,777.16		
Operating Expenses			
Bank and Other Fees	8,671.76		
Campground Payroll and Management	72,726.71		
COGS Retail and Wood	17,997.97		
Computer Services	7,926.19		
Conferences and Meetings and Travel	1,647.68		
Direct Payroll for Park Staff	166,548.77		
Equipment Repair and Maintenance	4,464.72		
Events, Programs, Workshops Costs	14,193.25		
Facility Repair and Maint.	7,812.31		
General Supplies	3,935.21		
Insurance	3,760.00		
Marketing and Public Relations	7,360.08		
Miscellaneous	1,383.84		
Office Supplies and Printing	11,065.39		
Outside Services Facilities	2,651.85		
Telephone and Internet	5,993.72		
Trail and Bridge Expenses	34,288.71		
Utilities	27,832.02		
Vehicle Expenses	11,344.21		
Volunteer Expenses	5,311.68		
Total Expenses	416,916.07		
Operating Income (Loss)	(6,138.91)		
Other Expenses			
Depreciation Expense	12,538.57		
Finance Charges	17.22		
Recognized Losses (Hobbit House Fire Loss)	37,378.49		
Total Other Expense	49,934.28		
Net Income (Loss)	(56,073.19)		
Volunteers Hours		Value Hour	Total Value
State Parks Volunteers	7,761		
SEC Volunteers	550		
Corporate Volunteers (Levi, St. Francis, Moet Chandon, etc.)	1,040		
Total Volunteer Hours	9,351	\$ 27.59	\$ 257,994

REPORT ON SUGARLOAF RIDGE STATE PARK RECONSTRUCTION

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park suffered severe damage from the Sonoma County fires of 2017. 90% plus of the main part of the park was burned. State Park staff managed the damage assessment, road repairs and natural resource remediation. Then leveraging our staff, amazing volunteers and financial support of the community Team Sugarloaf was able to complete the repairs for approximately \$90,000. If we had used outside contractors, we estimate the costs would have been in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 range. Our maintenance staff of Scott Burn and Bruce Hall managed most of the bridge and major projects, the Sonoma Trails Council managed trail repairs and retaining wall and step reconstruction, and SEC Employees and Sugarloaf Leaders Melissa Roberts and John Roney provided overall coordination and trail clearing leadership. Also, using volunteer and campground staff, we were able to mill a good portion of the wood required for rebuilding from trees which fell in the fire or had to be removed after the fires at Sugarloaf and the Sonoma Development Center. Milling our own wood saved us significant amounts of money and provided very high-quality redwood for the projects.

At the park, we prioritized rebuilding by considering a variety of factors including 1) Risk of severe damage from rains if not repaired (e.g., retaining walls on trails), 2) Safety to visitors, 3) Resources available, 4) Popularity and usage of trails.

TRAILS

We had 20 miles of trails to clear with over 50 trees down on the trails. The combination of fires and wind left many trees down and lots of brush leaning over the trails.

Also, we rebuilt about 1 mile of trail. Hillside Trail, Lower Bald Mt. Trail, Pony Gate Trail, and Brushy Peaks Trail all had sections that required rebuilding after fire breaks were bulldozed along and through the trails. Cal Fire repaired roads, but not trails after the fire. The repairs required a combination of regrading, ditching, laying gravel, edging and finishing.

BRIDGES

- 1) Rebuild a 25-foot pedestrian bridge on Canyon Trail. This bridge was almost completely burned, just leaving only the metal support frames. This bridge was our first rebuild project since the Canyon trail is very popular and hard to keep visitors off.
- 2) Temporally Rebuild 50-foot bridge on Meadow Trail. The driving bridge on the Meadow trail was 80% burned. Meadow Trail is a very popular trail and required rapid repair. At some point in 2019, State Parks will rebuild the bridge for vehicle traffic, but in the meantime, we built a temporary pedestrian bridge. We completed the bridge rebuild before the park opened on Feb. 1.
- 3) Rebuild 20-foot horse bridge on Red Mt. Trail.: The Red Mt. Bridge was originally a 12-foot puncheon. After the fires completely burned the bridge, State Parks asked us to replace it with a longer bridge so it would be out of the stream banks. Because of its length and the strength requirements, it required 3 20-foot 8x12 redwood beams weight about 650 lbs. each, that needed to be hand carried half a mile over a narrow trail. Also, because of the new bridge was higher, we added rails, adding to the complexity and wood requirements. We completed this bridge on Oct. 8th, 2018, one year after the fires started.
- 4) Rebuild three puncheons on Vista Trail. Three puncheons were damaged or destroyed. We have temporarily repaired them for foot traffic and will replace with new puncheons rated for horses during November 2018. (A puncheon is a bridge with no railings).

RETAINING WALLS

SEC needed to rebuild 20 retaining walls from 5 to 100 feet. Many retaining walls were high priority fixes because, without the walls, the trails were in danger of severe erosion that would have required significant resources to repair or rebuild.

STEPS

The fires destroyed about 50 wooden steps. On Vista Trail, over the past few years, 100 steps were built, and 25 of these were burned. Many of these repairs were also a high priority, because we had to haul in gravel to backfill the stairs and without repairs, there was the potential for significant erosion. We also had to replace stairs on Canyon Trail, Pony Gate, and Brushy Peaks trails.

SIGNS, BENCHES AND TABLES

We replaced about 25-30 trail post. Each post typically included 1-3 trail signs, arrows and restriction signs (e.g., "No Horse, No Dog etc).

Also, we replaced four benches and three picnic tables that the fire were destroyed. We replaced the benches using wood we milled from trees that fell in the fire.

20 hazardous trees fully or partially removed in the campground. The trees were felled and cleared mostly using staff and volunteer labor other than on a couple of trees where climbers were required. We used grant money to rent chippers and front loaders to assist with disposal of the trees and to pay for outside tree services to remove the more difficult trees.

RED MT. TRAIL BRIDGE

Before



During



After



After



Meadow Trail Bridge - Before



After



Canyon Bridge - Before



After



Trail Work



Signs



Benches

