

February 2014

Mailing from County Parks

By Brian Spring and Margaret Harding

In mid-January, residents living within a few hundred feet of Homestead Valley Land Trust lands received a mailer from Marin County Parks. It's warm and fuzzy title was "Notice of Intent, Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, Homestead Valley Land Management Plan". Not surprisingly, several people have contacted various HVLТ Board members to ask what this is all about so we want to clarify. For the last year+, we have been working with the County to develop a "guiding document" known as a Land Management Plan (LMP). The purpose of the Plan is to describe the biological, regulatory, and management settings of our land, identify activities for which HVLТ is responsible, and propose a system for prioritizing projects. In short, formalizing and organizing what we do and how we do it. A good idea! To the delight and relief of the Land Trust, the LMP is now completed and it is a very helpful document. Before it can be codified by the County, however, it must be analyzed for potentially negative environmental impacts under the guidelines set by CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act). The "Notice of Intent" tells adjacent property owners that the document is complete, available for review and comment, and ready for adoption. It also gives several ways to see the LMP, including on-line, and at the MV library. The deadline for comments is Feb 10, so if you're reading this online, there may still be time to comment. As for the final LMP, the Land Trust Board has reviewed and commented on it, those comments have been incorporated into the document, and at some point in the not-too-distant future the Board of Supervisors will, we assume, approve it. This sounds like a lot of bureaucratic hoo-hah, but in reality it has been an extremely valuable tutorial in how to organize Land Management. The final, approved LMP will be available online and you will be sent the link. Good bedside reading!

Greenwood School Students help with trail improvement: On Thursday, December 19, students from Greenwood School raked and shoveled and pulled scotch broom along the trail through the redwoods which starts at the hairpin on Ridgewood. The result is a nice, clear trail. Maverick intends to install some steps at a steep portion near the top, to make for easier hiking.