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## Hastings Reserve News

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Rain fell several days in mid to late November, adding up to a seasonal and monthly total of 2.08". During the latter part of November, the combination of wet soil, sunny warm days and the greening hillsides was extremely pleasant.

Alice Landauer was able to work with the Berkeley Risk Management Department to review their requirement that vendors (see below) carry what appear to the local work force as unreasonably high levels of liability insurance. I am very pleased that Alice was able to make some progress with Risk Management, as this was a continuing difficulty for us here. Thanks Alice.

A number of maintenance projects continue. Suzanne Schettler replaced the wall around the rear door in the new maintenance shop, fitting in some recycled redwood planks among the new. Two cast-off cabinets were built up and now support a 12' long counter top. Suzanne cleaned years of accumulated grime and woodrat droppings from the counter top, and it turns out to be in very good shape. These cabinets and the counter top were bolted to the wall to provide a sturdy work bench area. A few more odds and end tools (circular saw, tape, sawhorses, etc.) were added and put to use. Tools once kept in the homestead cabin complex are getting sorted and moved. Additional cabinet and shelf space await construction in the shop. Suzanne cleared out some road drainage ditches, and repaired water bars to protect the roads from erosion. Several afternoons were spent by Suzanne clearing the brush from the Arnold road. Final installation and hook up of the propane tank to the Maintenance house furnace was completed.

Bill Lambert delivered roadbase, or "DG" to spread over the clay soil around the annex and maintenance shop as well as around the Maintenance house. After compaction, this improved the drainage and access to the buildings during the rains. Cate Electric was out to replace an old fashioned glass screw-in fuse box in the Ranch House. It had shorted out and allowed the hot water heater to run on. Gary Stooksberry started the well digging at the Hallisey house. He is down through gravel and rubble to 40 feet in granite, and has cemented in a 6" diameter casing to that depth.

Pacific Aerial could not obtain color IR film and a clear day at once. As our leaves are fallen, and after conference with a couple of pros in photo interpretation, (Mike Hamilton, NRS, James Reserve and Rich Minnich, UC-Riverside) we postponed the flight until May of 1989. We will be able to obtain far more information from the negatives at that time, with regard to vegetation mapping and resolution in shadows.

Jim Griffin and I attended a meeting with representative of the San Felipe Ranch, near San Jose, on the 20th. We were asked to contribute to a general discussion of how they could preserve their 32,000 ac. ranch and perhaps contribute to an effort to restore the upland savannas of California. Another meeting may be called in spring of 1989. I attended the NRS-Berkeley Campus annual meeting in Berkeley on the 9th. I investigated the services of the Gavilon Conservation Camp with regard to fencing and clearing brush from the road. Concern by Suzanne about her security led me to refrain from submitting a request at this time for their services.

Progress on the laboratory continues on several fronts. A bid from Daniels and House (Salinas, Monterey) was approved. Tim Daniels and his foreman visited with me on the 22nd to review some questions they had in the plans. From the original architectural drawings, I extracted a list of each cabinet and counter top we will need. I submitted this list, along with

specifications for each item from the Fisher Scientific catalog, to 3 vendors. Jeff Kennedy provided the names of 2 vendors who had worked well with NRS on other reserves. Alice Landauer helped put all the packages together and found another vendor through the University. We sent out 4 requests for bids, so we should have a pretty good idea of what we can afford for the interior cabinets. Steve Davenport of fellow NRS Ano Nuevo Reserve and the Long Marine Lab has a used fume hood we may be able to acquire at substantial savings. I will check it out next month. A pre-construction meeting is planned here sometime during the first 10 days of December, followed immediately by ground breaking.

Mark Reynolds continues to convert our old weather data to our new computer based system. We had to reprogram the recording unit, and in this process, found and replaced some defective hardware (warranty). When the rains came, we changed the data base to record both daily totals and monthly totals. Mark also added a routine to record daily contributions to a monthly total of "degree days". Over 25 years of data on daily air temperature are stored here as over 9,000 curves on strip charts. We investigated the potential of using the video image analyzer at MVZ to process these data into useful computer records. And, we censused winter birds along Finch Creek.

Researchers who visited included Dr. Frank Pitelka (11/3-4). Dr. Pitelka met with students and we both attended the Big Creek 10 anniversary at Carmel on the 4th. I joined a field trip to Big Creek on the 5th. Barry Sinervo, a post doctoral fellow working with Dr. Marvalee Wake, was here with his assistant (23rd-26th), checking out the salamanders and lizards. Dr. Tom Parker, Department of Biological Sciences, San Francisco State, brought 17 students in Plant Ecology. They stayed the 4th, 5th and 6th.

Rasmussen Land Surveying informed us that we may have a contested property line on our southwestern boundary. I will add this to the list of items to discuss with Karl Drose when he and Roger Samuelson schedule a trip down here.