



News Release

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Volunteers Help Improve High Grade National Recreation Trail

ALTURAS, Calif., Oct. 8, 2014 – Even though the weather was less than perfect, a group of hearty folks celebrated National Public Lands Day, Sept. 27, 2014 with the Modoc National Forest by helping with a trail maintenance project on the Warner Mountain Ranger District. Two work parties – comprised of Backcountry Horsemen (BCH) – High Country Unit members, Boy Scouts from Troop 49, and Modoc National Forest employees – spent the day clearing, repairing and improving sections of the High Grade National Recreation Trail (NRT).

Work accomplished on the southern end of the NRT just north of the Buck Creek Fire Station included .5 miles of trail improvement and installation of directional signs on the ridge to assist with route finding along North Star Basin. On the north end, Troop 49 and Scout Masters repaired .3 miles of trail. The day ended with lunch at the Fire Station and a tour for the Scouts of the Consolidated Mine area.

The 5.5 mile NRT was established in 1980 as a multi-use trail that combines the natural beauty of the northern Warner Mountains with visible history remnants that serve as a reminder of Modoc County's early gold rush and mining heritage. Trail maintenance work has been accomplished with Secure Rural Schools Title II funding. "We appreciate all the hard work that has been done to improve the NRT for forest visitors. This would not have been possible without the help of many partners," commented Amy Hartell, Recreation Officer for the Devil's Garden/Warner Mountain ranger districts. Hartell added, "Thanks to the volunteers!"

This year was the 21st annual National Public Lands Day. The focus of National Public Lands Day is to instill a sense of shared stewardship and educate the public about the importance of natural resources. More than 170,000 volunteers were expected to participate in activities to celebrate National Public Lands Day.

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