

2011 Packer Partnerships

Generally, for 2011, due to the very heavy snows there was a significant amount of trail work necessary. The Forest Service utilized Packer operators to assist in opening trails, not only for their commercial uses, but for the public in general. Some areas were affected by significant rock fall and others by avalanche debris. The Inyo and Sierra National Forests greatly appreciated the help provided by each commercial operator.

Bishop Pack Outfitters

- Packing services in support of Forest Service trail maintenance crews.
- Packing services for the California Cooperative Snow Survey.
- Conducted early season trail work to open trails for all users. 2011 was a particularly heavy snow year, with many broken and blown over trees as well as drifts blocking the trails.
- Employees assisted in the evacuation of several members of the public for medical reasons.

Cottonwood Pack Station

- The pack station continued to provide substantial support for the California Department of Fish and Game implementation of the Golden Trout Conservation Assessment and Strategy and support of the State fish stocking program.
- Pack stock support to the California Department of Water Resources.
- Pack stock support for Sequoia Kings National Park for wilderness ranger resupplies, garbage backhaul and noxious weed program implementation.
- Employees provided support to medical evacuations for the public.
- Employees assisted the Forest Service in removing trash, including fencing materials, from wilderness areas.

Clyde Pack Outfit

- Assisted with early season trail clearing
- Provided free packing services for the Forest Service Trail Crews
- Removed trash from the John Muir and Dinkey Lakes Wildernesses

D & F Pack Station

- Provided labor and pack stock support for Wilderness Rangers clearing trails in the Kaiser Wilderness
- Assisted with medical evacuation of a hiker from the wilderness
- Expanded trailhead parking for the public

Glacier Pack Train

- Employees removed several large rocks from the trail assisting the Forest Service in early season trail opening and maintenance.

High Sierra Pack Station

- Hosted the San Joaquin- Sierra Backcountry Horseman for a week long work project.
- Donated packing services to the High Sierra Trail Crew on trail projects on the Pacific Crest Trail between Florence and Edison Lakes
- Assisted with trail clearing in the John Muir Wilderness and front country trails in the Edison Lake area

Lost Valley Pack Station

- Assisted with clearing trails in the Blayney Meadow area.

McGee Creek Pack Station

- Packing services in support of Forest Service trail maintenance crews.
- Packing services for volunteers from REI and FOI to work on a section of trail blown out by spring runoff.
- Conducted early season trail work to open trails for all users. 2011 was a particularly heavy snow year, with many broken and blown over trees as well as drifts blocking the trails.
- Employees assisted in the repair of the McGee Creek Bridge damaged by heavy winter snow.
- Assisted in cutting out a major avalanche with over 200 trees needing to be cut and removed.

Minarets Pack Station

- Assisted with early season trail clearing
- Packed trash out of the Ansel Adams Wilderness
- Assisted with the medivac of an injured hiking party by notifying dispatch and providing assistance with the evacuation

Muir Trail Ranch

- Assisted with trail clearing between Florence Lake and Blayney Meadow as well as north towards Selden Pass on the Pacific Crest Trail and up Piute Creek
- Assisted with three medical evacuations
- Hosted California Fish and Game personnel for 5 days while they conducted trout surveys and research projects in the San Joaquin River drainage
- Packed trash out of the wilderness
- Provided transportation to Fresno for hikers that had to curtail their trips early
- Provided updated trail condition reports to the Forest Service for visitor information

Pine Creek Pack Station

- Employees assisted the forest Service in early season trail clearing for all users.

Rainbow Pack Outfitters

- Continued to support the Forest Service in trail projects.
- Provided pack stock support to the California Department of Water Resources.
- Provided pack stock support to Sequoia National Park wilderness rangers with resupplies and garbage back haul.
- Employees provided support for emergency medical evacuations and other backcountry assistance to the public.
- Employees conducted early season trail clearing for all users.

Reds Meadow Pack Station

- Provided corral facilities for the BCHA and the PCTA volunteers while working to cut out and open trails in the Reds Meadow, Fish Creek areas heavily damaged by 2011 heavy winter.
- Provided packing support for CCC Trail crews including hauling food, gear and hand tools.
- Assisted the Forest Service in cutting trees blocking trails.

Rock Creek Pack Station/Mt. Whitney Pack Trains

- Employees provided assistance to backcountry users, including assistance for medical reasons or for snow conditions encountered late into the season.
- The pack station provided pack stock support to the Forest Service for trail work.
- Employees conducted preseason trail reconnaissance and maintenance to open trails for all users. Work included log and rock removal within the John Muir and the Golden Trout Wilderness areas.

Sequoia Kings Pack Trains

- Pack station continues to provide season long support to Sequoia Kings National Park wilderness management, including garbage removal and ranger resupplies.

Yosemite Trails Pack Station

- Assisted with early season trail clearing