



## SWV END-OF-SEASON NEWSLETTER (12/14/2011)

Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers {A California Non-profit Corporation, Registration #CT0171922}  
Wilderness Office • Summit Ranger District  
Stanislaus National Forest • 1 Pinecrest Lake Road • Pinecrest, CA. 95364  
[www.snfv.org](http://www.snfv.org)

This summer's work got off to a slow start due to a large snowpack and high water, but it didn't hinder SWV from contributing a record amount of volunteer hours and resources to its mission **to help preserve the wilderness character of designated wilderness areas in direct support of the US Forest**. SWV members contributed 1,882 hours of volunteer labor clearing trails, repairing signs, removing non-native invasive weeds, cleaning campsites, restoring habitat, removing trash and educating wilderness users in Leave No Trace principles. Two grants totalling \$9,725 enabled SWV to contribute additional work above its normal contributions of volunteer labor. Two SWV sponsored interns, supported by a \$7,725 grant from the National Forest Foundation, contributed 1,420 hours and completed a federally mandated project to survey and map invasive weeds within the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. SWV used a grant of \$2,000 from the California Wildlands Grassroots Fund of the Tides Foundation to partner with Yosemite National Park for the training and certification of 13 LNT Master Educators from Yosemite National Park and Stanislaus National Forest staff and volunteers, including SWV members Karen Kite and Dave Salzer.



**Deer Lake in July!!!!**



2011 was another year of impressive accomplishment for SWV. The group nearly doubled its contribution to wilderness stewardship by sponsoring two wilderness ranger interns for the first time. Interns Chad and Garrett did a fantastic job helping with the invasive weed survey and other duties as part of the Stanislaus wilderness crew. Chad told me "It was, hands down, the awesomest job I've had....ever!" He must have had a pretty good time if he needed to make up a new word to describe it.

It's hard to describe all that was done in our wilderness areas last summer by SWV, Backcountry Horsemen, Summer of Success students, and the wilderness crew without resorting to numbers. Here are some statistics:

LNT education events: 8	Fire rings removed: 596	Trees cut: 841
LNT trainers & masters certified: 22	Campsites cleaned: 152	Trail miles surveyed for weeds: 102
Visitors contacted: 5500	Signs repaired: 27	Acres surveyed for weeds: 640
Pounds of trash removed: 1358	Miles of trail cleared: 120	Acres of weeds pulled: 12

In addition, we completed annual monitoring of the Emigrant dams, campsite conditions, firewood depletion, and crowding throughout the Emigrant and Carson-Iceberg wildernesses. Our nine-person

wilderness staff also conducted 70 patrols in all three wildernesses providing substantial ranger presence at high-use destinations like Sword Lake and Kennedy Lake.

Of course, words and numbers barely begin to describe the commitment to wilderness stewardship made by all of the people who contributed their time and energy this year. Your efforts are truly remarkable. As a result, SWV received well-deserved recognition from the Forest Service in the form of the national Aldo Leopold Award for Overall Wilderness Stewardship Program at a ceremony in Sacramento last month. At the ceremony, Jim Beard took the liberty of pointing out to all of the other groups receiving awards that we didn't just do the work, we had *fun* doing it. Thank you again for your invaluable help in preserving wilderness character in the Carson-Iceberg, Emigrant, and Mokelumne wildernesses in 2011. See you next spring! *Adam*



**Another Gourmet meal by Dave!**



**The weed crew after a hard day chasing thistles**



**Another hard day at the office.**



**I packed it, you carry it.**



**Which side of this sign is up?**



**Debriefing a successful season.**



**Our mantra is, "Leave No Trace".**



**Regional Forester, Randy Moore, presents Leopold Award.**

Adam Barnet wrote the following in his nomination of SWV for the Aldo Leopold Award:

*"... Over the years, the group has matured from a handful of individual volunteers with a passion for wilderness into a full partner with the Stanislaus wilderness program bringing in substantial grant funds, sponsoring wilderness ranger interns, leading stewardship projects, and educating hundreds of visitors and forest staff on the meaning of wilderness and LNT practices. It is an honor and a pleasure for the Stanislaus NF to have such a strong and effective partner in its wilderness stewardship efforts."*

**THE CAPITOL TREE**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**