

Big Thompson District Area Report – 11-12-2015

General:

Biggest news is our newest addition- Lilian Rene Kirby born on 10/22 to Cindy and Dylan. Cindy will be out for 3 months taking care of this little bundle of joy!

Gary, Chris and Mark met with Cpt. Manago with LCSO regarding our policies and how they mesh with the Sheriff's Dept.

All seasonal rangers except Aubrey and Dana are gone now. Dave still has all 2 of his crew working on the backlog of maintenance projects while the weather holds.

Chris, Gary, Dan, Mark and Travis all went out to California to meet with and tour several other agencies parks and open spaces programs: Santa Clara County Park system, Mid-Peninsula Regional Park District, East Bay Regional Park District as well as the Point Reyes National Seashore Park. It was a fantastic trip and we were able to glean a few nuggets from each of the agencies as well as gain a better appreciation for how great our own program is! 😊

Rangers and managers are starting to work on getting the Ranger Excellence School (RES) back off the ground and running for 2016.

Devils Backbone Open Space (DBBOS):

Visitation is starting to climb back up with the cooler weather. Lots of schools are bringing big groups up without going through our education team, which is causing some issues. With more people come more snake sighting reports and more contacts of people climbing on the rocks.

The big caper of "smash and grabs" (vehicle break-ins) at the trailhead along with numerous other locations up in RMNP was SOLVED and the suspects are in custody. FANTASTIC investigatory work from our own Devin Neumann and Will Talbott!

Things are really moving forward on the updated master plan and the parking lot expansion project. Met with Engineering and our sign consultant to make sure we're all on the same page. Teddy and Heather joined us. All of the elements are starting to come together now. We should begin the project in Feb.

Hermit Park Open Space (HPOS):

Roadwork was completed by Road and Bridge. Our roads had been pretty degraded with the increased visitation this season. Work was completed for half the cost as prior years when a private contractor was hired.

Chris met with AVI, our consultant, to get the perimeter trail project back on track. We are also working on ordering bear boxes for all of our campgrounds.

Dave and crew are working on revamping Blue Bird cabin. It's currently being gutted and will be getting a new roof, floors, bunk beds and curtains.



The Rocky Mountain Cat Conservancy trail cameras are up and we are thrilled with the images we've captured in just a few short weeks. I've shared a few already: lions and tigers and bears, oh my! OK, no tigers ... YET.



We got the first real snowfall up in the park on Oct. 21. Maybe the summer will actually end this year!

Our other locals are starting to appear back in the park. None of us were willing to argue with this guy on if he was in fact authorized personnel or not.



Big Thompson:

Dave and crew have been working tirelessly on Narrows Park, felling trees and taking out the old pump house. We recently had a tree nearly fall on our neighbor's house and discovered that several more trees with compromised root systems were in danger of coming down, too. Dave is also working with Charlie on an easement for the city to bury electrical lines.

Sleepy Hollow was closed for the season.