



GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY

MEETING DATE: April 3, 2025

AGENDA ITEM: 5. Operations Manager Report

FROM: Bridget Nichols

RE: Operations Manager Report

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION/RESEARCH:

Gabrych Restoration: The Gabrych Family partnered with Northpoint Consulting Group on a large restoration project near Hwy 255, between Pacific Ave and Peninsula Drive on the Humboldt Bay Peninsula in the Manila area. In December, the Arcata Vineyard Community (a local non-profit) organized a volunteer clean-up day under the guidance of Timothy Windbigler & Northpoint Consulting, in collaboration with the Timber Heritage Association, to remove trash from abandoned encampments encroaching on the right of way.

Foster Ave Pampas Flower Removal: In early January, Open Door Community Health Centers organized a volunteer day to remove Pampas Grass flower heads to slow the spread of invasive species. They are looking to plan another workday later this March.

Community Engagement & Clean-Up Projects: GRTA is looking to encourage more community engagement clean-up projects like this. We plan to add information to our website and social media to outline the process and simplify the permit application for similar projects.

Activity Specific Permit Applications: GRTA is working on developing activity specific permit applications to support both applicants and reviewers. One example is a volunteer workday permit. Another is a research permit - a student from Cal Poly Humboldt recently requested permission to conduct wildlife surveys on GRTA property. We are collaborating with the university to create a process that is modeled after the City of Arcata's permit requirements for research in natural areas.

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS:

Regular site visits to Mendocino County have resulted in the documentation of maintenance issues that will be addressed. Examples are logs and debris piling up along bridges due to storms, sinkholes near bridge in Willits, graffiti and failing structures such as the Pear Shed in Hopland. We are working on developing a new Survey123 to collect data from the field to track maintenance issues.

In December, we responded to a call about downed trees in the right-of-way in Eureka. We visited the site the same day we received the call and worked with Keenan Supply to ensure the trees were removed and the fence will be restored.

In January, staff repainted the Hopland Weigh Station to cover graffiti on the building. Additional graffiti on the backside of the building still remains and will be painted soon.

Staff visited the McNab Creek crossing where the culvert washed out a few years ago to review the restoration. Due to heavy creek flows, jute that had been placed along the streambed had been peeled away. In February, staff pinned the jute back in place to assist in the ongoing efforts to stabilize the creek bed in our right of way.

The bridge over Broaddus Creek in Willits had logs piling up against the bridge structure. We developed a Request for Quotes that was posted on our website and sent to local contractors for response. After retaining a contractor, GRTA, in coordination with Skunk Train, completed the log removal project. GRTA hired contractors and Skunk Train provided flaggers for the active rail. This was completed in early March.

A process for posting projects for bid on our website has been recently implemented. We will utilize our mailing list in Constant Contact to notify contractors of projects as they come up. Requests for Bids or Proposals will be posted on our website thegreatredwoodtrail.org/bids. Interested contractors can sign up on that site to be added to the notification list.

ENCROACHMENTS:

Formalized Review Process: We have been working on formalizing a prioritization process to address encroachments on GRTA property. We are currently in the first phase, which is confirming existing encroachment agreements by communicating with lessees/licensees we have on record. The second phase is doing a physical assessment of the corridor to identify undocumented encroachments or expired licenses. The physical assessment follows a prioritization based on the trail development tiers outlined in the master plan. Phase three will be establishing new licenses and agreements based on the physical assessment. There will be on-going and special reviews as needed for critical needs, as well as periodic reevaluation of agreements in place to ensure continued alignment with GRTA's goals and policies. New applications for encroachments are reviewed as they are submitted.

Staff have been using ESRI's Survey 123 in the field to log encroachments onto our GIS database. Work continues to understand the wide range of encroachments that need to be addressed or updated. GRTA has recently purchased digital field equipment to assist in more accurate information gathering.

GRTA has recently purchased Project Management Software that will help to streamline encroachment processing and can be utilized for other internal projects requiring collaborative efforts of staff that work in various locations.

There is a recent increase in revenue from existing license agreements as they are being reviewed and invoices are being sent for the previous year or two that have been overlooked due to agency and staff transitions. The year-to-year comparisons of revenue will vary until current billing for existing agreements is fully reviewed and scheduled in our accounting system.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. GABRYCH SITE RESTORATION - CAMP 5 AND TRACKS
- B. HOPLAND GRAFFITI CLEANUP
- C. OPEN DOOR CLINIC PAMPAS VOLUNTEER DAY
- D. BROADDUS CREEK LOG DEBRIS BEFORE AND AFTER

Gabrych Restoration Project
Camp 5 and Tracks

Photo Log
December, 2024



Before: Camp 5 from trail above



Before: Camp 5



Before: Camp 5 adjacent



During: Below ground dump excavation



During: Below ground dump excavation



During: Below ground dump excavation



During: Camp 5 materials staged for removal



Before: Along railroad tracks



Before: Along railroad tracks



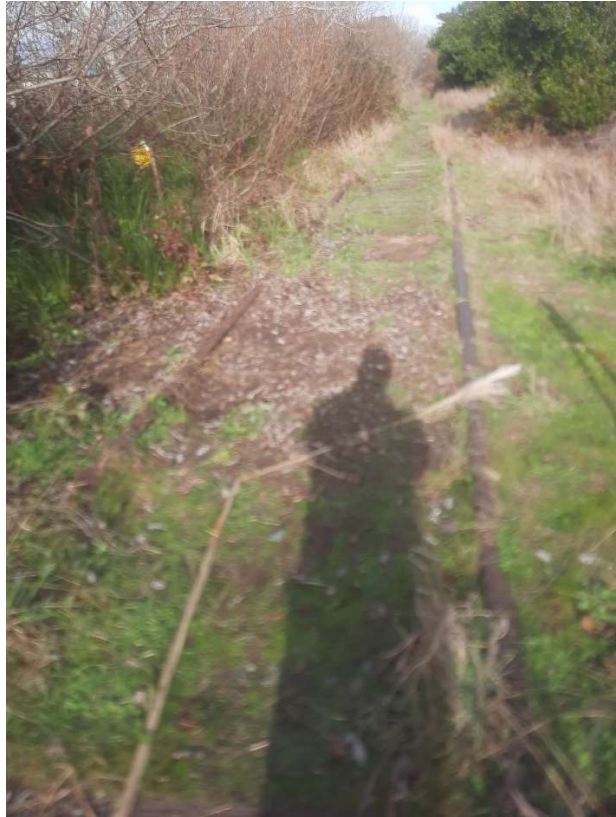
Before: Along railroad tracks



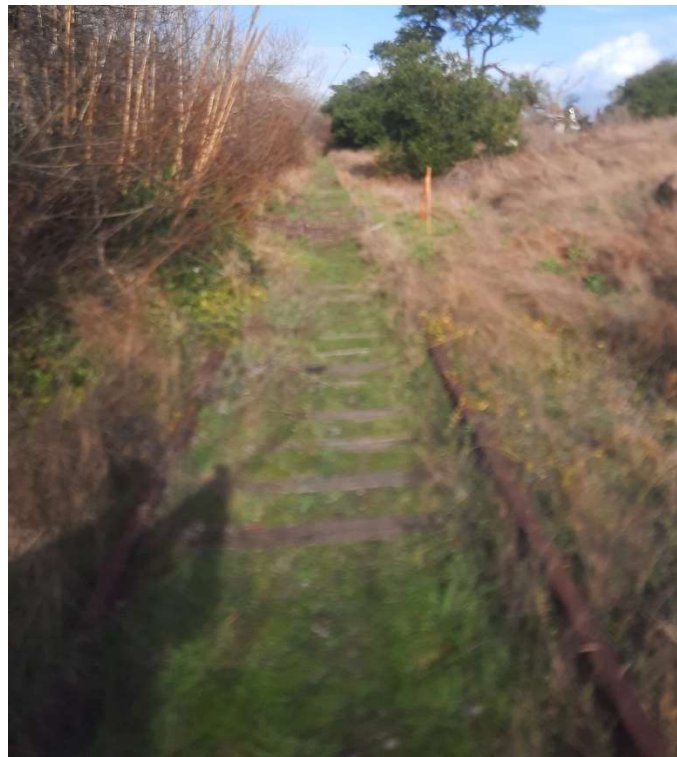
Before: Along railroad tracks



During: Railroad tracks cleanup



After: Railroad tracks trash removed



After: Railroad tracks trash removed

Hopland Graffiti Clean-Up





Open Door Community Health Centers Volunteer Day

100 pounds of seed heads removed to prevent further spread of invasive plants.





Broadbudd Creek Bridge, Willits: Before & After

