



## 2019 OWNER'S MEETING / TREE WORK

Hi all,

Below is the tentative agenda for our 2019 Owner's Meeting and Tree Trimming.

Our main purpose is to get together and have an Owner's Meeting to get caught up on the long-term road improvement strategy. But since it's late in the year and there is a need, we'd also like to attack some of the trees that are encroaching on the road.

Most of this post is about the tree work. We'll send out a package later this week about the long-term road strategy.

### Tree Strategy

The tree work is secondary to the Owner's Meeting and certainly not mandatory. Anyone who would like to show up early and help is welcome.

### Needs

The biggest need for tree work is from Mile 9 to Mile 12 (the Back Ranch) There are thickets of fir and tan oak that need aggressive thinning. There are bushy trees that need their legs shaved and there are some that have been trimmed in the past on one side and need the other side cleaned up.

Out front there are random trees that need attention but they are not concentrated.

Since we are combining this effort with an Owner's Meeting, we'll concentrate on the Back Ranch so that we don't spend a lot of time traveling. If we get a lot of people, we may also head down the hill and get a few of the needier trees along the middle parts of the road.

We can all meet up at Heinz and Agnes's place as early as 7:00 am and, depending on how many neighbors are interested, we'll fan out from there. We may break into several crews along the back ranch depending on how many hands we have.

David Otero will lead the effort on the Back Ranch (Thank you Dave...)

## The Crews

We should have at least four people per crew. The more the merrier. It would be great to have at least two saws per crew and several people hauling and building brush piles.

We'll also need several volunteers to peel off early to help with food and beverages.

Each Crew should have a leader that can help with decisions, help choose where to work, watch the schedule and boost morale with songs, yells and harassment. Each crew should choose its straw boss and boot them out when they become annoying.

## What to Bring

- Chain saws, pole saws, loppers, rakes. and any other tools you might need to cut, clear or handle brush. Include parts and tool kits.
- Might be handy to have ropes or tarps for bundling and hauling the small stuff.
- Bring gloves and goggles (if you like)
- Bring lots of water and snacks for energy.
- Each crew should have at least one fire extinguisher and several shovels
- Each crew should have a first aid kit.
- Chocolate (in appropriate containers) ... (for bribes)

## Standards

Standards will be much like last time: We want to balance functional needs with aesthetics. The road needs to work but it should also be a beautiful road.

We'll be thinning thick stands aggressively, trimming lone trees that are healthy, removing trees that are likely to fall and hacking brush back from the road pretty aggressively

We'll be cutting trees on other people's property so we'll want to do clean work and leave the ground pretty clean when we're done.

Trees should be cut for health as well as for visibility. Let's not hack them up. Make clean cuts close to the trunk, cut all the way around so that the remaining tree is balanced and consider the health of the remaining tree.

Where we have thick stands of fir or maple, we can thin aggressively but we're not trying to strip the road of trees. A tree lined road is beautiful. We should pick the healthiest trees to remain and trim them up for vision and all the way around for health.

We can attack tan oak pretty aggressively because just about any tan oak near the road will eventually fall on the road.

Brush piles should be neat and orderly. We have the option of having someone come out and grind them at a later time. Or we may just push them over the side where they won't be seen and let nature do the heavy lifting.

## Safety

This is a 100% volunteer effort. Your safety is your individual responsibility and not the responsibility of the Wickersham Ranch Road Association or any of the property owners. Showing up and helping indicates that you are releasing everybody but yourself from any responsibility for your safety.

Given that ... be safe. Use best practices for falling any larger trees and cutting brush when other people are around. Watch out for your neighbors and make sure you don't trim, crush or otherwise remove them.

Watch out for heat stroke, heart attacks, rattlesnakes, ridiculous mistakes, hilarious falls, and various kinds of operator errors affecting yourself or the people around you.

And it will probably still be fire season so please don't smoke and watch for sparks.

## Tentative Agenda

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Time	Subject
7:30 am	Meet at Mile 11.2 (Heinz and Agnes Moser's gate.) Greetings and Gossip See how many we are and divide up into crews
8:00	Head out Since a bunch of us did this before we don't need to spend a lot of time on standards and safety. We're assuming we all know how to run a chain saw and work in the woods.
8:00 - 12:00	Trim trees, cut brush, build piles
12:30	Meet at Heinz and Agnes's for lunch
2:00 – 4:00	Owner's Meeting Agenda Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview of Long-Term Road Improvement / Maintenance Strategy</li><li>• Owner comments / concerns about current condition of road</li><li>• Overview of the current construction climate</li><li>• Road Funding strategies / long term dues strategy</li><li>• Road Committee Election prep</li><li>• Any other issues of interest</li></ul>

## Food

Heinz and Agnes have kindly offered their camp as the venue for the meeting (Thank you !!)

Food will be pot luck. Deborah Hall (parcel 8,9) will be supporting Heinz and Agnes in planning and prep and will be coordinating food. Her email is dh@dtbarch.com. She'll be reaching out for RSVP's and food coordination.

Food can be dropped off at Heinz and Agnes' when we arrive in the morning or kept in vehicles until we knock off.

Please note: Since we'll be working in the morning you should have your own drinks, snacks, bribes and other necessary ingredients for morning work.

## What's Next

Let Us Know Who's Coming:

We got a pretty good response when we dreamed this up a couple of months ago. Please let us know who is still planning on participating and how many helpers you might bring. It will be very helpful, both with logistics and gear, if we know how many people to expect.

Thanks to everyone who is planning on helping. This will not only save the Road Association a lot of money, it should be pretty big fun too.

See you all in a few weeks,

Martin Dreiling, Parcel 8,9