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Critter Creek Chronicle



Newsletter of Critter Creek Wildlife Station

Critter Creek is beyond busy currently. Not only is the spring/summer baby season in full swing, but we also have begun construction projects. We were finally able to find a fence company willing to tackle the coyote enclosure.



Work has begun on Coyote Gulch despite the work crew is suffering the over 100 degree temperatures. Below: Web-Foot Wash is under way as well. The hole for the pond and the infrastructure are in progress.

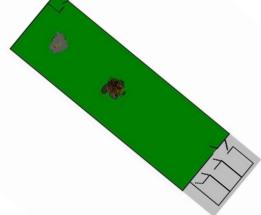


Pond to be already dug Foot Wash.

We have also begun work on the 20' X 60' water fowl enclosure, Web-Foot Wash, which will contain a 15 foot diameter pond and will be enclosed on top unlike our current water fowl enclosure which supports frequent passers-by.

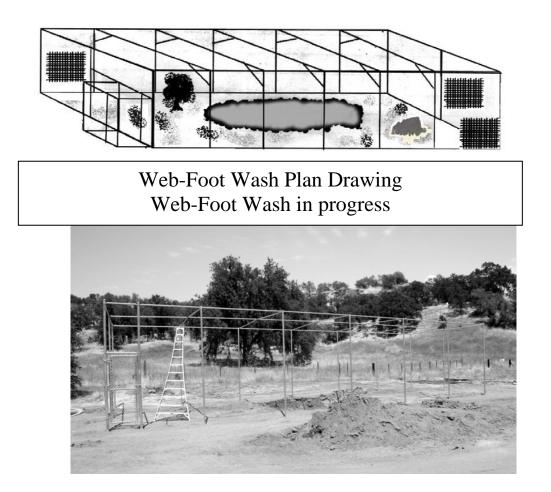
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Beyond Busy





placed in the hole for Web-



Despite the late start in the spring, we have exceeded last year's numbers. We have seen the usual number of owls and hawks, but this year we have an increased number and variety of mammals. We have seen bobcat, coyote, fox, raccoon, opossum, and deer. In the past, we seemed to get more of a certain mammal each year, almost like marking a Chinese new year...the year of the fox, for example; however this year we have seen orphans of all types come through the infirmary.



Five raccoons—just some of our many young mammals, that have passed through the infirmary this season.

Also 2 of our young bobcats, working on critical tree climbing skills to hunt those elusive squirrels.



By next spring we hope to have our permanent mammals (as we currently have for our deer) in more spacious accommodations thus freeing up caging for our temporary guests. Weaning these little guys is a challenge and we all have been facing 14-hour days. So, if you call and we don't

seem to make a lot of sense, we hope you'll understand. We have begun releasing birds and fox. It will be several months before the numbers will dwindle to a point where we can again invite the public for an open house. By then (around mid-September) we hope to have most of the new caging completed. We still are short close to twelve thousand dollars before we are able to start the Fox Haven project. We currently have raised ten thousand dollars toward that project. If you are interested in supporting the completion of this project please send your donations to Critter Creek.

Our three latest projects, Coyote Gulch, Fox Haven, and Web-Foot Wash (the waterfowl enclosure), are not easy to tackle. Fencing must be buried. Chain link must be stretched across a sixty-foot span. Concrete must be poured. The pond must be assembled and the seams must be fiberglassed. Double entries must be planned. Bedroom kennels must be established. Landscaping must be put in. How much of this will be accomplished in the next few months depends on our stamina and our volunteers. The fence company is able to do the chain link work, but much of the finish work is up to Critter Creek volunteers. If you think you can help by donating a day of labor please call us (338-2415) and we will try to coordinate a day that will work for you. We need help stretching PVC welded wire over a 20 foot high pole structure, planting trees, backfilling the pond, attaching shade cloth to the cage tops, etc.

The First Annual Run for the Critters

which took place on Saturday April 1, 2006 and was sponsored by the Reedley College Forestry Club raised some funds for us. A special thank you to all who participated in the 5-mile run, the 2-mile run, the 2-mile non-competitive walk, and the many volunteers who helped make it a success. THANKS!



And while giving thanks—We really want to thank all of our volunteers who transport animals from all over the valley. We estimate that they have driven over twenty thousand miles at their own expense of time and gas money to bring orphaned and injured animals to us.

Without their efforts, many animals would not have been helped at Critter Creek Wildlife Station.

