

Point Reyes National Park

Gravel Project

By Dan Horn
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Backcountry Horsemen

This fall, we were invited to demonstrate the use of Pack Stock in hauling some gravel to do trail repair work in the Wilderness Area of Point Reyes National Park. Donna Meier, Thor Bodtker and I went out on a Wednesday and met up with Shawn Maloney, trail maintenance supervisor for PT. Reyes NPS.

Donna and I brought only one saddle mount and one pack stock each. After a short orientation and the fitting and laughter of a required helmet for work crew, we headed up to work site.



Donna and I rode up the trail, while Thor, Shawn and the trail crew drove to a location that provided them a down hill walk to the gravel pile.

The gravel pile had been dumped there many years before that area was added to the Wilderness. Shawn brought some 3 gallon buckets to get the gravel on trail so it could easily be loaded in dump bags.



Thor and one of the trail crew stayed to load bags as we shuttled the loads on down the hill to Shawn and the rest of the crew.



After a little on the job training of the Ranger crew, they got the hang of dumping the bags between the legs of stock. One of the boys was a bit nerves having never worked with stock before. The mule was a real show on the first bag {didn't have the camera ready}.

After only a few hours, we had moved around two yards of gravel and repaired 3 sections of trail with very little human effort. As one of the NPS crew stated, “ Much easier than pushing a wheel barrow up and down the hill”.



Shawn has been trying to restore the horse program at Point Reyes and this was a step in that direction by showing how easily working stock can be used in maintaining trails.

We are trying to schedule a much larger stock crew with more dump bags for a future date, so stay tuned for details if you want to get involved. We not only need pack stock, but also more ground crew. We are working on setting up a week-end camp over work party some time soon.

Thanks to the crew
Donna Meier, Thor Bodtker
And
Shawn Maloney and his crew.

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