



**sacramento valley
conservancy**

open space. for all.

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LATROBE FIRE DAMAGES DEER CREEK HILLS PRESERVE

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy still assessing damage after fire

Sacramento - The Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) staff await approval from Cal Fire before returning to assess the damage of the Latrobe Fire. The wildfire located near Latrobe Road and Scott Road in Sacramento County began on Wednesday, July 26, 2017, burned through the south side of the Deer Creek Hills Preserve. By 7am on Friday Cal Fire reported the fire had affected more than 1,286 acres and was 95% contained.

"We anticipate more than a mile of fencing, gates and signage will need to be replaced, as well as trees and trail rehab, we will rely on the help of volunteers and donations to help restore the property to post fire normalcy. SVC Docents, Rancho Murrieta Community members and other SVC supporters have already begun reaching out to offer help," said Aimee Rutledge, Executive Director. "Every dollar and hour donated will make a difference in getting Deer Creek Hills back in shape for us all to enjoy again."

SVC Docent led outings, including Monday Night Mountain Bike Rides, will not be affected by the recent incident. While Deer Creek Hills Preserve is open to the public on Saturdays from February through May and from October through November for self-guided hikes, the preserve is currently closed to hiking for the summer. Conservancy staff anticipate the fire damage will not drastically affect hiking activities which resume in October, however they will need help with rehabilitating fire breaks, restoring trails, trail markers, fences, and signs and is asking the community for donations. Volunteers wishing to help can join a post fire volunteer day, date to be determined, or participate in the annual volunteer day scheduled for October 7, 2017. Donations can be made online at www.sacvalleyconservancy.org.

"The fire was on the south side of Latrobe road and burned sections of oak woodlands and open grasslands. We will be evaluating the full impact of the fire and coordinating with our partners to determine the best recovery plan", said Lucie Adams, SVC Stewardship Director.

Deer Creek Hills Preserve is the largest open space preserve in Sacramento County. The 4500-acre property consists of Blue Oak Woodlands, seasonal creeks, and grasslands, and is a working cattle ranch. A network of winding trails and ranch roads allow visitors to explore the beauty and expanding views of the Sacramento Valley and the High Sierras.

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The Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) is a 501c3 non-profit, and accredited land trust organization with a mission to protect Open Space for All. SVC was founded in 1990 on two basic principles: that open lands are necessary for quality of life and that we must care for the land today so future generation may enjoy its physical and spiritual benefits tomorrow. To date, SVC has protected more than 17,584 acres of land.