

**Roads and Trails-** Roads and trails are essentially unchanged since last month. The Red Trail is the most passable. Access to the beginning of the Blue Trail is tricky due to fallen trees. Dispersed, low-lying poison oak is a further deterrent. The road provides good access to all vehicles.

**Buildings/grounds/equipment-** In general, the grounds are in good condition, if sadly underutilized. Our porta potty ended up on its side during the last week due to strong wind gusts. Gump came out and swapped it out quickly. They recommend sand bags to weigh it down, saying it is common along the coast for heavy winds to flip them over.



**Gold Creek Usage-** Still, no students have been visiting Gold Creek. There have been 2 days (Dec 2 and 9) in which 2 separate visits were made by prospective Ecological Restoration firms. These were pre-bid walks arranged by the District. Some firms were construction crews with minimal experience doing habitat restoration, but several qualified firms were present and expressed a lot of interest in the project. I was proud to represent the faculty and show off our gem to groups of industry professionals. Work parties are planned for January 8 and 23, with backup dates of January 9 and 22.



**Abiota-** The weather has essentially been unchanged since our last meeting. The short-term outlook remains dry. No water is visible in Gold Creek aside from the road crossing area along the Yellow trail.

**Biota-** Vegetation conditions continue to be very dry. There are a few isolated sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) that remain soft and supple, owing their moisture to the low sun angle and short daylength of late fall. Ankle-high poison oak is abundant in areas such as under the oak canopy along the Blue Trail.

