

**Roads and Trails-** The road has not been inspected since the moderate storm this week. Assume that the prior ruts are worse than they had been. I will update the committee when I have a visual. Before the storm, trails were in decent condition, with low-lying Poison Oak on the Blue trail. Access to the start of the Blue and Red trails has deteriorated during our year of remote employment. Given the growth of Poison Oak I have seen locally, I would expect new shoots to be growing along the Blue and White trails.

**Buildings/grounds/equipment-** In general, the site is in working order.

**Gold Creek Usage-** Still, no students have been visiting Gold Creek. With vaccines rolling out to educators and infections lower in our county, we should get our Spring work parties on the calendar! On Feb 26, 2021, Mike Farrell returned to the site with 2 members of the CSUN "Geomatics and Aerial Environmental Research Group". Drone flights to complement the December data acquisition were completed. In-situ vegetation ground-truthing was also done to help train an automated model for vegetation modeling.



**Abiota-** Our La Nina winter continues. February ended with no additional rainfall (less than 0.05" total for the month). Almost entirely in the last two days, March has contributed 1.17 inches to our Oct-present water year total of 5.78 inches. Freezing conditions have not been reached at the weather station since January. Regional snow levels were around 3,000 feet, so much of the watershed likely received snow instead of rain this week.

Prior to this last storm, there was standing water in the bedrock pools of Gold Creek but no noticeable flow or hyporheic exchange. There certainly should be flow right now.

Short-term forecasts are for less than ¼" of rain as the next low pressure system passes through. A return to anomalously warmer and drier conditions is predicted through the Spring, as La Nina's teleconnections persist in the Northern Hemisphere.

**Biota-** During late February, green grasses and Black Sage added vibrant green to the muted mid-winter Coastal Sage Scrub palette. Some flowering has started in Scrub Oak, Yerba Santa, Bush Poppy, and other shrubs.

