



Mokelumne Trailbusters Volunteer Opportunities

WHO: The Mokelumne Trailbusters, a dedicated group of volunteers managed by East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), is involved with 3 diverse land stewardship projects in Amador and Calaveras Counties.

WHAT: The projects are: construction of a 30 mile segment of the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail; planting native trees and shrubs at Pardee and Camanche Reservoir Recreation Areas and participating in the Mokelumne River clean-up in the Pardee/Camanche area. Typically, during a Trailbuster Work Day, the Ranger(s) shares his/her knowledge of the nearby natural and cultural features. In addition, the Trailbuster Work Schedule includes outings such as Bald Eagle tours; Wildflower hikes; Native American Cave Paintings tours; Gold Rush History tours; the annual California & National Trail Days hike/work project; volunteer awards ceremony and other activities. Volunteers receive a Mokelumne Monitor Newsletter and those who contribute 20 hours or more in a year, receive a certificate of appreciation and a volunteer pass (which entitles them to a 50% discount on parking at EBMUD's Pardee and Camanche Recreation Areas) and a complimentary 1-year trail use permit. Those who contribute 40 hours or more a year receive the uniform of the Mokelumne Trailbusters a Trailbuster Tee Shirt, are invited to the annual Trailbuster awards BBQ and receive a 1-year, 3-year, 5-year, 10-year, 15-year and 20-year pin respectively. Volunteers who contribute the most hours during the previous year receive an award for their efforts.

WHY: Volunteers are pleasantly surprised by how good they feel, both physically, and mentally, after spending the day working with great people in a beautiful setting on such a worthwhile project. The Mokelumne Trailbusters are taking advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to blaze a trail that will be here for generations to come. They will be able to say, "I helped build this trail!" Of course, the best part is that they get to use the trail when it is completed.

In 1994, the Mokelumne Trailbusters received the Take Pride in California award for outstanding volunteer stewardship of California natural and cultural resources. Gail Wilson, then California's First Lady, presented the award. The Take Pride in California program is a cooperative project of the California Department of Parks and Recreation and American Express Philanthropic Program. In April 1999, the Mokelumne Trailbusters & EBMUD were co-winners for the Trails Program Award presented by California State Parks at the annual trails conference. In 2000, the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail was awarded Community Millennium Trail Status by former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton thanks to the efforts of Patricia Garamendi, former Deputy Administrator of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

WHEN: Volunteers meet every 2 weeks throughout the year. Projects usually last 6 hours; however, start and end times vary with the season. The primary focus of project work is on construction of the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail. Projects will be performed in a variety of weather conditions, including light rain.

Check out the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail website at: www.mc2ct.org.

BRING: *Participants should bring comfortable, yet sturdy shoes, work clothes (long pants), lunch, water, gloves, a backpack, insect repellent and sunscreen.*

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION: Generally, trail work consists of using various hand tools to dig, move or remove soil, rock, stumps, boulders and vegetation in order to construct trail tread and structures. Trail construction work is strenuous and volunteers should be prepared for this. Very often volunteers must hike into remote work sites and must be able to deal with the elements. Working for just part of the day can pose some logistical problems. Participants should plan ahead and make prior arrangements if they need to leave early.

TREE PLANTING: Native trees and shrubs are planted at Pardee and Camanche Reservoirs periodically in December and January. This work is accomplished by using hand tools to dig holes and remove soil. Protective fencing and mulch are added around newly planted trees and shrubs. These activities are suitable for families and youth groups.

RIVER CLEAN-UP: Trailbusters participate in Mokelumne River clean-up events as sponsored/scheduled by local organizations.

GROUPS: We request that large groups (6 or more) contact EBMUD's Mokelumne Watershed and Recreation Division office at 209-772-8204 regarding their plans for participation prior to the project date. This information will be used to tailor the projects to accommodate a large or small number of volunteers.

MINORS: Volunteers under 18 years of age need written permission from a parent or guardian, and an adult must accompany those under 16.

WEATHER: We will work in light rain.

NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST REDUCTION: In our continuing effort to reduce costs wherever possible, we may remove (from the mailing list) names of folks who are not currently active in the Trailbusters program. If you plan to be involved with the Trailbusters, please let us know so that we don't remove you from our list in error.

EBMUD will provide tools and training for all volunteer projects.

No power tools, alcohol or pets are allowed.

To view the Mokelumne Monitor newsletter which includes Trailbuster work days and upcoming tours go to: <http://www.ebmud.com/services/recreation/sierra/trails> or contact Steve Diers via email at sdiers@ebmud.com or call 209-772-8260.

