

**BEAR YUBA LAND TRUST**  
**COVID 19 FIELD STAFF OPERATING PLAN**

Updated: April 6, 2020

During this challenging time we must take every effort to protect ourselves, our communities and our open spaces and wild places. Since March 16, 2020 BYLT staff has been sheltered in place and has not been assigned any work outside of their homes. At the Board Meeting held March 24, 2020 the Co-ED's were permitted to use their judgment when evaluating fieldwork. After three weeks and a determination from Nevada County regarding some of our tasks as essential services, we are prepared to follow strict field protocol to continue essential work on our lands and trails. Nevada County verified the following tasks are considered essential services.

From Jeff Thorsby, Senior Management Analyst Nevada County BOS:

*To reiterate our conversation, our Executive Team, Director of Public Health and in consultation with our Medical Director Dr. Ken Cutler, the below activities, as they relate to public safety, fire mitigation, land management and agriculture are considered essential services. Specifically, Bear Yuba Land Trust's activities as described below are considered essential services:*

- 1. Monitoring trails/trailheads to ensure public safety*
- 2. Conduct emergency maintenance of trails to ensure public safety*
- 3. Posting signage at trailheads to ensure social distancing*
- 4. Monitoring remote preserves and conservation easements for security purposes and regulation compliance*
- 5. Conducting land management activities for fire mitigation and agricultural purposes*

Therefore, as of Monday, April 13th we plan to have field staff assigned to essential tasks that will protect public health and continue important projects on lands, especially when tied to reimbursable grant funding or property security. We will also take these opportunities to collect photos, videos, and stories to share with the broader community relating to the communication plan in place.

**Guidance for dealing with C19 virus quick links:**

[Executive order stay home updates](#)

[Guidance for gatherings](#)

[Approved cleaning products](#)

[Nevada County C19 updates](#)

[Yuba County C19 updates](#)

[California Department of Public Health - guidance documents](#)

[Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) FAQ](#)

**FIELDWORK PROTOCOL:**

Field staff consisting of Elias Grant, Shaun Clarke and Chemane Borello will be allowed to conduct field tasks as approved by their Supervisor. In this case, Co-Executive Director Erin Tarr will be approving all assignments. To combat the spread of COVID-19 strict field protocols must be followed. Any staff found to not be following protocol will be asked to stay at home for the remainder of the quarantine.

- Face-to-face meetings will be avoided when at all possible. Necessary meetings with contractors will require separate vehicles are taken to the site.
- When working with co-workers, maintain Social Distancing and disinfect all shared surfaces (truck handles, tools, etc.).
- Staff will travel in separate vehicles to properties.
- Volunteers will not be allowed to work with staff on field projects at this time.
- Staff must have the following items on hand at all times:
  - First Aid Kit
  - Gloves (single use)
  - Approved sanitizer
  - Face Mask (worn whenever outside of the vehicle)
  - Paper towels
- Stewardship Team is responsible for ensuring BYLT vehicle is disinfected after each use.
- When pumping gas staff will wear gloves and a mask.
- When entering properties that include gates and locks, gloves will be worn.

## ESSENTIAL FIELD TASKS:

The following tasks will be completed based on the schedule below.

- Monitoring trails/trailheads to ensure public safety
  - The Trail Adopter Program has been suspended. However, volunteers continue to check-in with **Shaun** and provide updates on many of our trails. Those trails that do not have an active Trail Adopter will be the main focus of trail monitoring. This includes:
    - Nevada City Trails we are under contract to maintain. Deer Creek Tribute Trail, Hirschman's Trail, Little Deer Creek Trail and Miner's Trail.
    - Memorial Park Trail in Grass Valley
    - Independence Trail West
    - Narrow Gauge Trail
  - Trailheads must be monitored to ensure public safety. BYLT trailheads include:
    - Adam Ryan Preserve Parking Lot
    - Gracie Road Parking Lot (Cascade Canal Access Trail)
    - Yuba Rim Parking Lot (Rice's Crossing North Preserve)
- Conduct emergency maintenance of trails to ensure public safety
  - Trail maintenance will be done as needed and will be limited to one day per week. **Shaun** will be in charge of identifying and getting approval for maintenance tasks. As the weather continues to warm, the need for weedeating will increase.
- Posting signage at trailheads to ensure social distancing
  - All signage has been posted at trailheads. New signs will be posted as necessary.
- Monitoring remote Preserves and Conservation Easements for security purposes and regulation compliance.
  - Remote Preserves:
    - Garden Bar Preserve - as needed. We will continue to communicate frequently with tenant grazer Jim Gates to discuss security issues. If issues arise we will schedule site visits. **Erin, Chemane, Elias**
    - Rice's Crossing Preserve -
      - South end will be patrolled once every two weeks for trespass issues. **Elias, Erin**
      - North end monitoring will be paired with needed fieldwork tasks. **Shaun, Elias, Erin**
  - Conservation Easements:
    - **Elias** will begin to schedule remote CE monitorings at properties where a landowner is not required to be on site. CE monitorings will start the week of April 20th.
- Conducting land management activities for fire mitigation and agricultural purposes.

Current reimbursable funding is secure through State, County and City projects. Staff will continue with all projects while expecting delays in the processing of paperwork. Projects will include but not be limited to:

  - Garden Bar Wetland Restoration **Chemane, Erin, Elias, Shaun**
  - Garden Bar Livestock Water System **Elias, Shaun, Erin**
  - Higgins Pond Preserve Monitoring and Restoration **Chemane, Elias, Erin**
  - Mathis Pond Preserve Fuel Reduction **Elias, Chemane**