***FRIENDS OF THE CALAVERAS UPDATES***

***03.18.22***

***Jim Marsh***

1. ***Weekly monitoring of the UOP Native Grass Restoration site continues.***

The spring photo survey of The 3 Acres for 2022 was completed on 03.18.22. Spring Daubenmire (Vegetation Survey) will be happening within the next two weeks.

Just 11 months to go until a full decade of monitoring will be complete.

It is a very early spring this year. A lot of blooms—especially wild radish right now and most of the non-native, annual grasses are already going to seed. Much annuals growth on the site—particularly on the levee face--is over chest height. Lots of bugs and birds active this last week as well…another sign of early spring.

1. ***Visit from Julie Rentner, President of River Partners***

On Wednesday, January 26, Julie Rentner stopped by for a chat and tour of the site. She’d not seen it in at least 6 years. We’d had a plan just prior to the pandemic to meet up but that, of course, was side tracked. The organization Julie now heads, River Partners, was a key player in the early work of restoration on the site. At that time Julie was one of the group’s supervising restoration biologists. RP provided the technical expertise and oversight of the grant application, site preparation (invasive weed and Arundo removal among other things), provision of native seed and seedlings and a period of several years of occasional monitoring and consultation. During her visit Julie offered additional assistance in the form of Arundo removal, more wild rye seedlings and publicity through RP’s online newsletter. There is also the possibility of RP crunching over 8 years of quarterly vegetation survey data numbers. Julie seemed genuinely excited to walk through RP’s smallest restoration site project now in its ninth year. It is also great to know that it isn’t so small that RP has written it off.

Julie at River Partners--like JD Wikert with US Fish and Wildlife--have remained the among the most steadfast and true professional Friends of the Calaveras for over a decade.