



Hot Spot Outcomes – Kern River

The Kern River stretches 165 miles through the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Kern River attracts over half a million visitors a year. The growth in visitation over the past few years has become a growing concern for the river with an increase in visitor impacts including various water resource impacts, graffiti and defacing of natural objects and trash and human waste scattered throughout campsites. In 2016, the Traveling Trainers executed a week of targeted Leave No Trace education for community members in the Kern River Valley. In 2017, Leave No Trace returned to the valley to continue to strengthen the valleys Leave No Trace presence by reaching the locals, members of Keepers of the Kern and Kern River Conservancy volunteers who were not able to attend the Leave No Trace workshops the previous year.

Leave No Trace hosted a workshop for members of the public, Kern River Conservancy volunteers and members of Keepers of the Kern, that focused not only on the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace, but also how these individuals could best communicate Leave No Trace practices to the public. The workshop focused on a technique called Authority of the Resource, in which rather than using strict sanctions you work to change behavior by helping people understand how recreation activities can have negative consequences on our outdoor resources. The Traveling Trainers helped participants practice this technique using examples of behaviors that are causing the negative impacts in the Kern River Valley. Leave No Trace also spent time educating attendees at the Annual Isabella Lake Fishing Derby. The fisherman who attended this event are members of one of the biggest recreation groups that visits the Kern River.