

Newport Forest

Wednesday July 13 2005

1:05 - 5:45 pm

Weather: prec. 0 mm; RH 59%; calm; haze/sun; LM 35 C; FCF 31 C

Purpose: watering trees

participants: Kee and Erin

I had agreed to meet the water truck by the gate. Jim Longdough, the Carruthers Water Supply driver, followed us down to the LM, where he hooked up two fire hoses to a spray motor mounted on the truck. He then coupled a spraying attachment (a heavy PCV T-bar perforated with holes) to the fire hose and started the motor, once I was in a good position with the spray head. I had to lean into the thrust of the hose and slowly “rained” on each section of the GF and SC by turn, frequently going back over ground already covered.

We then moved the operation over to the NC and repeated the process, spraying an approximately equal amount of water there. Altogether we used about 2200 gal. of water!

After the truck left, we rested in the nook, then went out to inspect the effects of the watering. I saw what looked like a piece of animated bird poop on one of our young Aspens, calling Erin over to see what I thought was a Giant Swallowtail larva. She said there were a number of possibilities, so we got out the Caterpillar book. She ended by being reasonably sure that it was a Viceroy caterpillar.

There being time for only one more project, I gave Erin the choice of trail work or paying a visit to the Sand Bar. (She should have picked trail work.) Getting there was relatively straightforward. I cut a path from the main trail (TRT) in the RSF to the Sand bar. I showed Erin the main physical features of the place, then instructed her to see if she could find any egg-burial sites while I watered the PP, two AHs and the WH. Erin was unsuccessful at finding egg-laying sites and she was wilting fast in the blazing heat of the Sand Bar, magnified somehow by the near presence of the river.

So we continued along the TRT, resting on the HB, then back to the trailer. Going out, we discovered that Jim had somehow crashed into the gate, bending it into a 90-degree angle. I barely managed to get it closed.