

HENRY COE SMEAC

SITUATION:

I got two horses capable of taking to Henry Coe. HC is also a beautiful State park that has multiple horse camps. I want to spend two nights in HCSP.

MISSION:

Spend two nights at HCSP horse camping.

EXECUTION:

This operation will be split into two phases. Phase one will be prep. Phase two will be the movement.

Phase one (Prep)

Tasks:

1. Make packing list. 1/22/2018
2. Assemble packing list. 1/27/2018
3. Pack packing list in dress rehearsal. 1/28/2018
4. Pack packing list and perform 10 mile dress rehearsal in Purisima and Huddart 2/3/2018
5. Acquire permits. 2/3/2018
6. Print maps. 1/23/2018
 - a. Overall map with trail.
 - b. Detailed map of sections. Roughly 2 miles sections.
7. Develop menu. 2/3/2018
8. Test menu for two days. 2/3/2018
9. Shoe Sage 2/9/20218

Phase two:

1. Day 0.
 - a. Get gas
 - b. Hitch trailer
 - c. Air pressure tires
 - d. Fetch horses
 - e. Pack gear
 - f. Pack horses
 - g. Unpack horses
 - h. Extra feed horses
2. Day 1.
 - a. Load horses
 - b. Travel to HCSP
 - c. Park and secure trailer
 - d. unLoad horses
 - e. Pack horses
 - f. Ride to Coit lake
 - g. Set up camp
 - i. Tie horses
 - ii. Unpack horses
 - iii. Turn out horses
 - iv. Check water for horses
 - v. Set up bivouac.
 - vi. Food.

3. Day 2.

- a. B-fast
- b. Tear down bivouac
- c. Tie horses
- d. Tear down pickets as needed
- e. Pack horses
- f. Water horses
- g. Ride to horse camp

- h. Tie horses
- i. Unpack horses
- j. Turn out horses
- k. Check water
- l. Set up bivouac
- m. Food

4. Day 3.

- a. B-fast
- b. Tear down bivouac
- c. Tie horses
- d. Teardown pickets as needed
- e. Pack horses
- f. Water horses

- g. Ride to Trail head Truck and Trailer
- h. Tie horses
- i. Unpack horses
- j. Water horses
- k. Load horses
- l. Drive home.

Use Cases:

1. Arrive at Campsite
2. Find set up spot.
3. Dismount.
4. Untack.
5. Water horse.
6. Wash horse.
7. Graze horse.
8. Set up hammock.

- a. Unpack hammock.
- b. Unpack straps.
- c. Put straps around tree.
- d. Clip hammock.

- e. Tighten Hammock.
- f. Set up pillow.
- g. Unpack under quilt.
- h. Set up under quilt.

9. Set up picket.

- a. Unpack rope/webbing
- b. Put tree savers on trees.
- c. Tie ropes.
- d. Put in block.

- e. Tighten block and cinch.
- f. Connect Horse.
- g. Water horse.

10. Prep food.

- a. Unpack grain.
- b. Unpack food.
- c. Unpack cook set.
- d. Unpack water.
- e. Put water into cook set.
- f. Put food into cook set.
- g. Turn on stove.
- h. Cook food.
- i. Unpack utensils.
- j. Eat food.
- k. Rinse pot.
- l. Clean pot.
- m. Heat pot.
- n. Dry pot.
- o. Pack pot.
- p. Hang food.

11. Set up camp.

- a. Set up hammock and sleep system.

ADMINISTRATION and LOGISTICS

Packing list:

1. Make packing list.
 - a. Sleep/Shelter system
 - i. Hammock
 - ii. Straps
 - iii. Tent pegs
 - iv. Underquilt
 - v. Overquilt
 - vi. Over tarp
 - vii. Pillow
 - b. Food system
 - i. Cooking system
 1. Jet boil
 2. Gas
 3. Knife/fork
 4. Lighter
 - ii. Entrees
 1. MRE
 2. B-Fast
 3. B-Fast
 - iii. Clean up
 1. Clean wipes
 2. Alcohol
 3. Hand Sanitizer
 4. Paper Towels
 - iv. Drinking water
 - c. First aid system
 - i. Band Aides
 - ii. Disinfectant
 - iii. Ibuprofen
 - iv. Magnifying glass
splinter tweezer
 - v. Large bandage
 - vi. Wrap
 - d. EDC
 - i. Flashlight
 - ii. Fixed blade
 - iii. Multitool
 - iv. Phone
 - v. Extra power
 - vi. Cordage
 - vii. Ziplock pack-out bags
 - viii. Fire starter
 - ix. Maps
 - x. Abridged journal
 - xi. Pencil
 - xii. Paper
 - xiii. Compass
 - xiv. Binoculars
 - xv. Toilet Paper
 - xvi. Trowel
 - xvii. Trail Saw
2. Map list:
 - a. Overall printout
 - b. Commercial

COMMMAND and SIGNAL

1. Arrange ranch care.
2. Print extra maps for SAR.

AFTER ACTION REPORT

The 2-day trip to Henry Coe was not successful. Although I did go out and ride 25 miles, I was not able to stay for 2 days. Also, the same distance was covered in two days as was planned to be covered in 3. Thus more stress was placed on Sage than was originally planned. However, he came through very well.

Overview.

Day 1. Got a late start due to waking up late. Did not get on the trail until 1000. Also parking and camp fees were higher than expected. Prices were \$25 per night for up to two horses. I only had one but had to pay the whole \$25 anyway. This amounted to \$50. Also had to pay a \$10 parking fee for the two days for a grand total of \$60. Fortunately, I had stopped at an ATM on the way and got the cash. I did not plan on spending this much. In the future, be more ready, have more cash, and/or become a Mounted Assistance Volunteer so I can use the park for free.

After getting on the trail, I noticed that the saddle bags were constantly shifting. They were also extremely heavy. I had neglected to weigh them completely when I left but estimated 60 lbs. I weigh 177 lbs. and the saddle is about 20 lbs. so total weight about 257 lbs. This is more than 20% of Sage's body weight and probably should be reduced. Most of the weight was his grain. I had intended to bring about 20 lbs. of his grain but brought less. The other huge component was water. In the future, I should bring a filter and collect water on the way. There were ample opportunities to collect water although I am not sure it will be possible in the summer months.

The shifting nature of the saddle bags was in part to their being too heavy in general, but also to the fact that I was not securing them properly to the girth.

When I arrived at the planned camp site, it was no longer usable due to the fact that there was no accessible water even though there were small pipe corrals. So I had to move on to a camp further away called Pacheco camp. Pacheco camp is a great camp site with multiple water sources and plenty of grazing. I stayed the night there.

At the camp, the temperatures dropped quickly and went below freezing. I was not able to determine the temperature exactly since I did not have a thermometer. All I knew was that water froze overnight and I was extremely uncomfortable. I had to get up twice and boil water to put into my Nalgene bottles in order to stay warm. I used two warmed Nalgene bottles and while they were working I slept okay. However, in the morning, I had a pretty bad headache.

I also forgot my highline and so had to use some very thin cordage that I had bought at REI to highline Sage. This worked out okay since I highlined him to branches in the same tree where I was hanging my hammock. He did very well in highline.

Next day I had to take a shit and used a cat hole that Sage had dug for me previously. I ended up using an entire roll of TP and disposed of it in a ziplock and threw it away in garbage can provided by the camp. I had plenty of extra ziplocks from all the extra grain I was carrying. Even though I did not bring all the grain I had planned, I still had to toss a lot of the grain because Sage would not eat all of it. He would

eat about 5 lbs. in a sitting but not much more. I think it would be better to feed him about 2 lbs. per sitting for a total of 6 lbs. per day rather than 10 lbs. The only exception would be if I was working out of a base camp.

Because of the cold, and the fact that I had eaten all my food to stay warm, I decided to cancel the rest of my trip and head straight home. To do this I took main roads that worked very well for me. I was able to find my way through the use of the park map and the Android app Alltrails which was extremely useful for tracking my progress, figuring out where I was, and finding alternate paths. I only needed to pull out my paper map on the second day when I decided to find an alternate route back to the trail head.

When I got back to the truck, I found that I was parked in the mud, and that I was also blocked in by a car parked right behind the trailer. In the future, I should be more mindful of where and how I park.

Things that went wrong:

1. Being late on the trail. This makes me chase daylight. Also, on an unfamiliar trail, I need to be early since I need to make time for getting lost, and/or being misinformed on some trails.
2. Not being prepared for the camp fees. More research before departing and make sure I have enough cash on hand. Also, next time I should take a few extra pay envelopes for the Iron Ranger so I can have them prefilled and save time on arrival.
3. Shifting saddle bags need to be tied down better on the girth. Do not rely on the saddle D rings. Those will eventually wear out. I also need to get better straps to connect to girth so there is less tying, and less wear on billets.
4. Not having alternates planned. I should have had a simple map made available with alternate paths in different colors.
5. Not having enough food. I did not carry enough human food with me, and I completely forgot about getting snacks. This made me stop more often for food than I needed to and wasted daylight.
6. Carrying too much water. Carry a filter instead. I also bought a 3 liter water bag at REI and it was extremely useful. Next time, I should bring my bags to REI and test how I will store water. I also need another 3 liter bag. Or a couple of smaller bags that could be compartmentalized.
7. Carry some smaller water bottles for warming. Possibly some milspec water bottles, or square nalgenes.
8. Carrying too much grain. Instead of all the extra grain, give Sage more grazing time. There is plenty of grass out there. Bring him enough grain to enjoy a snack and a meal treat.
9. Not carrying cold weather camping equipment. A check of the weather could have told me that it would be cold. Also need a thermometer for data collection on my capabilities. Should have taken cold weather sleeping bag.
10. Not bringing highline.
11. Horse was foot sore and needs boots or shoes.

12. Not having a watch to tell time was very annoying. Relying on my phone as my only source of time keeping was not adequate.

Solutions to problems:

1. Be on time and also do not select the longest distance leg for the first day. Since I will always have an earlier start on the second day by virtue of the fact that I will already be onsite, the longest leg should not begin until after the first night. And the last leg should also not be long. So the shortest legs should be from and to the trailer.
2. Carry much less grain. Do not carry the hard back grain bucket unless using a base camp. REI folding bucket work well for water. I have not tested it for grain and will do that at home before going out again.
3. Prep payment envelopes at home for deposit at iron ranger upon arrival.
4. Plan alternates.
5. Carry snacks, and 15% more food than required for emergencies like hypothermia.
6. Get a filter for wilderness water collection.
7. Get some smaller water bottles that can provide warmth in emergency.
8. Carry less grain and feed grain as you go. So instead of 10 lbs. of grain in two meals, feed 3 lbs. in 3 separate meals totalling 9 lbs. instead of 10. Thus a 3 day trip can include 3 lbs. for the first day, 9 lbs. for the second day, and 3 lbs. for the third totaling 15 lbs. And the grain is consumed throughout the day so that after the lunch on the second day, he is only carrying 6 lbs.
9. Be ready for the cold. Check the weather forecast before going. It's not that damn hard.
10. Bring highline and test it before departing.
11. Get boots for Sage.
12. Buy a watch and attach it to saddle if I don't want to wear one all day.

Things that went right:

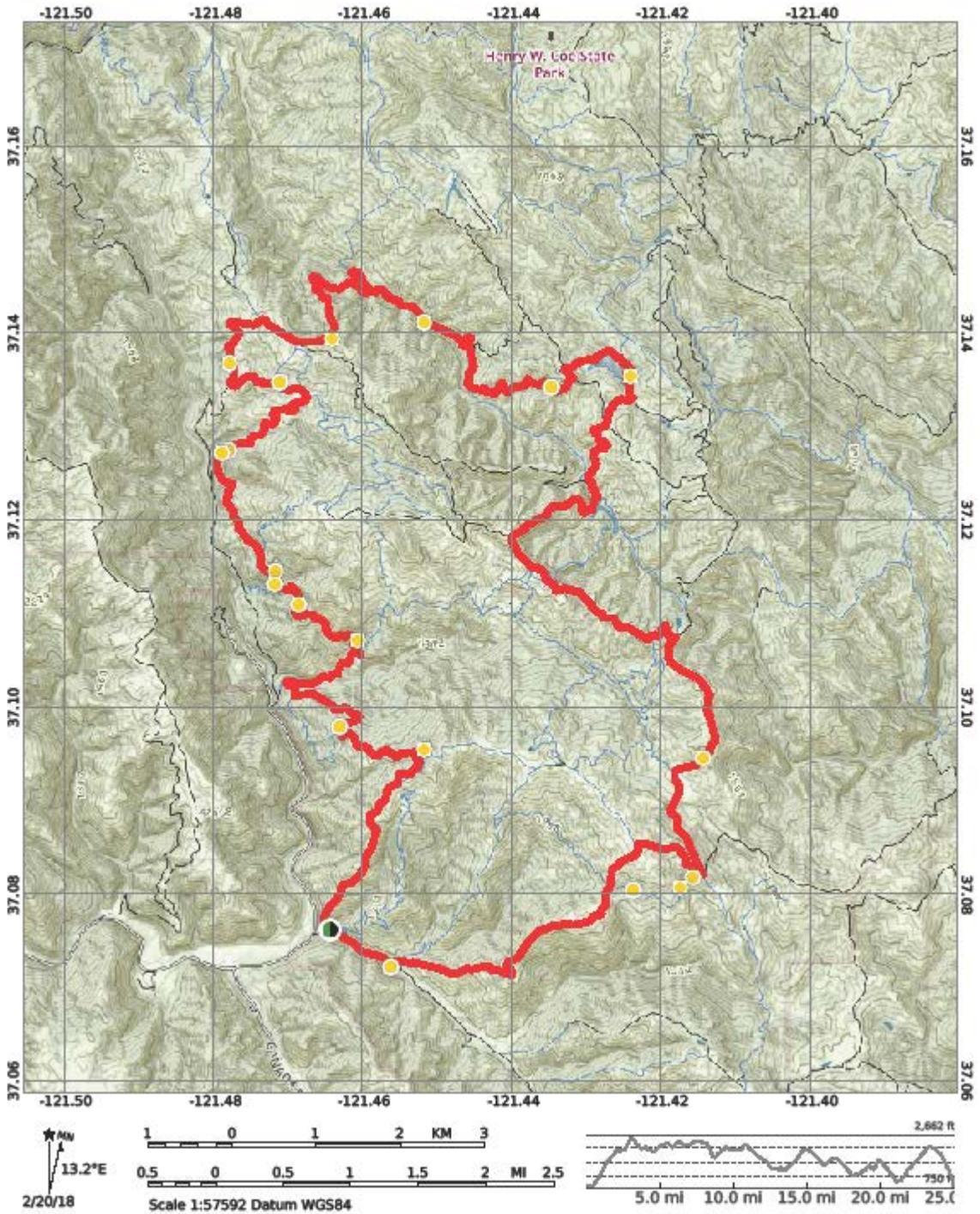
1. Sage was amazing and his tendency to simply stand still and not move while I made pack adjustments was invaluable. Also his knowledge to swing up to field expedient mounting blocks and picnic tables made mounting much easier and also adjusting pack while standing on a block or picnic table was far more efficient than making adjustments on the ground.
2. Sage was also extremely good at standing tied at the high line.
3. Sage was great for digging cat holes for me to shit in instead of me needing to pull out a trowel.
4. Saddle bags were okay for the most part. There are still a few kinks to work out. I will need to make an overnight trip with my commercial saddle bags for comparison. These might be better for things like SAR and day trips rather than long overnights.
5. Mountain House food was good. The chicken teriyaki was not but the beef stew was good, as was the breakfast hash and the breakfast scramble eggs and bacon. Prep time was okay.
6. Jet boil system was efficient but the automatic piezo electric ignitor did not work. Fortunately, I had survival matches that worked and was able to light it when needed. However, the "storm-proof" survival matches did not light easily and things could have become very serious in the middle of the night if I was not able to get that going.

7. Personal fitness was excellent. Without a pack animal Sage had to carry me and everything else making his load particularly heavy. So during much of the trail, I would get off and walk. This way of traveling was very good since the load was over 60 lbs. and I weigh over 170 lbs. So when I get off, his load is reduced to a small fraction of what he would carry if he were just carrying me, and I get to hike in the hills carrying nothing. My personal level of fitness not only came in useful during hikes, but also in my ability to withstand adverse conditions such as extreme exposure to cold at night and heat in the day.
8. Carrying extra pants. I used a pair of pants as a sleeve for the under quilt of my hammock. This served as storage for my under quilt and it's dual purpose as an emergency pair of pants. As it turned out, a leak in my hot water bottle in my hammock soaked my regular pants and underwear and I had to remove them. Thus having an extra pair of pants saved the day as the temperatures were extreme.
9. Synthetic materials. Having used synthetic materials, drying things that got wet was very easy. I simply boiled some water, placed in a Nalgene bottle, and then applied the hot bottle to the wet material. This actually worked very well and dried the material very quickly.
10. Sun hood. Works much better than a broad brimmed hat. Also doubles as a way to clean eye wear and maintain warmth. I should look into getting one made properly with a sewing machine.
11. Alltrails mapping software for android. Absolutely invaluable. A million times better than orienteering with a stupid map and compass. I did need the map once to make sure I got a decent trail home, but only really needed it once and if I did not have the map, I still could have got by with Alltrails mapping. This app allowed me to follow my route, and blaze new trail as needed without getting lost. Having taken one wrong turn, I used it to quickly determine how I went wrong and make the needed adjustments right away.
12. Batteries. Extra battery pack for my smart phone. I used the new trent battery pack and it worked well except in the cold weather where my phone battery refused to accept a charge until it got warmer. But by that time, it was already recharged to about 75%.
13. Macro droid software for android. This allowed me to program my phone to display the map just by shaking the phone thus allowing me to make a quick check on my progress without going through the whole menu.

Planned.



Coit Lake Route 2.



Actual.



Henry Coe 1 night - Feb 17, 02:3...

