



NEWSLETTER

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION



RESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Rick Parmer

PCL Director, Jerry Meral met with Governor Deukmejian on May 28 to discuss the staffing campaign. The Governor was well aware of the press coverage it has received. Although he defended the budget he asked us to continue our discussions with Resources Deputy Secretary, Terry Eagan.

On the home front Milt Fincke and I met with Director Briner and Deputy Director Tanner to bring them up to date on our activities. One of the topics we discussed is an employee exchange program between the NPS and DPR. We are very supportive of the Department's involvement.

In another exciting development we are working on a joint conference with the League of State Park Non-profit Cooperating Assns. in Ventura next year. President Mary Ellen Young and I have agreed to involve LSPNCA representatives in the early program planning. ++

MORE STAFFING BITESIES

JULY, 1986

IN THIS ISSUE

Editorials from Fresno and Bakersfield. And an overall break down of CSFRA's campaign, how it started, and the steps we took.

starts on page 2

PREDATOR PROTECTION GROUP

The Northcoast Environmental Center begins a new project with a nationwide network of "activists" to respond to their "Action Alerts".

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FILMING - A VIEW OF THE BLM

DPR shares a problem. That of production companies on State/Federal land. A problem shared with Caltrans, CHP, and as the article highlights, with the BLM.

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TO PAY OR NOT TO PAY...

Santa Cruz County is hit with a claim for \$320 dollars (via our friendly Rangers). They consider (though maybe not so seriously) the claim of a camper who found himself cited and his dope bowl with "bud" inside. The claimant is advised "not to hold his breath."

page 4

LAST PAGE

Earl Burger's Dark Side Cassettes are down to the last few - order now!

Jim Whitehead's Food for Thought.

And: The State Park and Recreation Commission meets again.

Sit down, relax, open it up and have a look.



COMPUTER
BUFF? -
ENVIRON-
MENTALIST?

Than call 714-731-6439; user ID: 105
Password: PARK. And
log into ENVIRONET.
300/1200 Baud, 24
hours. ++



HIS MONTH'S
QUOTE:

As printed by the AP in an article on the Grand Canyon. A NPS supervisor said: When people come to the Grand Canyon, they leave their brains at home. ++



CSPRA

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

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The content of the NEWSLETTER is the sole responsibility of the editor, and may not always reflect the opinion of individual CSPRA officers.



TATE PARKS IN DECLINE

An editorial from the Fresno Bee

"The California Park Rangers Association has been raising public alarm about a critical manpower shortage in the state park system. The association makes an impressive case for a change in park policy.

... The parks are so heavily used that rangers must spend their time on law enforcement, neglecting such traditional duties as nature walks, campfire programs and studies of flora and fauna.

... The association recommends adding 255 positions to the park system workforce but is being opposed by the Deukmejian administration, which wants to keep the overall number of state employees from rising.

... These are reasonable changes proposed by an organization known for its concern about the future of the parks. The legislature and the governor ought to consider them before the park system deteriorates further." ++



TAFFING: WRAPPED UP

facts,
figures and
analysis

STATISTICS

Land acquired in State park Bond Acts of '76, '80, and '84 have increased the amount of land managed by 28%

Paid attendance, up to '83/84, was up by 33%

Overall attendance, again through '83 '84 was up by 15%

Staffing, seasonal and

permanent filled positions were up by 5% (down 3% since '81/82)

STAFFING DETAILS
(from Governor's 1986 January Budget Proposal)

There was a net loss of 49 positions from '84/85 to '85/86. Many of these positions were eliminated from the Resource Protection and Development Divisions.

Proposed addition of 66 net positions in '86/87 means an increase

of only 17 employees over two years in a 2800 person department. Meanwhile, as a result of new units and more acres added to existing parks from the '84 Bond Act, the staffing situation becomes more acute.

VISITATION

In the past 30 years, park land has more than doubled but the

STAFFING CAMPAIGN HISTORY

Many conservation groups, individuals, professional associations and unions, contributed time and money to launch a public awareness campaign on the inability of the State Park System to meet basic public service and resource protection needs.

Prior to this PR effort, CSPRA sent letters to park managers asking for documentation of critical park needs.

This was particularly in

response to serious problems revealed in the unpublished official "State of the State Parks" report of 1984.

The CSPRA Park Managers' needs letter was sent out in February of 1985. Several detailed responses were received before the Director's office asked them not to reply. The CSPRA Board of Directors then decided to distribute the survey to its general membership.

Completed "Examples of

STAFFING - turn to page 4

CALIFORNIA PARKS USAGE			
Fiscal Year	Park Acres	Attendance	Employees
1977-78	957,176	57,685,160	2,636
1978-79	983,018	54,313,344	2,632
1979-80	1,006,334	56,343,673	2,673
1980-81	1,101,168	63,976,035	2,668
1982-83	1,190,583	61,282,517	2,653
1983-84	1,227,076	65,810,723	2,783
1984-85	1,300,000*	66,072,172	2,776
*approximate			
SOURCE: California State Park Rangers Association			

number of visitors has gone up eightfold.

Because of the dramatic increase in park usage, rangers now devote roughly 3/4 of their formal and field training to law enforcement.

In 1985, all classes in Interpretation (environmental education) at the training center were cancelled due to staffing and budget problems.



CSPPRA



PREDATOR
PROTECTION
GROUP FORMED

from ECONET

Predator Watch has been established as a special project of the Northcoast Environmental Center, a non-profit environmental education organization that has been operating from Arcata for over 15 years.

The aim of the project is to establish a nationwide network of individuals committed to respond promptly and consistently to "Action Alerts" by writing letters on issues and legislation relating to predators.

We feel that by increasing coordination and decreasing reaction time the impact of individual letter-writing can be greatly enhanced.

If you are interested in joining the network, or have any useful contacts, comments or advice you wish to offer, please contact PREDATOR WATCH, c/o The Northcoast Environmental Center, 879 9th Street, Arcata CA 95521. Or call 707-822-6918. ++



520: \$500
for the
resin and
\$20 for the
pipe

from the San Jose
Mercury News

by Lee Quarnstrom

"... the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors routinely denies claims made against the county by people who feel they have somehow or other been wronged, damaged or ripped off by the county or its employees.

... Pot, ... who lists a local shelter for the homeless as his address, filed out an official claim against the county of Santa Cruz...

Asked to describe the occurrence, Pot writes "harassment - B.S." It seems Sam Tokes Pot was minding his own business in a campsite at Henry Cowell State Park ... when some park rangers stopped to talk about camping regulations.

"When they caught me holding a resinated dope bowl," Pot complains, "they cited me and took the dope bowl away from me!"

Well, according to Pot, it turns out that

the loss of the glass bowl was just the tip of the iceberg. Inside the bowl, he says, was resin "from about 500 dollars of bud, marijuana bud."

... Those familiar with the Board of Supervisor's policy suggest Sam Tokes Pot not hold his breath - at least not until his claim is approved." ++

Ed.'s note: The Rangers? Terry Roeder and John Mott.



O AT LEAST
ONE WILL RUN
FREE
from the L.A.
Times.

"...Find a truly wild and undeveloped river in the continental United States and make the entire watershed a national park. The concept came from that innovative Californian, William Penn Mott Jr.

... "I would like to see somewhere in the United States a total river system preserved in its natural condition so that everybody would be able to see what rivers looked like before man came here," Mott said.

...Nominees include (the following Calif. Rivers): The Smith River, Big Sur, the upper Kings and Matole.++

510 Fri. June 6, 1986

The Bakersfield Californian

OPINION

The Bakersfield Californian

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OURS...

State parks need help

Environmentalists and rangers say California's vast state park system is deteriorating because there is not enough manpower to police and maintain it. Such a threat to our state's natural treasures is too serious for Gov. Deukmejian and the Legislature to ignore.

Throughout the system's 289 parks, budget and hiring constraints have left rangers with fewer maintenance workers, naturalists and ecologists to deal with increased visitors and larger parks. The system, second in size only to parks in Alaska, is still considered the best in the nation.

According to figures supplied by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the number of acres in the park system has grown from 957,176 to nearly 1,300,000 since fiscal year 1977-78. Attendance has increased from 57,685,160 to 66,072,172 in fiscal 1984-85. But the number of park department employees increased only from 2,636 to 2,776 during the same period.

Rangers report that backcountry trails are deteriorating; visitors are complaining of filthy restrooms and unsightly litter, thefts and assaults during the night, vandalism and campground rowdiness that go unchecked and access roads that are eroding.

Last year, Bakersfield's retiring state Sen. Walter Stiern visited San Gregorio State Beach and found the odor in the public bathrooms so overpowering that he declared the toilets a health hazard. At last report, the pump that had broken, causing the stench, had not been repaired.

Lawmakers should consider the probability of increased use of California parks by out-of-state tourists as a result of terrorist threats in Europe and elsewhere in the world more of a burden for the already-strained ranger personnel. Deukmejian's zealous promotion of California as a paradise for tourists would suffer if visitors found our state parks inadequate.

To alleviate the manpower shortage, the rangers' association wants \$1 million from the general fund and to reallocate \$5.1 million within this year's proposed budget for 255 new positions it maintains are needed to keep pace with the increased acreage covered and mounting annual attendance.

This is not a satisfactory solution. The funds-reallocation proposal is but a temporary answer to problems which will return until permanent funding is provided. The proposed budget, at this stage, is too finely honed for last-minute shifts in the "robbing Peter to pay Paul" concept.

While the obvious answer would be to increase budget allocations for the parks systems, relief could be realized from increasing user fees for out-of-state visitors, volunteer help from such organizations as the Sierra Club, Boy Scouts of America and other youth organizations and workfare projects by welfare recipients.

The future of California's natural beauty may depend on budget decisions in Sacramento. We hope state leaders, from Gov. Deukmejian to the Legislature, will not short change the state park system.



STAFFING -from page 3

Staffing Needs" survey in March, 1986. Based on the survey, a staffing proposal for 255 positions (total cost: \$8.1 million) was prepared and presented to the legislative appropriation subcommittees considering the '86/87 State Parks budget (Chairpersons: Sen. Robert Preseley and Assemb. Pat Johnson).

Executive Director of the Planning and Conservation League, Dr. Gerald Meral, CSPRA's lobbyist, presented the staffing proposal to the legislature.

Appropriations committee members and Governor Deukmejian were the targets of a letter writing effort by organizations and individuals in support of the public awareness campaign.

In May, meetings with TV and newspaper editorial boards were held. As a result, there were numerous TV stories, front page newspaper articles, and favorable editorials on the issue.

Throughout the campaign, strong support was voiced for Director Briner's position on staffing increases for the '85/86 and

'86/87 proposal.

In short, \$5.19 million would come from redirection and another one million from the General Fund. This still leaves a shortfall to complete the \$8.1 million package that campaign participants are convinced is necessary, but the reduced amount would address the most critical and immediate need. ++



ILMING:

State Parks are not alone. A look at the BLM. From the Redding Record Searchlight-AP.

"The Reagan administration, which wants to increase National Park visitor fees, is renting public land to movie and TV commercial producers at bargain-basement rates, a House subcommittee chairman said...

Rep. Mike Synar, D-Okla., said that not only has the BLM skirted a 1976 law requiring such rentals to carry at least fairmarket prices, it sometimes goes below its already-low posted prices.

Synar said ... the makers of "Return of

the Jedi," paid \$8,620 for the use of BLM property in California's Buttercup Valley for 243 days in 1981.

... In a letter to Interior Secretary Donald Hodel, Synar said that areas of the valley were denuded and that, contrary to the BLM permit requirement, trash "was burned on the site and buried the sand."

"Not only were no penalties imposed, the filmmaker was undercharged \$17,580 for the use of the land, ..."

... "BLM did not recover costs for any of the 30 movies which were filmed on BLM land and only charged two of the 191 television filmings for some of the costs associated with these production," Synar said.

Synar said BLM has been inconsistent. It charged ABC \$373 to have Rangers monitor the two-day shooting of a network commercial on the grounds that helicopters were being used.

But no monitoring charges were made for the movie "The Hitcher,". Although its production included "100 people..." ++

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO 95811

(916) 445-7090



May 12, 1986

Dear Park Supporter

Your letter to Governor George Deukmejian concerning staffing of the State Park System has been referred to me for reply.

The Director has requested, and the Governor has approved, yearly increases to the Department of Parks and Recreation's operating budget. This support stems from a shared concern that the public be given the best possible service, but not at the expense of an increasing government structure.

It is within this spirit that the Department will continue to strive to protect the State Park System resources and educate the public of its values. We have developed an organization that has become efficient and is accomplishing these objectives for a growing system and ever increasing number of users and visitors.

I am happy to report that the proposed Governor's Budget for the 1986/87 fiscal year does include a net increase of over 60 full time equivalent positions to be located at various park units throughout the state.

Thank you for taking the time to write and express your concerns.

Sincerely,

Carl R. Maier

Carl R. Maier, Manager
Operations Headquarters Office

CRM:MHadano:bad

These two letters are a sample of those received by park supporters who voiced their favor of restaffing.

To protect their privacy I deleted their names. Replacing them with "Dear Park Supporter".

-Ed.

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May 30, 1986

Dear Park Supporter

I share your concerns about proper staffing for the state park system.

However, it is very doubtful that the Legislature will be able to correct that situation in the upcoming fiscal year. First, the funds are just not available. The state is now within \$20 million of the spending limit imposed by Prop. 4, the Gann Initiative voted into law by the voters in 1979. In the context of a total budget of \$35 billion, this amount leaves very little leeway.

Second, the current Administration has consistently applied a policy of no increases in state staffing, except in extraordinary circumstances. It is a virtual certainty that, if the Legislature added funds for additional state park personnel, the augmentation would be vetoed by the Governor due to this policy.

I appreciate your taking the time to share your concerns with me. I regret that it is not possible to make this much needed enhancement of our state park system at the present time.

Sincerely,

Robert Presley
ROBERT PRESLEY
State Senator

RP:jmc



CSPRA



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120-A CHRISTAL OAKS DR
SCOTTS VALLEY
CA 95066



ARK SIDE
CASSETTE
CLOSEOUT

SPR I Carl Burger at Portola SP, Santa Cruz Mountains, has informed CSPRA that there are but 25 copies left of his 18-minute tape "DarkSide of the Forest". Thus far, over 250 tapes have been sold, with net proceeds (over \$400) going to CSPRA. Fewer recent orders, along with matters of materials and time necessary to produce the tape, dictate that the sale come to an end when the current supplies of blank cassettes and supplies for production and mailing are used up.

Carl wishes to thank the many folks who made the offer such a surprising success. Orders came from places as far away as Vermont, then there was Mr. Mott's request from Washington D.C! From retired DPR administrators such as

Ed Dolder on Maui, Hawaii and even from agencies such as East Bay Regional Parks and Chico PD.

Requests for the last copies of "Dark Side" still may be made by writing Carl Burger, Portola State Park, La Honda, CA 94020. The price of \$5/tape includes tax and shipping. Personal checks are welcome, but Fruit Loops box tops are still unacceptable! ++



OOD FOR
THOUGHT

Jim Whitehead
November, 1977

"If, in the following article, one substitutes "public servants" for the term "persons to be elected to office", responsibility and obligations of public service are clearly apparent.

The persons to be elected to office ought to be better than the average. They ought ideally

to be the persons best qualified. They ought to be better in their moral and intellectual capacities and in their commitment to hard work. This does not mean that they should necessarily be male college graduates, middle class, white or indeed members of any specific group. But since lawmakers really are servants of the people, it follows that for the people nothing can be too good."

Dr. John Silber,
President of Boston
University, June, 1977."

TATE PARK AND
RECREATION
COMMISSION
MEETING



The Commission will meet 7/11/86 at the Fairway Community Center, Tahoe City.

If you're in the area, you might stop by. ++