

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGER'S ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1987

OPPONENTS TO AB 2410 LOOSE FIRST ROUND

by Syd Brown

AB 2410 passed out of the Assembly Committee on Parks and wildlife on August 19, despite strong opposition from CSPRA, DPR, PCL, Sierra Club, Friends of Anza-Borrego, and the Defenders of Wildlife.

In a frustrating exhibition of the committee legislative process, Assemblyman Steve Peace's bill to allow OHV use in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park passed out of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. Peace's bill, if passed by the legislature, would establish a special enforcement team of five park rangers within the OHMV Division for enforcing OHMV regulations at Anza-Borrego SP during the 1987-88 visitor season. This bill, sponsored by OHV interests, ignores the philosophical basis for State Parks and ignores the Department's mandated authority regarding the use and management of the state parks.

NEW VISIONS FROM OLD TRADITIONS

The CSPRA Annual Convention will be March 11-14, 1988 at the Woodlake Inn. Plan now to attend this gala event! More news about this coming up.

1988 CSPRA CONVENTION

In May 1987, Director Agonia supported the recommendation from Southern Region to permit only street-licensed motor vehicles to operate on designated routes of travel within Anza-Borrego. This commitment to upholding the existing laws which restrict OHMV use within this unit was made due to extensive resource damage to the unit from irresponsible and illegal operation of vehicles off designated routes of travel. Prohibition of the use of off-road vehicles is the most effective method of dealing with the extensive resource damage caused by the growing numbers of all-terrain vehicles being operated irresponsibly. Stopping "green sticker" vehicles at access points and staging areas provides the most effective and least costly means of control.

The department's OHMV closure remains in effect pending the outcome of AB 2410. The bill will next go to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, then, if approved, to the Assembly floor. If passed by the Assembly, it then goes on to the Senate Natural Resources Committee, where it will again face stiff, concerted opposition from groups which support the Department's role and responsibility as stewards of the state park system, and oppose the special interest clamor for a "tire-hold" within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

CALIFORNIA DESERT PROTECTION LEAGUE

CDPL GEARS UP FOR S7 HEARINGS

The long awaited hearings on Senator Alan Cranston's California Desert Protection act (S7) have occurred. The Public Lands Subcommittee heard testimony July 21 and 23 in Washington D.C. A CDPL delegation presented the desert wilderness case to members of Congress and their staffs July 20-24. The Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Audobon Society, Desert Protective Council, and many other CDPL members made an all out effort on behalf of our threatened desert wildlands.

A quick review of S7. The bill would:

- Establish the 1.5 million acre Mojave National Park east of Barstow. The area, now administered by BLM, features spectacular mountain ranges, the world's largest Joshua tree forest, 600-foot high sand dunes, numerous archaeological sites, and more than 300 animal species.

- Expand the boundaries of Death Valley National Monument and Joshua Tree National Monument and grant national park status to both. Death Valley would grow from 2.1 million acres to 3.4 million.

Continued, Page 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OUR PROFESSIONAL HERITAGE

Recently we circulated a questionnaire to retired members after a member at the Ventura conference said he was concerned about this special group's low attendance and relative lack of involvement in CSPRA affairs. The responses were wide ranging and informative, and we hope to summarize them in an upcoming NEWSLETTER issue. The question of a need for a separate Newsletter did not receive a clear, positive response. However,

several of you have sent us letters with comments about your current activities and ideas for serving retired members' needs.

One retiree suggested the department consider a special entrance pass to state parks for retired members. Whether or not this is possible at this time, I do not know, but I do think this is an excellent idea, and pledge to bring this to the Director's attention. Many of our retired members spent a career in service to the California State Park System. They were responsible

for acquiring and operating many of the Crown Jewels of our parks, and we are deeply indebted to them. Many, too, retired in the days when pensions were downright skimpy! In my opinion, the least we can do in gratitude for their leadership and contribution to the state parks is pursue a proposal to grant them the opportunity to be recognized each time they enter a unit of the State Park System. Our effort on their behalf is a small price to pay for the professional heritage they passed on to each one of us.

ONE READER'S OPINION

ARE RANGERS GETTING RANK, OR WHAT?

Are ranger's getting rank, or what?

The urge to decorate uniforms and hat brims with flashy metal objects and colorful ribbons has inflated man's self-concept for thousands of years. This tendency to identify status or rank has much more to do with ego, I suspect, than it does with usefulness.

I have heard it might be useful for DPR employees to have rank identification during such inter-agency efforts as the Queen's visit and the Pope's upcoming visit. This way Officer Jones of the Monterey Sheriff's Office could identify Ranger II Smith if he had a need to do so. This might be reasonable for Ranger II's, but hardly will be necessary for any rank above since these supervisors are rarely to be found at such functions. In any case, inter-agency operations don't occur often. Perhaps the solu-

tion is to obligate supervisors to wear rank insignia only at these times.

Dismissing the above reason due to infrequency, I can only conclude that the desire to wear rank identification is a power trip based on vanity and possibly an attempt to intimidate subordinates. I suggest this movement is already a waste of time and tax dollars.

Director Agonia will probably approve the Regional Directors' request, but I'd rather he crack the whip on this military fantasy and remind all those who seek to "pin" respect on themselves that it is earned and that they should be devoting their time to solving such serious departmental problems as racism, gross funding and staff shortages and the deterioration of the treasures they are charged to protect.

Hats off to those who do not need such folly!

Richard French, Ranger I, Butano SP

This article does not necessarily represent the opinion of CSPRA or the Editor. However, I have heard many similar expressions concerning RANK insignia as a uniform requirement from all levels of field rangers. Ed.

BILL WEATHERBEE

William Weatherbee, 73, retired as a DPR district superintendent in 1975, has died in Medford, Ore.

Bill joined parks on December 1, 1941, just six days before the war started for us. He worked at Big Basin, Mount Diablo, Mount San Jacinto, Richardson Grove and Huntington Beach. Bill was assigned to District 6 in 1959, and retired as Assistant District Superintendent in 1975.

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The NEWSLETTER'S Editor is Steve Hansen, contributing editors and authors are as noted. Articles are welcome, 1000 words or less. All submissions become the property of CSPRA and may be edited without notice.

HONORARY CSPRA MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS

In an era of limited spending, we have gained a renewed appreciation of our human resources, as represented by both our employees and our volunteers. Recognition of the contributions by these individuals is a critical component of our public service mission. Those of us who have observed the receipt of Sustained Superior Accomplishment Awards, Certificates of Commendation, or other methods of recognition can attest to the positive results inspired by that recognition.

For individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the California State Park System and the California State Park Rangers Association, few awards can match the significance of an honorary membership in the California State Park Rangers Association. I encourage your consideration of nominations for this prestigious award. Individuals selected for honorary membership will receive a beautiful plaque, all rights and privileges of Association membership, and formal recognition at the 1988 Conference Banquet.

Nominations should be submitted by October 1, 1987 to:

Mary B. Gunter, Honorary Members Committee Chairperson
20 Custom House Plaza
Monterey, California 93940

Please submit all nominations prior to the deadline in case further information or clarification is required.

Honorary membership has been awarded to many distinguished contributors to the State Park System. The following listed people are Honorary Members of the California State Park Rangers Association:

Ansel Adams*	Earl Hanson	Harriet Weaver
Percy French*	Josephine P. Read	Newton B. Drury*
Wilma Poland	Pearl Chase*	Claude A. Look
Harriet Allen	Joseph Houghteling	James Whitehead
Phil Geiger	Catherine Stone	Bertram K. Dunshee*
Roscoe Poland	Walt Disney*	William Penn Mott, Jr.
Sally Altick	Howard King	Vern Whittaker*
William Goodall	Joe Stone	Verna Dunshee*
Everett Powell	Edward Dolder	(*Deceased)
Harry L. Blaisdell, Sr.*	Joseph R. Knowland*	



Assembly California Legislature

STEVE PEACE
ASSEMBLYMAN

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LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE

June 15, 1987

Rick Parmer, President
California State Park Rangers Association
P.O. Box 28366
Sacramento, California 95828

Dear Mr. Parmer:

Thank you for your communication regarding Assembly Bill 2410 relating to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

I would like to take the opportunity to explain to you my views on this matter.

First of all, I agree that the protection of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is of utmost importance and am dedicated in reaching this goal.

I don't, however, feel that a ban on off-road vehicles would do anything to stop people intent upon breaking the law.

I am proposing instead a measure which would authorize a one-year test of a five-member "strike force" of park officers equipped with an airplane to increase law enforcement and stop illegal off-road driving. I feel it would be far better to regulate and make this activity safe for the environment instead of making it illegal with no method of regulation.

I appreciate the time you have taken to advise me of your concerns.

Sincerely,

STEVE PEACE

SP:mhj

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☐ 1101 Airport Road - Suite B
Imperial, California 92251
Telephone: (619) 352-3101

NOTEWORTHY NOTES

Dear Editor,

Your message/solicitation #3 in the July Newsletter prompts the following: You bet your tailfethers there's something wrong when DPR management sees Madison Avenue as a solution to cash flow problems which realistically will always affect "lower priority" departments. (Do we know if it's actually cost-effective to collect fees at all?) Perspective seems to be something we lack, and parading some half-baked notion like Cali-the-Quail before the public does little more, in my judgement, than to characterize us in DPR either as sell-outs to the worst elements of corporate America, on the one hand, or as buffoons, on the other. I am encouraged by the recent editorial cartoons which graphically depict Cali's demise, and in that same spirit, I offer the following verses, to be sung to the tune of "Smokey the Bear." *See Page 7. ed.*

Furthermore, I am pleased to announce that "Cali the Quail" will be available on cassette, in 4-part barber-shop harmony, as part of a sequel to the audio cassette tape "Dark Side of the Forest." Even with all its shortcomings, "Dark Side" sold over 400 copies and put some \$575 into CSPRA coffers. Thanks to some improved technique and newer recording equipment in the living room, the new offering "Probable Causes" is slightly more polished, and it will be available for sale as soon as I can find a new supplier of blank boxed 20-minute cassettes. Advance orders are welcome. As with the previous tape, proceeds will go to CSPRA. The cost will be \$7 per cassette, which includes tax and shipping. The tentative song list is • Park News • Cali the Quail • Out of the Frying Pan Into the Fire • Mamas, Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Rangers • Book of Memoranda (Still DPR to Me revisited) • A Word to the Weiss (With special guest vocalist Sandy Playa) • I Love a Rainy Park • Do You Know the Way From San Jose? Order thru Portola State Park, La Honda, CA. 94020

Carl Burger

Dear Rick:

I was very pleased to read in the California State Park Ranger's Association Newsletter that an appropriate memorial to Shaun Fahey has been established. I am also pleased to see the proposal to name a peak at Mt. San Jacinto State Park in honor of my long time friend and associate, Newton B. Drury. Newton had a great part in establishing Mount San Jacinto State Park and certainly deserves this appropriate recognition.

Sincerely,
John B. Dewitt
Save-the-Redwoods League

DESERT BILL, S 7

From Page 1

Joshua Tree, now 550,000 acres would increase to 795,000.

-Give the protection of wilderness status to 4.5 million acres of beautiful and diverse BLM wildlands. These 81 areas include wilderness as varied as the pinyon-clad Inyo Mountains, the spectacular Cadiz Dunes, and the dramatically eroded Mecca Hills.

-Transfer 20,500 acres of threatened scenery and habitat to the protection of Red Rock Canyon State Park.

-Protect the 1,920 acre Desert Lily Sanctuary, and an important historic site, 490 acres in the Indian Canyons near Palm Springs.

Congressmen Mel Levine and Rick Lehman have introduced similar legislation in the House. S 7 and the House bills deserve every bit of support that every lover of the wilderness can provide.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to Senator Pete Wilson, 720 Hart Office Bldg, Washington D.C. 20510, and ask him to support S 7. If your congressman is not a co-sponsor of one of the House bills, ask him to support **HR 371** or **HR 361**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Jeff Widen, CDPL Coordinator, 2550 W. 6th St., Suite 323, Los Angeles, Ca. 90020. Phone (213) 387-6528.

This article is a reprint from the CDPL News, July, 1987. Ed.



DESERT WORKERS ARE DRIVEN TO BAN VEHICLES

BY BILL CALLAHAN
SAN DEIGO TRIBUNE, May 21, 1987

Spreading the word over 600,000 acres of desert that off road vehicles are to be banned will impose a time consuming, touchy chore on employees at vast Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Park employees last Friday began warning visitors of the ban and encountered some strong public reactions to the decision of the Department of Parks and Recreation to enforce a part of the California Administrative Code barring the vehicles.

"There usually aren't too many people out here this time of the year, but those we contacted were either adamantly in support of the ban or just as adamant in opposition," said the park superintendent, Jim Hendrix. "We only had about 10,000 people, or maybe less, but things will pick up quite a bit this coming weekend, which will include the Memorial Day holiday."

Although the code prohibits off-road vehicles in the park, the ban has not been enforced since 1972, and state officials estimate that nearly 250,000 enthusiasts have been using the park's wilds as a playground.

Their activities became so widespread that park officials got concerned about the scarring of the desert landscape, adverse effects on the plant and animal life and the increasing frequency of accidents involving off-road vehicles.

Park officials will not begin issuing citations, which could cost offenders fines ranging from \$50 to \$500, until September, but they will spend the rest of the summer educating the

public about the change in procedures.

In the meantime off-roaders still will be able to frequent some of their favorite routes, many of which were created illegally by constant use over the last 15 years.

"People are still doing it, and we're not really stopping them unless they're driving off designated roads and destroying the habitat," Hendrix said.

It will take a long time to block off the illegal roads, he said.

Hendrix estimated that 15 percent of the park's visitors will be directly affected by the ban.

"And they're pretty much the only ones who are upset about it," he said.

"The vast majority of the people are happy about it. When we first announced the ban, we got a lot of phone calls and letters from off-roaders who were mad."

"Now most of the phone calls, letters and comments are coming from people who are in favor of it and understand the problem. It's turned completely around."

Hendrix said attendance at the park usually tapers off during the summer as the weather turns hotter, with the Memorial Day weekend drawing the last big weekend turnout before the fall.

"We might get about 20,000 to 25,000 visitors next weekend, as compared to perhaps 75,000 during Easter week in the spring or a similar number over Thanksgiving weekend in the fall," he said.

MEANWHILE, AROUND THE CAMPFIRE...



call the quail

© carl burger, 1987

With a Ranger's hat and blazer and a smile upon his beak,
You can see him selling cereal and looking like a freak.
He has taken California and he's made it a cartoon!
Could we put him on the Challenger and send him to the moon?

CHORUS:

Call the Quail, Call the Quail:
Advertising wisdom that is surely bound to fail.
So thank you to the DPR and also thank you, Post,
For prostituting rangers, that's the part I hate the most.

I remember as a Ranger how I hiked among the trees -
How I talked to all the campers from the mountains to the seas.
But the times, they are a-changing, and the Dollar sign is king.
And selling sugar cereal has cheapened everything.

CHORUS

Have you ever stopped to ponder where it all could go from here?
What if Seagrams... or if Miller says they'll pay to sell their beer?
Then we'll compromise our principles, and won't we have the gall
When we make a glossy poster saying "Kids Can Drink It All!"

CHORUS

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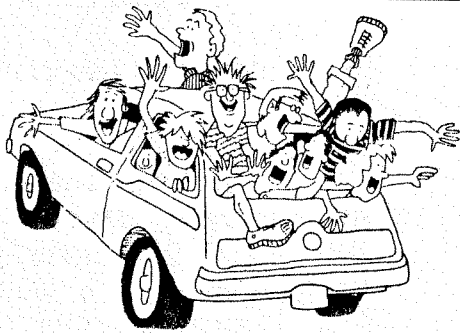
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FIELD TRIPS



FIELD STUDIES TRIPS WITH SAN JOSE STATE If your vacation plans call for a trip to the great outdoors, you can make 1988 plans with San Jose State University Field Studies in Natural History and earn university credits, too. Six trips planned for 1988 should meet most any taste in climate and terrain, and Alaska is on board for 1988!

Desert in January, January 3 - 13, 1988, takes you to the colorful lower Colorado and Chihuahuan deserts of southern California and Colorado. Death Valley from March 27 - April 2, 1988, shows you an active world of exciting contrasts -- quite the opposite of its name. Monterey Coast brings much to explore June 19 - 25, 1988 -- and the whole family can go.

Natural History of the Grand Canyon June 27 - July 7 and/or July 2 - 10, 1988 includes field portions and river rafting, too. Islands of Hawaii -- Naturally -- July 10 - 28, 1988, includes the environmental past, present and future of four islands. Trinity Alps, August 7 - 13, 1988, takes you to a relatively undiscovered and thus undisturbed area of California -- and the whole family can go, too. Ford streams, walk canyons or heavily forested peaks, or find entrances to old gold mines. You don't have to be a San Jose State student to attend any trip.

Alaska plans are being made, with departure from Anchorage for a two week study. For further information on any FSNH program, call (408) 277-3736, or write: **Field Studies in Natural History, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA 95192-0135.**

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