

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

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Ancient Forests

by Bill Filsinger & John Quirk

Woodlands are many things to many people. Recently the term "old growth" has become a popular focal point of agreement and controversy. Certainly there is much old growth redwood preserved in our parks, and it is deservedly the focus of our attention and wonder. While giant redwood trees are often quite old, "old growth" describes a variety of complex forests of which little is known or seen beyond the trees.

In the Pacific Northwest old-growth forests are ecosystems dominated by large conifers of an age predating European influence. The dominant trees in coastal redwood forests range from several hundred years to over two thousand years of age. Twenty-five species of conifer are found in these forests. Sitka spruce tends to be the dominant tree in southeast Alaska and British Columbia; Douglas fir in Oregon, Washington and inland B.C.; and the coast redwood in northern California.

Old growth is an imprecise term, for these forests are actually "all-aged." Old and young trees grow together. The uppermost branchy layer of the forest, the "canopy," is uneven. Some of the larger trees have wind-damaged tops and few branches. Where older trees have fallen and left a hole in the canopy, younger trees of different species may compete to fill the canopy. This multi-layered canopy efficiently traps moisture during dry seasons when the fog is thin. The huge trunks of older trees contain thousands of gallons of water protected by thick bark. These features help them to survive fires.

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Role of Cooperating Associations

by Nina Gordon

The Cooperating Association Task Force is asking for your comments. There is an issue which remains controversial. Cooperating associations are contracted to collect kiosk fees and manage kiosk operations in some units. This situation needs to be examined. The cooperating association task force has concluded with a majority opinion that this practice should continue.

Cooperating associations contribute greatly to the park system and the public through their support of educational and interpretive functions. It is appropriate for associations to raise monies through such programs and

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Should Cooperating Association Manage Park Operations? No!

by Craig Engel and John Knott

The Department task force on cooperating associations is nearing completion of its work.

A majority position within the task force holds that it is not only legal but at times beneficial for non-profit cooperating associations to hire employees for the purpose of staffing entrance stations and collecting fees.

The involvement of cooperating associations in the collection of user fees is contrary to the interpretive purpose of the DPR/Cooperating Association joint efforts as stated in Public Resources Code 513. PRC 513 allows the DPR

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SAVE BODIE! and all other committees use CSPRA address.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it looks like we're back in a period where increasing revenue is our primary focus again. Oh, joy!

The legislature and the administration have raised our fees dramatically, although not tripling them as at least one legislator was urging.

There has been a lot of rhetoric in the news media about the budget being balanced on the backs of the poor. More correctly, it seems that this balancing act is on the backs of the poor **and** the parks.

At a time when we are consistently being told that we have to reach out and bring the non-traditional users in to visit the units of the California State Park System, we are now probably going to make it more difficult for even the traditional users to enjoy their parks. Instead of reaching out to bring new visitors, we'll be reaching out to grab more money from those who can still afford to come. A lot of low-income families, who need parks more than anyone else, will not be able to use parks. Those who speak about current and future demographics tell us that more people will be crowded into our cities, unemployment will rise, and the standard of living for everyone will be lowered.

That should signal to everyone that parks are even more of a necessity than they have been. There needs to be a recognition that parks, along with their other roles, are social institutions; that parks can lessen the needs for mental and penal institutions and can reduce crime.

The real threat to the revenue-generating mentality which is going to be forced upon us is that some will look for even more ways to produce funds. We must really be vigilant to make certain that we aren't reduced into new, inappropriate programs, development, and concessions, which may in the short term make us money, but in the long term eat up our real capital, the cultural and natural resources of our system.

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Ancient Forests

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thus ensuring the canopy and perpetuating the forest.

Other characteristics of an old-growth forest are the large, erect dead trees, called snags, that may stand for over two hundred years, and the large down trees, that may lie on the forest floor in decay for centuries. Only in old-growth forests are young and old, dead and down trees all present at the same time.

These forests are truly ancient. They have looked essentially the way they appear today for millennia. In a redwood forest for example, only a couple of trees per acre per century need to enter the canopy to sustain the population. Fossils found across the northern hemisphere show that redwood forests were widespread millions of years ago. Because of ice ages and climatic changes, *Sequoia sempervirens*, the coastal redwood, has taken a last stand in a narrow band stretching from about the Oregon/California border to Big Sur.

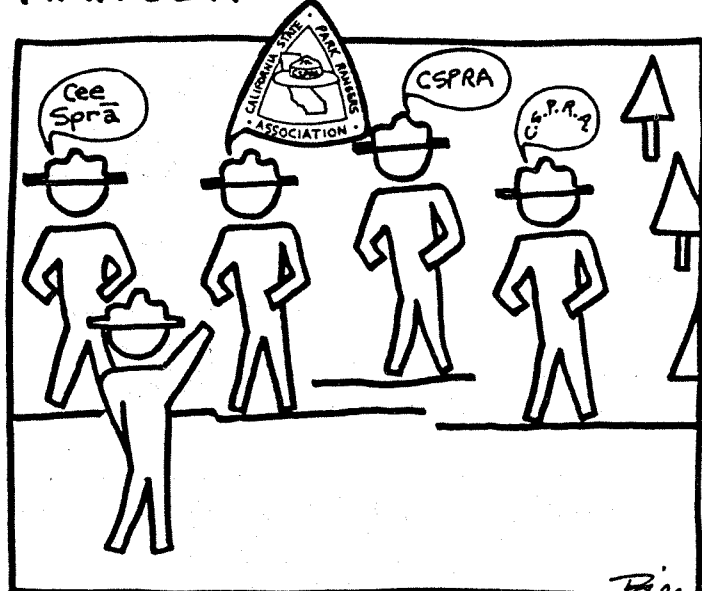
In fact, the greatest accumulation of plant mass ever recorded on earth is in Humboldt Redwoods State Park ...

A primeval forest is often visualized as a tropical jungle, a place where vegetation is thick enough to be impenetrable. In fact, the greatest accumulation of plant mass ever recorded on earth is in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, where an acre of stem mass alone has been estimated at 1541 tons. When branch, leaf and root mass are added, the estimate increases to about 1800 tons per acre. The penetrable primeval forest here has a density seven times that of the Amazon rainforest!

Like the Amazon, much if not most of life in an ancient forest remains undiscovered.

There are insects, birds and small mammals which spend their entire life in the canopy. Woodpeckers and insects open up snags and logs, providing a habitat for many other species that in turn become food for larger predators. While many relationships have been identified in these forests, many more are not fully understood. A myriad of questions remain unanswered.

RANGER LOGO



"NOW THAT'S INTERPRETATION"

There exists in these forests a hidden blueprint, a link to the past, a tool for the future. Every acre of an ancient forest is slightly different, reacting to a different set of influences. Until such time as the hidden blueprint is revealed, it would seem prudent to view each portion of these magnificent forests as an irreplaceable landscape, for there is no evidence that an ancient forest, once destroyed, can ever be regrown.



Role of Cooperating Associations

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services as long as they don't replace basic Department staff and functions. Operating bookstores, holding educational seminars and co-sponsoring special events are successful examples of association functions.

However, recently, the Department has contracted with cooperating associations to take over the management of the kiosk function and collection of state fees. In this arrangement, the cooperating associations hire the employees and retain a portion of the revenues. This can be a lucrative arrangement for the Department because a greater percentage of the revenue (as opposed to a concession agreement) is returned to the Department and the money is being retained in the park unit.

This recent change in a long-standing department operation raises two important questions:

Is this an appropriate role for the cooperating associations; and

Is the Department abdicating its responsibility to the public and its employees by contracting out the kiosk services?

Cooperating associations are allowed to generate revenue for the purpose of providing support to the park unit, but financial operations should not be the main focus of their activities. This was also not the intent of the enabling legislation (PRC 5010.1) which allows cooperating associations to collect state fees. It is not appropriate for the associations to raise funds by deviating from their educational and interpretive mission. For example, cooperating associations are not allowed to sell non-interpretive items such as keychains, ashtrays, etc., even though it would mean additional revenue for the association.

Another issue is the Department's abdication of its rights by contracting out the management of essential park functions. The Department's management responsibilities are stated in the Public Resources Code, and State Park Commission policies. Public Resources Code (PRC) 5001 gives the Department the "control of the state park system." The PRC 5003 states that "the Department shall administer, protect, develop, and interpret the property under its jurisdiction for the use and enjoyment of the public."

One of the main functions of the Department in carrying out the above responsibility is the kiosk operation. Operating the entrance station is an essential function of the park both for public safety and public relations. The entrance station serves as a control function to alleviate potential visitor safety problems. Also, the entrance station employee often coordinates communication among the other park employees and may serve as dispatch in the absence of this function. Elsewhere he/she may have to make judgment calls on potentially life-threatening situations. In addition, this employee often comprises the only direct contact the visitor has with the Department.

Any employees, including kiosk employees, hired by the cooperating association are ultimately responsible to the cooperating association, not to the Department. The responsibility for hiring, firing, and discipline is determined by who provides the paycheck. The task force acknowledged this when we recognized the conflict of interest position currently held by the executive secretary and other park employees who serve on the cooperating association board while being paid by the Department.

A vital issue to all park employees is the appropriateness of the associations hiring staff to fill established department positions, such as park aides and park interpretive specialists. The amount of revenue being generated by these positions indicates that

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Role of Cooperating Associations

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there are staffing needs that are not being met by the Department.

The role of cooperating associations stands at an important crossroads. The collection of kiosk fees by cooperating associations raises many fundamental questions. This issue is controversial and needs to be more closely scrutinized. It is significant that the Inland Region district superintendents recently voted unanimously to oppose having cooperating associations contract kiosk fee collection.

Now is the time to make your views known on this issue while the task force recommendations are being reviewed. Please send any written comments through CSPRA or through your supervisor to the task force representative. (Task force representatives are listed with the distributed recommendations.) **The deadline is September 1.**

Should Cooperating Associations Manage Park Operations? No!

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to "...enter into agreements to act cooperatively with such private nonprofit scientific or historical associations engaged in educational or interpretive work in the state park system units as the director may designate...." Associations are to furnish educational or interpretive materials or services, and the monies received are to be used in the interpretive or educational programs of the State Park System.

The superintendents within the Inland Region believe that the use of association funds to hire employees to collect user fees does not meet the educational and interpretive requirements of PRC 513. The intent of the cooperating association is diluted and it becomes more of a management group "special interest" instead of a service organiza-

tion. Revenue generation can become an end in itself. Ultimately, their mission becomes unclear, and the membership loses sight of why the cooperative association was created.

We feel that the continued use and likely expansion of associations into the role of user fee collection agents will result in a shifting of focus away from the interpretive services which the associations are intended to provide.

For this reason the superintendents within the Inland Region are in agreement and on record opposed to the use of cooperating associations for fee collection. DPR should not abdicate its responsibilities for operating park units by implementing this type of short-term solution to our current staffing shortages.

Cooperating Association Task Force — A Success

by Nina Gordon

Take heart, the process can work. The Cooperating Association Task Force, consisting of cooperating association members and department employees have worked diligently and with candor to review the current Department policies on cooperating associations and to make recommended changes. It is significant that a consensus was reached on every issue. (One minority opinion was submitted - see articles on page 1 of *Newsletter*.)

The revised policies will clarify some confusing and complex issues. Three of the major points are:

- 1) Cooperating associations are independent, not-for-profit organizations. The Department's contract language addresses the cooperating association activities with the Department;
- 2) The Department cannot control cooperating association expenditures, but does define what will be placed or used on state park property;
- 3) Any person volunteering for a program or activity which is part of the state park operations is a state park volunteer (non-paid employee) and not a volunteer of the cooperating association.

Other topics include insurance, donations/gifts, (Continued on page 8)



DPR Commemorative Quilt

California State Park Rangers 125th Anniversary

To commemorate the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of the California State Park Rangers, volunteers are needed to contribute squares for the development of a quilt.

The quilt will be placed in the proposed DPR Employees Museum at Big Basin State Park. This museum is now in the planning stages and will house items and artifacts donated to the 125th Anniversary Committee.

The following are the guidelines for the quilt:

1. **SIZE:** Squares should be of a uniform size - 13" X 13" (allow for a 5/8 seam).
2. **MATERIALS and MEDIA:** Cotton or blended fabrics, appliques, embroidery and such are appropriate.
3. **SCOPE:** Our hope is that all Districts and Headquarters Divisions will contribute a square.
4. **THEME:** California State Park Rangers, 125 years of Park Protection and Public Service (Subtheme: The Best of California, Forever.)
5. **DEADLINE:** February 1, 1991.
6. **CONTACTS:** The following individuals will coordinate the project:

Northern and Central coast Regions: Margaret Chavez, Chair of the Quilt Project
412 Harper Court, Windsor, CA 95492 - (707) 838-7683

Headquarters & Inland Region: Betty Paris
P.O. Box 212, Lincoln, CA 95648 - Hm. 916-645-1958 Wk. 916-322-0278

Southern Region, San Simeon Region & OHV Division: LaRena Murphy
1879 Jackson Street, Riverside, CA 92504 - (714) 780-6221

To become involved in this project, complete the following form and return to Susan Ross or contact one of the above coordinators.

DPR/Ranger Anniversary Commemorative Quilt Project

Name: _____ District/Section: _____

Address _____ Phone: _____

City/State/ZIP _____

☐ Yes, I want to be involved in this project and will contribute a square for the quilt.

☐ I cannot commit to making squares, but want to assist in this project.

Contact one of the Coordinators or return completed form to:

Susan Ross, 125th Ranger Anniversary
420 Palm Ave, Lodi, CA 95240
Hm. 209-369-1455 Wk. 916-777-7701

Humor In Unicorn

by Jeff Price

As threatened, here is the sixth installment of **Mixed Metaphors and Malaprops**.

Just can't seem to catch up: "Let's just give up; we're all chasing a dead horse."

Embarrassed: "So you're putting me on the hot spot again!"

A different view: "Yes, but look at the other half of the coin from my perspective." Lack of precognition: "I didn't know how good the other side of the coin was going to be, until it was up." That's what you say: "Well, that's the other color of the coin."

Best served cold: "I had to commit crow."

Final decision: "... when it came down to the bottom wire." Alternative: "...and my second bottom line is...." Another finality: "Look, let's just weed this down to your real bottom line."

Options, always play the options: "Let me toss out another crumb for you to consider."

Unfair, isn't it: "They are not holding up their end of the stick!"

What ho, verily, an untruth: "You are lying like a sieve." And discourteous, too: "Talk about disrespect, these people always treat you with your pants down." (I can't explain 'em, I just record 'em!)

Perspective: "That's not the whole picture, just the grist of it."

Problems, always more problems: "Our opportunities and problems have just increased geometrically."

The big try: "This one is all for the marbles."

Until next time, let me leave you with yet another gritty observation:

"Take a number, take a chance; you can't win if you don't throw your ticket in the ring."

Leadership Training Opportunities in California

by Rod Parsons

Recently, I completed an outstanding nine-month training program through the support of CSPRA. This program, entitled "Leadership Lompoc Valley," is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce to select and educate leaders for community benefit. Participants are selected to represent a wide diversity of business, companies, and local organizations.

"Leadership Lompoc Valley" was conceived in early 1985 by a small group of business and community leaders. Since that time Russ Guiney and Joe McCummins of La Purisima Mission and I have all taken part in the program.

The heart of the overall agenda is an overnight retreat, and eight full-day sessions (one each month from October through May). These sessions each explore and analyze one topic of interest or concern in the community. The topics included: Health and Human Services, Print and Media, Military and Aerospace, Local Government, Education, Law Enforcement and Judicial Systems, Local Economy, and Quality of Life Issues.

Special highlights for me included a helicopter tour of Vandenberg Air Force Base, an "inside" view of the federal prison in Lompoc, a walk through the unique Closed Reef Management Project at Cabrillo High School, and a stimulating panel discussion on the differences between various forms of media.

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Leadership Training

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Graduates of the "Leadership Lompoc Valley" Program gain a broad background and appreciation of the total civic infrastructure. It has provided me with a better understanding of community needs, and established a "networking linkage" between the Gaviota District Office and the local community. It is a pleasure to know people and have friends in many different areas of the community.

If you are interested in a similar program in your community, here's good news. Many local chambers are now sponsoring leadership programs. Additionally, there is a National Association of Community Leadership which is encouraging the State of California to form a similar group. Many counties are involved or are beginning to become active in providing leadership programs. So, contact your local Chamber of Commerce and

see how you can fit into the big picture. A rewarding experience is waiting.

Thank you CSPRA! Rod Parsons.

Cooperating Association Task Force

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sales items and a revised contract. The Task Force is also producing a revised Cooperating Association Manual containing these policies.

The recommendations are being distributed for field comments to all district superintendents and cooperating association presidents. The Task Force will review the comments and submit the final policy recommendations for the Director's approval. The revised Cooperating Association Manual should be available by December.

CSPRA will make copies of the recommended policies available for your comment. [Write or phone CSPRA, (916) 383-2530, for a copy.]

Please submit your comments by Sept. 1st.

The process of sincere and open dialogue among involved parties is the key to the success of the Cooperating Association Task Force.

August



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