

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 38

April-May 1992

CSPRA Call For Action

Background

DPR has had a long history of **sitting back**, assuming that the state parks would always be supported by the legislature and the governor. Yet for the last several years, DPR has been given a smaller portion of the overall state budget.

It is critical to our profession as well as the parks that the legislature establish a permanent and adequate funding source for DPR. The director is working on this problem. **We must support him by writing letters** to Governor Wilson, our assembly member and state senator, as well as our local community leaders and media.

Three Things You Can Do

- 1. Write Letters — To Governor Wilson and your legislators**
- 2. Visit your local legislator**
- 3. Talk to your chamber of commerce and community leaders.**

Write Letters!

We must begin by each of us writing our own letter to Governor Wilson, our assembly member and
(Continued on page 3)

A Conference For Professionals Put On By Professionals

by Tyler Conrad, Ranger I

The 1992 CSPRA/PRAC/SPPOAC Conference at the Inn at the Park in Anaheim was made possible by the combined efforts of many dedicated professionals. There are several people who worked very hard on the Conference Resource Management Track sessions who have not been recognized for all of their efforts. Ranger Mark Faull
(Continued on page 7)

SAVE BODIE! Update

by Donna Pozzi

Mining companies often try to dismiss opposition and complaints about their projects as uninformed hysteria. That may have been true in the past. Now, citizens are arming themselves with knowledge about mining and its impacts, to ensure that mines in our communities and on our public lands are required to be as benign as possible. Several weeks ago, I spent the weekend in Durango, Colorado with a hundred folks from nine states (and a number of Indian reservations) at the Western Mining Impacts Conference. It was a very diverse group — a couple of dairy farmers concerned about heavy metals and acid runoff from mining;
(Continued on page 6)

On The Inside

President's Message	page 2
Submitting agenda items for board meetings	page 5
OHV loan request for DPR	page 6
Highlights of CSPRA/PRAC/SPPOAC Workshop	page 7
Winter games participants	page 8
Letter to Director Murphy from Gar Salzegeber	page 8
Letter to Secretary Wheeler from Workforce Diversity Supervisors	page 9
More thoughts on taking action	page 10
True story of letters	page 11
Search for CALI The Quail	page 12
News Flash — Potential Redwood Parks Transfer	page 14
R I P (Resentment in parks)	page 14
Photos of Workshop	page 15

President's Message

You might as well fall flat on your face as lean over too far backward.
James Thurber

Today we are faced with a funding crisis unmatched in our department's history. These are hard times for everyone. Every person will be affected by the reorganization, either directly or through friends as well as by changes in the operation. Right now, most of us are concerned with whether or not we will be demoted or even have a job with DPR after this summer, so it may be difficult to focus on the underlying reasons for these problems. Yet we must also step back and look at the broader picture. We cannot ignore the fact that we are facing a 23-million-dollar budget deficit.

"Managing decline." This is the role that the legislature would like to see us in, as aptly stated by Joe Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy at the CSPRA conference. If we can maintain a semblance of normalcy in our operations, then no one will be blamed, no fingers will be pointed. This complacent attitude has cost us dearly. The department has taken a series of cuts with no end in sight. Parks are seen as a frill, a source of funds to be taken when needed. We need to change this way of thinking.

We must fight back. We must build a constituency of state park advocates. We need to pull together, as individuals and as groups. We represent a broad network of dedicated state park supporters. We need to communicate, share resources, and give each other support.

We need to develop a stable, long term funding source — SOON. We may be able to secure a loan from OHV to reduce the deficit from 23 million to approximately 10 million. This will mean that the Ranger 1 level and equivalent in the field will be safe- for this year. But indications are that the legislature won't allow us to get by with it again next year. Dan McCorquodale stated in the Senate budget subcommittee hearings, that we can't keep "stealing" from the OHV fund, and that we have to find a more permanent source of funds.

CSPRA is taking action. We have been very active in testifying to the legislature, and in organizing and executing a letter-writing campaign. We have established regular meetings with the Planning and Conservation League, and with other groups as well with as the Director.

The changes we need to ensure a stable base for parks is not going to happen without us working together. And they are not going to happen overnight. But this is the time and the opportunity to take action. Read the enclosed CSPRA "Call for Action." Take the challenge and get your family, friends and acquaintances involved. Write those letters. Take action.

Call For Action (Continued from page 1)

state senator, and a slightly different letter to our local community leaders and media.

Approach

There are two (or more) ways to approach your letter writing: either as a DPR employee, or as a private and concerned citizen. As an employee you may be perceived as having a special interest, i.e., protecting your own job. But your letter can also demonstrate your concern for state parks and for the well-being of your local community. As a private citizen, you represent your local community and what is being lost for all Californians if DPR is forced to continue down the same road of increasing visitor use fees while decreasing services and reducing protection for state park resources.

Use your own words

To help you, CSPRA has provided the information below. However, put your letter in your own words. **It is very important that you address your concerns to the specific responsibilities in the budget approval process of the person to whom you are writing** so he or she can't simply forward your letter to DPR for either a "suggested response" (often done by legislators), or for the director to answer.

But write to the governor and your legislators now. They are deciding on DPR's 92-93 budget at this very moment. Write to the governor first, as he is making the decision on the immediate short-term loans now. Please send a copy of all letters to CSPRA.

Content: Use the information below. Financial solutions are needed, both short and long term. We need to ask for:

Short-term solutions:

1) OHV loan

Final approval of the OHV loan (12.9 million) to DPR.

2) No further cuts — restore past cuts

Don't allow further postponement of capital outlay funding and further reductions in staffing levels because that will only increase the already monumental problems this department faces. The legislature also needs to restore the budget cuts that DPR has had to endure for the past few years.

3) Heritage Lands Act (Bond)

The bond act must be addressed now so it can be on the November ballot. The bond is essential for ensuring that California government is able to continue acquiring and protecting the state's remaining open lands, and developing needed recreational opportunities for its more than 30 million citizens. The bond act also supports the bioregional approach to resource management, discussed in Natural Resource below.

In order for this bond to make the November ballot, it must get through the legislature and the governor. Currently, a disagreement between Speaker of the Assembly Willie Brown and Governor Wilson is holding up action on the bond. The support of both is vital if it is going to have any chance of being on the November ballot.

Cultural and natural resources

Support continued and even increased protection of California's cultural and natural resources (see examples below).

Long-term solutions:

Let the governor and the legislature know that an adequate permanent funding source is needed. We can't continue to borrow each year. (CSPRA and other groups are working on a specific plan, and we will keep you posted and let you know the appropriate times and focus of additional letters that will be needed.)

Your representatives

You can usually get the names of your local representatives from the telephone directory, listed under the Government Pages and California Government Offices, or you may telephone 916-445-4202 or 445-3614 to get the name of your state senator or assembly member, based on your home zip code. Following are some addresses: (All senators and assembly members have the same addresses as their leaders below.)

The Honorable Pete Wilson
Governor of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable David Roberti
Senate President pro Tempore
P.O. Box 942848
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

The Honorable Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Assembly Speaker
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001
(Continued on page 4)

Call For Action (Continued from page 3)

Visit your local legislator

Your local legislator is your best contact. You, as a concerned and professional parks person, carry a certain amount of influence, especially when you go armed with information about how important, economically and "spiritually," state parks are to your legislator's constituents. Remember that state parks are one of the very few tangible benefits that California's taxpayers can actually use for themselves. Legislators need those constituent taxpayers if they hope to be reelected.

Visit your local chamber of commerce, school superintendent and city/county supervisors

Chambers of commerce are primarily interested in improving business success in their communities. State parks are great generators of business. Some communities, such as Petaluma and Sonoma, have actually done marketing research to show how important their local state parks are to the communities' economic well-being. Two-day-a-week closures (or more) will cost local businesses thousands of dollars in lost tourism and local government will lose sales taxes. Ask your chamber presidents and supervisor to contact their legislators about the importance of state parks remaining open, safe, clean and protected. Write editorials for the newspaper.

Specific concerns

The information below is designed to help you formulate arguments about the importance of state parks. But use your own style and knowledge of the parks in your area.

Natural resource preservation

There are numerous programs that may have to be cut or eliminated which could result in severe, long-term environmental problems. State parks represent the last remaining "islands" of many natural resources; and as development continues, the buffers surrounding many of these islands are shrinking, imposing additional pressures on the already tenuous survival of many of California's native animal and plant species.

In addition to continuing our preservation efforts, we must support an active role in management of California's natural resources. Ending such programs as prescription burning could bring about

catastrophic fires that could destroy not only some California's state parks, but local communities as well (look at Oakland). Elimination of active wildlife management programs such as the least tern program at Bolsa Chica could severely hinder the species' ability to survive. Stream restoration projects could ease pressures on the already critical state of California's salmon and steelhead fisheries. Removing active protection programs such as those at Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve could result in irreparable damage to the tufas.

Support bio-regionalism

There is significant need for continuing the current work on a bio-regional approach to resource management, and for recognition and protection of those resources across multi-jurisdictional lines. The bio-regional approach moves beyond the existing resource management efforts that tend to focus on conservation of individual sites, species and resources. A growing body of research shows that there is only one way for our ecological systems to retain their vital role in maintaining California's social and economic vitality and viability. This involves emphasizing regional approaches and solutions to our resource programs, rather than the "island" approach of the past and present.

Cultural resource preservation

Thousands of school children (and their teachers) depend on state historic parks to gain first-hand experience in the early history of California. Funding cuts will also reduce or eliminate needed historic research, preservation and restoration of California's cultural resources. Once an important cultural or historical resource is allowed to be destroyed, whether by not addressing critical maintenance and upkeep, or by impact from development of a surrounding area, that important link to our past is gone.

Educational Programs

Our children are the future of California. Funding cuts could severely reduce the numbers of school children who receive interpretive/educational walks, tours, and talks, both in their schools and in state parks. Also Environmental Living Programs, affecting the experiences of thousands of school children, could be impacted in those parks where they are conducted. Use the attendance numbers of school children who use the state parks in your area (free) each year to reinforce to your legislators, school officials and

(Continued on page 5)

Call For Action

(Continued from page 4)

chambers of commerce the importance of state parks to local communities.

Local Economies

It is often the smaller rural communities that are hardest hit by economic downturns such as the one that California is currently experiencing. And it is smaller rural communities where most of our 275 state park units are located. Thousands of visitors to those state parks provide millions of dollars to nearby rural towns, creating jobs and economic security. Closure of parks, even for two days each week, can create significant stress on local businesses dependent upon park visitors purchasing gasoline, food and services. Tourism is the third largest industry in California creating 53 million dollars a year. State parks are a vital part of the state's tourism image and a primary destination for many travelers. Cutbacks in parks will impact tourism.

State Park Capital Outlay

State Parks must continue meeting the needs of a growing California population and its demands for additional recreational opportunities. To accomplish this, DPR must construct additional park facilities, repair and improve the old facilities, and continue special resource and cultural management programs. All but one capital outlay programs were eliminated from the current budget. Further postponement of these programs will result in cancellation of projects vital to management of natural and cultural resources and will delay capital improvement projects that could help stimulate the state's stressed economy, especially in some of California's hardest hit rural areas.

Just Do It!

It is time that we do our part to turn the tide

It is going to take a determined grass-roots effort by everyone. This includes employees, your friends, your families, and your local communities and business and government leaders. This action is needed if parks are going to remain viable, and if DPR is to continue its role as a leader among the state park systems in this country. We deserve the best, and California deserves the best, forever.

The important thing is to act now
Start writing those letters today.

You Can Make A Difference

Appeal From The President: Submitting Agenda Items To The Board

To make sure that the CSPRA board meetings run as smoothly as possible and that we have time to address all the concerns, I am asking that the following procedure be followed:

Anyone who wishes to submit an agenda item for a board meeting must submit the request in writing to a Board member at least 10 days in advance of the board meeting. Please include background information and the suggested action to be taken. Please send a copy to Doug Bryce, Executive Manager. It is best to discuss the issues with a board member before the meeting, to ensure that we have the information necessary to take action.

We will consider emergency actions under special circumstances.

The board meeting dates are posted in the newsletter.

The board is here to serve the membership. Please bring us items of concern. Also remember, everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend board meetings.

Thank you!
Nina Gordon, President



Photo Caption: Mike and Peggy Whitehead at banquet. Mike displays a badge he purchased at the badge swap.

OHV Loan Requested For DPR

The following is a portion of the testimony provided by CSPRA to the Senate finance subcommittee to support the critical transfer of Off Highway Vehicle Funds to the Department.

For the past several years, the Legislature, attempting to find answers to the growing fiscal problems that California is facing, has forced the Department of Parks and Recreation to meet its budget needs by collecting additional millions of dollars in state park use-fees.

The State Park System was never designed nor envisioned as a revenue generating arm of state government. The State Park System was founded to protect California's irreplaceable natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources for future generations of Californians.

The only way that the Legislature can ensure that the Department is able to meet its long-term goals, and its responsibilities to the citizens of California, is to provide a permanent funding source — a funding source not dependent upon increased user-fees.

It should not cost someone \$6 to walk along a beach for 30 minutes. It should not cost a family \$20 per night to enjoy a camping vacation in one of their state parks. We must not deny the millions of school children who come to state parks each year to learn about California's diverse history or the natural wonders that surround them access to state parks simply because we cannot afford to keep them open. State parks are one of the few rewards that your hardworking, tax-paying constituents can actually take advantage of, that families can pass on to future generations, that we can look upon proudly as a demonstration of our leadership in our country's preservation efforts.

In the short term, we feel strongly that the Legislature should provide an immediate transfer of funds to the Department to prevent the collapse of the California State Park System. The most recent budget reductions have resulted in a rapidly deteriorating infrastructure, the loss of irreplaceable cultural resources, and the deterioration of ecosystems essential to the survival of many threatened species of flora and fauna.

We understand that the Department must undergo reductions as its part in helping California meet its current budget crisis. However, these reductions should not be based on unrealistic revenue projections imposed by the legislature.

If the Department must meet the current deficit that is a direct result of not meeting unrealistic revenue projections, then CSPRA supports the transfer of unallocated OHV funds to the State Park

----- **SAVE BODIE!** (Continued from page 1)

Hispanic former mine workers belatedly organizing to fight the molybdenum mine that poisoned the air, land, and water all around their New Mexico homes; college students and retired people; longtime activists and novices. Speakers included a geologist, a mining consultant, a biologist, and several lawyers. Mineral Policy Center staff from Washington, DC and Durango were the organizers.

Galactic's catastrophic mine at Summitville, in southern Colorado, was a frequently cited example during the conference of a mine that should never have been allowed to go into operation. When I showed slides of Bodie and told the group that the same mining company was at work there, I felt sincere sympathy and support. It was also helpful to speak with people who have been successful with congressional legislation. It was depressing to commiserate with others who have had the kinds of problems we have had with the various governmental agencies that you would hope to be able to count on. We also heard there are encouraging signs that the time is finally here for the obsolete 1872 Mining Law to be reformed — something we all need to support by writing our members of congress. Do it while you write to them about the Bodie Protection Act of 1992! Please write those letters today: U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515; U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.



Photo caption:
President Getty
presents Certificate of
Appreciation to out-
going Director Rick
LeFlore.

Conference For Professionals (Continued from page 1)

and Associate Resource Ecologist Gary Waldron were instrumental in the planning and development of the resource management sessions and the main panel discussion "Park Boundaries and Beyond." In addition they assisted in obtaining the speakers for several of the sessions. Mark also co-presented the sessions on "The Recognition of Cultural Resources" and "Field Involvement in Resource Management." Bob Donohue, a park ranger from the City of Chico, obtained the speakers for the sessions on toxic waste, trails and recycling.

Executive Manager Doug Bryce's guidance and work were invaluable to the success of the conference. Doug never receives enough recognition for all of the work he performs over and beyond what is required of his position for CSPRA and PRAC. Without him we would have been in a real fix.

A hearty thank you is due to each of these dedicated professionals!

The conference appeared to be a big hit with several of the participants. A ranger from a small city in southern California told several people that attending the conference had changed his life. After working for a year or so as a ranger he was seriously considering going to work as a police officer. But the conference had inspired him to dedicate his life to being a ranger. Another person who has been a ranger for one of the sessions and told me that he hadn't learned anything new, but the session had inspired him to push himself and the system towards being better resource managers. A superintendent told me after the conference that he really needed the conference to get his mind off the dreariness of our financial situation and back into the heart of our profession.

A goal of every conference should be to educate, motivate and renew our vigor for our vocation. Apparently we were successful in this regard for at least a few of our members. We'll probably need the conference more than ever next year. If you believe in your profession and the need to work together for common goals, we can use your help in planning our next conference. Contact Doug Bryce at (916) 383-2530. We hope to see you in 1993 in Santa Clara!

Highlights Of The 1992 CSPRA/PRAC/ SPPOAC Workshop

The highlight and low point (because of the subject matter) of this year's workshop was the presentation by Director Don Murphy on the recommendations of the Phoenix Committee. The DPR employees at the conference had two hours of presentation and answering of questions by Murphy. In addition he was around for the rest of the day and evening attending the luncheon, conference sessions and the banquet.

Catherine Metz's session on Lay-offs, S.R.O.A., Bumps and Reinstatement was well attended and eagerly participated in.

The bar-b-que picnic/beach party at Huntington Beach State Park was a lot of fun and the weather was cooperative. The bar-b-que was great. Thanks to Jack Roggenbuck for planning and arranging this great event.

Tyler Conrad, Jody Borchardt and John Kelso-Shelton planned the Resource Management, Interpretation and Operations Tracks. Altogether there were 35 sessions with 50 presenters providing a great selection of educational opportunities.

The banquet was ably emceed by Mike Lynch, a past vice-president of CSPRA and past president of SPPOAC. The highlight of the evening for CSPRA members was the presentation of the Past President's plaque to Bud Getty by Past President Don Murphy and the subsequent passing of the gavel to Nina Gordon by Getty.

The featured speakers at the workshop were Joe Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and Jeff DeBonis, founder and Executive Director of the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics. Both speakers were very good, and thanks goes to Ron Schafer for arranging for the speakers.

Other members of the workshop committee were Christopher George and Rick Horn of PRAC, Juvie Ortiz of SPPOAC and Tory Long, Dan Preece, Stephanie Price, and Randy Sederquist of CSPRA. **Thanks to all!**

Highlights of the GEC and the board meeting will be in the next newsletter.

DPR Duo Take Medals At Winter Games

by John Kolsrud

Two central coast rangers were the lone DPR racers in the 1992 International Police Winter Games. Rangers Bob Leiterman (Big Sur) and John Kolsrud (Pajaro Coast) grabbed a handful of medals at the Kirkwood Nordic courses.

Leiterman, racing in the first heat on March 1, used his quickness and endurance to take the Silver medal in the 4km Biathlon. Kolsrud, racing in the slushy second heat, shot well and cruised to a 5th place medal in the large Master "A" field. An hour later Leiterman took a Gold in the 5km. Kolsrud strode to a 4th place finish in the afternoon event.



Photo Caption: John Kolsrud on the home-stretch of the Nordic 10 km.

During day #3 of the competition, Leiterman posted a 32:20 in the 10km giving him second overall and the Vets division Gold! Kolsrud used a diagonal stride against a racing field of skaters but still turned in a 4th place in the 10km.

Having to drive 35 miles, change into Alpine gear, then hike 330 yards straight up Heavenly Valley's Gunbarrel mogul field, Kolsrud wobbled to the G.S. start. Cutting a strong second run, he took 6th in the Giant Slalom.

Competing in his 4th consecutive International, Kolsrud found the Masters (Continued on page 11)

Letter To DPR Director Donald W. Murphy from Garlan Salzgeber, Supervisory Ranger Pismo Dunes SVRA

Dear Director Murphy,

I am pleased to see you become Director of DPR. You have already shown many positive signs of forcing our department to evolve into a more effective future. I am very much in favor of the team approach and plan on being a willing participant. I am also sure you share my feelings that it is unfortunate for you to gain this position during these trying times.

I would like to preface my following comments with the statement that I am a very high seniority Ranger II and am not concerned about myself.

I made a personal choice to not participate in promoting to middle management because I didn't want to dedicate my life to DPR when I was off duty. I feel this is one of the prices employees have to accept when they promote to higher levels.

However, I consider myself to be a DPR professional and am concerned about DPR's future, particularly the elimination of middle management positions.

My concern is that under the current program of eliminating most middle management positions, there is going to be a long term stigma that prevents employees who are willing to pay the price of being dedicated to promote to higher levels in the department. This will be particularly true if we establish historical departmental precedent of selling out the most dedicated professional middle managers. Who would want to promote under these terms?

I am not asking to keep the middle management levels. I agree that these levels should be eliminated. We have to be more cost effective.

I am asking that DPR be more sensitive to the fact that we are tossing out many years of dedication from dedicated employees with no acknowledgement to those years of dedication. I feel this sensitivity could be illustrated by better (Continued on page 9)

Salzgeber Letter (Continued from page 7)

acknowledgement to our middle managers and other employees that there is a price to pay for our department to evolve with the times and unfortunately the price to pay is middle managers current positions, security or even employment.

Furthermore, the department needs to let all departmental employees, and particularly, the displaced middle management employees, know that the department is doing everything possible to place these valuable employees in other comparable state service jobs with the least possible job disruption and relocation requirements. (Why should the displaced employees be held for this responsibility? It's not their fault that we have a budget deficit or that the department is evolving. Managers filling out SROA requests is not good enough!)

As my favorite Superintendent Jim Whitehead, frequently said, "We are park people. We are family!" **We have to take care of our family!**

If we can't do this I do not feel there is any way for the "team concept" to work. We will not be a "team" (family); we will be fractured! Future prospective departmental managers will have to live with the thought that DPR doesn't care about anybody and will sell them out at the drop of a hat! All DPR employees need to know that there is **solid support** for their managers now and in the future to attract top aspiring managers in the future!

Otherwise, how can DPR employees ever want to promote where there is a history of middle management being sold out and left in the **cold**?

Letter To Douglas Wheeler,
Secretary, Resources
Agency
From California Park
Service Supervisors For
Workforce Diversity
Edward F. Navarro

As a service to our members, CSPRA provides information regarding other employee groups

Dear Secretary Wheeler:

On April 1, 1992 a group of Department

career employees representing all levels of supervision met with Director Don Murphy to express our serious concern with the Department's proposed reorganization plan. We understand the plan was conceived as a blueprint to meet the fiscal challenges of a shrinking budget, but the plan adversely impacts all ethnic minority, disabled and female employees in all levels of our organization. More simply put, once implemented, you will be able to count the number of all minority and female supervisors in field positions on one hand.

Director Murphy reassures us that he is committed to preserving parks while delivering the highest level of public service. It is assumed by most observers that you too share these values. If this is true, how do you expect to serve and receive support from the growing ethnic minority population of this state — Hispanic-Latino, Pacific Islanders, Asian, African-American, Filipino and Native American park constituents — when the park service will be managed for the next decade by a predominantly white male organization? Is the park service willing to cast aside over twenty years of progress and commitment towards workforce diversity?

In the years to come, our Department will continue to struggle for general fund relief. We will need to develop partnerships with other conservation agencies, non-profit organizations and private sector businesses in order to survive. The face of California's population is changing. Would it not be in the Department's best interest to serve its visitors with a workforce capable of recognizing visitor needs?

Cultural diversity must be looked upon as more than just a metaphor for social change. Cultural diversity, as with workforce diversity must be cultivated to ensure a balanced success in meeting the needs of the people of California. Aside from having invested our individual careers at achieving excellence in our respective programs, we believe that we hold the key to success in the future of this organization as it prepares to embrace the challenges of its uncertain future.

You have the authority to shape our Department and to ensure its success. We urge that you use your discretion in preserving the status quo for ethnic minority, disabled and female employees at all supervisory levels of this Department. (Continued on page 10)

Send in your thoughts on the financial crisis and the planned reorganization. We'll be glad to print your thoughts as space permits.

Articles printed do not necessarily reflect CSPRA's position or thoughts on these issues.

Letter To Douglas Wheeler (Continued from page 9)

With your support, you can strongly demonstrate to the legislative, educational, and professional communities that you are committed to doing what is right, by preserving diverse workforce integrity and by leading us into the future with a program to succeed.

We eagerly await your timely response and look forward to meeting with you to discuss alternative options for achieving your budget deadline.

Respectfully,

Felix L. Arteaga DS III
Edward Navarro DS III
Rich Rojas DS I
Don Ito Supt III

Members of group include:

Jack Shu, DS III
Margaret Gabil DS III
Carol Nelson DS III
Susan Ross DS II
Vic Maris Supt II
Suzanne Anderson DS II
Ken Wilbur DS I
Janelle Miller Supt I
Kathleen Franklin DS I
Victoria Long Rgr IV
Ray Monge Rgr III
Ray Torres Rgr II
Rick Le Flore Rgr II
Fred Jee, Rgr II
Manny Bergado, Rgr II
Joe Martinez, PMC I
Mike Coronado, PMC I
Rita Fong, RA I
Camille Wood, RA I
Jeanne Van Til, RA I
Paula McDonald, RA I
Odell King, Sr P&R Spec

The Whitehead Audobon Scholarship is being reviewed to determine at what level it should be supported and how we can get money to continue it indefinitely.

More Thoughts On Taking Action....

by Ken McKowen

Problem Identification: Logically, identifying a problem is the first and most critical step of the process. If the "problem" is too localized, or if it relates to relatively few of California's 30 million citizens (unless it's a well-monied special interest), it is not a problem, at least not in the sense that the legislature is going to spend any time trying to solve it.

Agenda Building: There must be a reason (our identified budget-related problems) for introducing legislation or for changing policies or priorities. In DPR's case, parks are being closed, programs cut, maintenance deferred, and resource

protection programs reduced or eliminated. Considering the state of the economy, there will be little sympathy because state employees may be losing their jobs—so are thousands of other people—however, those lost jobs and closed parks mean lost dollars to local communities. What we must do is garner general support for our budget needs, or in other words, build our constituency. The problem(s) identified must affect many people, preferably people of some power and influence. City councils, county supervisors, visitor bureaus, and local businesses will be extremely concerned if a drop in visitation occurs because of closures or if complete DPR offices are moved or closed, thus eliminating jobs from their communities. Other organizations such as the Sierra Club, PCL, PRAC, etc., must also support our efforts. Something occasionally referred to as a "golden bullet" can lend the needed edge throughout the entire process—a person of influence who possesses direct and personal access to those in power. We must also gather support from major metropolitan newspaper editors and television and radio commentators.

Timing is another vital element of agenda building. If the environment or outdoor recreation were not of great concern right now, there would be no opportunity to change DPR's budget plight. For example, as much as it was needed, significant environmental protection laws were not introduced and could not have been passed during the 1950s. Those in power (economic or otherwise) would have seen such actions as detrimental to the economy, or more specifically, to their interests. Nearly two more decades passed before "windows of opportunity" opened and grass roots activists and environmental organizations became powerful enough to successfully forge such protective measures as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968); the Clean Water Act of 1972 (amended in 1987); and the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, among many others.

Fortunately, there currently exists that window of opportunity, a great and growing concern for our environment. Daily pressures build for a reluctant government to take the lead role in protecting California's resources. The state's many culturally diverse communities are also applying pressure to protect California's historical and cultural resources. And State Parks is the lead organization in this area. Our job is to convince everyone else of this fact.

The True Story of Letters...

Ever wonder what happens to all those letters you send out to public officials complaining about budget cuts, park closures, and job eliminations? Well, chances are excellent that Governor Wilson will never see them, Secretary Wheeler will never see them, and Director Murphy may see some of them. Wilson and Wheeler very seldom see anything, even personalized letters addressed to them (unless the letters come from people they already know and approve of, generally those with money or power). All "general population letters" to the governor are intercepted by a team of letter interceptors that simply diverts them to the appropriate agency, whose intercept team diverts them to the appropriate department, whose intercept team (usually an office tech) diverts them to the appropriate office to be answered by some staff member for the Director's signature. It should be fairly obvious though, that no one person in a position of leadership could personally answer all the correspondence addressed to him or her. That's why the rest of us have jobs.

Depending upon how your letter is written, more specifically, what questions are asked and how they are phrased, a similar intercept procedure is often true with many letters sent to your own legislators. Although in this case, the appropriate department often prepares a suggested reply for the requesting legislator, from which his or her staff creates a constituent response letter for the legislator's signature. BUT, at least the legislator is aware of his or her constituents' concerns, and more importantly, is in a position to do something about those concerns. To increase your chances of a response directly from a legislator (or her/his staff), direct your questions or comments to that which the legislator can control. A vote on a certain issue, support for some cause, etc. To make a generalized comment or to state a question such as, "Why are state parks being closed?" will almost guarantee that the legislator's basic response will come from DPR's public relations office, using bureaucratic gobbledygook boilerplate language acceptable to those in power. This is especially true if dozens of letters are coming in about similar subjects for which no real decision has yet to be made.

The best way to get the governor's atten-

tion with a letter? Get it published in the "Letters to the Editor" sections of major newspapers in California's larger cities. Better yet, approach the newspapers' Op-Ed editors about either: (1) you writing an opinion piece (generally for weekend editions) or (2) getting them interested enough to do an editorial, hopefully for your side. And a bonus, if your piece gets published, especially as an opinion-editorial, then legislators are more likely to support you. Good press for them means more votes come election time.

Happy writing.

DPR Duo At Winter Games (Continued from page 8)

"B" alpine group again to be very strong. Kolsrud took a 7th in the Slalom followed by a wipe-out on the treacherous Super-G course. Last years Nordic-Alpine Combined Gold medalist received a couple of bruises from the courses but did ski the courses the Austrians and other top racers used.

The new Day-Glo green ski team jackets made it easy for fellow racers to spot the DPR dynamic duo.

Anyone interested in competing in nordic-alpine events next winter can write to either racer for information.



Photo caption: CSPRA President Nina Gordon presents Wayne Guthrie, III with Certificate of Appreciation.

CSPRA Scholarship Fund

Have you ever wondered what your dues to the California State Park Rangers Association can give you? Communication with your fellow park professionals and an annual conference bringing together other park people and experts in various fields of ecology and environmental education. Another benefit often missed is the CSPRA scholarship fund.

This scholarship fund is designed to augment or in many cases provide the funding necessary to obtain training that benefits the applicant in his or her park career.

Currently our department's budgetary woes have eliminated or drastically reduced the amount and type of training available to its employees. The CSPRA scholarship attempts to reduce the impact of that lack of funding in order to benefit the employee and to benefit the Park System by encouraging better trained and motivated staff.

The CSPRA scholarship program provides any member of CSPRA with up to \$200.00 per year for the training of their choice. Criteria for receiving scholarship funds are rather broad. For example: will the training be a direct benefit to the employee? Will the training be a benefit to the department? Will the training be a benefit to the applicant's career? Tough criteria? No. CSPRA's goal is to ensure that its members get as much support in improving skills, knowledge or viewpoints as possible with the final objective a **skilled and knowledgeable park professional.**

Are there limitations to this program? Yes. The current funding level of CSPRA only allows for a maximum of \$200.00 per member per fiscal year. Beyond that level of funding, the applicant must ask the Board of Directors for further financial assistance. Each recipient receives only half of their scholarship immediately upon approval and the balance after an article has been written and sent to the editor of the *Newsletter*. The article must be 200 - 750 words in length. The article should bring out those points of the training that best benefits the membership. In this way all CSPRA members will gain from the training!

How does one get a scholarship? Write your request in letter form or on a

printed scholarship application (see page 13). Include any brochures or pertinent information about the training requested. Send a copy of your DPR 392 — Training Request showing that you have attempted to get departmental funding for the training. Don't be discouraged if the department turns you down or only partially funds your training. CSPRA's goal is to see that if at all possible, you, a CSPRA member, get the training you need.



We Need CALI The Quail For The 125th Collection

Yes we need CALI to go into the 125th Ranger Anniversary Collection. Do you know where any of the CALIs are located?

Although CALI's time has passed for now, she/he will undoubtedly supply some entertainment for the 150th Ranger Anniversary. If you have one or know where a CALI is stored, please contact Mike Lynch at (W) 916 885-4522 or (H) 916 885-9420 or at Auburn SRA, P.O. Box 3266, Auburn, CA 95604. Don't let this part of history be lost!

Scholarship Request Form

Instructions: Please send completed form to Frederick Jee, Education and Training Committee, in sufficient time to receive your grant prior to training.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

CSPRA member? _____ (Scholarships are provided to members only.)

Description of Training _____

How will it benefit your job, career or profession? _____

Tuition \$ _____ Materials \$ _____ Travel \$ _____

Lodging \$ _____ Total Requested \$ _____

How much will the Department or others pay? \$ _____

Please attach a copy of your returned DPR 392 and a course announcement. Send to:

Frederick Jee
Education and Training Committee
P O Box 483
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

News Flash Potential Redwood Parks Transfer !

The controversy over transferring state parks containing redwoods in northwest California to the National Park Service has again flared up. The controversy centers around the expansion of Redwood National Park to include three state parks, Jedediah Smith, Prairie Creek and Del Norte. Existing federal legislation regarding Redwood National Park does contain language allowing for expansion.

This disturbing news just came to our attention, and we are investigating it with top priority. Rumor has it that the main instigators of this latest upheaval are Steve Lau and John Amodio, who is Deputy Directory, Environment in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. Mr. Lau lobbied Congress in 1977 for the expansion of Redwood National Park. In a letter to Director Murphy with a copy to the Resources Agency, NPS and others, Steve Lau writes regarding protecting the redwoods, "Compared to the federal government, the state appears poorly equipped to do this." The implications of such an insinuation are very disturbing.

Rumor also has it that William Penn Mott Jr. has proposed a transfer of Prairie Creek Redwoods. Apparently, the local chapter of the Sierra Club is in favor of the transfer.

CSPRA unequivocally opposes the transfer of management and/or title of any of the redwood state parks to the National Park Service. These are some of the jewels of the State Park System. We certainly have the staff and resources to continue to protect, preserve and interpret these beautiful areas. CSPRA is currently contacting the governor, director, park commission, Save-the-Redwoods League and other groups.

Stay tuned. We will keep you posted.

Photo caption: Past President, Don Murphy, presents Past President's plaque to Bud Getty.

R. I. P. (Resentment In Parks)

Sometime between 10:00 am and 12 noon on March 16, 1992 there was a tragic passing.

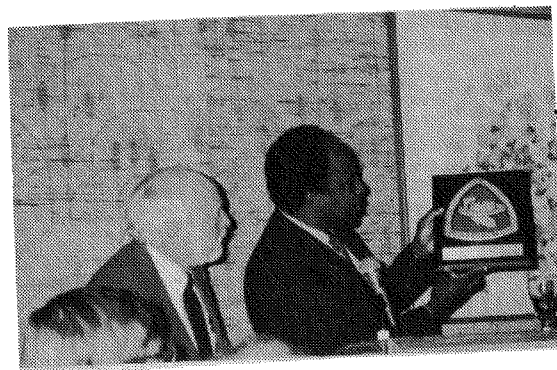
On that date and time the Park Family died. The loss was evident in the shocked silence and pained faces of the dedicated employees who attended the wake presided over by Director Murphy. Granted, the news was not totally unexpected. The fiscal ailments were too much for the family. Some say that it was the cure, not the ailment that did her in — but it hurt never-the-less.

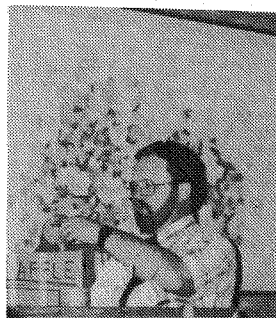
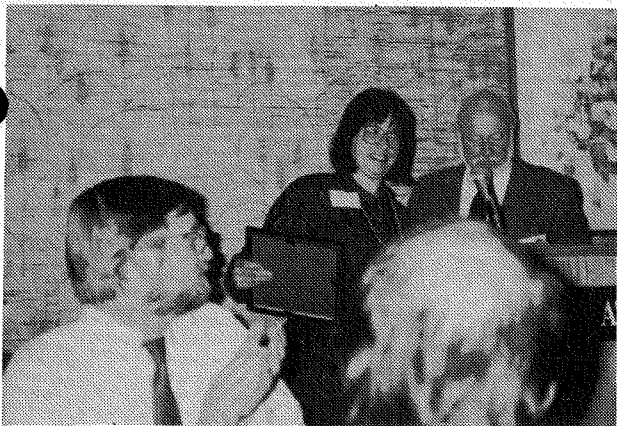
The greiving continues throughout the Department of Parks and Recreation. We have all seen, heard, and felt the overwhelming sense of helplessness. Hopefully the shock, anger, resentment and betrayal many of us feel will subside with time. Deep down each of us who may remain with DPR knows it will never be the same. We have changed, the trust is gone, no matter the platitudes of "opportunities for change," "efficiencies," "downsizing," "dedication" and "service."

Lost with the Park Family were our careers. Oh yes, those of us remaining have a job. Just a job. A job that will put food on the table but not fill the soul of commitment.

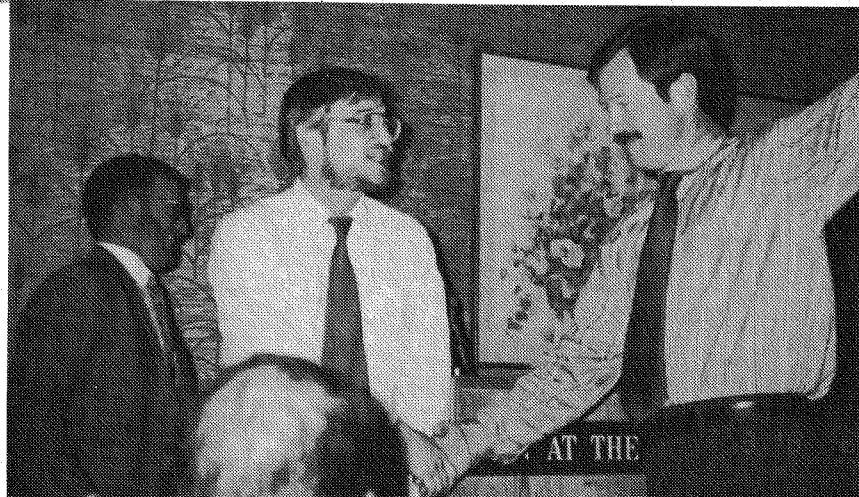
Optimists will say that DPR will resurrect as the mythical Phoenix. Unfortunately, all too many feel rising from the ashes is not the Phoenix — but a roasted turkey.

R. I. P.





Scenes from
CSPRA/PRAC/
SPPOAC
workshop in
Anaheim.



**The California State Park
Rangers Association
A professional association.**

Office Manager & Newsletter Editor

Doug Bryce
P. O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010
(916) 383-2530
FAX (916) 387-1179

President

Nina Gordon
Assoc Park & Rec Spec, OHV Division
(916) 653-4976

Vice President

Wayne Harrison
Assoc State Park Resource Ecologist
Calaveras Big Trees State Park
(209) 795-2334

Treasurer

Kate Foley
Lake Oroville, Chief Ranger
(916) 538-2208

Directors

Ron Schafer
Chino Hills District Superintendent
(714) 780-6222

Calendar

Board Meeting
Calaveras Big
Trees State Park
5/30-31

1993 Workshop
Santa Clara
3/4-7/93

(Directors Continued)

John Knott
State Park Superintendent
State Capitol Museum
(916) 324-0312

Tyler Conrad
Ranger I
Tule Elk Reserve
(805) 765-5004

CAL RANGER Editor

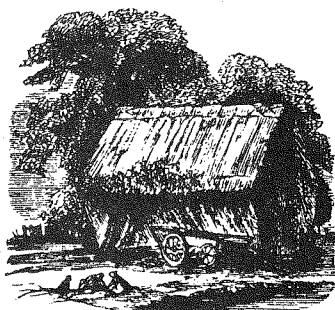
David Brooks

SAVE BODIE! and all other
committees use CSPRA address.

**For additional information on the ass-
ciation, write the Executive Manager.**

The *NEWSLETTER* (ISSN 0887-9176) is
published by CSPRA, P.O. Box
292010, Sacramento, CA 95829. The
NEWSLETTER'S Editor is Doug Bryce;
contributing editors and authors are as
noted. Articles are welcome, 1000 words
or less. All submissions become the prop-
erty of CSPRA and may be edited without
notice. The deadline for articles is the
15th of the month prior to publication.

April-May



1992

**california state park rangers association
P. O. Box 292010
Sacramento, CA 95829-2010**

To:

Stacy Edge



Recycled & Recyclable