

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 37

March 1992

The Dismantling of the California State Park System Must Be Prevented!

It's Time For Its Guardians to Stand Up and Fight!

by Tyler Conrad,
State Park Ranger I

The Tule Elk SR, Mono Lake Tufa SR, and Candlestick State Recreation Area are among twelve units of the California State Park system that are being considered for transfer to other entities. Eighty-eight other units out of 277 in the System are being considered for closure or a reduced level of service. This is all part of the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) efforts to meet a 17% (\$30.2 million) budget reduction in this fiscal year and a 33% reduction in the following year, imposed by Governor Wilson to help alleviate the State's budget deficit. Yet the DPR budget is less than 1/2 of one percent of the State's total budget. The State Park System should not have to bear a disproportionate share of the state's fiscal burden. Are the minimal savings worth the destruction of the State Park System? No!

The majority of our budget comes from the General Fund, which has been growing smaller because of decreased tax collections during the recession. The Legislature's fiscal (Continued on page 3)

Congressional Action to Protect Bodie

by Donna Pozzi

On March 3, Congressman Richard Lehman (D-Fresno) introduced HR 4370, the Bodie Protection Act of 1992, a critical step in the struggle to save Bodie. Your help is needed **now** to ensure the bill's passage. The bill would protect federal lands in the Bodie Bowl from mineral activity, subject to valid existing rights. New mineral claims could not be filed under the Mining Law of 1872 on approximately 6,000 acres of public land. It is important to note that this bill **does not** invalidate any existing property rights. (continued on page 4)

The Military in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

That the military had used and abused the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park was no secret to those of you who had worked there. Artifacts, such as the Rake Stations at Clark's Dry Lake, were too prominent to be ignored. Worse, unexploded munitions were ever present.

Seeking a coherent, authoritative account of which Service left debris, what units were involved, what their training regimen was, (Continued on page 5)

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Redwoods receives
20 acres from SRL
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Repatriation —
Another View
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President's Message

The cuts are deep! And the decisions that will affect so many of us will be forthcoming very soon, probably before you have a chance to read this column.

When a lot of people are worrying about being transferred, demoted, or laid off, others are maneuvering to get promotions.

Obscene!

Unfortunately, we are already hearing dissension. Individuals and groups are threatening to place themselves in threatening postures in order to protect their own special interests. Hey, it's time to realize that we are probably all going to get hurt. If we all battle to save our positions, things are going to get even more chaotic. Self preservation is natural, but how about working to preserve the system? The Phoenix Bird needs to look straight ahead, and not look down to scratch and peck at its droppings. And we need to help. When a lot of people are worrying about being transferred, demoted, or laid off, others are maneuvering to get promotions. Obscene!

I went to bed one night last week thinking about the \$22 million deficit that the department was assigned. When I woke up the next morning, the department was in the hole \$25 million. What did you all do — stay up all night and order PineSol and T. P.?

Don Murphy has done more in the two months he has been in office than was done in the previous several years of the old administration. Contacts have been made with the Legislature. A number of legislators have already expressed concern to CSPRA and have asked for meeting to discuss this topic. Legislators, state officials, and private sector representatives have had several meetings as a Blue Ribbon Committee to work on long range strategies for finding reliable funding sources for the Department.

The Director has also met with the responsible leaders of the off-highway vehicle community and talked honestly with them and enlisted their cooperation during this time of crisis.

So come to Anaheim, and hear from the Director and Phoenixers about the future of the Department.

Editor's note: This is Bud's last message as president of CSPRA, but I'm certain that we will continue to hear from him on important issues. Thank you, Bud, for serving us well and for being such an excellent spokesman.

Dismantling the SPS (Continued from page 1)

Analyst reported on February 26th that the State income tax collections in January fell nearly \$300 million below the already reduced estimate made by Governor Wilson in early January. As a consequence, will Governor Wilson give the Department additional budget cuts? Probably.

William Penn Mott Jr., former Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and Chief of the National Park Service under Ronald Reagan, lamented in January that, "We're going to destroy the system if they cut the park budget as heavily as they're doing." Unless we're able to obtain legislation that gives the Department permanent funding, the System will be in deep trouble. It doesn't look good in Sacramento for such a feat. According to political insiders, this session of the Legislature is expected to produce very little of any value. The situation does indeed look bleak. Should we shrug our shoulders and say, "Oh, well"? Of course not!

The Tule Elk State Reserve is one of the State Park units that is being considered for possible transfer or closure. Does it deserve this status? No! The Reserve was an essential element of the very first wildlife conservation efforts in California and in the comeback of the Tule Elk from near extinction. As many as 500,000 of the endemic Tule Elk may have roamed the Great Central Valley of California before colonization. By 1874 only two of the Tule Elk were thought to be left in the world. Part of the original habitat of the Tule Elk and the site of their last stand, the Reserve was used to re-establish wild herds throughout the State. Today there are 2,500 Tule Elk in 22 different herd locations in California. This success story is comparable to the comeback of the American Bison from near extinction in the 1890s. We should be proud that the Department of Parks and Recreation played an important role in one of the few major wildlife management success stories in North America.

Today the Reserve provides habitat for five threatened and endangered species, six candidates for endangered species listing, sixteen Species of Special Concern, and three rare plant communities. The Reserve lies within the Southern San Joaquin Valley, which contains the highest concentration of endangered and threatened species of anywhere

in the continental United States. The Reserve is one of the few units that occurs in the Great Valley Landscape Province which has been targeted by the Department as under-represented in the State Park system. Important archaeological sites of the Yokut Indians and a historic adobe caretaker's cottage constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the great depression, are protected within the Reserve. A public viewing area, a small visitor center, guided walks and school group tours provide visitor education and enjoyment.

The Reserve was created to help protect a rare animal species. Today it protects even more. We have followed the Mission of the State Park System by providing for recreational opportunities. The Public Resources Code states that within reserves "Improvements undertaken shall be for the purpose of making the areas available, on a day use basis, for public enjoyment and education in a manner consistent with the preservation of their natural features." Today the Reserve is being considered for transfer or closure because it doesn't bring in enough revenue. Yet the Reserve wasn't created to be a recreation area or a revenue generator. We are prohibited from developing camping and recreation areas within the Reserve in order to protect these resources. Shall we close the parks and reserves that don't raise enough revenue or shall we change the Public Resources Code so that they can be developed at the expense of the resources they were created to protect in perpetuity? No!

Should the Tule Elk and Mono Lake Tufa State Reserves be transferred to other agencies? No! As tax payers we pay the bill no matter who operates the reserves. Let's face it, the only reason for transferring the reserves is to save money. A transfer or a closure sets an unwanted precedent; if the Tule Elk Reserve goes, it will be easier for Mono Lake and the Redwood Parks to follow. Which park unit will be next? Californians have worked together over the last century to create one of the finest park systems in the world. Is it to be dismantled piece by piece? Not without a fight!

We just celebrated the State Park Rangers 125th Anniversary. All of us in the State Park System are a part of one of the most respected of professions in the world, that of being the guardians of the parks. The California State Park System, that which is our duty to care for, is in

"We're going to destroy the system if they cut the park budget as heavily as they're doing."

William Penn Mott, Jr.

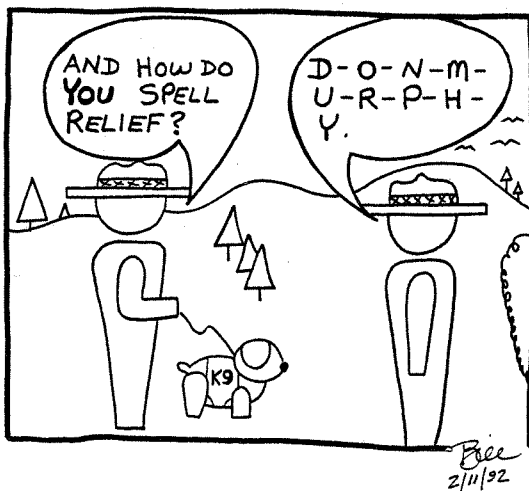
(Continued on page 4)

Dismantling the SPS (Continued from page 3)

jeopardy. It is time for us, the Guardians of the Parks, to stand up and be tested once again. Are we, you and I, really worthy of the status "Guardian"? Prove it; join the fight today!

DPR will be submitting its budget reduction plan to the legislature in March. Call or write your Legislator today!! (Each letter is considered to be representative of 200 people.) Inform them that the people of California need legislation that will provide permanent funding for the State Park System so that it can be operated without the need for transfers or closures! Remind your fellow employees, visitors, friends and family that the California State Park System belongs to them and their children. It is their heritage! Ask them to call or write their legislator today. As a profession we need to stand together and fight. Ask your association and your union what else you can do to help. Give them your ideas. Remember . . . the California State Park . . . forever!!!

RANGER LOGO



Bodie

(Continued from page 1)

It **does** provide a long-term solution to the problem of how to protect Bodie's unique recreational, cultural, and natural values from threats posed by modern mining.

HR 4370 would do the following:

- There will be an expedited validity check of all recorded claims; invalid claims would be voided.

- Patenting of federal land would be prohibited unless it meets "grandfathering" requirements.

- Any mining on valid claims would proceed only if it does not cause any adverse effect on the area's resources and values. The Secretary of the Interior would consult with California's Governor before approving any mining activity plan within the Bodie Bowl.

- Restoration of effects of recent mining exploration within Bodie Bowl would be required.

Here's how to help: Write! Write! Write!

Your own Member of Congress. Urge them to actively support HR 4370. Describe why Bodie is special to you: ghost town atmosphere; wilderness setting; rich cultural and natural history; etc.

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

"Letters-to-the-editor" of your local newspaper. Help inform others about this important bill for Bodie!

Jerry L. Rogers, Associate Director for Cultural Resources. Support the expanded Bodie NHL.

National Park Service
P O Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013

Manuel Lujan, Jr. Ask him to support the expanded Bodie NHL and to take into consideration our protest of the Bishop RMP/EIS.

Secretary of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Articles for organization newsletters. Help spread the word to members of historic preservation, environmental, outdoor recreation, and other activist groups. Ask boards to pass resolutions of support for HR 4370.

Anza Borrego — Military (Continued from page 1)

and how the large artifacts operated and what their functions were, a study began about 15 months ago with the guidance of Mark Jorgenson and sponsorship of the Anza-Borrego Desert NHA.

The first phase of the study has been successfully completed. We don't have all of the answers to each of the foregoing questions for every military operation in the Park, but we're getting there. One of the results was the realization that there was much more military activity than had been suspected. Another was appreciation of the fact that only luck seems to have prevented the entire park from being lost to the public. Probably, the greatest challenge remaining is to understand how so much of the Park could have been so readily turned over to the military.

We are now appealing for help from all the rangers who worked at Anza-Borrego during and immediately after any military activity there. Moreover, we'd like to compare notes with rangers from some of the 20 or so other State Parks the military used during World War II. Would you write me at 2751 Cumberland Road, San Marino, CA 91108, or call me at (818) 449-2248 if you are willing to relate your observations and experience or can suggest other sources? (A few copies of the report for the first phase [116 pages, 26 illustrations] are still available at cost [\$10 + \$2 mailing]). — *Lew Orrell*.

Save-The-Redwoods League Adds Buffer Property to Humboldt Redwoods SP

The SRL and the State of California have purchased a 20-acre parcel along the boundary of the Charles Holbrook Memorial Grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. The Holbrook Grove is one of the southernmost groves on the South Fork of the Eel River. The new parcel will act as a buffer between the old-growth trees of the Holbrook Grove and private lands outside the park.

Since 1918 the League has donated more than \$70 million toward the purchase of more than a quarter of a million acres of redwood forest.

Native American Perspective On The Repatriation Of Human Remains

by **Jose Ignacio Rivera**

For generations the Indigenous communities have protested the removal of their ancestors and have fought to have them returned. January's article on Native American Repatriation by Wendy Welles Franklin (Newsletter, Vol. VI, Number 35: 1992. P.5) was good in terms of bringing the issue to light and showing how computers can be used to comply with the new federal mandate. This article is meant to complement Ms. Franklin's article and present an Indigenous perspective to the repatriation issue.

At the Palm Springs CSPRA conference, I presented a paper on the historical perspective of repatriation and DPR. An understanding of DPR's past attempt in repatriation, and the mistakes made, can be of help in complying with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (Repatriation Act). The key to an equitable and responsible repatriation program is communication with the Indigenous communities. The 1981 reburial at Cuyamaca State Park was marred by a "let's dump it on someone else" attitude. In 1981 there were departmental guidelines for repatriation, but the key point, which is community meetings, was not implemented. As a result Kumyaay elders were not notified that their ancestors were to be reburied, which formed the basis of a lawsuit, followed by counter-suits.

The Peabody Museum at Harvard University, the Smithsonian, and the National Museum of the American Indian (National Museum) were present at the computer training. The Peabody Museum has repatriated the Zuni War God and the Sacred Tipis of the Omaha nation. The Smithsonian has already repatriated, and is currently implementing their own repatriation policy. Having participated in the National Museum's planning meetings, I see the developing repatriation policy is guided by the new spirit of this institution. Quoting Rick West, Director of the National Museum, "Our exhibition efforts are for the national and international visitors. But the Native American people are the museum's constituency."

(Continued on page 6)

Repatriation (Continued from page 5)

Community meetings were mentioned, with a reference to the National Museum's model. The State Indian Museum team in 1990 held state-wide meetings, organized by Nina Gordon and me, concerning many of the same issues as the National Museum. As a first step in planning a new State Indian Museum, the State Park Planning Section felt that direct Native Californian input was essential. At just about every meeting repatriation was discussed, and many expressed a perceived lack of movement by DPR. So the next question is, if repatriation is now required by federal law, and meetings with the Indigenous communities are viewed as essential, what will be the purpose and goals of the proposed meetings? From years of lobbying, litigation, community meetings, and recommendations from the Native American Heritage Commission and DPR's Native American Advisory Council, the consistent feeling expressed by the Indigenous community about repatriation is **return it now!** The Indigenous community doesn't need any more "input for the formation of policy" meetings. The Indigenous community wants implementation meetings, "in the process of repatriation" meetings.

The advantage that computers can provide in the repatriation process is correct. DPR already has a head start in the repatriation process. Dr. Robert Kautz from U.C. Davis completed the Burial Inventory Project in October of 1988. The Burial Inventory Project has inventoried approximately 60,000 human bones, and close to a million artifacts were reconciled. The project's data were entered in a D-Base program, and a hard copy of the Burial Inventory Project is available. Even with information in hand, the previous governor, resources secretary, and DPR administration were hostile to repatriation, and prevented repatriation from being implemented.

What is the next step? It would take an anthropologist or archaeologist about fifteen minutes to correlate the geographic format of the Burial Inventory Project into living tribes that need to be contacted for repatriation. The community meetings needed in relation to repatriation would be different from the goals of the National Museum or the State Indian Museum meetings. After the native communities or most likely descendents are notified that DPR will be repatriating the remains of their ancestors, then widely publicized

community meetings are needed. Thus all who would have an interest in the repatriation would have the chance to come forward, especially traditional elders. Even an outreach program to contact elders who couldn't make the meetings would be responsible.

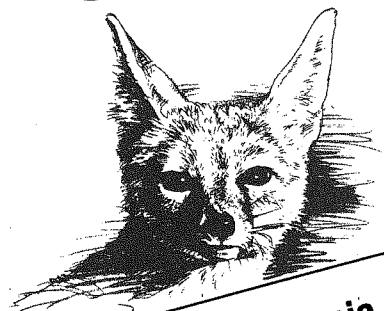
The Native American community requests CSPRA's support in the expeditious implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Precedent has been set by many institutions that have already repatriated, such as the Peabody Museum, Smithsonian Museum, Heard Museum, Wheelright Museum, Stanford University, Lowie Museum of Anthropology at U.C. Berkeley, etc. The average Native American of Indigenous blood feels as strongly about repatriation as the average American citizen feels about the repatriation of downed American pilots and MIAs from Viet Nam.

Especially among the rank and file, support and sensitivity for Native American religion and culture has always been strong. DPR has shown responsibility and sensitivity in 1971 when all human remains were taken from public view, and in 1981 in an early attempt at repatriation. The expeditious repatriation of the human remains already identified by the Burial Inventory Project would be viewed by the Indigenous community as a gesture of good-faith and a commitment to Native American cultural preservation on the part of DPR. This would allow DPR some breathing room to work on the second part of the repatriation process, items of cultural patrimony, in a professional manner with good will.

The CSPRA tradition of up-holding professionalism in resource management is consistent with Native American repatriation, in light of the acknowledged position Native American folklife has as an integral part of California's cultural heritage. Why only interpret and preserve the old and dead; why not help preserve the living Indigenous culture and traditions?

Jose Ignacio Rivera, M.A. in Museum Curatorship and Archival Management, Department of History, U.C. Riverside; and doctoral student in California Ethnohistory and Anthropological Ethics dealing with repatriation and cultural preservation, Department of Anthropology, U.C. Berkeley.

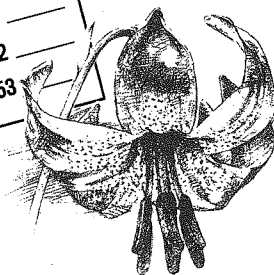
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Fill in any amount you want!



Pictured here: San Joaquin Kit Fox and the Western Lily (two of more than 280 California species at risk!)

Pressures from a rapidly expanding population, habitat loss and pollution have pushed more than 280 of California's native plant and animal species to the brink of extinction. We can help turn things around for them by making a VOLUNTARY contribution on "Line 50" when we do our state taxes this year. "Line 50" does a world of good for California's species-at-risk—primarily by acquiring and enhancing critical habitat. We urge you to please help if you can.

Two Members Die

Robert K. Crawford and Donald R. Barnes, both long time members of CSPRA died during the past month.

Bob Crawford died February 22, 1992 in Boulder Creek. He retired from DPR and had been living in Boulder Creek where he had been active with the Santa Cruz Mountains NHA and the Santa Cruz Historical Society. Bob started his career at Big Basin, where several generations of his family have worked and worked in the Regional Office in Stockton just before retirement. Donations may be sent to the Santa Cruz Historical Society, the Semper-virens Fund or the Santa Cruz Mountains NHA.

Don Barnes died of viral pneumo-

nia at his home on March 1. He started his 15+ years with DPR at Big Basin and worked at the San Luis Obispo and Pismo Dunes Districts before being assigned to the Russian River District.

Volunteers Needed for 1993 Workshop

Volunteers are needed to help plan and put on the 1993 workshop in Santa Clara at the Biltmore. We also need volunteers to put on workshop presentations. We need idea people and workers. Whatever your interest or expertise, we need you.

Contact Doug Bryce at (916) 383-2530 or write CSPRA P O Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829 for further information and to volunteer.

**THE CALIFORNIA STATE PARK
RANGERS ASSOCIATION**
A professional association.

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Calendar

New officers take
office. 3/92

1993 Workshop
Santa Clara
3/4-7/93

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SAVE BODIE! and all other
committees use CSPRA address.

**For additional information on the
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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.

March



1992

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To:



Recycled & Recyclable