



NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 58

October 1994

Findings From A National Bipartisan Survey of Voter Attitudes Toward Mining Law Reform

Reprinted from

From August 29 through August 31, 1994, the Democratic polling firm of Frederick/Schneiders, Inc., and the Republican polling firm, Public Opinion Strategies, conducted a nationwide survey of 800 registered voters to explore attitudes toward proposed changes to federal laws governing hardrock mining. Key findings are summarized below:

American voters strongly favor changing the key provisions of the 1872 Mining Law. Public support for mining reform is strong even after exposure to some of the strongest arguments against changing the current law. By wide margins, voters believe:

- * companies that mine on federal land should be required to pay royalties to the federal government;
- * the sale of this land to mining companies should be stopped;
- * hardrock mining companies should meet environmental standards; and

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Retiree's Rendezvous A Great Success

Over 100 persons visited McConnell SRA over the weekend 9/30-10/3) to attend the Retiree's Rendezvous. A golf tournament, pancake breakfast and a barbecue were the major planned activities. Tall tales about the good old-days and stories of the better days (retirement) occupied most of the time. (Complete story and pictures next issue.)

State, County Aim To Crack Down On Artifact Hunters by Greg King

(Reprinted with permission from the 9/27/94 Lake County Record-Bee)

A state park ranger reported Friday that water receding from Clear Lake initiates a yearly form of hunting that he says will not be taken lightly by state officials.

To prove his point, State Park Unit Ranger Tom Nixon said that a recent conviction of a Sonoma County man for raiding archaeological sites at Anderson Marsh State Park exemplifies the state's and the county's determination to crack down on artifact hunting.

"This is typically one of the things that people do not know is a major offense," said Nixon. "An archaeological site is like a puzzle piece. If someone removes the puzzle

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President's Message

It's been fairly busy lately with a lot of time watching the legislature and trying to be available to testify. Dave Nelson gets a lot of credit for monitoring, meeting and testifying on the legislation connected with the ill-fated bond act for parks. I ended up representing CSPRA at a reception honoring Assemblyman Cortese to thank him for trying to get the bond act out.

Ron Schafer monitored the Rainey Bill which was really a publicity stunt to focus attention on the cessation of grazing at Diablo. Seems like that continues to be news even after the grazing lease is over. The bill died in the first committee, but I suppose it will appear in some form or another again next legislative session.

Gar Salzgeber came out of retirement to be a CSPRA observer down at Pismo at a meeting discussing OHV issues.

And I gave some impromptu testimony at the statewide trails advisory meeting in Santa Rosa. There was a lot of testimony from mountain bikers about how poorly the Department was treating them. I could only sit so long before I put on my CSPRA hat and tried to get a little balance into the record. There are hundred and hundreds of miles of roads in state park system units that are open to bikers. Most, if not all of us, believe in the sport of mountain biking, and our only real conflict with the mountain bikers is their use of single-track trails. If bikers used them responsibly even that conflict might be eliminated or greatly reduced. But the use of the narrow, steep trails is a conflict because of the speed and recklessness that seems to be a necessary part of the sport to a lot of the users.

I hear a lot of talk about giving the mountain bikers what they want because they are so well organized and also because they can't be controlled anyway. They are making a lot of noise and are pushing, but remember before you turn the parks over to them that there is going to be a lot of backlash and noise from our "traditional users" who come to parks to enjoy park values, not just for thrills.

Someday a park employee is going to get a phone call from someone who wants to know where one can go to have a quiet, contemplative experience in a state park, and the park employee will have a tough time making a recommendation.

We need to continue to protect park values and not make knee-jerk reactions to vocal groups that want to change the park system for their own particular uses.

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Clearlake

(Continued from page 1)

pieces then it's very difficult for archaeologists to learn what happened there in the past."

Nixon said that in March he observed two people apparently digging at a known archaeological site at Anderson Marsh, which was added to the state park system in 1982 and borders Clearlake to the south. Nixon said he frequently perches on a high point above the marsh to guard against artifact hunters, and this time he was surprised to find someone he recognized.

"I saw a man and a woman bending over and putting things in a bag. They were obviously collecting," said Nixon. He drove to the site and confronted the pair, who said they were "rock hounding."

Nixon, who received permission to search the couple's bag, found not rocks but 40 archaeological pieces left there after thousands of years of habitation by Clearlake Pomo Indians.

Perhaps more astonishing, said Nixon, was the identify of one of the diggers: William Edward Walsh, 45, a Sebastopol contractor who built the sound wall between the old Anderson Marsh farm house and state highway 53.

His wife, Linda Lee Walsh, 44, was also at the site, but the county dismissed her from the case.

Her husband, however, pleaded no contest Aug. 29 to misdemeanor charges of collecting articles in a protected area. Judge Richard Freeborn handed Walsh three years court probation, 90 days suspended county jail time, a \$500 fine and a \$35.00 charge for court fees.

"It could have been worse," said Nixon. Knowingly taking artifacts from an Indian burial site can be classified as a felony, he said.

Walsh, who Nixon said did his digging on his own time and not the state's, knew where the archaeological sites were because, as the sound wall contractor, he had attended several meetings with officials from the California Department of Transportation.

Walsh's knowledge of where the sites were located established the first half of a potential felony charge, said Nixon, but authorities were unsure if the raided area was a burial site.

"If we can determine that someone is in a burial sight, and we can establish that he had prior knowledge of that site, we can prosecute that as a felony," said Nixon. "I think (Walsh) was in the general area of one, but we couldn't tie him in to a specific burial site."

Anderson Marsh is considered one of the state's richest remaining archaeological sites, with evidence of habitation dating back over 10,000 years. Sites near Borax Lake date back over 11,000 years, said Nixon, making the regions "two of the oldest (archaeological) areas in the state, no doubt about it."

Archaeologists usually date the sites by cutting into arrowheads to measure water molecules. The thicker the band of molecules, the older the piece, said Nixon.

Anderson Marsh State Park is part of an archaeological district listed on the National Register of Historic Places, said Nixon. The district extends beyond Anderson Marsh boundaries north of Cache Creek.

Nixon said that artifact hunters tend to increase their activities as water recedes from Clearlake's shores in the fall. He said that some hunters enter the area in boats and sift silt from the lakeshore looking for pieces of Native American history.

But he said that such hunters do so at their own risk.

Mining Law

(Continued from page 1)

* the U.S. Secretary of the Interior should be enabled to deny mining permits for environmental reasons or in cases of poor design.

Over four-out-of-five Americans (82%) favor a requirement that companies that mine for gold, silver and copper pay a 12.5 royalty on the value of what they extract from federal lands, similar to a current requirement for fossil fuels producers; 11% are opposed and 7% not sure. Over three-fourths of those in favor (representing 64% of all American voters) agree strongly that this change be made. This finding came in spite of the argument, included in the question, that mining is a more expensive and financially risky enterprise than oil and gas production.

Judge Richard Freeborn handed Walsh three years court probation, 90 days suspended county jail time, a \$500 fine and a \$35.00 charge for court fees.

(Continued on page 4)

Mining Law (Continued from page 3)

Attitudes Toward Change of Specific 1872 Mining Law Provisions

	Favor <u>Change</u> %	Oppose <u>Change</u> %
Require 12.5 % Royalty	82	11
Stop federal land sales	57	27
Federal environmental standards	74	21
Allow denial of permits	65	26

Americans take a strongly preservationist stance concerning keeping federal lands public, and maintaining environmental standards.

Americans take a strongly preservationist stance concerning keeping federal lands public, and maintaining environmental standards. By 57% to 27%, American voters wish to end the sales of federal lands to hardrock mining companies. By three-to-one (74% to 21%), they favor national environmental standards that would require the land to be restored to its original condition, rather than leaving such standards up to the states and keeping the federal government out. And by 65% to 26%, they believe the Secretary of the Interior should be allowed to deny mining permits when mines are in environmentally sensitive locations or are poorly designed — even after survey respondents were warned that opponents of this change believe it will be used to stop all mining on federal lands.

The survey asked voters to respond to arguments for and against the major comprehensive changes proposed to the 1872 Mining Law: requiring national environmental standards and imposing the 12.5% royalty. The argument in favor held that hardrock mining companies should be held to the same standards as those for fossil fuel producers. The argument presented against the changes warned that these new policies "would make mining unprofitable, cost jobs and devastate the economies of the areas which depend on mining." Despite this strongly worded caution, 82% of American voters favor these changes to the 1872 law, while 13% oppose them and 5% are not sure. Fully two-thirds of Americans (67% feel strongly that the law should be reformed. Attitudes towards these changes might have been expected to differ by geography and by political orientation, but our survey found that support for comprehensive reform, after arguments were presented, was strong in all regions of the country and among vot-

ers of all party affiliations. Support for changing the 1872 law was 85% in the Midwest, 83% in the West, 82% in the Northeast, and 79% in the South. Republicans were slightly less supportive (78% of these changes than were Democrats (83%) or Independents (86%), but high levels of support (mostly strong support) were found across the political spectrum.

Unfortunately, Congress may not Act on Mining Law Reform before adjourning around October 10. That means many State Parks may continue to be vulnerable to the impacts of hardrock mining on federal lands. For more information about this Public Opinion Survey or to get involved with CSPRA's efforts in this regard, please call Donna Pozzi at (916) 443-3359.

Humor In Unicorn

by Jeff Price

Her laughter is contagious. "She is one of the most congenial people I've ever met."

Controlled expansion for drips. "It is just a tempest in a tea bag."

Out on a limb again. "He is up a tree without a paddle."

Would you like fries with that? "Surprisingly, the purchase order went through accounting like a greased potato."

One, two, three and exhale. "She was so upset at the seasonal cutback, she spent an hour ventilating her anger on me."

Worn down again. "Sorry, that money is dog-eared for other things."

A high flying think tank. "So, that is the recommendation from our barnstorming session."

**1995 California Parks
Conference/Workshop
Santa Rosa Doubletree
Hotel
March 6-10, 1995
Resource Management
Track**

Conference Planning Questionnaire

The 1995 California Parks Conference Planning Committee is currently developing sessions for the various tracks that will be presented at the conference and would appreciate your input and feedback.

To assist us in the effort to develop the Resources Track, your help with the following questions would assist us in preparing a panel session on resource management.

Preamble: The resource management organization and staffing for the Department have changed dramatically, since the implementation of the Phoenix Committee recommendations. With resource ecologists, and some archaeologists and historians in the Districts, the two Service Centers, and Headquarters, and without Regions, the organizational and institutional communication networks have also changed.

Can you provide the organizers of the Resources Track with examples and anecdotes and your own personal evaluation of the resource health and resource management function, since reorganization? These examples will be used to spark discussion at a post-Phoenix panel, designed to target successes, failures, problems and solutions in the post-Phoenix era.

Should CSPRA sponsor/recommend to the Department a "Leopold-type" report that would evaluate the condition of natural and cultural resources of the State Park System? (The Leopold Report evaluated the needs of

wildlife and their habitats for sustaining viable wildlife populations in National Parks in the 1960s).

SURVEY: Please give us your perceptions of the following issues and grade them as: Good, No Change, Bad, and Examples or Comments.

Environmental Review (CEQA)

Vegetation Management

Exotic Species Control

Wildlife Management

Endangered Species

Water Quality

Watershed Management

Air Quality

Historic Preservation

Archeological Site Protection"

**Departmental "Green" Policies
Commitment to Recycling
Energy Conservation
Land Use Practices designed
to lay "lightly on the land"**

Other:

(Please use additional space for answers)

CSPRA

These examples will be used to spark discussion at a post-Phoenix panel, designed to target successes, failures, problems and solutions in the post-Phoenix era.

Cuyamaca City & Stonewall Gold Mine

by John A. Ballou

The history of Cuyamaca City and Stonewall Mine is as exciting and elusive as the very gold that brought them both into existence. It is a history that is filled with contrasts, ironies, and lessons to those who will learn from the past. The saddest lesson is that it was not really appreciated until it was forgotten, buried, paved over, or built upon, as much of California history has been.

After the major thrust of the 1849 California gold rush, prospectors continued to search for gold in many parts of California. Placer discoveries in the stream beds in various parts of San Diego County, such as near Descanso in 1869, preceded larger discoveries, such as the George Washington Mine in Feb. 1870. At least four accounts attempt to disclose the origin of Stonewall Mine, but the most colorful and generally accepted version is that on March 22, 1870, William Skidmore was chasing one of his 36 mules in the area (several hundred feet north of the current main shaft location) when he stumbled upon an outcropping of rock bearing particles of gold. Later, when the mine developed, Skidmore sold his claim to two lawyers, Frary and Farley, who dug the main shaft to 100 feet. Their financial troubles ended the operation of the mine. A legal battle between the owners of Cuyamaca and the owners of Julian mining interests clouded the beginning of what was later to become one of the richest gold mines in southern California.

In 1886, an entrepreneur from northern California (and formerly Illinois), Robert Waterman, bought the mine. Under the direction of his son, Waldo, a company-type mining town, Cuyamaca City, sprang into life. It became a town that at one time rivaled Julian. A sizable group of workers cut timber for mine tunnels and others dug in the shafts. While a water shortage plagued the beginning of the town, the mine later was difficult to work and gained the label, "pneumonia mine" due to the deaths of miners who worked in its cold, damp conditions. Six- and eight-inch pumps working at over 100 gallons of water per minute kept the water level down, but later periods of inactivity led to the decay of the timbers and a later cave-in

(1926). While the mine produced, the town flourished, having a school, post office, library (before Julian had one!), a boarding house, blacksmith's shop, Doctor's office, tailor's shop, brick yard, saw mill, two large barns, and over 24 cottages. It had water piped to the facilities through one-inch pipes and the first long distance telephone in the county. When the mine closed after Robert Waterman's death (ironically from pneumonia), the town faded away until all structures were moved or destroyed. Later, a Girl Scout camp operated in the mine area. In 1933, it became a part of the California state park system. A comprehensive study of the area was completed in 1986 in a belated attempt to glean a few traces of the "new gold," history, out of the deserted ruins. The locations of many former buildings were identified from old photographs, but the reality that Cuyamaca City is gone forever was impressed upon a budget-conscious state park system. While a small museum shows some photos and a scenario of Stonewall Mine in a replica of the miner's cabins placed by the Fletcher Foundation, Cuyamaca City seems to have faded away.

Memorial Fund for San Jacinto State Park by Ross Henry

A memorial fund is being established to rehabilitate the seating at the interpretive center at San Jacinto State Park in memory of Ronald Jones, Barry Jones' father, who died August 19 after heart surgery.

Barry's father, a resident of Thousand Oaks, was a long time supporter and user of the State Park System and a frequent hiker in the wilderness area at Mount San Jacinto State Park.

His dad held a BS degree from San Diego State and a MBA degree from UCLA. He was a retired engineer from Allied Signal Corporation. He had worked for Yosemite National Park in the 1940s.

Those wishing to donate to the Ronald Jones Memorial Fund should make checks payable to the Ron Jones/Idyllwild Memorial Fund and forward them to Barry Jones at Planning, Acquisition and Local Services Division, Resources Building, Room 1449-1, (916) 653-5097. All funds raised will be used to upgrade the facilities at the Mount San Jacinto State Park Interpretive Center.

Cuyamaca City became a town that at one time rivaled Julian.

CSPRA Membership

The California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) has been dedicated to protecting and preserving features of the California State Park System for almost three decades.

Membership is open to all current and retired employees of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

CSPRA was organized in 1964 by California park professionals as a non-profit, tax-exempt, professional society to encourage quality interpretation, resource management, public protection, maintenance and management of the State Park System.

CSPRA actively promotes advancement of the ideals and philosophy for which state parks were originally founded.

For membership information write:

CSPRA, P O Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829-2010.
(800) 558-3734.

CSPRA-PRAC Annual Conference

With the:

State Park Peace Officers Association of California
State Park Maintenance Supervisors Association
California State Park Superintendent's Association
League Of California Non-profit Associations

Present the
California Park Conference

with
4 major speakers
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4 Sections with 15 sessions each
including
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Public Safety
Interpretation
Resource Management

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on

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1994

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(209) 826-1196

**CSPRA
Calendar**

**Honorary Member
nominations due
12/10/94**

**CSPRA-PRAC
Annual Workshop
3/6-10, 1995**

**Retiree's
Rendezvous
McConnell SRA
9/29-10/2/95**

Directors

Vacant

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State Park Ranger I
Hungry Valley Headquarters
(805) 248-6447

Susan Grove
State Park Ranger II
American River District
(916) 988-0205

Save Bodie! and all other
committees use CSPRA address.

**For additional information on the
association, write the
Office 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 property of CSPRA and may be edited without notice. **The deadline for articles is the 15th of the month prior to publication.**

We Did It!!!

Newsflash: The Bodie Protection Act was passed, along with the California Desert Protection Act, in the closing hours of the 103rd Congress. If you were watching the news coverage of the unprecedented gridlock in the Senate, you may have given up hope and assumed the Bodie bill would fail to pass before Congress adjourned. With all the other pieces of legislation that died in the past couple of weeks, it was easy to despair. The Feinstein-Huffington Senate race further complicated matters, with the Republicans reluctant to give Senator Feinstein a victory. Nonetheless, CSPRA can proudly claim to have achieved the impossible — **we got a bill through Congress.**

It's been such a long time that you have probably forgotten what our modest little bill accomplishes. Please note: Bodie is **not** saved yet! Here's what the act will do, after it is signed into law by President Clinton. Federal lands in the Bodie Bowl will be protected from mineral activity, subject to valid existing rights. New mineral claims cannot be filed under the Mining Law of 1872 on approximately 6,000 acres of public land. This is critical because Galactic's bankruptcy trustee has been releasing some claims rather than pay fees to keep them current. Now, these lands will be safe from future claims. Additionally, there is to be an expedited validity check of all recorded claims; invalid claims will be voided. Patenting of federal land will not be allowed unless it meets certain "grandfathering" requirements. Any mining on valid claims would be subject to special regulations designed to prevent adverse effects on Bodie's resources and values. The Governor of California would be consulted before the Secretary of Interior could approve a mining plan. Also, restoration of effects of recent mining exploration within the Bodie Bowl would be required. Lastly, the Department of the Interior would conduct a study of the Bodie Bowl to recommend how best to preserve the area. This study would look at methods of acquiring private holdings, including any valid claims, to ensure Bodie is protected from incompatible land uses. As you can see, we have our work cut out to be sure that this law is properly implemented; Bodie is **not** saved yet.

Many people need to be recognized and thanked for their help in passing the Bodie bill. Senator Dianne Feinstein and her Deputy Legislative Director Kathy Lacey, along with Congressman Rick Lehman and George Miller and their respective staffs, were tireless in their dedication to protecting Bodie. In the Resources Agency, Doug Wheeler and Michael Mantell were tremendous allies. We had loyal friends at the Wilderness Society and the National Trust for Historic Preservation who counseled us and lobbied on Bodie's behalf. Members of the Eastern Sierra Citizens for the Protection of Bodie were our partners all along the way. Many DPR employees played crucial roles, as did CSPRA and Save Bodie! members. There are too many to name them all and to cite their contributions but it is safe to say that thousands of people were involved in this important success. **Now, it's time to celebrate!**

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California Legislature
Assembly Committee on
Water, Parks and Wildlife

DOMINIC L. CORTESE
CHAIRMAN

HEARING NOTICE

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COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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DATE: September 30, 1994
TO: Interested Persons
FROM: Dominic L. Cortese, Chairman
SUBJECT: Parks and Public Safety

The Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife, in conjunction with the California Park and Recreation Society, will be holding a hearing concerning the **Role of Parks and Recreation in Public Safety**.

There is an urgent need to demonstrate how recreation based services contribute to safe and healthy communities. This legislative hearing will demonstrate the leadership role of park and recreation agencies in addressing public safety concerns.

The hearing is scheduled for **Thursday, October 27, 1994**, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Santa Clara County Building, Isaac Newton Conference Center room. Doors will open at 8:30. The building is located at 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose. A map is on the back.

Parks and public recreation events provide positive and constructive activities and a healthy environment for youth and families. Recreation programs are an alternative to detrimental activities and can also offer valuable job experience and skills.

The hearing will highlight successful programs which represent a cooperative agreement between parks, enforcement agencies, youth groups and other relevant organizations. Parks and recreation agencies provide cost effective prevention. We can all learn from these successes and help to develop innovative programs in our own communities.

The hearing will consist of scheduled speakers and a public comment period at the end. Please call Nina Gordon of the Committee staff at (916) 445-6164 if you would like additional information.

DLC:neg