

NEWSLETTER

california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 65

August 1995

A Memorable Experience at Audubon Camp

by Susan C. Grove, State Park
Ranger, Palomar Mountain SP

With classes titled "The Magic of Muck", "Floral Sexual Encounters," "Rocky Mountain Orogeny," and "All Ewe Want to Know About Sheep," I was eagerly looking forward to spending a week at the Audubon Camp in the Rockies. I only hoped my expectations weren't too high. They weren't. I loved every minute of it. The gorgeous scenery was fuel for my soul the classes were fuel for my brain, and my fellow campers reminded me that there are intelligent, outdoorsy people from all over the country who truly care about our world.

My Rocky Mountain adventure really started back in March when Donna Pozzi put out a memo announcing that the Skully scholarship was again available to send some lucky State Park employee to Audubon Camp. The Skully family generously sponsors this scholarship every year in memory of their daughter who was a State Park Ranger and an active member of the Audubon Society. I remembered talking to a ranger who had been to the camp and was very enthusiastic "Why not?, I thought. I sent off a resume and a letter to Audubon, as requested, and promptly forgot all about it.

In June, I got a call. I'd been selected! My supervisor approved the vacation time, despite my having transferred to my new park only one week before I was to leave (thanks, Greg!), and CSPRA greatly helped (Continued on page 3)

1996 California Parks Conference Planning Begins

Representatives of AOPS, CSPRA, PRAC, and SPPOAC met in Ventura to begin planning for the March 1996 conference. The CSPMSA will also be participating again.

Steve Treanor and Gig Bueno will co-chair the event. The group adopted a theme for the conference: Moving Ahead — Looking Forward With Pride. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Ventura on March 11-15, 1996.

If you have ideas or would like to participate in the conference planning please contact Steve or Gig at (805) 899-1400 or FAX (805) 899-1415.

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Implementing the Bodie Protection Act

It's probably been a while since you've thought about or heard what's happening up at Bodie. As you'll recall, the federal legislation that we worked so hard on passed and was signed into law last fall. Now that law is being implemented. While it may seem like a long and complicated process, it appears to be working! Here's a status report and refresher on what our bill accomplished.

The Bodie bill was essentially a "mineral withdrawal" which means (Continued on page 4)

President's Message

Well, it looks like we have a budget for another year. At least I hope I'm right (it's Sunday, July 30, and the legislature hasn't finalized it yet). The Big Six gave us the \$19.4 million from the beverage recycling funds. So we dodged the bullet one more year. But this is a terrible way to operate each year. If everyone didn't see the need for a reliable, permanent source of funding for the Department, they certainly should now. That continues to be the number one priority for CSPRA, other support groups, and DPR.

We, the Friends of California Parks, the superintendents' association, and other groups did a lot of work in pushing for a favorable budget. Maybe we can take a least some credit. It is obvious that we'll need even a greater effort for next year as there aren't any apparent special funds to raid — we've hit them all in the last several years.

Now is the time to start working. Now is the time to start working with your local legislators — before you ask them for help. Go to their local offices, give them information on the parks in their districts, invite them to special events or for tours of the parks. Show them what is going right and where there are problems. I don't do the cocktail scene or go to NRA meetings, but I still manage to run into legislators, and I am not hesitant to introduce myself and put in a plug for CSPRA and DPR.

GOOD NEWS The Save-the-Redwoods League has appointed Mary Angle-Franzini to the permanent posts of Secretary and Executive Director of the League. Mary is an ex-ranger and knows the system. Those of us who have worked with her in the past are looking forward to her continuing support and that of the league in the future.

(Look, a whole column without mentioning Poland. I bet you thought that I couldn't do it.)

Bud Getty, President

Now is the time
to start working
with your local
legislators —
before you ask
them for help.

***Who will do it if we
(including you and I)
don't.***

Late Breaking Notice

Hal Bradshaw is at home suffering from pancreatic cancer. He would like to receive cards and letters from his friends. His address is:

10 Service Cir.

Oroville, CA 95966-3715

Audubon Camp (Continued from page 1)

with a second scholarship for my airfare. On July 8th, I arrived at camp, ready for adventure.

My 50 fellow campers and I happily settled into the camp routine and got down to the business of getting to know each other and the 15 or so staff members. We were housed in shared log cabins with full baths and soon learned that the tolling of the camp bell called us to the hearty and healthy meals. Arrival afternoon and evening were spent getting an orientation tour (lodge, library, dining hall, lab, camp store, laundry room and boat house), and enjoying the welcome reception and formal introductions.

Three of the five full camp days had the same format. After an optional 6 a.m. bird walk and our 7:30 a.m. breakfast, the group divided ourselves among four three-hour classes. Lunch was served at noon and afternoon brought another round of four three-hour classes. The classes were all in the field and covered enough topics to suit everybody's tastes. In addition to the enticing titles mentioned above, the offerings included "Petroglyphs — Walk into the Past," "Storytelling for Science and the Environment," "Glacial Geology," "Birds in the Balance," "The Winning-or -Losing?-of the West" and much more. After dinner at 6 p.m., evening activities ranged from bird banding, soap making, canoeing, volleyball, slide programs, stargazing, and a traditional campfire. With the high mountain air (the camp is set at 7500 ft.), and endless activity, everybody slept well.

Tuesday was an all day field trip to Grand Teton National Park, approximately 70 miles away and across the Continental Divide. The morning consisted of a van tour, with stops for talks on wildlife and geology. After a bag lunch atop Signal Peak, we divided into hiking groups bound for either Colter Bay or Taggart Lake. In early evening, we gathered for a float trip down the Snake River, with dinner served on the river. On this day alone, we observed moose, bison, elk, a bald eagle, a golden eagle and pelicans (in Wyoming??).

Our last day in camp was a hiking day. Three hikes of various lengths and difficulties were offered along with a geology van tour for non-hikers. I opted for the most strenuous one (feeling the need to work off those hearty meals) and found myself gaining 4000 feet in five miles as we trudged up to the summit of Whiskey Peak. I was well rewarded by the view of the Wind River and a clarity of the air which allowed me to see the Tetons.

Camp ended the next day, July 14th. The vans bound for the airport left right after breakfast and after we had said our fond farewells to each other and to the staff. The 53 campers represented 21 states and ranged in age from 20 to 75. Our knowledge and experience varied greatly. Some had come because an outdoorsy friend had dragged them along. Some had come because they had always wanted to know more about our natural environment. And some had a lifelong love affair with the natural world and this week-long camp was the obvious choice for a vacation. Despite our diverse occupations and backgrounds, we found that we all found serenity in the indescribable beauty of Torrey Valley and that we have deep concerns for the welfare of our world's wild places and their inhabitants.

I encourage those State Park employees who are in positions involving public interpretation to apply for the Skully scholarship next time around. The opportunity to observe the skilled staff members teaching about the natural environment and to learn about mountain ecology will no doubt greatly enhance your life, as it did mine.

RANGER LOGO



C S P R A

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Bodie Protection Act (Continued from page 1)

...things are looking very encouraging for the long-range protection of Bodie.

that the BLM administered public lands surrounding the state historic park have been withdrawn from future claims under the 1872 Mining law. However, any valid existing claims must be respected. To determine whether existing claims are valid requires a thorough review by a team of federal experts. They examine written materials (records of claims that have been filed and documents showing the results of exploratory mining) and they conduct tests on the ground to confirm the presence of valuable minerals. For claims to be valid, all the paperwork must have been properly prepared and filed and kept current. Monuments are required in the field to mark claims. Also, annual fees must be paid to maintain claims. The mineral examiners analyze the mining company's findings from drilling and ore sampling and compare these with their own testing. Claims not only need to have been filed properly from a paperwork standpoint but they must also represent an economically viable ore deposit.

An expedited determination of the validity of existing claims at Bodie is one of the provisions of the Bodie Protection Act and that work is now underway. Based on the results of similar validity reviews in national parks such as Death Valley, we have every reason to hope that many of Galactic's claims will not meet the test. All claims that are found to be invalid will be voided and no new claims will ever be allowed within the Bodie Bowl area specified in the law. Thus the lands will be "withdrawn" from mining.

Another provision of the law was for the federal government to develop a set of special regulations to govern any mining that might proceed on claims that are found to be valid. The law allowed 90 days for these regulations to be promulgated. They have not yet been released for public review but we understand that they have been drafted. When we have the opportunity to comment on them, we will want to ensure that they

meet the mandate of the Bodie Protection Act "to ensure that such mineral activities are conducted . . . in a manner that does not cause any adverse effect on the historic, cultural, recreational and natural resource values of the Bodie Bowl area."

There are other parts of the law, such as a study of how best to preserve Bodie and possibly acquire valid claims, which have not yet begun to be implemented. Fortunately, DPR is not waiting for this work to be completed and has moved forward with efforts to obtain funding to purchase holdings from Galactic's bankruptcy trustee. Of course there is very little money available these days but some potential fund sources have been identified. My hope is that the federal government's validity work will determine that Galactic's claims are not worth any where near what they have been asking for and that a reasonable deal can be reached. We may know more about all of this within the next six months or so.

I hope you will agree that things are looking very encouraging for the long-range protection of Bodie. It is especially rewarding to see the progress with the implementation of the federal legislation we all worked so hard to pass. Thanks again for your support.

Retiree's Ramblin's

Jack Stowe

Been on vacation across the Country. California to Michigan and Arkansas, Florida etc. Golfing and Fishing. Back for awhile. Still taking care of two grandsons. Keeps us busy.

Fred Meyer

We've been retired for almost 15 years, but manage to keep very busy. Else and I are both involved in volunteer work. We have a few health problems, but we're not grounded. A new book, "Giant Sequoia Groves of the Sierra Nevada - A Reference Guide", has been self-published by the author, Dwight Willard of Berkeley.

(Continued on page 5)

Retiree's Ramblin's (Continued from page 4)

It differs from all previous books on this subject because it describes in detail each of the 66 recognized groves. This subject has long been of great interest to me; and I have written the Forward for the second edition, which appeared in spring 1995. We attended on 24 June 95 the dedication of the Earl and Ree Hanson Anniversary Grove in Humboldt Redwoods SP. It was a great occasion and a nice ceremony. Earl observed his 90th birthday on 30 June 95.

Harvey L. Lively

Thank you for the opportunity to tell you about ourselves: Highlights of the year for us was the graduation of one son from Florida University at Gainesville with a Master's degree in mass communication, and the graduation from Medical school by our youngest son. His specialty will be in pediatrics. Maria and I are fairly healthy and active in our personal lives. Maria keeps the home fires aglow, is active in Friends-of-the-Library, attends and hosts for sewing circle, has volunteered time at the county fair for the past nineteen years, corresponds with family, relatives, and friends, and monitors my well being. I fish occasionally, maintain several colonies of bees and harvest their honey & keep fit by attending sessions at college pool. August is Family Reunion month. Sept 26 - 30 is World War 2 Shipmate and Squadron Mate reunion in Midland, Texas. (home of the Confederate Air Force — just in case them Yankees "invade us!") November finds me Elk hunting in Oregon on or near Jim Hart's spread, the Sagehollow Ranch. We are sorry that we can not make the McConnell rendezvous, but look forward to seeing most of you next year at the CSPRA conference. This is the second year in a row that prior commitments have prevented us from attending the rendezvous. We are looking forward to seeing you in Ventura next year for the CSPRA conference. Hope you have a great powwow.

Martin Johnson

We are still here in the Center of Arizona.

Glad we got here 3 years ago, Its boom town around here now. Prices have sky-rocketed and they are crying for carpenters. I work as a part-time Ranger I at Slide Rock State Park with 2 other Southern California ex-DPR employees. Have to keep my hand in the pot you know. How about a list of retired DPR employees that are now living in Arizona. Can CSPRA do that for me? Might make for a fun get together! We do have our own RPEA Chapter (098) here now. It's so big they are thinking about forming another near Flagstaff. Talked to Neil Johanson before he left Alaska State Parks. He is going into the travel and tour business overseas. He'd done all he could do for Alaska State Parks. The fiscal crunch was on.

Letter Regarding Cal Trans Plans at Fort Ross

August 12, 1995

Mr. James Van Loben Sels
Director, California Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 942874
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

Dear Director Van Loben Sels:

The California State Park Rangers Association, an eight-hundred member professional organization, has serious concerns about the proposed Highway 1 repair project near Fort Ross State Historic Park.

This proposed project would destroy portions of known archeological sites along the Myers Grade-Seaview Road detour which would be widened to carry the temporary increased traffic during the repair of Highway 1.

Additionally, the deposition of about 150,000 cubic yards of dirt and rock would be placed in a mound immediately adjacent to Fort Ross State Historic Park. This material would be mounded on a basin formed by the San Andreas Fault. We question the
(Continued on page 6)

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Fort Ross (Continued from page 5)

stability of this mound and have concerns about the movement of this material onto the historic park during heavy rain episodes. The mound would also obscure some of the classic features that are evidence of the 1906 earthquake.

It appears that this project is being pushed through as an emergency without regard to its potential impacts.

It appears that this project is being pushed through as an emergency without regard to its potential impacts.

We request that this project be suspended until all the possible alternatives and impacts can be evaluated through a public process. We would appreciate your response to this situation.

In short we feel:

- 1) No emergency exist
- 2) There will be both indirect and direct impacts to State Park System lands.
- 3) CEQA review is required.

Sincerely,

Maurice H. Getty
President

cc: Mr. Joe Browne, District 4 Director

Endangered Species Lawsuit

(Reprinted from PCL's California Today,
June 1995)

Although PCL's primary role is to pass good environmental legislation and stop bad bills, we have sometimes been forced to go to court to defend laws we worked hard to pass. We are in the process of suing the Department of Fish and Game and the Governor for issuing a five-year permit which gives complete authority to any person or public agency to take an endangered, threatened or candidate species during the course

of a broad range of activities. Although the governor authorized this permit under powers that he has during states of emergency, the permit extends far beyond the emergencies resulting from this years floods.

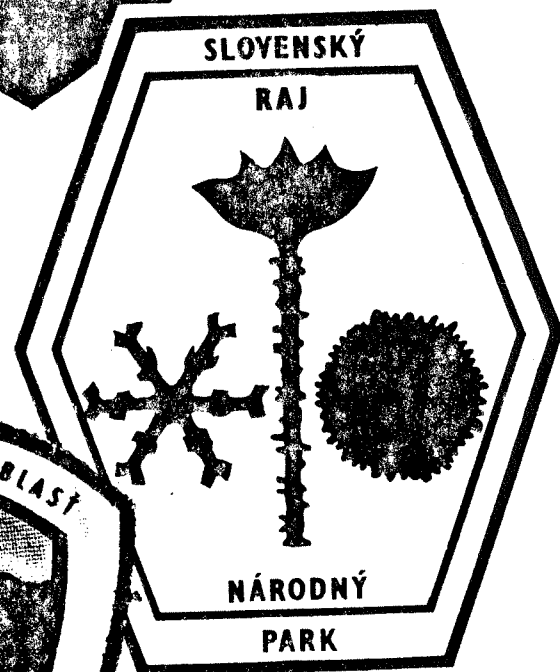
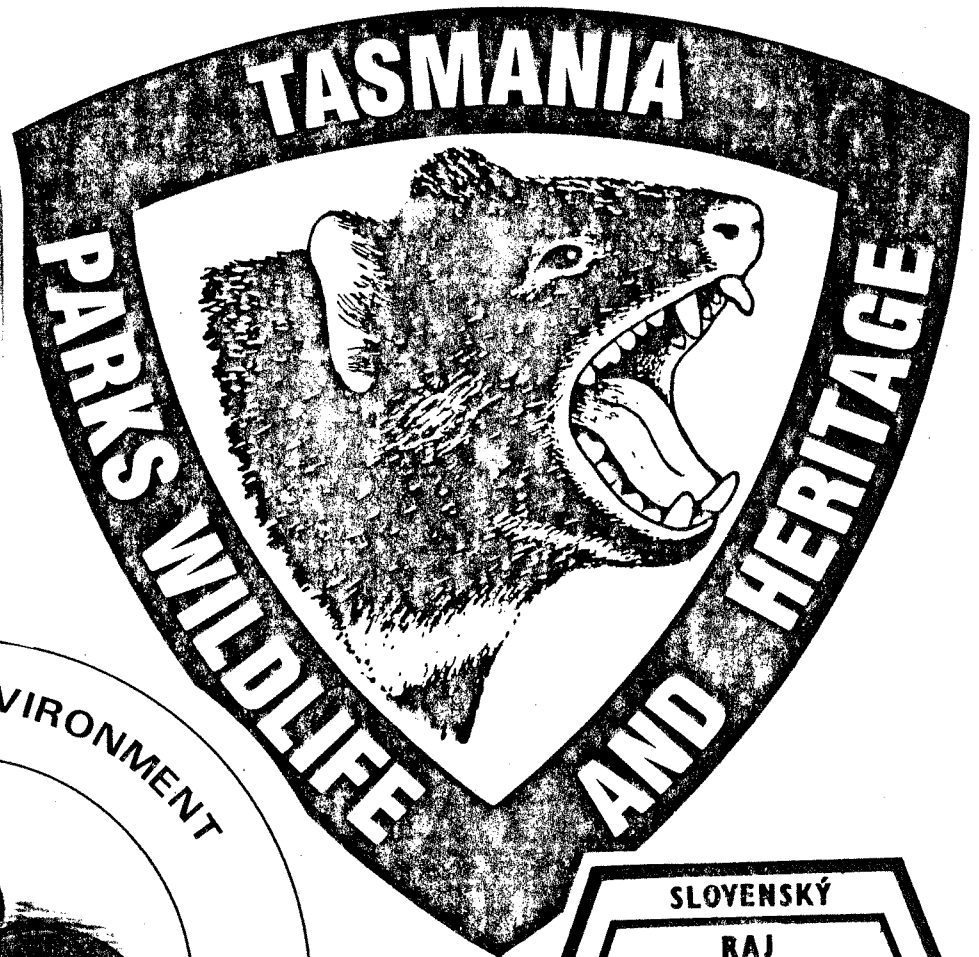
There is certainly no need for this permit, which continues the Governor's attacks on the California Endangered Species Act. Currently the Governor has the ability to suspend virtually any law including the Endangered Species Act, in order to protect human life and property.

But the permit goes far beyond such needs, and really repeals the Endangered Species Act as it applies to a great many activities. For example, since the giant Auburn Dam could have some flood control benefits, thus preventing a disaster, construction of the dam might be exempt from the Endangered Species Act under the governor's order. Certainly maintenance of levees, which often involves stripping away all streamside riparian habitat, would fall under the order.

Another area that could be exempted would be "thinning of trees to prevent fires. Thinning is often another name for destructive logging, and such practices certainly should be subject to the endangered species act.

PCL is convinced that the department's and the governor's action goes far beyond what the law allows. We strongly support the governor's ability to respond to emergencies, but the executive order clearly oversteps those bounds. Represented on a "pro bono" basis by Board Member Bill Yeates and his associate Heather Tattershall, PCL filed suit against the order in early June. We were joined by a wide variety of other groups, including the National Audubon Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, and Mountain Lion Foundation.

We will report on the suit's progress in future issues of California Today.



August



1995

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**CSPRA
Calendar**

**California
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Ventura
3/11-15/96**

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**Jill Dampier
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Save Bodie! and all other
committees use CSPRA address.**

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The NEWSLETTER (ISSN 0887-9176) is published by CSPRA, P.O. Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829. Articles are welcome, 1000 words or less. All submissions become the property of CSPRA and may be edited without notice.