



# NEWSLETTER

## california state park rangers association

Volume VI Number 63

May/June 1995

### **"Digging in for the Earth"**

by Donna Pozzi

What did you do to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Earth Day? I hope all CSPRA members had an opportunity to participate in this event in some manner, even if just to pause from your Saturday routine and reflect on the significance of this date. I was extremely fortunate to spend 3 days in Salt Lake City at the Mining Reform Leadership Conference with 100 other representatives from around the nation. For me, the timing was perfect. It's been 6 months since the Bodie Protection Act passed and this weekend served to reinspire me about the work that yet remains if we are to truly succeed in saving Bodie.

This conference was presented by the Mineral Policy Center, a Washington, DC-based organization which works towards the goal of more environmentally responsible mining. Dozens of grassroots groups, including CSPRA, were co-sponsors. While most were from the West and dealing with hard-rock mining issues, there were also folks from Wisconsin, South Carolina, and a number of national organizations. The purpose of the workshop was to strategize and mobilize for mining law reform, (continued on page 3)

### **California Parks Conference**

**March 11-15, 1996  
Holiday Inn — Ventura**

**Planning will begin in June for next years conference. At least five of the organizations that put this years conference on have expressed some interest in doing it again in 1996.**

**If you want to be involved call (800) 994-2530 and tell us how you want to help (committee member, worker at conference, speaker, etc.).**

**Do it today!**

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### **3rd Annual Retirees Rendezvous at McConnell SRA**

McConnell SRA will be the site of this years Retirees' Rendezvous. The location was the overwhelming choice of those attending last years rendezvous. So mark your calendar **(9/28 - 10/2)** and prepare for another weekend of fun, food, and relaxation. **This event is for all past and present DPR employees and their families and guests.** CSPRA membership is not required.

(Registration form is on page 7)

## **President's Message**

With Bud Getty representing CSPRA on the international level this month (he is in Poland attending the first ever International Park Rangers Association Conference). The duties of President have fallen into my hands. I'm going to use this Presidents Column to share what I'm currently involved in as President-Elect.

My primary function on the board is liaison to the legislature and liaison with other groups similar to CSPRA. The legislature is especially active this session, and CSPRA has responded with increased efforts in this area.

Bills that we are actively involved in include attacks on the Desert Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, CEQA, the Mountain Lion Initiative, Coyote Canyon, OHV Funding, Grazing in State Parks, and bills dealing with private sector use of "underutilized" state lands. We are also involved in a possible bond issue later this year.

Besides having former CSPRA President Nina Gordon on staff at the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee, we are also fortunate to have three board members close to Sacramento to help out. Jill Dampier, Susan Grove, and I are all close enough to testify at hearings. Rick Leflore in the north and Ron Schafer in the south have also helped out in that capacity.

If you hear of Legislation that you think we should be involved in, or if you would like to help write letters or testify, please give me a call. This is one of the most important legislative sessions in a long time, and we could use your help.

Thank You,  
Dave Nelson

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\*\*\* The Senate Finance Committee rejected the Departments request for \$20,000,000 transfer of funds from the recycling fund.

\*\*\* CSPRA has joined with the Mountain Lion Coalition in the production of radio announcements opposing legislation that would allow the Department of Fish & Game to open units of the State Park System to the hunting of Mountain Lions.

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## Earth Day

(continued from page 1)

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especially in light of recent changes in Congress. For example, while the 1872 Mining Law remains a top priority, the critical fight now is to protect the Clean Water Act. Legislation (HR 961) is being considered currently which would remove many of the safeguards we rely on for our drinking water as well as for stormwater pollution, wetlands protection, and control of acid mine drainage.

At the conference, I participated in excellent training sessions on campaign strategy and grassroots fundraising. A number of speakers were experts on mining technology, Congress, lobbying, and the media. Former BLM director Jim Baca, now with The Wilderness Society, gave an especially motivating and sobering speech. Having seen him at my first mining workshop when I was new to the issues 6 years ago, I've been following his career ever since. He was the first and most outspoken public official I heard who warned of the threat of the so-called "Wise Use Movement." When President Clinton appointed him Director of the Bureau of Land Management, People for the West printed wanted posters targeting him as "Public Enemy #1." He continued to call attention to the violent tactics of some members of these groups during his brief tenure with the Clinton Administration. In his speech to us, he noted the bombings of federal buildings in Nevada (BLM and USFS) and that these had prompted him to write to Vice President Gore, a month before the Oklahoma City bombing, expressing his concerns about the dangerous and growing militia movement. Baca continues to travel

around the country giving speeches and meeting with editorial boards, stressing the need for moderation and to educate and convince citizens and opinion leaders about the need for rational, responsible environmental policies.

Also participating in the conference were representatives of new constituencies who are joining in the mining reform movement. A number of Native American and indigenous peoples groups have become very active in mining issues which often impact their sacred lands and way of life. For example, a Navajo elder spoke of the wealth they've enjoyed from uranium mining which has also brought serious health and other problems. Labor unions are becoming involved, too. They are concerned about environmental protection from a worker safety standpoint and because they see environmental mitigation measures as creating jobs. The union spokesmen who made these points were some of the best-informed, most articulate environmentalists I've heard. All of this was very heartening.

As for Bodie, it's an honor to be asked about its status by people from all over the country who have been watching and following our struggle and progress over the years. There are so many friends and supporters who have helped us and now share in Bodie's success. For now, that success is the implementation of the Bodie Protection Act. Details on that in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, borrowing a slogan from the mining industry, remember: "Every day is Earth Day!"

**C S P R A**

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## Environmental Gains Need Protection

Editorial reprinted with  
permission from the Santa Rosa  
Press Democrat — April 21, 1995.

The truth is often the first casualty in environmental debates.

As Atlantic Monthly editor Gregg Easterbrook noted in last Sunday's Forum, both sides are given to exaggerated claims. Business never tires of warning that every job in America will disappear if some new regulation is enacted, and environmentalists are forever predicting that doomsday for the earth is just around the corner.

Easterbrook's point was that, despite all the noise and bluster, Americans have a lot of good stories to tell about environmental protection. From cleaner air and water to recycling to protection of the ozone layer, good results are being generated.

This does not mean that Americans can stop paying attention to the environment. In Washington and Sacramento, efforts are under way to reverse the progress that's been made since the first Earth Day, 25 years ago Saturday.

The intentions of House Republicans are well known. From scrapping the Endangered Species Act to promising property owners reparations for real or imagined damages, Gingrich and Co. have demonstrated their disinterest in balancing economic and environmental needs.

Less well-publicized are attempts to roll back progress at the state

level.

In the past decade, recycling of what were formerly waste products has gained widespread acceptance in California. Newsprint and Cardboard, bottles and glass, aluminum and plastic — communities now routinely re-use these products because they know it's smart economics and good for the environment.

Still, some are slow learners.

Assemblyman Keith Olberg, R-Victorville, would relieve glass and plastic manufacturers of their obligation to share the cost of throwaway containers (AB 1773). Senator Tim Leslie, R-Roseville, would eliminate minimum requirements for manufacturers to claim that their products are "are recycled" or "biodegradable" (SB 424). Assemblyman Trice Harvey, R-Bakersfield, would exempt rural communities from legal responsibility to reduce waste (AB 696).

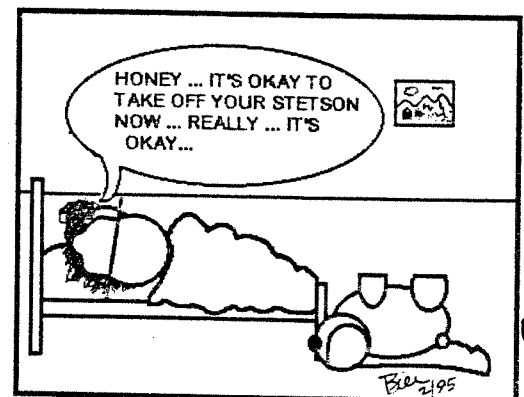
If you think these are bad ideas, write your state legislators and ask for their opposition. Make it part of your Earth Day observance.

Recycling is a success story. This is no time to roll back the clock.

**... despite all the noise and bluster, Americans have a lot of good stories to tell about environmental protection.**

**If you think these are bad ideas, write your state legislators and ask for their opposition.**

RANGER LOGO (In Retirement)



## Letter From Member

Dear CSPRA,

I write to inform CSPRA members of a problem and seek your support in finding a solution.

**Problem:** California coastal waters, especially the shallow, rocky and kelp encrusted littoral zone support a formerly abundant and wondrous diversity of marine fishes. Sadly, most of these fish populations are over-exploited and both anecdotal and preliminary DFG data show evidence of decline. An especially ominous threat to our near shore fishes is the recently expanding practice of commercial fishing to supply live fish for exclusive restaurants. Already stressed, near shore populations of fish are unlikely to sustain a focused commercial fishery, and when the fish and commercial fishermen are gone, we will all be poorer. Shallow water species being targeted are long lived, slow to mature, irregular spawners-recruiters, and very subject to over-harvest. They are an integral part of healthy coastal ecosystems, and a prime attraction to many park visitors i.e. anglers, divers, nature lovers. State Parks border some of our most productive coastal habitats, and as stewards, we must take action to increase protection.

Long-lining (a technique of deploying an anchored and buoyed ground line with dozens-thousands of baited hooks), rod'n reeling, trolling and other methods are used to take shallow water species for the live fishery. By shallow I mean 50 feet or less, often less than 15 ft. By taking fish shallow, they may be kept alive in

## 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.

tanks and command a much higher price than the same species delivered dead from deeper water. Sought after species include cabezone, sculpin, ling cod, greenling, sheepshead, and various rockfishes. These very species support a thriving sport fishery, which is already placing serious demands on the fish. Unlike "sports", commercial interests have no size or quantity limits imposed. Long-lines pose a threat to safety. At Salt Point State Park within Gerstle Cove Reserve, longline fishermen deployed their hook festooned gear over and through a class of incredulous SCUBA divers. This profoundly insensitive act did much to focus attention on the problem in the north coast region. The problem is not restricted to the north coast, however.

**C S P R A**

**I write to inform  
CSPRA mem-  
bers of a prob-  
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tion.**

\* Long-lines deployed in shallow water are a hazard to marine mammals, swimmers, surfers, and near shore fishes. It is not unreasonable to assume that thousands of hooks deployed in shallow water will eventually snag and injure or kill an unintended victim. Lifeguards take notice ...

\* Landings of fish have declined in ports where this commercial fishing has taken place. They fish until depletion, then move on up or down the coast. The fishery is evident from Ft. Bragg south to at least Santa Barbara. I have personally witnessed it at San Simeon, Big Sur, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Pacifica, Bodega, Sonoma and Mendocino coasts. Much of this fishing is adjacent or within state park units.

Solutions? Like most resource extraction problems, no easy solution is evident. You may be surprised to learn that the legislature regulates commercial fishing, and therefore this is not just a Fish and Game concern. A legislative bill may be a starting place to protect this diminishing resource. A number of us, including United Anglers, the North Coast Sport Fishing and Dive Association, Central California Council of Divers, and others are trying to craft and enact legislation, a complicated process. Restrictions proposed to restrict the commercial fishery are vigorously opposed by commercial interests. Therefore, compromise and adversarial rhetoric are expected, and this is proving to be a real exercise in democracy and politics as well as a fisheries problem.

You can help by sending a letter or calling Senator Mike Thompson and encouraging him to enact legislation to protect this precious resource. A three mile longline exclusion zone (no

longlines within three miles of the coast . . . with some exceptions) has been proposed, also a limit on the number of hooks a permittee may deploy, limit to the number of participants (eliminate the "gold rush"), prohibit landing of live fishes, etc. Proposals change weekly, therefore I am not able to be more specific, and the bill may emerge from committee significantly different than it entered.

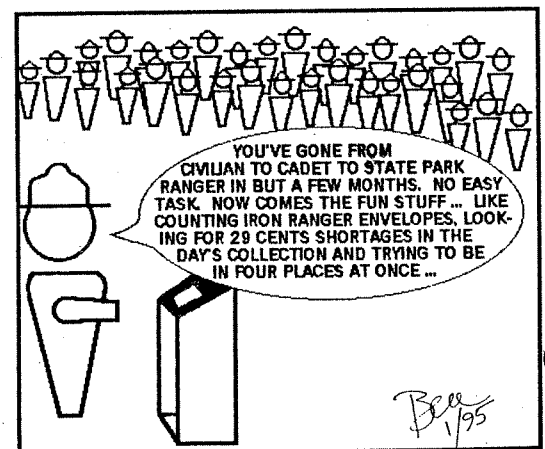
It is essential that some protection is enacted, though the bill may be less than ideal. I will write a letter and seek CSPRA's endorsement through the governing board. This issue should be important to anyone who cares about healthy ecosystems, not just fishermen. I invite your queries, constructive criticism, ideas and comments. Please contact me through the Mendocino District.

Contact:

State Senator Mike Thompson  
2nd District  
50 D St., Ste. 120A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
Attention: Ruth Coleman

Sincerely,  
Victor Herrick SPR

#### RANGER LOGO



**Retirees' Rendezvous, 95  
McConnell State Recreation Area  
September 28 to October 2, 1995  
Registration Form**

**C S P R A**

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons planning to attend all/part of RR'95.

Number who will attend the pancake breakfast (\$4.00/person) on Saturday, October 2, 1995.

Number who will attend the Saturday night barbecue (free to retirees and spouses. Family and all others \$7.00/person). Chicken\_\_\_\_\_ Beef\_\_\_\_\_

Please send information on the golf tournament.

We will be staying at McConnell in tent/RV (no sanitation station —water and combination building available).

**We will stay at a local motel.**

**Comfort Inn**  
200 W. Glenwood  
Turlock, CA 95380  
(209) 668-3400  
11 miles from park

**Orchard Inn (Best Western)**  
5025 N Golden St Blvd  
Turlock, CA 95380  
(209) 667-2827  
Taylor Rd exit from Hwy 99-16 miles from Park

**Other information**

**Sanitation station:**  
Delhi Beacon Station (5 miles  
from Park  
East of Hwy 99 at Shanks Exit  
No charge - donations accepted  
to Lions Club

**Markets:**  
Mini-Marts only in Delhi  
Supermarkets in Turlock

**Roadside rest:** Between Delhi and Turlock on Hwy 99. No sanitation station.  
Vending machines and restrooms.

If you shared this with someone else not on our mailing list, please give us their name and address:

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

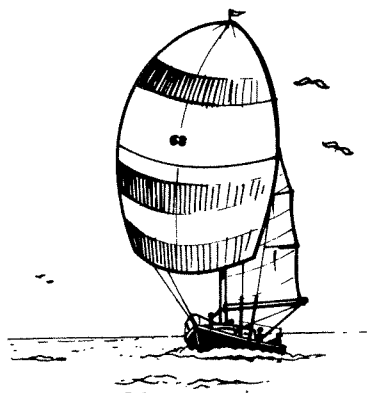
**Phone** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return by 9/15/95 to:**

CSPRA, P.O. Box 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829-2010  
Inside California (800) 994-2530 Outside California (916) 558-3734

**May 1995 7**

May — June



1995

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\*\*\*\*\*

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Silverado District  
(707) 938-1519

\*\*\*\*\*

**President-Elect**

David A. Nelson  
State Park Superintendent  
Delta District  
(916) 777-7701

\*\*\*\*\*

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Adrian Itaya  
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Four Rivers District  
(209) 826-1196

\*\*\*\*\*

**Directors**

Steve Hill  
Assoc Pk & Rec Spec  
Four Rivers District  
(209) 826-1196

\*\*\*\*\*

**CSPRA  
Calendar**

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

**(Directors Continued)**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Jill Dampier  
State Park Ranger II  
**Save Bodie!** and all other  
committees use CSPRA address.

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**For additional information on the  
association, write the  
Office Manager - Newsletter Editor**

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