



The CSPRA

Wave

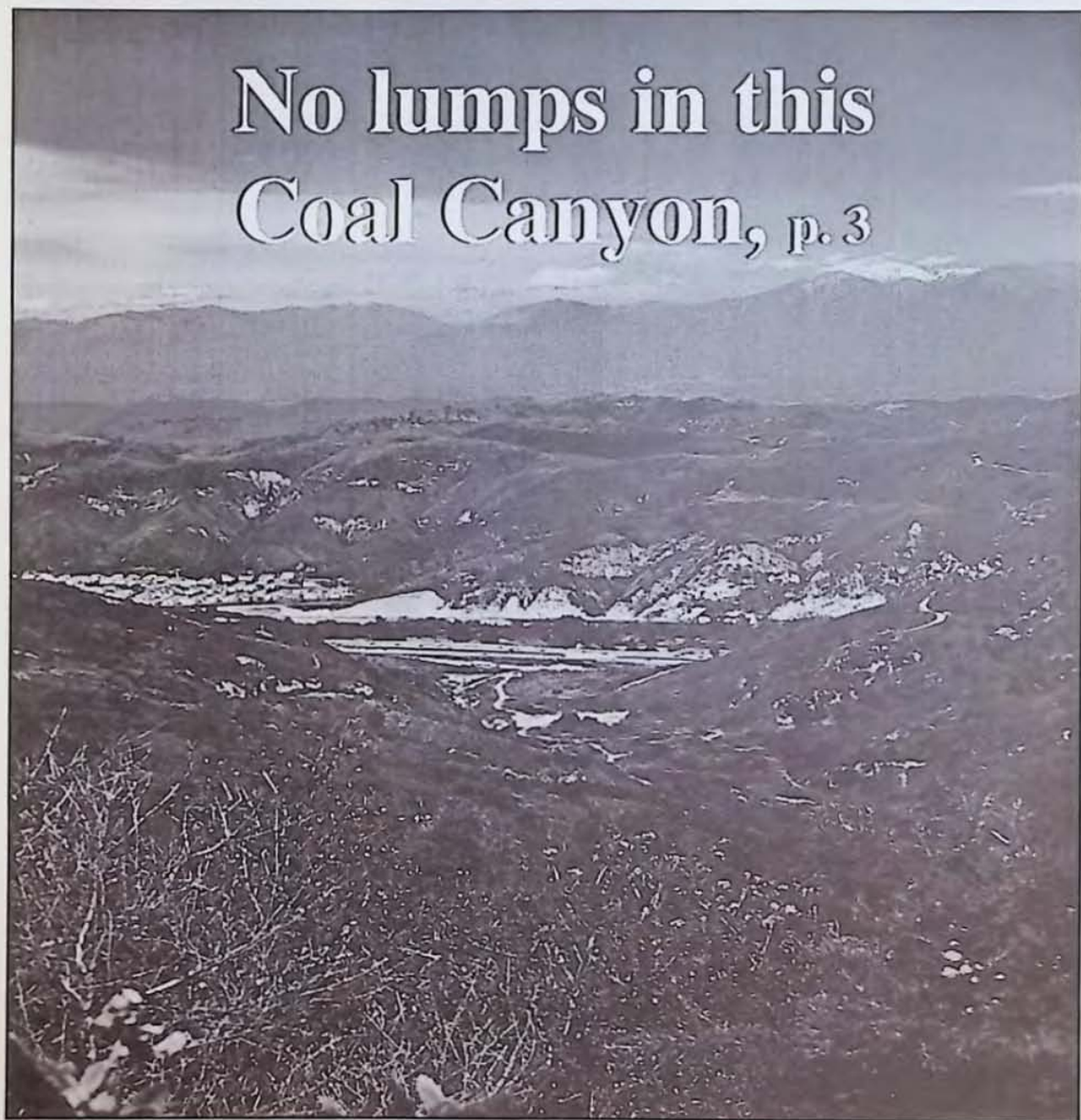
Newsletter

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 5

CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

JULY - AUGUST 2001

No lumps in this
Coal Canyon, p. 3





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The CSPRA Wave

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



BY GEARY HUND
CSPRA President

One day, as a ranger at Palomar Mountain, I was reflecting on what we had accomplished. Thanks to a dedicated staff our facilities and park operation were in the best shape in years. Despite my satisfaction, I felt an undercurrent of concern. I soon realized why. Native wildflowers were absent in many places because of exotic grasses, and the forest, not having burned in decades, was unnaturally thick and uniform. Of rare species, one was known to be nearly extinct, and little was known about the others.

Habitat degradation joins habitat loss and fragmentation as a top cause of the decline in biological diversity. We are beginning to address the threat of habitat loss and fragmentation through the acquisition and planning process. We also need to confront the growing threat of habitat degradation. Infestations of exotic plants, animals, and diseases are spreading largely unchecked in many of our parks, and new species are detected every year. Fire essential to ecosystem health, continues to be excluded from many areas. Hundreds of thousands of acres

of State Park land are affected. As a result, many of our irreplaceable native species and habitats are imperiled.

One recent casualty is the Morro Bay kangaroo rat, which may now be extinct. Exotic grasses degraded its habitat. Larger, charismatic species like the Peninsular bighorn sheep are also being affected. Decimated by exotic plants, animals and livestock diseases, they nearly became extinct before heroic efforts brought it back from the brink. Whole forests are also being threatened, as evidenced by the decimation of Monterey pines, and native oaks by disease.

The need for active resource management has been recognized since the mid-seventies or earlier. Unfortunately our ability to do so has been very limited. There are notable success stories due to the exceptional efforts of dedicated individuals and teams. However the magnitude of the problem is so great that we will not stem the tide without more help. For more than 20 years the Department's annual budget allocation for ongoing natural resource management has been around 250,000 dollars, or 18 cents an acre. Without adequate funding for ongoing maintenance, small resource management problems become much larger, turning into projects. Park bonds fund projects not maintenance, and for each project that is funded there are many more that are not.

A District based resource maintenance program is needed to meet the growing threat of habitat degradation. It will provide for the early detection and elimination of new threats through inspections

A river of life preserved in Parks

**Coal Canyon Biological Corridor Preservation Celebration
July 3, 2001**

Remarks by Geary W. Hund

We are here today to celebrate a landmark victory in the history of conservation. On June 29, at 5 p.m., the Coal Canyon Biological corridor was saved. California State Parks closed escrow on this land, the last of the private parcels in the corridor.

As a result, there is now a continuous band of protected public land between the Santa Ana Mountains/Cleveland National Forest to the south and the Puente-Chino Hills and Chino Hills State Park to the north. This moment is the culmination of over six years of a monumental effort to save Coal Canyon.

A river of life flows through Coal Canyon, a river that keeps an area of more than 512,000 acres of land healthy and alive. This is a river of migration, allowing wildlife to make seasonal and long-term migrations, this a river of dispersal, allowing new members of a population to find a home, genes of plants and animals flow through this river keeping populations healthy and robust, and this is a river of re-population allowing for the recolonization after catastrophic events such as wildfire.

Today marks both the end of one successful effort and the beginning of another. The stage is now set to free Coal Canyon, to free it of the burdens and impediments that weigh it down by restoring its landscapes and by taking the unprecedented step of converting a planned freeway interchange into

freeway crossing for wildlife and hikers, to close it down, to rip out the pavement, to plant native vegetation and to restore the stream flow.

We stand at the center of the one of the most ecologically significant areas in the United States, the Southwest Ecoregion, an area containing a greater

“
No other area preserves the same array of habitats to the same degree (Southwest ecoregion).
”

diversity of plants and animals than any other area of comparable size in the United States. As I look to the north and the south, I think of the wonderful diversity

found here. Perennial streams, tecate cypress forests, southern California black walnut, oak, and sycamore woodlands, expansive grasslands, and coastal sage scrub grace the landscape. No other area preserves the same array of habitats to the same degree. Many rare and important wildlife species reside here - mountain lion, bobcats, badger, nesting golden eagles, arroyo chub, red-diamond rattlesnakes and both the federally listed California gnatcatcher and least Bell's vireo - the list goes on.

All of these species and communities would have been at risk if the corridor had been lost. Scientists have long known that species stranded in isolated patches of habitat are at risk of extinction, especially rare ones.

Chino Hills State Park and the other parks and forests in this area serves millions of people. Half the state's population resides within a short distance. The wild character of these parks and forests and their proximity to urban areas makes them an ideal place for

See Coal Canyon, p.4



Left to right:
Rick Rayburn,
Claire Schlatterbeck,
Geary Hund,
Warren Westrup

ACQUISITIONS

Coal Canyon - You complete me

Chino Hills State Park and Water Canyon Natural Preserve

Created in 1984, Chino Hills State Park, and the recently created Water Canyon Natural Preserve, conserve nearly 13,000 acres of rolling hills and wooded canyons. They protect a wonderful diversity of habitats including several rare plant communities. Many rare, and several state and federally listed plant and animal species reside within the park. Golden eagles, bobcats, mule deer, badger and the occasional mountain lion are among the large mammal species frequenting the area. A small perennial stream supports native fish and other aquatic life. At the Rolling M Ranch, with its historic barn and windmills, and elsewhere, park

visitors can gain a sense of the historic ranching era. A sixty-five mile trail system provides biking, equestrian and hiking opportunities.

The Coal Canyon acquisition now creates the possibility of establishing a trail from Whittier to San Diego County. An intersecting trail along the Santa Ana River currently reaches the Ocean and there are plans to have it extend to the Pacific Crest Trail in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Picnic sites and undeveloped campsites are available. A new, developed campground is planned for construction in the near future. Chino Hills is at its best in the springtime when a plethora of wildflowers from native violets, to mariposa lilies, grace its hillsides. For more information contact the Chino, Cal-Citrus Sector at (909) 780-6222.



A bobcat in the Coal Canyon Corridor

Coal Canyon: from p. 3

people to come to renew their spirits, to get away from the frantic pace of modern life. Someday, because of Coal Canyon, trail users will be able to travel from Whittier to San Diego County in a vibrant, diverse landscape.

The preservation of Coal Canyon and Chino Hills State Park represents a tremendous public investment; it also represents the tremendous will and dedication of a group of caring people, people who care about our fellow creatures and about the future of humanity. It represents leadership, the leadership of California State

Parks in the cause of conservation, and it represents partnership, for in this effort we were joined by many others including individuals, grass roots groups, conservancies, local, state and federal agencies and elected officials. Thank you.

State Parks is deeply appreciative of the efforts of everyone who contributed to the acquisition. I want to take a moment to recognize three individuals who played an especially important part in the acquisition, Claire Schlotterbeck (Hills for Everyone), Warren Westrup (State Parks Acquisition Chief), and Rick Rayburn (State

Parks Natural Resource Management Division Chief).

The success story of Coal Canyon will reverberate far beyond its boundaries. God bless each and everyone who had the vision, the courage and the tenacity to save Coal Canyon.

They said it could not be done, but we did it. In the words of the esteemed conservation biologist, Michael Soule, "there are no hopeless cases, only people without hope and expensive cases."

Here's to Coal Canyon, a celebration of life.

**I WANT TO PROMOTE
PROFESSIONALISM IN
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS**

Sign me up as a member of
CSPRA

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Social Security # _____

Park unit # _____ Home phone _____

email _____

Membership type (Circle):

Active \$8/month

Active Retired \$18/year

Supporting \$36/year

Organization \$50/year

Benefactor \$1,000/life

I hereby authorize the State Controller to deduct from my salary and transmit as designated an amount for membership dues in the California State Park Rangers Association. This authorization will remain in effect until cancelled by myself or by the organization. I certify I am a member of the above organization and understand that termination of my membership will cancel all deductions made under this organization. Send to: CSPRA, P.O. BOX 292010, Sacramento, CA 95829-2010

Signature _____



Date _____

HAPPY CAMPERS

What adults say is their favorite thing about camping:



42% - Gathering by campfire with family and friends

24% - enjoying the landscape/wildlife



9% - Cooking/eating outdoors



11% - Participating in outdoor activities



6% - Sleeping in a tent under the stars



**Source: Wirthlin Worldwide for the Coleman Company & USA TODAY*

Hund: from p.2

and monitoring, it will help to keep existing problems in check until project funds are found, and it will allow the gains of projects to be maintained.

A committee made up of Sacramento and field staff has worked with the District Ecologists to document the natural resource maintenance need. They submitted a 16 million dollar budget change proposal; 11 million was approved and included in the governor's budget. Sadly, in the May revise, it was cut to 2 million. The good news is that the Department is providing a 2 million dollar augmentation, and there is Department of Finance

support for the program.

Our cultural resources are also in great need of a maintenance program. Efforts are underway to document this need.

Armed with the information defining our resource maintenance needs, the Department must make every effort to convince the executive and legislative branches of the critical need for this funding. The very foundation of our parks, our natural and cultural resources are at stake. We must remember that we cannot replace the southwestern pond turtle, the Peninsular bighorn sheep, the monarch butterfly, or the Monterey pine. If we lose them there is no turning back, not for all time.

Building a connection to community

BY CHRISTINA SHERR
Santa Cruz District

The following ideas are currently being done or have been done in other park units. You know who you are. Thank you for the inspiration!

1. Provide temporary housing for people from other agencies conducting research inside the park.
2. Adopt a local school and plan a day for all students of one grade to come to the park and do a special project.
3. Host the local Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization at a Campfire Program. Charge for the event and give all proceeds to the organization.
4. Read stories aloud at the nearby public library for two hours each month.
5. Walk through the campground or picnic area instead of driving when possible.
6. Invite other agencies and organizations to participate in planning and attending training events.
7. Host a Girl Scout or Boy Scout Jamboree at the park.
8. Invite yourself to the next park association board meeting.
9. Contact a local radio station and ask if you can be interviewed on the air to talk about your park or upcoming special event.
10. Invite your local game warden to your next staff meeting to give a brief update.
11. Host an evening lecture series community topics.
12. Invite local art students and classes to the park to draw, paint, etc. Ask them to donate their work, and hold a silent auction fundraiser for the park association.
13. Plan a holiday party or end of the season barbecue for your staff and volunteers this year.
14. Plan short one-day projects for inquiring groups to complete in the park and provide supplies. Invite a member of the local press to write a short article.
15. Partner with the local Sheriff Activities League to provide park activities for low-income children once a month.
16. Provide leadership for or offer assistance to help plan a national or regional workshop for an organization whose mission you believe in.
17. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper thanking specific citizens and agencies for their assistance at an accident scene or critical incident.
18. Offer a park facility for a non-profit Nature Center, Environmental Education Program, Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility or other non-profit community organization to occupy for low rent.
19. Provide informal "Coffee With The Ranger / Lifeguard" discussions periodically. Supply the beverages through your park association, and publicize it in the local community.
20. Arrange for your staff and relevant volunteers to go through a ropes-course experience together.
21. Plant trees and re-vegetate areas with schoolchildren. Visit the school first to familiarize them with project. Have them back out to water plants and see the progress firsthand.
22. Visit an assisted living or nursing home and present a park slide show. Take a musical instrument or invite a staff member or volunteer to join you and lead a short sing-a-long.
23. Provide internship opportunities for local college students to gain work experience.
24. Attend local job and career fairs when possible.
25. Plan and host a weekend campout for volunteers to accomplish a large park project like trail days, non-native species removal, restoration projects, or facility maintenance.
26. Invite women and children from local shelters to come to the park for a weekend picnic. Solicit food donations.
27. Attend monthly Chamber of Commerce and Business Association meetings.
28. Invite community members with relevant craft abilities and skills to conduct demonstrations and workshops.
29. Plan a Kid's Fishing Derby or other special event for families to attend. Provide supplies, awards, and lunch.
30. Tell your employees, coworkers, supervisors, and volunteers how much you appreciate them! Tell them often!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Dogs, roads, State Parks and you

SB 712 – Dogs in Parks **Author: Jackie Speier**

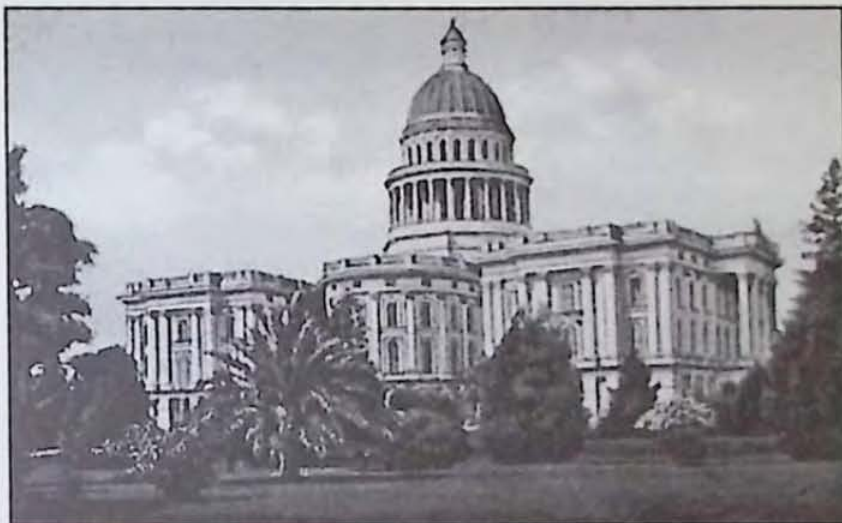
As we reported earlier the original bill would have required State Parks to prepare and submit a study of whether off-leash dog activity should be permitted in state parks. The bill as amended June 4, 2001 now changes the language from state parks to state recreation areas.

CSPRA still opposes SB712 as amended. We continue to oppose the bill because the public safety issues are no different in recreation areas, and because their undeveloped wildland areas support important species and habitats that would be affected by off-leash dogs. As of the date of this report, the bill is currently being held in suspense.

SB 116 – Preventing Damaging Road Projects in Parks **Author: Shelia Kuehl**

After success in the Senate, SB 116 was defeated by one vote in the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee. The chair of the committee, Dean Florez, who had earlier indicated that he would vote in favor of the bill, apparently relented to pressure from the powerful Transportation Corridor Authority, the entity that wishes to build the toll road through San Onofre State Beach and the pristine San Mateo Creek watershed.

The bill's author, Shelia Kuehl,



has asked for the bill to be reconsidered by the committee.

Our group and others are actively working to convince Assembly member Florez of the importance of passing this landmark legislation – currently 20 state park units could be

affected by proposed highway projects.

For the latest on these and other bills go to:

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>

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PROFESSIONALS BY PLACING AN AD NOW!!

Rates:

Business card = \$50
Quarter Page = \$100
Half Page = \$150
Full Page = \$200

Wreck to recovery, thank you

BY Susan Grove
Accessibility Team

Hello Everybody, I'm finally able to sit up comfortably enough and long enough to start doing e-mail. It's 11:30 a.m. and already two Parks people have called today to say hello and see how I am. It amazes me that people continue to call, since it's been over three weeks since my accident.

That brings me to what I wanted to write about. I have two messages I've been longing to get out. One is that the State Park Family is alive and well (there is absolutely no doubt about this!) and the second is thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I don't recommend getting hit by a car to test out the State Park Family support. You don't need to, because I already did that, and the response by my State Park colleagues has been unbelievable. Since I was hit right outside of the Silverado District office, the support started immediately, with employees holding my hand, reassuring me, and with Dave Nelson following me to the hospital and staying there for 7 hours until my husband arrived. Dave also put Lewis up in his home that night.

My first phone call from well-wishers came while I was still in the emergency room, and they're still coming, over three weeks later. In between, I've

received scores of other calls, and lots of reading material, games and crossword booklets. I received balloons, flowers and plants that brightened my hospital rooms (and the rooms of others since I couldn't take all the flowers with me when I transferred to the second hospital). I've received thoughtful gifts including candles, pajamas, stuffed animals, a journal, vitamins, candy, Girl Scout cookies, and gag gifts that have made me laugh. I've received many, many cards from individuals, sectors, district offices, and units in HQ. People that I barely know (and in a couple of cases, did not know), and people that I haven't seen in years were amongst those that called, wrote or visited. Frankly, I've been overwhelmed by your outpouring of caring support, and have been brought to tears more than once. I can't say thank you enough, for helping me get through this really tough time, and for letting me know that you care.

I've been home for 6 days now. I'm so glad to be here and to have my privacy and independence back. I arrived home to find a brand new ramp on my house, built by our incredible maintenance staff (there's the State Park Family thing again!) I sit in

our recliner most of the day, and use my walker to transfer to the wheelchair to get around the house. I was walking in my walker a lot more, but got a tongue lashing by the doctor who said I was weight-bearing more than I should. I go back to the doctor in 6 more days, to have everything re-x-rayed (my pelvis, sacrum, right ankle and left foot) to make sure that all the broken bones are healing properly. I had the staples from my surgery out the other day, and will get my cast off in three more weeks. I'm recovering well, so they tell me, but I'm sure getting impatient and I'm going crazy.

The 16-year old driver who caused the accident is being charged for driving without a license, and that's it. He injured three pedestrians and damaged several cars, and is being given a slap on the wrist. Since he had a seizure, he won't be charged with felony reckless or anything else. This sure gets my goat since he knew that he is prone to seizures, has a history of them, and takes medication to control them. He made an unbelievably irresponsible decision, and probably doesn't fully appreciate the consequences of his actions. I'd love to put him in my shoes for a day (not that I'm wearing shoes, and won't be for quite awhile!).

Thanks again for being such wonderful friends and caring people.

Are California State Parks safe?

On 7/8/01 at approximately 6:30 p.m. in Morro Strand State Beach two individuals, one adult and a 11 year-old boy, were shot and killed. A State Park Ranger shot the suspect, after refusing to drop his weapon, and took him into custody. This was the fifth officer-involved shooting in the department's history, three in the last two years.

By Adrian Rodriguez
The San Luis Obispo Tribune

A review of two years of crime from local State Parks by The Tribune shows having something stolen – not violent crime – is the greatest threat to visitors. Last weeks double slaying at Morro Strand State Beach was a rare tragedy, the numbers showed.

In fact, only three violent assaults were reported last year in San Luis Obispo County's 18 parks, beaches, preserves and other lands overseen by the State Parks Department.

The overall number of felonies – including theft, assault and vandalism – remains low, said Andy Zilke, chief ranger for the Oceano State Vehicular Park. The county's three State Parks districts each reported on average 36 felonies a year over the last two years.

Most of the thefts – about 140 in the last two years – occurred in San Luis Obispo Coast District, which includes Montana de Oro and Morro Bay State Parks as well as Morro Strand and Pismo State Beaches.

Felony thefts resulted in a loss of

more than \$58,000 in stolen clothes, electronic equipment and automobiles last year. Only about \$19,000 was reported recovered. A felony theft involves the loss of property worth more than \$400.

Zilke said major crimes are rare, although they might scare people. "Occasionally, things will happen that make people say 'Whoa,'" Zilke said. "But they are atypical."

Crime is up 34% in the State Park System, to 850 felony arrests in 2000 from 634 in 1999. That includes murders, rapes, assaults, serious thefts and other major crimes. The rates had been fairly steady until 2000.

State Park officials attribute the jump to a 20% increase in park usage that coincided with a decrease in entrance fees. Guns are banned in campgrounds.

So few arrests are made in local State Parks that no conclusions can be drawn from those figures, but the number of crimes reported in 2000 dropped 31% from 1999, officials said.

But, Bob Foster, superintendent for public safety for the State Parks System, said making a comparison between statewide trends and local trends can be misleading. Moreover, it's misleading to look at data for just one or two years, a period too short for spotting real trends.

"The California average doesn't really tell you anything about San Luis Obispo because the parks on the southern end of the state have more visitors," Foster said, adding parks on the Central Coast generally have low crime rates.

"I would say that it's very safe to be in State Parks," Foster said. "That may be because the number of staff that patrol State Parks are usually more than in rural areas or unincorporated areas."

The crime rates in State Parks are usually the same, if not lower, than the surrounding communities, Foster added.

San Luis Obispo County residents live in one of the safest areas in the state, according to the 2000 California Crime Index, which compiles the sum of all reported homicides, forcible rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries and motor-vehicle thefts.

"The public has a perception, and it's accurate, that State Parks are safe places to come," Zilke said. "The Morro Strand thing, we'll probably never have another incident to compare to that."

Park safety statistics

Number of crimes per Central Coast District by category

Crime	Oceano Dunes	San Luis Obispo	San Simon
Assault	1999 3	2	1
	2000 5	1	0
Theft	1999 16	96	13
	2000 27	44	10
Vandalism	1999 0	0	0
	2000 1	0	0

No incidents of car theft, rape, robbery or burglary were reported. Crime statistics for individual parks were unavailable

Santa Cruz and the news

Fifth flooding incident this week cripples state parks site

June 8th, 2001

By DAN WHITE

Santa Cruz Sentinel

SANTA CRUZ — Vandals used a garden hose to flood a state parks department building Wednesday night, two days after someone flooded four other workplaces in the city.

But the Wednesday incident was far worse than Monday's vandalism, which targeted City Hall, another city office, a private law office and an insurance firm.

When parks employees showed up to work at 8 a.m. Thursday at 600 Ocean St., a waterfall was dribbling from the top floor of the two-story building, through the first floor and into the basement parking lot.

By 9 a.m., rows of sopping books and files lay in the sun outside the building, across the street from the Holiday Inn. Workers carted off ruined fax machines and computers.

Building owner Bruce Dunn estimated damage "in the hundreds of thousands of dollars." He wasn't sure the building would be habitable in the near future.

"(The water) got all down into the electrical room, got in the elevator staffers work there, handling personnel matters, accounting and answering calls from the public. The vandals struck at one of the busiest times of year for the office.

"We get several hundred calls a



Civil engineer Julie Watson is stunned by the damage. Sentinel photo by Dan Coyro.

day about beaches, campsites, where people take their dogs. ... And we're out of business right now," said David Vincent, local parks superintendent. "We have a tremendous workload. This puts us at a standstill."

The building's carpets were so wet and covered with soaked ceiling panels that parks staffers wore rubber boots. In the kitchen, a 1-by-2-foot chunk of ceiling lay on a table near a bowl of corn chips.

Compared to the parks building flood, the previous incidents were minor.

At City Hall, someone smashed a corner pane in a window and inserted a hose. Water damaged a meeting room, but it did not interfere with daily business. At the city law office on Church Street, no documents were damaged and work went on as usual.

At Battistini & Canfield Insur-

ance, furniture and carpets were soaked. Vandals also hit the law offices of Page, Salisbury and Dudley.

In each incident, the vandals brought their own garden hoses and hooked them to outdoor water spigots.

Park employees speculated about various people who might have a beef with state parks and were taking it out on the district office. One mentioned a recent decision to limit camping in the state parks in the county to 30 days a year because of overwhelming demand.

But Lt. Joe Haebe of the Santa Cruz police found it puzzling someone, or a group, was hitting a seemingly disparate group of targets.

"For the life of me I don't know what the connection would be," he said. "I don't know how state parks fits in. It's too bad. I would really like to nail these jerks. It's uncalled for."

Meanwhile, people calling the state parks district office won't get a live person until Monday at the earliest.

Contact Dan White at dwhite@santa-cruz.com.



State parks limit stays in county to 30 days

June 9, 2001

By DAN WHITE

Santa Cruz Sentinel

SANTA CRUZ — State Department of Parks and Recreation staff say overwhelming demand for tent spots forced them to restrict camping to 30 days per year within the Santa Cruz area.

But the rules, which started June 1, are drawing resentment from long-term campers, especially homeless people who say the department is picking on them.

Short-term campers, however, say the limitations could make it easier to get reservations.

Each year 8 million people use district parks, redwood forests and secluded beaches. And use has been up since January when camping fees dropped to \$12 a day from \$18.

"We have a policy allowing the most folks access," said David Vincent, district parks superintendent. "Since we reduced fees, we've seen a 30 to 50 percent (statewide) increase in use. That's huge." In the past, people could stay 30 days at any district park, then move to another and start again.

The new rules restrict camping to 30 days total per year at Henry Cowell, Big Basin, Castle Rock, Manresa Uplands, Sunset, New Brighton, Seacliff and Portola.

Since the rules only apply to parks in this area, there's nothing to stop a camper from using the 30 days and moving to parks in Monterey County. The restrictions anger Jana Meares, who has been living at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park in a car with her 12-year-old son.

"Since March, I've used up 26 days and only in Henry Cowell," said



Meares, an unemployed home health-care worker. "And then I saw the laminated sign (advertising a 30-day restriction.)"

She was shocked to learn she'd have to move out soon. She said the new rules are unfair and unnecessary, and insists the department is exaggerating the number of people who use parks as justification for a 30-day limit. She calls the rules an excuse "to get rid of the homeless hippies" from the parks as a way to draw more tourists.

Vincent said his department's job is to provide open space and recreation for the public.

"We are not in the business of dealing with an incredibly difficult social issue such as homelessness," Vincent said. June Canham is temporarily homeless, but said she has no problem with the new rules.

"It should be up to the counties and cities to figure out places for the homeless," said Canham. "State parks are for everybody. It's a hard issue. But I don't think the parks are the

ones who should be taking care of the homeless."

Her fiance, Wesley Waits, who sells wares at flea markets, disagreed, saying the new rules aren't really about access. "For the tourists, sure," he said. "But we're out of luck this weekend."

He said he and his fiancée are waiting for low-income housing "but we have no other place to go right now." In the past, he said, he would camp four months at a time going from park to park.

Also at Henry Cowell campers Rod and Hollie Douma of the Central Valley agreed state parks shouldn't be responsible for housing homeless people, but disagreed on the rules.

"I don't think they should set a limit, as long as you get your reservations in," said Hollie Douma, who owns an almond orchard with Rod Douma. "It's like saying 'you can only stay at the Hilton five days a year.'" Rod Douma, a banker, disagrees.

"If the intent is getting more people into campgrounds, I don't have a problem with that."

RESOURCE PROTECTION - BODIE

May 26, 2001

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-3553

Support: Designation of Bodie, Bodie Mountain, Mount Biedeman and Mormon Meadows Wilderness Areas, and 'Wild and Scenic River' status for Rough and Atastra Creeks.

Dear Senator Boxer,

The California State Park Rangers Association (CSPRA) represents over 700 park professionals working in a variety of disciplines. We are dedicated to the protection of the integrity of State Parks, and more specifically we have actively participated for a number of years in the effort to protect and preserve the historic town of Bodie and its surroundings. We possess a diverse working knowledge of the management of California's unique parks and wild lands.

Bodie State Historic Park and National Historic Monument, located in Mono County near Yosemite National Park and Mono Lake, preserves a remarkable piece of western history. This 1880's gold mining 'boom town' boasted a population of near 10,000! Today, over 200,000 visitors a year take a step back in time as they wander the streets of the remaining 'ghost town'.

Just getting to the Park is a rewarding and enjoyable experience. The Bodie Hills, which surround the Park, are a magnificent blending of the Sierra Nevada's majesty and the wide-open splendor of the Great Basin. Views from the

10,000 foot Bodie Peak are world class: at your feet is the Sierra Crest, the Sawtooths, the Sweetwaters, Beauty Peak, the White Mountains, Glass Mountain, and Mono Lake. Wildlife is amazingly diverse: sage grouse strut, pika tend their hay piles, pronghorn blaze through the sage 'ocean'. Recreational opportunities are plentiful and rewarding in all seasons. Native American rock art and other features indicate a rich cultural history. Potential 'Wild and Scenic' rivers provide shelter to native trout populations along their aspen shaded banks. Because of their many unique qualities, the Bodie Hills are currently classified and managed as 'Wilderness Study Areas'. The Bodie Hills are simply one of the most beautiful places in California.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for the management of the Bodie Hills. While the local BLM staff has provided increasingly sensitive stewardship, these lands are still very threatened by renegade off-road vehicle use, mining exploration, riparian area destruction, livestock grazing, inappropriate development, and road and fence construction.

In order to truly preserve the historic town of Bodie, we must not only preserve its historic fabric, we must preserve its surroundings, its sense of place. Taken out of this context of wide-open natural space, Bodie would be greatly diminished.

A Mono County citizens group has surveyed 76,000 acres of the Bodie Hills WSA's and determined that this land is very deserving of wilderness designation. The sage vegetation landscape is grossly underrepresented in California's existing wilderness system. The preservation of this land is critical if rare

and/or endemic species, such as the sage grouse, are to maintain viable populations.

The California State Park Rangers Association strongly supports the designation and creation of the Bodie, Bodie Mountain, Mount Biedeman and Mormon Meadows Wilderness Areas and 'Wild and Scenic River' status for Rough and Atastra Creeks. These designations will protect and preserve these outstanding natural areas, and they will preserve the all-important sense of place of the historic town of Bodie. It will ensure their continued enjoyment by current and future generations, and provide for the continued health of Mono County's tourism-based economy.

The historic town of Bodie and the wildland areas around it are of national significance to our cultural and natural heritage. Together they provide a starkly beautiful and stunning window into the past. We urge you to take an active role in the creation and designation of the Bodie Hills wilderness and wild and scenic river areas. They deserve and need the full protection provided by inclusion within the Wilderness system. Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Mark Langner at 760.647.6142, or me at 909.940.5617.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:
Geary W. Hund
President

Ranger Mark Langer brought this to CSPRA attention and provided a draft letter. Turn your ideas into a CSPRA letter

STATE BUDGET CONCERNS

A Letter to the Conference Committee Concerning the Proposed State Budget

Dear Conference Committee Members:

A quiet crisis exists in State Parks today, one that threatens to unravel the very fabric of our Parks, their natural resources.

Our State Parks preserve some of California's most outstanding and priceless natural resources. Many of these resources such as the coast redwood, giant sequoia, and peninsular bighorn sheep are revered and valued worldwide. They are emblematic of the richness and beauty of our State. Today these cherished natural resources are in great peril due to habitat loss and fragmentation, infestations of exotic plants and animals, and the exclusion of fire from its natural role in ecosystems. Exotic plant and animal species compete with and/or prey upon native species and pathogens weaken or kill them. Numerous native species including the peninsular bighorn sheep could become extinct if prompt action is not taken to acquire necessary lands and to develop active and effective resource management programs.

The governor, with a recommendation from the Department of Finance (DOF), included 11 million dollars in the January budget to establish a natural resource maintenance program in State Parks. This recommendation from DOF was based on detailed documentation provided by State Parks in a Budget Change Proposal. This program would:

1. Help to prevent new exotic species infestations through inspections and

- monitoring;
2. Contain existing infestations at their current level;
3. Hold the gains made against these pests as a result of resource management projects;
4. Support the use of prescribed burning to restore forests, brush lands and, grasslands to their natural condition;
5. And it would allow trends in the condition of the natural resources to be monitored.

Currently the Department only has a support base budget of 250,000 dollars a year to manage the natural resources of over 1.2 million acres. This amount cannot begin to address the current need. As a result the gains resulting from bond-funded projects are often lost, and many new and expensive problems arise, many that never would have existed if a maintenance program were in place.

The threat from exotic species is increasing at an alarming rate; existing infestations are spreading rapidly and new pests are introduced each year. Native species have already been lost in a number of parks, and in one case, the Morro Bay Kangaroo Rat may be extinct. Whole ecosystems and plant communities are being affected. For example, massive die offs of Monterey Pines and native oaks are occurring as a result of infestations of exotic pathogens, and the exclusion of fire from forests is decreasing native species diversity and increasing the potential of catastrophic wildfire – posing a threat

to lives and property as well as wildlife.

Experience has shown us that the majority of the current threats to our priceless natural resources can be effectively addressed if there is a means follow-through after initial bond funded projects are completed, and new problems can be prevented through early detection and intervention. The cost to achieve success is modest compared to many programs, and the gains from projects can be permanent with a maintenance program. From day to day the decline in the condition of our natural resources is difficult to detect; it takes a practiced eye to see. Yet it is occurring. The cost of continued inaction will be great. If we do not act soon, in the course of a few decades we will lose much of the outstanding natural heritage of California, a heritage found nowhere else which inspires awe and renews the spirit of millions of people each year. A few weedy species will replace our extraordinary diversity of native species, and our native landscapes, in the words of E.O. Wilson will become "pathetic remnants." Like landscapes on canvas they will be beautiful to look at but devoid of the life they once contained.

The need for an ongoing resource maintenance program is too great, and the stakes too high, for it to be deferred any longer. I urge you to restore the funding for this program to 11 million dollars.

Geary W. Hund
President
California State Park Rangers
Association

BOARD MEETING NOTES

May 8, 2001

Mott Training Center

PRESENT:

Geary Hund, Dana Jones, Gar Salzgeber, Val Bradshaw, Adam Stahnke, Steve Wagy, Hailee Zaldivar, Kevin Buchanan.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Geary discussed the cost of the recruitment activities have been very active and successful. The board agreed to dedicate another 1000 dollars to support upcoming recruitment efforts. A new supply of memberships brochures is needed. The board discussed what to include in the application.

NOTES:

- CSPRA pens were produced and received. Dana Jones will distribute a supply to district representatives.

- Geary Hund reported on the

status of SB 116 and 712.

- Geary Hund discussed our prior association with PCL, and the possibility of establishing an organizational membership with other groups. The board agreed to review the mission statements of other conservation groups at an upcoming meeting in consideration of a potential membership.

- Gar Salzgeber will assume the role of office manager on July 1. He will establish a new PO Box. He is establishing new accounts and completing a transition with Doug Bryce.

- Doug Bryce will be coordinating the 2002 Conference in San Diego. Geary Hund will be working with Doug to develop an agreement for his services. June meeting set for the first conference-planning meeting. Ronie Clark will be co-chairing the

conference for CSPRA.

- Geary Hund presented information about corporate accounts and, Domini socially responsible funds. He discussed the idea of maintaining a percentage of our savings in the checking account for needs exceeding the regular budget and building a diverse portfolio for our long-term savings. A resolution was passed and later amended to allow our new office manager to transfer the existing FDIC insured bank accounts to a new branch, or to establish new accounts. A decision about which socially responsible firm to use and the amount and percentage of assets to invest was deferred to an upcoming meeting.

- The board agreed in principle to providing compensation to the web master. Hailee Zaldivar will work with Jeff Price to develop a contract.



Gar Salzgeber

Gar - eat, new executive manager

Gar Salzgeber assumed the duties of CSPRA Executive Manager on July 1st. Gar is married, has two grown daughters, and two grandchildren. Gar started his park career as a Park Aid in 1960. In 1964 he became a State Park Attendant, then a Ranger I in 1968. In 1976 he was an exchange ranger with the National Park Service at Yosemite National Park. He worked as a law enforcement ranger with specific assignments in vehicle patrol, ski patrol, horse patrol and plain cloths detective. From Yosemite, in 1977, he accepted an assignment at Pismo State Beach

as Supervisory Ranger.

During his career Gar also had temporary assignments supervising aquatic, maintenance and dispatch operations and as an acting Chief Ranger. Gar retired in 1992 being presented with a DPR Superior Achievement Award. Gar returned to work as a retired annuitant in the North Coast Redwoods completing assignments for both State Parks and the National Parks Service. After two busy "retired" years he wanted to maintain his connections with park people and became Executive Manager of CSPRA. He is looking forward to participating in CSPRA's visionary exciting future.

MEMBERSHIP



NEW MEMBERS:

William Verdery
Michael Silvestri
Jeff Herman
Maureen Brack
Terri Lynn Lopez
Rebecca Cull
Paul Stromoski
Jeremy Burn
Daniel Carr
Robert Coyan
Angela Dase
David Dennis
Robert Elliott
Roland Gaebert
Robin Greene
Damien Jones
Frank Schuyler
Dan Kraft
Susan McLaughlin
O'Connor, Darrin
Alphonso Pepito
Michelle Preston
Richard Rocha
Scott Struckman
Martin Urbach
Gregory Yanchus

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

District	Name	Phone
Angeles, Coast	Padilla, Frank	310 457-4358
Angeles, Inland	Crossman, John	805 726-1671
Bay Area, Coast	Edgemon, Chuck	650 879-2025
Bay Area, Diablo	Nielson, Carl	925 837-6129
Calaveras	Harrison, Wayne	209 795-3488
Capitol	Simmons, Kenneth	916 445-7387
Channel Coast	Robinson, Rondalyn	805 654-5301
Colorado	Zemon, Jeri	760 767-4399
Four Rivers	Stokes, Mary	209 826-1196
Gold Fields	Van Etten-Collins, Laura	916 988-0206
Headquarters	Maris, Vic	916 653-9315
Marin	Whitehead, Mike	415 435-5390
Monterey	Pat Clark Gray	831 649-2855
Northern Buttes	Grove, Susan	530 235-0956
North Coast	Jones, Ronald	707 464-6101
Orange Cost	Serpa, Jim	949 496-5290
Oceano Dunes	Monge, Rey	805 473-7225
Mendocino	Joe, Kevin	707 937-5804
Mendocino	Broderick, Karen	707 847-3286
San Joaquin	Davis, Jeff	559 822-2283
San Simeon	Van Schmus, James	805 927-2020
Santa Cruz	Linda Hitchcock	831 429-2851
Sierra	Lindsey, Tom	530 525-7232
Silverado	Nixon, Valerie	707 279-4293
S. Service Center	Webb, Paul	619 220-5311
Twin Cities	Fitzpatrick, Jim	925 447-0426

Do you know someone who is retiring?

CSPRA provides a plaque for each member when they retire. Contact CSPRA at (800) 994-2530 or make a request at www.cspra.com

EDITOR'S NOTE:

California State Parks are the most beautiful, diverse and inspiring places in the world. As professionals we are all fortunate to have an important part in preserving them. As a member of CSPRA get involved. Is there something special going on at your park? Is your association taking on a unique project? Does your district have an issue that everyone should know about? *The CSPRA Wave* should be the VOICE of all its members ...



SHARE YOUR IDEAS and THOUGHTS,
news@cspra.com