



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, California 93271-9651
(559) 565-3341



IN REPLY REFER TO:

2.A.1 (8557 Temporary Meadow Grazing Closure)

SEP 01 2015

To: Ned Kelleher, Chief Ranger
From: Dave Fox, Sequoia District Ranger 
Subject: Temporary Closure to Grazing of McClure Meadow (33-2) and Big Pete Meadow (39-2) within Kings Canyon National Park

Exceptional drought conditions continue to impact plant growth in wilderness meadows. Snowpack measurements indicated that the snowpack was approximately 1% of average in the San Joaquin and Kern River drainages, making it the fourth dry year in a row.

33-2 McClure Meadow has an estimated annual grazing capacity range of 31-221 stock nights. In 2015, the Special Wilderness Public Use Limits & Closures limits grazing of this meadow to 40 total stock nights. On 8/25, the McClure ranger reported at least 35 total stock nights of grazing this season and recommended a closure to further grazing. During a site visit on 8/28, Plant Ecology staff observed impacts to soils and vegetation and concurred with the recommendation for a closure to further grazing.

39-2 Big Pete Meadow has an estimated annual grazing capacity range of 8-56 stock nights. The 2015 Special Wilderness Public Use Limits & Closures limits grazing of this meadow to 50 total stock nights of grazing. During a site visit on 8/30, Plant Ecology staff observed that impacts to soils and vegetation were consistent with the recorded grazing use were nearing a point when they would warrant a closure to further grazing. On 9/2 the LeConte ranger reported that total grazing had reached the 50 night limit and recommended a closure to further grazing.

Based on the documented meadow conditions in conjunction with reported stock use nights, and consultation with the Kings District Ranger, per Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Management Directive 9, I hereby temporarily close McClure Meadow and Big Pete Meadow to grazing. This will be effective September 2, 2015 for the remainder of the 2015 season.

Cc: Tom Parrack, Kings District Ranger



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.A.2 (8557) Temporary Meadow Closure

SEP 5 2014

To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger

From: Dave Fox, Sequoia District Ranger

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Fox".

Subject: Temporary Closure of Tyndall Creek Meadows (80-3) within Sequoia National Park

As of September 5th, 2014, the Tyndall Creek Ranger reported that the meadow forage area in the Tyndall Creek Meadow had reached its annual grazing capacity and current meadow conditions warrant a seasonal closure.

Snowpack measurements indicated that the snowpack was approximately 14% of average in the Kern River drainage.

80-3 Tyndall Creek Meadows have an estimated grazing capacity of 27-158 stock nights. As of September 5th, the Tyndall Creek ranger reported that total grazing had reached approximately 135 stock nights. Impacts to soils and vegetation observed on the ground were consistent with the recorded grazing use and indicated that continued grazing would have undesirable effects on the meadow.

Based on the documented meadow conditions in conjunction with reported stock use nights, per Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Management Directive 9, I hereby close Tyndall Creek Meadow (80-3). This will be effective September 6, 2014 for the remainder of the 2014 season.



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

2.A.1 (8557 (b) (5) [redacted])

MEMORANDUM

To: Woody Smeck, Superintendent

From: Dave Fox, Sequoia District Ranger

Subject: (b) (5) [redacted]
[redacted]

Wallace Creek/JMT Junction Meadow was heavily used in 2014, and temporarily closed after 55 stock use nights on August 28, 2014 due to mechanical impacts. In order to permit the meadow to recover, a recommendation was made to limit the meadow to 20 stock use nights in 2015.

As of August 12, 2015, 20 stock use nights have occurred. The wilderness ranger assessed the meadow and found that there was still adequate forage and negligible resource impacts from grazing this year. (b) (5)
[redacted] (5)

[redacted] There are other meadows in the area that could absorb usage should this meadow reach its prescribed number of use nights.

Based on the proposal by the Tyndall Creek Ranger, Chris Gooch, regarding the documented meadow conditions, and in conjunction with the plant ecology staff, per Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Management Directive 9, I hereby recommend (b) (5)
[redacted]

Recommended by: _____
Dave Fox, Sequoia District Ranger Date

Ned Kelleher, Chief Ranger Date

Approved by: _____
Woody N. Smeck Date



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

2.A.1 (8557 Temporary Meadow Grazing Closure)

SEP 01 2015

To: Ned Kelleher, Chief Ranger

From: Dave Fox, Sequoia District Ranger

Subject: Temporary Closure to Grazing of Wallace Creek Waterfall Meadow (81-2.3) and Rock Creek Lake Meadow (85-8) within Sequoia National Park

Exceptional drought conditions continue to impact plant growth in wilderness meadows. Snowpack measurements indicated that the snowpack was approximately 1% of average in the San Joaquin and Kern River drainages, making it the fourth dry year in a row.

81-2.3 Wallace Creek Waterfall Meadow has an estimated annual grazing capacity range of 8-52 stock nights. In 2015, the Special Wilderness Public Use Limits & Closures limits grazing of this meadow to six head of stock with a one night limit for private and commercial groups only. The model shows the limit for anticipated conditions to provide 29 stock nights. On 9/2/15, the Tyndall ranger reported at least 42 total stock nights of grazing this season and recommended a closure to further grazing. She observed impacts to soils and vegetation including trampling and close cropped vegetation.

85-8 Rock Creek Lake Meadow has an estimated annual grazing capacity range of 30-208 stock nights. The 2015 Special Wilderness Public Use Limits & Closures limits grazing of this meadow to 50 total stock nights. During a site visit on 9/2/15, the Rock Creek ranger reported at least 50 total stock nights of grazing this season and recommended a closure to further grazing. She observed impacts to soils and vegetation including trampling and close cropped vegetation.

I consulted with Erik Frenzel from the Plant Ecology Office. He concurred with the recommendations.

Based on the documented meadow conditions in conjunction with reported stock use nights, per Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Management Directive 9, I hereby temporarily close Wallace Creek Waterfall Meadow and Rock Creek Lake Meadow to grazing. This will be effective September 2, 2015 for the remainder of the 2015 season.



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.A.2 (8557 Temporary Meadow Grazing Closure)

AUG 28 2014

To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger

From: Dave Fox, Sequoia District Ranger 

Subject: Temporary Closure to Grazing of Multiple Meadows within Sequoia National Park

As of August 27, 2014, wilderness rangers reported that four meadow forage areas in the Kern River drainage and one in the Kaweah River drainage had reached their annual grazing capacity and current meadow conditions warrant a seasonal closure. These were 81-2.1 Wallace Creek/JMT Junction Meadow, 83-8 Sandy Meadow, 84-2 Lower Rock Creek Crossing Meadow, 85-4 Penned-up Meadow, and 90-11 South Fork Pasture (Upper Camp).

Snowpack measurements indicated that the snowpack was approximately 14% of average in the Kern River drainage, and 6% in the Kaweah River drainage, making it the third dry year in a row.

81-2.1 Wallace Creek/JMT Junction Meadow has an estimated annual grazing capacity of 5-27 stock nights. On August 27, 2014, the Crabtree ranger reported that total grazing had reached 50 stock nights. Impacts to soils and vegetation observed on the ground were consistent with the recorded grazing use.

83-8 Sandy Meadow has an estimated annual grazing capacity range of 66-388 stock nights. In 2012, grazing totaled 387 stock nights. In 2013, the Special Wilderness Public Use Limits & Closures limited grazing of this meadow to 150 total stock nights to provide the meadow with a recovery in a drought year following high use in 2012. The 2014 Special Wilderness Public Use Limits & Closures limited grazing of Sandy Meadow to 200 total stock nights of grazing to provide additional recovery in a drought year after the high use in 2012. On August 25, the Crabtree ranger reported that total grazing had reached 200 total stock nights. Impacts to soils and vegetation observed on the ground were consistent with the recorded grazing use.

84-2 Lower Rock Creek Crossing Meadow has an estimated annual grazing capacity range of 69-409 stock nights. The 2014 Special Wilderness Public Use Limits & Closures limited grazing of Lower Rock Creek Crossing Meadow to 200 total stock nights of grazing. On August 27, 2014, the Rock Creek ranger reported that total grazing had reached 200 stock nights. Impacts to soils and vegetation observed on the ground were consistent with the recorded grazing use.

85-4 Penned-up Meadow has an estimated annual grazing capacity range of 11-79 stock nights. The 2014 Special Wilderness Public Use Limits & Closures limited grazing of Lower Rock Creek Crossing

Meadow to 40 total stock nights of grazing. On August 27, 2014, the Rock Creek ranger reported that total grazing had reached 40 stock nights. Impacts to soils and vegetation observed on the ground were consistent with the recorded grazing use.

90-11 South Fork Pasture (Upper Camp) has an estimated annual grazing capacity range of 32-192 stock nights. The 2014 Special Wilderness Public Use Limits & Closures limited grazing of South Fork Pasture (Upper Camp) to 100 total stock nights of grazing. On August 27, 2014, the Hockett ranger reported that total grazing had reached approximately 80 stock nights. Impacts to creek banks and vegetation observed on the ground indicated that continued grazing would have undesirable effects on the meadow.

Based on the documented meadow conditions in conjunction with reported stock use nights, per Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Management Directive 9, I hereby close the 5 meadows listed above. This will be effective August 28, 2014 for the remainder of the 2014 season.



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

2.A.1 (8557 Temporary Meadow Grazing Closure)

To: Ned Kelleher, Chief Ranger

From: Dave Fox, Sequoia District Ranger

Subject: Temporary Closure to Grazing of Lower Crabtree Meadow (83-5) in Sequoia National Park

	Elevation (feet)	Size (acres)	Forage	Use Level	# Stock Allowed	# Nights Allowed
83-5 Lower Crabtree Meadow	10,330	26	Good	High	20	No Limit

A large, flat, sub-alpine basin meadow at the confluence of Whitney and Crabtree Creeks. The Pacific Crest Trail skirts the west edge of the meadow. A drift fence is located south of the meadow on the trail to Rock Creek.

Lower Crabtree Meadow, based on its size, elevation, and historical use level, had been prescribed to close after 40 stock use nights based on its ability to meet the grazing demand without causing significant impacts to meadow health. Rangers have been monitoring the meadow and determined the number of use nights were:

- 28 Stock Use Nights on 8/10/2015
- 44 Stock Use Nights on 8/31/2015

Lower Crabtree Meadow was also closed on 8/4/2014 to reduce meadow impacts. This meadow is currently showing mechanical impacts including trampling of the vegetation and close cropping on grazing materials.

Based on the documented meadow conditions in conjunction with reported stock use nights, per Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Management Directive 9, I hereby temporarily close Sandy Meadow (83-8). This will be effective August 10, 2014 for the remainder of the 2015 season.



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.A.2. Meadow Closure

AUG 4 2014

To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger
From: Dave Fox, Sequoia District Ranger
Subject: Temporary Closure of Lower Crabtree Creek Meadow, Sequoia National Park

On 8/4/2014, Ranger Pilewski informed me that the Lower Crabtree Meadow (83-5) had reached its capacity and the current meadow conditions warrant a seasonal closure.

The memorandum "Recommendations for Temporary Meadow Use Restrictions" from the Wilderness Coordinator and Plant Ecologist to the Superintendent, recommended a use night limit of 40 nights for Lower Crabtree Meadow for the 2014 season. Due to the early opening and dry conditions, an early closure is needed.

On August 4, 2014, Lower Crabtree Meadow reached 54 use nights. Crabtree Ranger, Rob Pilewski, recommended that the meadow be closed due to the current conditions. Ranger Pilewski did a meadow assessment and determined that the meadow needed to be closed given the meadows low productivity and lack of moisture this year. Pilewski indicated that additional grazing to the meadow could possibly cause permanent damage. I consulted with Haultain on the closure and they both concurred with Ranger Pilewski's recommendation.

Based on the combination of documented meadow conditions and the meadow reaching its use limits, and per Sequoia and Kings Canyon Management Directive 9, I hereby close Lower Crabtree Meadow (83-5) to grazing. This will be effective August 4, 2014, for the remainder of the 2014 season.

Dave Fox, Sequoia District Ranger

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.A.2. Meadow Closure

AUG 4 2015

To: Ned Kelleher, Chief Ranger

From: Dave Fox, Sequoia District Ranger

Subject: Temporary Closure of Lower Whitney (Strawberry) Meadow, Sequoia National Park

On 7/31/2015, Ranger Rob Pilewski informed the Wilderness Office that the Lower Whitney Meadow (83-7) had reached its capacity and the current meadow conditions warrant a seasonal closure.

The memorandum "Recommendations for Temporary Meadow Use Restrictions" from the Wilderness Coordinator and Plant Ecologist to the Superintendent, recommended a use night limit of 40 nights for Lower Whitney Meadow for the 2015 season.

As of July 31, 2015, the meadow has reached 72 stock use nights. Crabtree Ranger Rob Pilewski, recommended that the meadow be closed due to the current conditions. Ranger Pilewski conducted a meadow assessment and determined that the meadow needed to be closed given the meadows low productivity, lack of moisture, and actual grazing activity this year. Pilewski indicated that additional grazing to the meadow could possibly cause permanent damage.

Based on the combination of documented meadow conditions and the meadow reaching its use limits, and per Sequoia and Kings Canyon Management Directive 9, I hereby close Lower Whitney (Strawberry) Meadow (83-7) to grazing. This will be effective August 4, 2015, for the remainder of the 2015 season.

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

2.A.1 (8557 Temporary Meadow Grazing Closure)

AUG 10 2015

To: Ned Kelleher, Chief Ranger

From: Dave Fox, Sequoia District Ranger

Subject: Temporary Closure to Grazing of Sandy Meadow (83-8) within Sequoia National Park

Sandy Meadow (83-8) has an estimated annual grazing capacity range of 66-388 stock nights.

- In 2012, the meadow received 387 documented stock use nights.
- In 2013, it was limited to 150 nights to recover from the high use in 2012.
- In 2014, it was limited to 200 total stock nights of grazing to provide additional recovery in a drought year. On August 25, 2014, the Crabtree ranger reported that total grazing had reached 200 total stock nights and was closed due to mechanical impacts.
- Snowpack measurements in 2015 were at record lows; this was the fourth dry year in a row. The recommendation for 2015 was to continue the 200 total stock night limit for recovery. As of August 10, 2015, the meadow reached 192 stock use nights. Wilderness rangers reported that Sandy Meadow was showing mechanical impacts including trampling of the vegetation and close cropping on grazing materials.

Based on the documented meadow conditions in conjunction with reported stock use nights, per Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Management Directive 9, I hereby temporarily close Sandy Meadow (83-8). This will be effective August 10, 2014 for the remainder of the 2015 season.



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

2.A.1 (8557 Temporary Meadow Grazing Closure)

AUG 14 2015

To: Ned Kelleher, Chief Ranger

From: Dave Fox, Sequoia District Ranger

Subject: Temporary Closure to Grazing of Lower Rock Creek Crossing Meadow (84-2) and Lower Soldier Lake Meadows (85-6) within Sequoia National Park

On August 14, 2015, I was notified by wilderness rangers that two meadows were in need of temporary grazing restrictions to preserve meadow health and encourage future growth for future grazing.

The Lower Rock Creek Crossing Meadow has excellent forage, and experiences moderate usage. It is 54 acres at an elevation of 9,500 feet. It was determined that this meadow would likely sustain 200 stock use nights in 2015. As of August 14, 2015, it had experienced 230 stock use nights.

The Lower Soldier Lake Meadows are much smaller – 15 acres at 10,800 feet. The forage is generally fair. Due to the elevation and smaller size of the meadows, they do not produce enough vegetation to sustain a large amount of grazing. As of August 14, 2015, they had seen 20 stock use nights. There was no predetermined limit to stock use nights for this meadow in 2015, primarily due to a very low observed use level.

Wilderness rangers reported that these meadows were showing mechanical impacts including trampling of the vegetation and close cropped vegetation. The current conditions are inconsistent with continued grazing. Consultation with the plant ecology office resulted in concurrence with the field recommendation.

Based on the documented meadow conditions, in conjunction with reported stock use nights, per Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Management Directive 9, I hereby temporarily close Lower Rock Creek Crossing Meadow (84-2) and Lower Soldier Lake Meadows (85-6) to grazing. This will be effective August 14, 2015 for the remainder of the 2015 season.



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

1.A.2 (8557 – Temporary Meadow Closure)

SEP 11 2014

To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger

From: Dave Fox, Sequoia District Ranger

Subject: Temporary Closure of South Fork Meadow (90-10) within Sequoia National Park

As of September 11th, 2014, the Hockett Meadow Ranger reported that the meadow forage area in the South Fork Meadow had reached its annual grazing capacity and current meadow conditions warrant a seasonal closure.

Snowpack measurements indicated that the snowpack was approximately 6% in the Kaweah River drainage, making it the third dry year in a row.

90-10 South Fork Meadow has an estimated grazing capacity of 75 stock nights. As of September 11th, the Hockett Meadow ranger reported that total grazing had reached approximately 70 observed stock nights. He believed that there were additional nights where the meadow was grazed that were not observed. Impacts to soils and vegetation observed on the ground were consistent with above the recorded grazing use and indicated that continued grazing would have undesirable effects on the meadow.

Based on the documented meadow conditions in conjunction with reported stock use nights, per Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Management Directive 9, I hereby close South Fork Meadow (90-10). This will be effective September 12, 2014 for the remainder of the 2014 season.



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

September 7, 2010

To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger
From: Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger
Subject: Temporary Closure of Lower Crabtree Creek Meadow, Sequoia National Park

On 9/7/2010, Ranger Jostad informed me that the Lower Crabtree Meadow (83-5) has reached its capacity and the current meadow condition warrants a seasonal closed. Ranger Jostad consulted with SEKI Plant Ecologist, Haultain, on the closure.

Background:

The memorandum "Recommendations for Temporary Meadow Use Restrictions" from the Wilderness Coordinator and Plant Ecologist to the Superintendent, recommended a use night limit of 47 nights for Lower Crabtree Meadow for the 2010 season.

In early August 2010, Lower Crabtree Meadow reached 47 use nights. Crabtree Ranger, Rob Pilewski, recommended that approximately 13 more use nights were reasonable given meadow condition. Members of the plant ecology staff made a site visit just after Ranger Pilewski and concurred with his recommendation. In mid-August, Plant Ecologist, Haultain, made a site visit and confirmed this extension was an appropriate course of action. On August 29, 2010, Lower Crabtree Meadow reached 61 use nights.

Based on the combination of documented meadow conditions and the meadow reaching its use limits, I hereby close Lower Crabtree Meadow (83-5) to grazing. This will be effective September 7, 2010, for the remainder of the 2010 season. SEKI Management Directive 009 authorizes this action.


Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

September 7, 2010

To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger

From: Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

Subject: Temporary Closure of Lower Rock Creek Meadow, Sequoia National Park

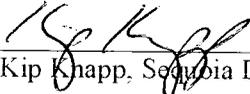
On September 4, Ranger Jostad recommended that Lower Rock Creek Meadow should be closed due to current meadow conditions. During her monitoring of the meadow, she observed and photographed significant areas of closely cropped vegetation, trampled vegetation and deep (>1") hoof prints in wet areas from stock use. Ranger Jostad discussed the meadow condition with SEKI Plant Ecologist, Haultain, on September 4, 2010. Haultain agreed with Ranger Jostad, that the meadow should be closed for the remainder of 2010 season.

Background

Lower Rock Creek Meadow (84-2) has received 321 recorded stock use nights as of September 6, 2010. The estimated grazing capacity in this meadow is 1184 nights when in excellent condition, 687 nights in good condition, 391 nights in fair condition and 283 nights in poor condition. The park's meadow use committee determines wilderness meadow use limits for 2010, which included Lower Rock Creek Meadow. Use in this meadow has been unevenly distributed with the majority of grazing occurring on the north side of Rock Creek.

Ranger Jostad discussed the current meadow condition with Plan Ecologist, Haultain. She concurred with the closure of the meadow.

Based on the combination of documented meadow conditions and the meadow reaching its use limits, I hereby close Lower Rock Creek Meadow (84-2) to grazing. This will be effective September 7, 2010, for the remainder of the 2010 season. SEKI Management Directive 009 authorizes this action.


Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

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Historic Building Crew campsite at Rock Creek 2012



Food storage containers left open and a cooler used to store food



The Rock Creek crossing visitor food storage locker filled with construction crew food



Full and empty beer cans left unsecured



Horse feed left unsecured



A construction ladder was built by cutting standing trees. The ladder did not have a intended use and was cut up for firewood following the construction project. The area where the ladder was constructed with the stump for one of the uprights visible.



Crushed meadow vegetation – This area was used as a staging area for shingles. There were suitable areas on bare ground that would have worked better.



Short cut created between historic building crew camp and Rock Creek RS. This trail was not here prior to this project.



Some of the small pieces of shingles that litter the station grounds following the project.



Food left unsecured within a tent in the unoccupied historic construction crew campsite.



The area that the packer had used to high-line his stock had not been raked or cleaned of manure. We require this of commercial and private parties.



Packers heading through the meadow rather than using the established trail. This shortcut only saves a few minutes and is unnecessary. The trail to the cabin is stock passable.

Subject: ? caller, 1154: Joe Ventura, request to (b) (5)
Entry Type: Phone call

Start: Thu 9/11/2014 12:45 PM
End: Thu 9/11/2014 12:45 PM
Duration: 0 hours

70 recorded nights observed
Good for 75

Cedar Grove was in there as well with some stock while looking for their lost stock

Grass is really short, severe use and impact



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

N-1623
August 31, 2009

To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger

From: Dan Pontbriand, Sequoia District Ranger

CC: Charisse Sydoriak – Chief, Division of Resource Management
Sylvia Haultain – Plant Ecologist
Greg Fauth – Parks Wilderness Coordinator

Subject: Upper Crabtree Meadow Closure

Sequoia National Park backcountry ranger Erika Jostad forwarded information to me regarding the condition of Upper Crabtree Meadow. In response to this information, I recommend that the meadow be closed to grazing effective immediately due to evidence of observed field conditions.

Background:

The Kern River drainage received 21.5 inches of precipitation in snow and rain in 2009 or 42% of normal annual precipitation level, as per State of California Cooperative Snow Survey data during the winter of 2008-09. This is the third year in a row of dry conditions prevailing throughout meadows in Kern drainage. Lower Crabtree Meadow remains closed to grazing by recreational pack stock.

Plant productivity in this meadow was low in 2007 and 2008 as observed by the Plant Ecologist and field staff.

With the closure of Lower Crabtree Meadow in 2008, increased use of Upper Crabtree Meadow has occurred. Base on this significant increased use over the past two years, results of biomass sampling from 2008 and observed exceptionally dry field conditions, it is obvious that the meadow can not ecologically support any additional grazing.

Several options exist for continued pack stock use of the area including use of supplemental feed, grazing at Sandy Meadow, Strawberry Meadow and Lower Whitney Creek Meadow which are all located within 1-1/2 miles of Lower Crabtree Meadow.

As per authority granted to me through Management Directive No. 9, I hereby authorize the closure of Upper Crabtree Meadow to pack stock grazing for the remainder of the 2009 season.

Dan Pontbriand
Sequoia National Park District Ranger

MD No. 9 attached





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IN REPLY REFER TO

July 27, 2012

To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger
From: Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger
Subject: Temporary Closure of Lower Crabtree Creek Meadow, Sequoia National Park

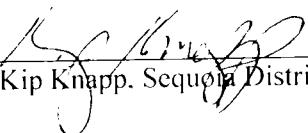
On 7/24/12, Ranger Pilewski informed me that the Lower Crabtree Meadow (83-5) had reached its capacity early and the current meadow condition warrants a seasonal closer. Ranger Waldschmidt consulted with SEKI Plant Ecologist, Haultain, on the closure.

Background:

The memorandum "Recommendations for Temporary Meadow Use Restrictions" from the Wilderness Coordinator and Plant Ecologist to the Superintendent, recommended a use night limit of 40 nights for Lower Crabtree Meadow for the 2012 season. Due to the early opening and dry conditions, an early closure is needed.

On July 24, 2012, Lower Crabtree Meadow reached 36 use nights. Crabtree Ranger, Rob Pilewski, recommended that the meadow be closed early do to the current conditions. Ranger Pilewski did a meadow assessment and determined that the meadow needed to be closed given the meadow's low productivity and lack of moisture this year. Ranger Waldschmidt consulted with Haultain on the closure and they both concurred with Ranger Pilewski's recommendation.

Based on the combination of documented meadow conditions and the meadow almost reaching its use limits, I hereby close Lower Crabtree Meadow (83-5) to grazing. This will be effective July 27, 2012, for the remainder of the 2012 season. SEKI Management Directive 009 authorizes this action.


Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 11, 2011

To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger

From: Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

Re: Temporary closure of Strawberry/Lower Whitney Creek Meadow, Sequoia National Park

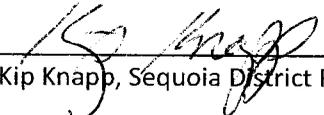
On 8/11/11, Ranger Pilewski reported that current condition of the Strawberry/Lower Whitney Creek Meadow warranted a closure. Plant Ecologist, Sylvia Haultain, concurred that this meadow should be closed for the remainder of 2011.

Background:

As of 8/11/2011, Strawberry/Lower Whitney Creek Meadow (83-7) received 55 recorded stock use nights for this season. The estimated grazing capacity in this meadow is 115 nights when in excellent condition, 66 nights in good condition, 38 nights in fair condition and 26 nights in poor condition. Based on last year's observations and subsequent recommendation to rest this meadow last year, the Stock Use Committee adopted a 55 use night limit this year as a temporary restriction.

Ranger Pilewski made a site visit to this meadow on 8/10/11. Ranger Pilewski recommended that the meadow be closed due to the current condition and it had reached its stock night use capacity. Plant Ecologist Haultain was consulted and concurred with the closure.

Based on the combination of meadow conditions documented by Ranger Pilewski and potential for continued use of the area, I hereby close Strawberry/Lower Whitney Creek Meadow (83-7) to grazing. This will be effective August 11, 2011, for the remainder of the 2011 season. SEKI Management Directive 009 authorizes this action.


Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

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47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, California 93271-9651
(559) 565-3341

IN REPLY REFER TO:

September 5, 2012

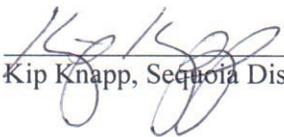
To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger
From: Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger
Subject: Temporary Closure of Sandy Meadow, Sequoia National Park

On September 5, Ranger Pilewski informed Ranger Knapp that Sandy Meadow (83-8) needed to be closed due to current meadow conditions. Ranger Knapp consulted with SEKI Plant Ecologist, Haultain about the closure.

Background:

On September 4, 2012, Sandy Meadow (83-8) was visited by Crabtree Ranger, Rob Pilewski and Meadow monitor, Corie Cann. Following 384 stock nights during a very dry year, the capacity of the meadow to sustain grazing had been exhausted. He recommended that it be closed. Ranger Knapp consulted with Plant Ecologist Haultain and Lead Meadow Monitor Frenzel on the closure and they both concurred with Ranger Pilewski's recommendation.

Based on the conditions of the meadow, I hereby close Sandy Meadow (83-8) to grazing. This will be effective September 5, 2012, for the remainder of the 2012 season. SEKI Management Directive 009 authorizes this action.



Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 11, 2010

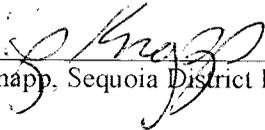
To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger
From: Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger
Subject: Temporary Closure of South Fork Meadow, Sequoia National Park

Hockett Ranger, Joe Ventura, recommended that South Fork Meadow should be closed due to current conditions. He advised his supervisor, Erika Jostad, and the wilderness office that the meadow had seen notable grazing use since it opened. He also believes that it will reach its proposed use limit of 75 nights by 8/11/10.

Background:

The South Fork Meadow (90-10) has been closed for the last two years to grazing. This was done to help re-establish the meadow that had been heavily impacted by grazing exacerbated by several years of drought. This year, the meadow was projected to remain open for 75 nights of use. The parks' meadow use committee determines wilderness meadow use limits for 2010 that included South Fork Meadow (see attached Memo dated 2/25/2010). The assessment by Ranger Ventura, of the current condition of the meadow, indicated that the meadow has seen a lot of grazing use. He also indicated that the meadow would reach its use capacity soon.

Based on the combination of documented meadow conditions and the meadow reaching its use limits, I hereby close South Fork Meadow (90-10) to grazing effective August 11, 2010 for the remainder of the 2010 season. SEKI Management Directive 009 authorizes this action.


Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

N1623 (8558)

Memorandum

To: Superintendent

Through: Chief Ranger and Chief of Natural Resources

From: Wilderness Coordinator and Plant Ecologist

Subject: Recommendations for temporary meadow use restrictions

On January 22, 2010 Debbie Brenchley, Rich Browne, Irene Corrao, , Gregg Fauth, Danny Gammons, Sylvia Haultain, Tyler Johnson, Erika Jostad, Ned Kelleher, Thomas Liu, Alison Steiner, Rich Thiel, Chris Trotter, and Harold Werner met to discuss proposed actions regarding wilderness meadows for the upcoming year. We reviewed the temporary restrictions in place in 2009 in Colby Meadow, Darwin Meadow, Junction Meadow (Bubbs Creek), Lackey Pasture, Upper Vidette, Wallace Creek Waterfall, Redwood Meadow, Lower Crabtree Meadow, South Fork Meadow, the meadows of the lower Kern Canyon (Upper and Lower Funston, Kern Station Large and Small Pastures), Middle Rattlesnake Meadow, Forester Lake and Summit Lake. We also discussed monitoring results and concerns in Big Pete Meadow, Scaffold Meadow, Upper Crabtree Meadow, Lower Rock Creek Crossing Meadow, Nathan's Meadow, South Fork Meadow and South Fork Pasture. Based on these discussions, we are recommending the following:

McClure Meadow (33-2). (b)(5)

Darwin Meadow (33-4.3) (Upper Colby Meadow proper). (b)(5)

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(b)(5)

Big Pete Meadow (39-2) (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Upper Vidette Meadow (65-3) (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Junction Meadow (Bubbs Creek) (66-3) (b)(5)

(b)(5)

East Lake Meadow (67-1) (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Scaffold Meadow (69-5.1)/Lackey Pasture (69-4) (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Redwood Meadow (77-5) (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Wallace Creek Waterfall (81-2.3). (b)(5)

Upper Crabtree Meadow (83-4). (b)(5)

Lower Crabtree Meadow (83-5). (b)(5)

Lower Rock Creek Crossing Meadow (84-2). (b)(5)

Nathans Meadow (85-10). (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Kern Ranger Station Meadows (Lewis Camp Large Pasture and Kern Station Small Pasture). (b)(5)

Upper Funston Meadow (86-5). (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Lower Fusion Meadow (86-2). (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Forester Lake Meadow (89-5.2). (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Middle Rattlesnake Canyon Meadow (89-9). (b)(5)

(b)(5)

South Fork Meadow (Rock Camp) (90-10). (b)(5)

(b)(5)

South Fork Pasture (Upper Camp) (90-11). (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Summit Lake Meadow (90-18). (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Concurrence with recommendations:

Proposed by:

Gregg Fautsch
Gregg Fautsch, Wilderness Coordinator;

2/26/2010

Date

Sylvia Hautain
Sylvia Hautain, Plant Ecologist

2/25/10

Date

Recommended by:

Kevin Hendricks
Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger

2/25/10

Date

Charisse Sydorak
Charisse Sydorak, Chief, Division of Resources
Management and Science

2/25/10

Date

Approved by:

 2/25/10

Karen Taylor-Goodrich, Superintendent Date

Attachment: 2010 Meadow Management Meeting Minutes and Background Information



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

September 11, 2012

To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger
From: Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger
Subject: Temporary Closure of South Fork Meadow, Sequoia National Park

On September 7, 2012, Ranger Ventura informed Ranger Waldschmidt that the current condition of South Fork Meadow (90-10) warrants a seasonal closure. Ranger Waldschmidt consulted with SEKI Plant Ecologist, Haultain about the closure.

Background:

The 2012 memorandum "Recommendations for Temporary Meadow Use Restrictions" from the Wilderness Coordinator and Plant Ecologist to the Superintendent, recommended a stock use night limit of 75 nights for the South Fork Meadow.

On 9/7/12 Ranger Ventura visited the South Fork Meadow. He found following 56 stock use nights, during a very dry year, the capacity of the meadow to sustain grazing had been exhausted even though it had not reached its projected use. He recommended that it be closed. Ranger Waldschmidt consulted with Plant Ecologist Haultain on the closure and she concurred with Ranger Ventura's recommendation.

Based on the meadow's condition, observed by Ranger Ventura, I hereby close South Fork Meadow (90-10) to grazing. This will be effective September 11, 2012, for the remainder of the 2012 season. SEKI Management Directive 009 authorizes this action.



Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

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Subject: steiner 0911, Rob said lower Crabtree has reached capacity with 54 nights of grazing

Entry Type: Phone call

Start: Mon 8/4/2014 12:48 PM

End: Mon 8/4/2014 12:48 PM

Duration: 0 hours

Needs a memo



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 11, 2010

To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger

From: Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

Re: Temporary closure of Strawberry/Lower Whitney Creek Meadow, Sequoia National Park

Ranger Jostad discussed the current condition of Strawberry/Lower Whitney Creek Meadow with Plant Ecologist, Sylvia Haultain, on August 8, 2010. Haultain concurred that this meadow should be closed for the remainder of 2010.

Background:

Strawberry/Lower Whitney Creek Meadow (83-7) received 50 recorded stock use nights during the first week of August 2010. The estimated grazing capacity in this meadow is 115 nights when in excellent condition, 66 nights in good condition and 38 nights in poor condition. Ranger Miles made a site visit to this meadow on August 6, 2010 and Ranger Pilewski made a site visit on August 7, 2010. Each ranger photographed the meadow and reported observing significant areas of closely cropped vegetation and areas of bare ground from stock use. Miles and Pilewski concluded that the meadow has reached the likely grazing capacity for the 2010 season. They recommend closing the meadow for the remainder of the year. Ecologist Haultain was consulted and concurred with the closure.

Based on the combination of meadow conditions documented by the two rangers and potential for continued use of the area, the Strawberry/Lower Whitney Creek Meadow is hereby closed to grazing. SEKI Management Directive 009 authorizes this action.


Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

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IN REPLY REFER TO

August 20, 2012

To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger

From: Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

Subject: Temporary Closure of Upper Crabtree Creek Meadow, Sequoia National Park

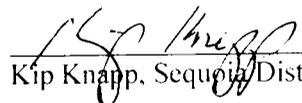
On 8/18/12, Ranger Pilewski informed the wilderness office that the Upper Crabtree Meadow (83-4) had reached its capacity and the current meadow condition warrants a seasonal closure. Ranger Waldschmidt consulted with SEKI Plant Ecologist, Haultain about the closure.

Background:

The memorandum "Recommendations for Temporary Meadow Use Restrictions" from the Wilderness Coordinator and Plant Ecologist to the Superintendent, recommended a stock use night limit of 75 nights for Upper Crabtree Meadow for the 2012 season.

On August 18, 2012, Upper Crabtree Meadow reached 78 stock use nights. Crabtree Ranger, Rob Pilewski, recommended that the meadow be closed because the meadow had reached its stock night limit and the meadow conditions warranted a closure. Ranger Waldschmidt consulted with Haultain on the closure and they both concurred with Ranger Pilewski's recommendation.

Based on the combination of documented meadow conditions and the meadow reaching its use limits, I hereby close Upper Crabtree Meadow (83-4) to grazing. This will be effective August 20, 2012, for the remainder of the 2012 season. SEKI Management Directive 009 authorizes this action.


Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 10, 2011

To: Kevin Hendricks, Chief Ranger
From: Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger
Subject: Temporary Closure of Upper Funston Meadow, Sequoia National Park

On 8/10/2011, Sylvia Haultain informed me that the Upper Funston Meadow (86-2) had reached its estimated capacity and the current meadow condition warrants a seasonal closure. She made her recommendation based on information from observations made at Upper Funston Meadow and current use reports.

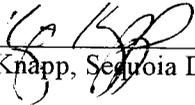
Background:

As of August 10, 2011, Upper Funston Meadow (86-2) has had 132 stock use nights reported. The estimated grazing capacity for a meadow at this elevation and moisture class ranges from 10 (if in poor condition) to 79 (if in excellent condition) stock nights. As Upper Funston Meadow was closed to grazing in 2010 after having only 44 nights of reported use, it would be unreasonable to assume that the meadow is in excellent condition.

On August 9, 2011 Park Plant Ecologist, Sylvia Haultain determined that Upper Funston Meadow exceeded its estimated capacity of 79 stock nights. A member of the SEKI Invasive Species staff made a recent site visit to the meadow and observed that it had been heavily used and that little forage remained.

On August 10, 2011, I agreed that the meadow should be closed because it exceeded the estimated capacity and the current condition of the meadow indicates a need for rest.

Based on the combination of documented meadow conditions and the meadow exceeding its estimated capacity, I hereby close Upper Funston Meadow (86-2) to grazing. This will be effective August 10, 2011, for the remainder of the 2011 season. SEKI Management Directive 009 authorizes this action.


Kip Knapp, Sequoia District Ranger

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Subject: Wilderness office, 3766, 1307: Alison
Entry Type: Phone call

Start: Wed 8/6/2014 8:22 AM
End: Wed 8/6/2014 8:22 AM
Duration: 0 hours

Laura wants to (b) (5) [REDACTED]
(b) (5) [REDACTED]
9232 has documentation