

1/14/84

Paul,

Finally got the report together.

Should have done it long ago. Hope it's not too late. Will be sending a picture section to be added to the report in a couple weeks.

I had no citations or warnings.

Did not include in the report that the Simpson station needs to be re-roofed.

There is a section of the roof where the shingles are torn off. I did a temporary patch, so it will be okay for the winter.

Could you consider bringing me on earlier next summer. With school I'll have to do a short season, but would be available as early as the last week in May. Would be nice to be able to work a three full months.

School is fully under control now.

Am getting the hang of this calculus

and enjoying it. The photo included was taken by a hiker of me when I was moving all the South Fork dumps to a good helispot toward the end of the season.

Have a good holidays.

Best regards,
Bob

P.S. A reminder to please send a copy of my termination papers to me if not done already. THANKS.

THE 1984 BENCH LAKE STATION BACKCOUNTRY REPORT

by: Bob Kenan

This season on roving backcountry patrol based between Bench Lake and Simpson Meadow, I covered approximately 800 miles and contacted 650 park visitors. The focus of my work this season was cleaning up a large number of old can dumps and removing illegal or inappropriate firerings. Throughout the season I bagged up 1200 pounds of garbage and removed 150 firerings.

Many old can dumps were found this season on the South Fork of the Kings River between 9500 and 10200 feet. Also, the Bench Lake C crew unearthed a large can dump at 10,100 ft. on the South Fork. I bagged up all these garbage dumps and toward the end of my season moved them all to a suitable helispot, so they could be removed from the backcountry at the first opportunity. All total the South Fork garbage was 800 pounds, which amounted to 10 full gunnysacks and 9 rolls of barbed wire.

Also, Mr. Nash informed me of an old can dump near the Woods Lake cut-off. I bagged it up and renaturalized the area. It amounted to four gunnysacks and weighed 180 pounds. The last major garbage dump that I bagged up was near the inlet to the upper Palisades Lake. It included an old rusted Sims stove and the total weight was 150 pounds. Other smaller quantities of old cans and foil were found during the season and these were carried back to a ranger station, so it could be removed when possible.

Much work was done this season on firering removal. It is apparent that hikers are continuing to build fires above 10,000 feet in Kings Canyon backcountry. It is also clear to me that the 10,000 foot regulation for fires is doing alot of good and helping to clean up alot of the high elevation lake basins. The Bench Lake area had a lot of visitation from mid July on. At the beginning of this season I removed 15 firerings from the lake area.

During the season, firerings continued to be built by people camping here. At the end of my season I did a final cleanup of the Bench Lake area and removed 10 firerings. This is a forested lake and it appears that hikers will continue to build fires here. Next season, I think I'll try putting up a "no fires" sign here to see if that will help to reduce the firering building here.

Another area where hikers continued to build firerings this season was on the JMT from the Woods Lake cutoff up 3 miles toward Pinchot Pass. I removed a number of established firerings from this area at the beginning of the season and a few of these were rebuilt during the season. Also, Twin Lakes and the Woods Lake cutoff camp area are places that required major firering removal for me this season.

Another focus of this seasons South Fork cleanup was on firering removal primarily from 9800 feet to 10400 feet. Existing firerings that were in suitable camping areas near the 10,000 ft. crossing were left to be used. Firerings were also removed this season from Palisades Lakes, Horseshoe and State Lakes. It was apparent that State Lakes had not been worked for some time. I removed 10 established firerings from campsites adjacent to the lower lake area. Did some ring removal at Volcanic Lakes, but more work needs to be done in this large basin.

On two occasions I got into Woods Lake Basin this season. It was obvious that this basin had been recently worked. I did a cleanup of a camp site used by a stock party at the upper lake. I destroyed a rock wall used for containing stock, removed a large firering and scattered horse manure that was near the inlet to the lake. There was much evidence of trampling by this party tying their stock up on the meadow grass. What is the regulation that states how far stock must be tied up away from water? This site was heavily impacted by this stock party.

The trail conditions in the area were improved greatly by the work of the C crew this season. NPS foreman Jerry Torres and his crew did some of the best trail building that I've seen in the park. They build trails to last. Their base camp was hidden out in the trees below the Bench Lake cutoff, as the hikers passing through did not even know where their camp was. Overall, they were a model crew and their camp had very little impact on the backcountry. I do feel though, that a crew this large should not be in the same location for two seasons in a row. Their work this season was concentrated from the South Fork to about two miles south of Pinchot Pass. They did a major reroute on the south of Pinchot Pass that removed about a mile of trail from meadow grass. They also did a lot of water bar work with rock, and some of the rocks they moved made one feel that there was a crew of giants working the trails. There is a lot of trail work needed from the South Fork to Mather Pass. Also, the south side of Mather Pass is in great need of being redone. It is my understanding that this crew will be working that area next season.

In conclusion, it was a very productive season in the backcountry. It was apparent that the region had not been thoroughly worked for some time. Having a ranger based at Bench Lake is a good central location for working the vast stretch of backcountry between Rae Lakes and Le Conte Canyon. The Bench Lake base camp worked out well as a minimum impact type of backcountry station. The tent and tarp setup was plenty comfortable for me and the location of the station was ideal. There is a lot more work to be done in this region, but for one season a lot of progress was made in cleaning up this magnificent area of Kings Canyon backcountry.

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

E 1984

| SUN. | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WED. ...SDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SAT. |
|------|--------|---------|--------------|----------|--------|------|
| 155 | 156 | 157 | 158 | 159 | 160 | 161 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 162 | 163 | 164 | 165 | 166 | 167 | 168 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 169 | 170 | 171 | 172 | 173 | 174 | 175 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 176 | 177 | 178 | 179 | 180 | 181 | 182 |

NOTES:

JULY 1984
 SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
 1 2 3 ④ 5 6 7
 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
 29 30 31

MAY 1984
 SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
 1 2 3 4 5
 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
 27 28 29 30 31

176 BENCH LAKE - LAKE MARIPOSA
 177 PINCHOT PASS - SOUTH FORK KINGS RIVER
 178
 179 TO BENCH LK. LATE PM.
 180 FOR DINNER
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ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

JULY

Y 1984

| SUN. | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SAT. |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| PALISADES CREEK MIDDLE FORK SIMP- SON MDW. 183 | SIMPSON MDW. CLEAN STATION SOUTH FORK UPPER SOUTH FORK CARTRIDGE CREEK 184 | SIMPSON TO BITCH 2MLS HORSHOE CR. PLKS. WINDY RIDGE UPPER SOUTH FORK CARTRIDGE CREEK 185 | RED POINT MARION LK. LAKE BASIN INDEPENDENCE DAY-- HOLIDAY VENNACHER BENCH LK. 186 | BENCH LK. * 313 MALENGO ARRIVES 180HRS 187 | TO PINCHOT PASS W/313 BACK TO SOUTH FORK FIRE RING WORK 188 | BENCH AREA CONTACT 111 & 189 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| LK. MARJORIE | W/212 TO SOUTH FORK COY. WHITE FORK CANYON | DOWN WHITE FORK CANYON PINCHOT PASS BENCH LK. | BENCH LAKE 1430 HRS START TO CARTRIDGE PASS LAKE BASIN | LK. BASIN DUMBELL LKS. AMPITHEATER LK. UPPER LECONTE *CONTACT 113 | UPPER LECONTE BLACK GIANT COL CHASM LK. TO LK. 10Z12 195 | 10Z12 GODDARD CREEK SIMPSON MDW. 196 |
| *CONTACT 2/2 190 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| SIMPSON MDW. | SIMPSON MDW. CARTRIDGE CR. & PASS TO BENCH LK. | BENCH AREA | BENCH AREA | SOUTH FORK UPPER BASIN FIND CAN DUMP RING WORK 201 | DAY HIKE TO WOODS LAKE CUTOFF BA9 UP OLD CAN DUMP RING WORK 202 | BENCH LK. 203 |
| 197 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| BENCH LK. | BENCH AREA | BENCH LK. CARTRIDGE PASS & CR. SIMPSON MDW. | SIMPSON MDW. | SIMPSON UP BITCH 2MLS HORSHOE CR. & LAKE STATE LK. RING WORK 207 | STATE PEAK COL UPPER MURD BLANCO BENCH LK. FIND CAN DUMP 209 | 28 |
| 204 | 29 | 30 | 31 | AUGUST 1984 | | |
| Ring work | UPPER PALISADES CR. MIDDLE FORK SIMPSON MDW. | SIMPSON BUNCHGRASS FLAT ALPINE CR. BURAT MTDY. COL BLUE CANYON | SIMPSON | RING WORK 208 | NOTES: | |
| 211 | 212 | 213 | AUGUST 1984 | | | |
| CR. | 212 | 213 | SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT | SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT | | |
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JULY 1984

7540-01-068-3390
For 1985 Order: 7540-01-142-9839

OPTIONAL FORM 67
(FORMERLY AD-300)5007-115

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

1984

| SUN. NOTES: | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SAT. |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|-----------|--|---|------|
| | | | | AUGUST 1984 SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT | OCTOBER 1984 SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT | |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Simpson up | Granite Basin | | | | | |
| Dougherty CREEK | LABOR DAY— HOLIDAY | | | | | |
| Volcanic Ring Work 246 | out to Roads End 247 | | | | | |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| | | | | | | |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 253 | 254 | 255 | 256 | 257 | 258 | 259 |
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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 260 | 261 | 262 | 263 | 264 | 265 | 266 |
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| 30 | | | | | | |
| 267 | | | | | | |
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| 274 | 268 | 269 | 270 | 271 | 272 | 273 |

Simpson
mdw.