

Nashly

Charlotte Year End Report--1986. Durkee & Meier

Stats.:	(June 27 to Oct. 15)
Visitors Contacted	1800
Miles Hiked	575
Garbage sacked	24 (!)
Medivacs	7 (2 by horse)
Citations	1 (Bicycle)
warnings	20 (6 fire, 3 dog, 5 camp on meadow, 5 garbage, 1 disorderly)
Firerings destroyed	175
Searches	3 (1 major--Marcel; 2 minor)

Summary

A heavy snow year, but it melted off quickly. E Kearsarge Pass was stock passable by July 4. Two of the five bear poles came down over the winter, one because it was in an avalanche path, the other for unknown reasons. A third pole is cracked at the threads and not long for the world (see separate Bear Pole memo and #1 below). Stock use was heavy at Vidette because avalanche debris made it impossible for Rainbow to go anywhere else until mid-August (including LeConte--all those trips were diverted here...). As a result, Vidette Meadow (by Shorty's Cabin) was chewed up pretty badly. Alden, Griswold, Fritz & I looked at the area to locate a new drift fence to prevent this in the future.

Major events included getting the plane wreck off Mt. Keith (as well as the people who came in to do the salvaging...); seven medivacs --including one death by apparant heart attack; & meeting the Staff trip (in my flawless uniform) at Tyndall. Also the search for Marcel (still in progress).

Bears were not a major problem. There are probably as many around as in previous years (7 ??) but those who had their food on a cable or a pole didn't lose anything. Probably 95% of the folks did so where they were available. I'm making a strong push to get rid of the poles and cables and substitute boxes (see #1 below).

I got rid of three of the four pit toilets in my area. These things are useless to the general public. They fill up with trash and then the

critters scatter that, along with the shit. They're gone.

Permit compliance is down, perhaps as low as 85%. This is due to the shorter hours at the trail heads. More importantly, almost 100% of the folks who are truly running amok don't have permits (and the attached regulations & pep talk). There is more garbage in this area than I have seen since leaving Yosemite. Much of it is bear-scattered stuff sacks, but the rest is thoughtless bullshit. More emphasis by trailhead folks and threat of eternal damnation by resident Ranger. ~~24~~ sacks!!! People even still bury their garbage here (maybe 5%)^{of all garbage.} Sigh.

The staff trip seemed friendly (but then, they always seem friendly). More importantly, Parsons, White & Jensen seemed sympathetic—even supportive—of bear boxes over poles and cables. Bancroft seemed like with enough pressure he might agree. I also told them I didn't think the bear cylinders were going to be a major success (too heavy, don't hold enough). ~~But~~ The Superintendent asked me where there should be another Backcountry Ranger if the money for one were to magically appear. I said Upper Basin (maybe have someone there two years, then Simpson two years). A person could spend the rest of his life there collecting old can dumps. We really have to make a concentrated effort to clean that place up—maybe a Sierra Club work party.

Finally, the proliferation of structures and doodads in the backcountry is getting out of hand. Everyone ~~xx~~ has something that is absolutely necessary out here, but no one is willing or able to get rid of anything. ~~Mostly~~ We've spent the last 15 years getting rid of the huge cowboy camps and training said cowboys not to build any new ones—fairly successfully, too. The trail crews are under moderate control also. Now it's time to seriously examine not only what we have out here (stations, radio repeaters, "historic" structures, and all the snow survey crap—airial markers, orange markers & those ugly telemetry stations) but to put a complete moratorium on all new structures. The Survey at the moment, is the greatest threat. They want at least one more telemetry station at Rock Creek. My guess is Edison Co. will also soon get into the act in Evolution and the Army Corp. on the West slope. Not only do they not offer to take anything out, but how much accuracy do they need for their runoff projections and at what expense to wilderness values?!?

We seem to be allowing them to do whatever they want because we don't have the expertise to question their proposals. Parsons and Jenson seemed sympathetic to this problem. Not one person on the staff trip was aware that a new telemetry station was going in on the Chagoopa. Who's in charge here?? In addition research instruments are always going to be a threat as well as flights allowed for research. (Apparently USGS was allowed to fly around Tyndall as long as they didn't land. What's the difference??) I ^{sent} ~~sent~~ a couple of thoughts on this matter to Parsons, who seemed interested. A master computer ~~■~~ list of all poles, stations, old outhouses—everything—kept at Sierra district, and put together by the backcountry Rangers, would be helpful. We can then make a determined effort to start whittling away at it over the next 10 years.

P.S. The snow survey was well behaved on their stocking trip this year. Herm said he's retiring in the next two years and Nassar, being trained for these trips, seems like a nice guy and open to suggestions. I also took it upon myself to tell Herm to tell Armstrong, Sharp et al not to bring their dogs into the Park anymore. They've had official notice.

Suggestions for Charlotte for '87:

1) Get rid of the bear poles and cables. Replace with boxes. Boxes are more economical to place, can be moved as conditions demand, are easier to use, and are less esthetically offensive.

2) Close the two ponds NE of the large Kearsarge Lake to all camping. Most of the sites are too close to water and on sensitive plant areas. They are also too close to the trail. There's plenty of room in the wooded area running EW, parallel to the large lake.

3) Does the Rae Lakes Loop ~~need~~^{need} a one night limit anymore? I took the sign out at Charlotte and noticed no additional impact. If the impact is ^{still} too great ~~still~~ in this area, we should control the access. Once people get in here, they should be able to do what they want--that's what backpacking is all ~~is~~ about... .

4) Start making plans to make these stations wheelchair accessable--we're all getting on in years... .

Charlotte needs for 187:

Oxygen, 4 cylinders (only one on hand).

Flat file

Linseed oil (1 qt. for tool handles)

Copy of Medicine for Mountaineering (3rd edition, preferably) Station has no copy.

Oral thermometer (non-hypothermic type)

pencils

2 Gal. Latex flat white paint & brushes/roller etc.

Metal "No Fires Above 10,000ft." sign (one)

5 "site closed No Camping" metal with short posts.

27" X 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 3/4 in. plywood (one)

ASSORTMENT OF WOOD & SHEET METAL SCREWS

John - How About
New edition For All
STATIONS?