

SIERRA DISTRICT

BC RANGER ANNUAL REPORT-SUMMARY INFORMATION

1989

STATION: HOCKETT

LENGTH of SEASON: June 29 to Oct. 21

1. Total Visitor Contacts: 946

Day hikers: 63

Backpackers: 616

Stock users: 267

2. Stock Observed: 557

Llamas Observed: 0

3. Total Miles Covered: 1,086

Hikes: 707

Rode: 379

4. Trash Removed: 2,400 pounds

5. Total Finerings worked: 122

Rehabilitated/Cleaned: 84

Removed: 38

6. Total Campsites worked: 0

Rehabilitated: 0

Removed: 0

7. Total Law enforcement contacts: 19

Citations: 0

Written warnings: 0

Verbal warnings: 19

8. Total Emergency operations: 1

Searches: 1

Medivacs: 0

9. Special projects:

Re-sign ski trails

Field check Red Fir forest

Type: Citation should have been issued to Ray, a Bedell packer for food cache. No permit to transport firearms. Tying stock to trees, improper food storage litter, camping on meadow, too close to water.

Re-mark Park boundary

Inventory tack shed

HOCKETT MEADOW RANGER STATION

1989 REPORT

GREGORY P. MULLER

June 12 - October 21

This was my second season as the Hockett Ranger and I am now convinced that certain things need to change to keep the Hockett area beautiful.

Visitor use in the area mainly comes out of Forest Service lands. These visitors are not getting any of our backcountry regulations or any information at all. Usually they just have a fire permit.

Early this season George Leone, Gail Bennett and myself went around to a few pack stations and the Springville Forest Service Office. Our hopes were to get these folks, who are issuing permits to pass along our information as well. Well the end result was that NO information was being provided.

Every visitor I talked to, who got their permit in Springville, received NO information at all. This causes lots of problems. For one, litter is common place; fire rings grow everywhere and they always are full of trash. The stock users always tie to trees, causing resource damage.

At Summit Lake, which is right on the Park boundary, I had my wooden information sign removed. I later found it thrown in some bushes. Last year visitors tore apart both hitch racks and used them for fire wood. I had to rebuild both racks to make them usable.

I maintain five fire rings at this small lake. To keep up with the use in them I went to Summit Lake eleven times and each time I could plan on spending all day, rehabbing campsites and picking up trash. The wood situation for fires is very poor. The area has been picked pretty clean. I strongly recommend that this lake goes to "NO WOOD FIRES." I feel that is the biggest problem, and that would really cut down on the impact this area receives. I also recommend that if this does not happen the future Hockett Ranger should camp out every Saturday night. That would be the only way to police the area. Building a Ranger Station there would be even better, but I'm against any further building in the

backcountry. But probably the best solution would be to just give Summit Lake to the Forest Service ! It is an unmanageable backcountry area and can honestly be described as a "ghetto." The lower Blossom Lakes area is not much better and I strongly recommend that area also go to "NO WOOD FIRES."

The other two areas of heavy use are South Fork Meadow and South Fork Crossing. They could both use volunteer groups to go in and do a full site rehab. Tying to tress in these areas has been common practice for years. TOO many years!

TRASH REMOVAL - The old aerial ski marker in Quinn Meadow was removed and flown out along with the concrete, about 800 pounds. I also spent about 40 hours cleaning up the top area around the old Cahoon Rock Lookout. Removing about 300 pounds of old smashed cans, nails, bottles. The hillside is still full of old cans, but not visible. If that would be removed, it would take a crew of about 10 people camping in the area, at least a week. Billy Hancock and I estimated there's probably 2,000 pounds. I also removed another 300 pounds of miscellaneous garbage from the plateau; old signs, wire, cans, grills, etc.. Also there are still three bags full of old smashed cans at Cahoon Rock that I was unable to pack out due to my loss of stock animals. They are hidden in the rocks just to the southwest of the old Lookout.

SIGNS - Last year I ordered 10 new signs for this year. I received 18 instead. Junction signs that I wanted on one post were sent to me on two posts. So to my disappointment some trail intersections have two, even three signs. There are also two signs that I ordered with just a direction arrow, because it involved Forest Service land and I was unsure of the exact mileage. Well they were given mileages by someone and they are off by two miles each! I put in 16 of the new signs, the other two are still at Atwell, one needs a letter added!

I also re-signed the ski trail from Horse Creek to the Quinn Patrol cabin. Plus re-signed the Park boundary from Lower Blossom Lake to the Soda Butte entrance.

STOCK CARE - This summer I worked with eight different animals. Four horses and four mules. I believe this was totally unnecessary and a waste of my time. I feel the Hockett Ranger should be assigned his three animals and left alone. Roy Lee Davis should not be shuttling animals in and out of Hockett. It became very frustrating.

I also was given a horse, "Quinn", on September 15 to September 23, by Roy Lee, that was in need of three daily

DMSO treatments. During which time I had to stay close to the station. Trail Crew also left me an injured horse "Andy". I doctored his rope burn twice a day from August 4 to August 15.

During the week of August 16 to August 22, I was out of the area. George Leone and family then went into Hockett and stayed a few days. They used my stock for the trip. When I got back "Star" was gone, taken down to Ash Mountain by Roy Lee and "Supai" had bad new scars. I have no idea what happened to "Star." George stated that he was walking fine on his trip. George's young daughter Becky (while brushing) picked off some scabs on "Supai" causing to reopen the old wounds. Roy Lee blamed me for both animals' condition. Something I wasn't able to discuss with him until a few weeks later (September 12). At which time George was also there. I told Roy Lee that I was not responsible. I also stated I did not appreciate him accusing me of mishandling the stock. Also at the time Roy Lee said there was no natural feed left at Hockett and that I could only use the stock to haul supplies in and trash out. A one night limit. I didn't agree with him but I didn't state that. I went along with his demands and left it at that. On September 25, Roy Lee came up to Atwell and took my stock away. No warning, no reason.

Paul Atkinson, who just came into Hockett on September 22, was planning on being trained in stock care, only got exposed on the trip in. All of Paul's and my things had to be flown out by helicopter.

Roy Lee seems to be concerned how his animals are treated. In my two years here I have not injured or sores an animal. But he accuses me anyway. I feel that the Hockett Rangers' stock should only be used by the Hockett Ranger. Unless Roy Lee himself has given the okay to the person wanting to use them.

IN SUMMARY - The Hockett area was little down in visitor use, but the users were just as uninformed as ever. Something needs to be done to get the Forest Service to support us. We can only educate and not enforce anything unless these people are being provided our regulations.

I'm a firm believer in education, but enforcement is needed to back us sometimes and all these things go hand-in-hand.

Personally I think the Park Policy to let visitors build fires and fire rings almost anywhere is utterly ridiculous! It seems like instead of having a few areas being impacted we are having impact everywhere. It seems like all I do is tear apart fire rings and clean up messes. I feel good after I clean up an area but I think my time and your money could be used more widely for other things. I hope you will consider my recommendations or least visit Hockett in the coming summer.