

LeCurt .x

REVIEW THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES AND IDENTIFY THE MOST CRITICAL ACTIONS/SUGGESTIONS FOR EACH (please be as specific as you can)

1. STOP: (actions/activities that should be eliminated or changed)

① SUPPORT FOR PRESENT MEADOW MONITORING PROGRAM IN FAVOR OF REAL MANAGEMENT. THE PRESENT MEADOW MONITORING PROGRAM CAN NOT ARTICULATE WHERE IT'S BEEN OR WHERE IT'S GOING WHAT IS IT GOING TO GET US? THE PAST PROGRAMS HAVE NOT MET WITH MUCH SUCCESS. IT SEEMS TO BE ONLY A DIVERSION - "SMOKE AND MIRRORS"

2. START: (actions/activities, changes that should be initiated)

- ① REAL MEADOW MANAGEMENT - NOT JUST MONITORING ~~(CONTRADICTS RESOURCE)~~
- ② INCENTIVE SYSTEM, FOR SEASONAL PARK RANGERS TO RETAIN EMT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION. IN OTHER WORDS, A RANGER THAT MAINTAINS EITHER WOULD BE GS-06 ONCE OUT OF ALTRUISM OR YOUTHFUL SELF BETTERMENT (OR PERHAPS, TO BE MORE "COMPETITIVE"), MOST OF US BECAME EMTS AND/OR GOT "OUR COMMISSIONS". BUT NOW WHAT'S THE POINT IN MAINTAINING THESE CERTIFICATES (EXCEPT, PERHAPS, PRIDE IN ONE'S SKILLS?) THE WORK PLACE WORLD SEEMS TO REVOLVE AROUND SOME SORT OF INCETIVE SYSTEM. TO REPEAT: EITHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OR EMT I = GS-06; LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMT I (II OR III) = GS-07

3. CONTINUE: (actions/activities being done well & should be reinforced)

- ① GREAT "SUPPORT" PRACTICES. IF WE RECEIVE GROCERIES MAIL, AND GOVT SUPPLIES, MORALE STAYS HIGH AND WE CAN TAKE CARE OF THE REST. IT MAY SOUND PETTY - BUT MAIL AND FRESH FOOD ARE IMPORTANT WHEN BILLS GO UNPAID OR LOVED ONES DON'T HERE FROM US (OR VICE VERSA) - THERE ARE PROBLEMS
- ② 2-3 DAYS ONLY TRAINING, PRE SEASON. WE'RE ALREADY TRAINED - WE REALLY DON'T NEED MORE THAN 3 DAYS AT ASH MTN, BEFORE THE BACKCOUNTRY.

(OVER)

LeConte Canyon Year End Report

June 14 - Sept 14 1991

Hunting Patrol, Kern Backcountry

Sept 15 - Oct. 29

Total Visitor Contacts	2388
Total Miles Covered	1156
Trash Removed	425
Campsites/Firerings Worked	244

Citations	3
Verbal Warnings	24

Medivacs	2
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Another sweet season in The Leconte region -

Much time and energy again went into campsite rehabilitation: reduction and elimination of man-made improvements; obliteration and maintenance of reconstructed firerings. Temporary closures, and so forth. Dusy Basin and Deer Meadow may always be a game of catch-up. Trash and old can dumps are still a problem, but not as bad as ten years ago.

Perhaps, in another ten, litter in the backcountry will not be a problem. But who knows?

Many visitor contacts on and off trail; ninety-seven percent are great customers, always with age old questions of natural history, trail mileage, and cross country routes. Serious medicals and searches were few at LeConte. These are the basics; and all is basically well.

Meadows

I haven't read The Park Service mandate recently; however, it seems to me that it says nothing about Park Service meadows being "range land". The Park Service recognized this when the military drove out the shepherds, and Congress no longer renewed the cattlemen's leases.

Recently, and why it took so long still boggles the mind, the Park Service decided it was natural for willow, cedar, and lodgepole, to grow in meadows, and stopped the practice of weeding out these species (see Challenge of The Big Trees, Dilsaver and Tweed, p 274). This seemed to further deny range land status to meadows.

I forget the exact wording of the old Pogo statement, but it goes something like this: "We've seen the enemy and the enemy is us". This may not be news and may not make friends,

however, most would find truth in it. Government horses and mules are only second to commercial stock in the arena of impacting meadows. The private rider is not a problem. It's a rare day when you see a party of only two riders with a mule or two in tow.

Stock User Myth #1

"Stock use is appropriate because it's traditional"

Tradition means the "passing down of a culture from generation to generation". Let's talk about tradition. First came the landscape mother earth, complete with predators; then, Native Americans. So now we begin with tradition. Native Americans were traditional; non-Native miners, cattlemen, and shepherds, were all traditional. The time honored practices of

hunting and trapping were traditional
Raiding parties were traditional

The military, in part, put an
end to the sheep in the Park
tradition. That era is over.

Anyway, that brings us back to
the beginning: "preserving for future
generations. The landscape comes
first. And it's traditional."

Stock user Myth #2

"Stock built the trails"

Yes, they were involved, but
so what?

(1) There were no helicopters,
yet.

(2) Many of the trails were
first game trails; then aboriginal
trails (i.e. Cedar Grove to
Kearsage); then, often times,
developed further by men that
were resupplied by horses and
mules.

(3) Other Trails were built or "pushed through" for commercial purposes - mining, sheep, cattle, recreation, whatever

BUT so what? What does that have to do with The Present?

Stock user MYTH #3

"Meadow = Pasture"

A montane or subalpine meadow is not a rural Tulare county feed lot.

Most of The backcountry staff have seen mountain meadows go from beautiful flower gardens in late June and July to totally "thrashed out" manure fields.

Perhaps, it's not a myth, because the way it goes now, those meadows do look like "pastures" by late season.

Stock user MyTh #4

"Stock poop is gone by next year and 'it don't hurt nothing'".

We may not know how much damage horses, mules, burros, and llamas cause, however, we know all that poop and piss can not help the quality of the water. As one visitor put it: "What good are all these new water regulations (i.e. required camping distance from creeks and lakes) for people, if there are no new regs for stock?"

This Fall, I had the pleasure of visiting Little Five Lakes, one of the scenic wonders of a Park full of scenic wonders.

There were still piles of stock poop, four inches thick, in an area of twenty feet by thirty feet, from the 1984 "Sore-Arses" Trip. What does that tell you?

Every season in every stock used meadow, there is dung from the year before, no matter how hard it's rained, no matter how hard the winter (~~guess that's the nature of the game?~~)
It doesn't just go away

Stock user Myth # 5

"Stock users' associations are not just self interest groups".

Steve Sorenson writes, "In the summer of 1981 a group of stock users feeling the pinch of public opinion turning against them, organized the High Sierra Stock Users Association. Their president Ray Banks of Visalia is retired from the California Department of Forestry, and is well-experienced in range management, as well as being familiar with the effect an organized group of people can have on a government agency."
"But we aren't just another

self interest group", Bank insists
"Our basic philosophy is for
The preservation of backcountry
resources for all to enjoy"
(from, The Backpacker vs The
Stock user — The Annual Boot Begins)

This may sound good, but
it's unbelievable.

Meadow Monitoring

Many of us ask when will
we start managing the meadows
that some say we do now.
Presently, we're "in a study" —
we're monitoring — and nothing
can be done until the project
is complete.

What about the studies that
came before? What about the
work of Sharp Smith, De Benedite (sp.?)
McClaren? ~~What~~ Was it not good
enough — it goes on and on.

What it looks like right now
(because of the present Power Structure)
that whatever we learn, it will

only affect (management-wise) the "opening dates", one week plus or minus. Reason being: how can everyone do business? Trail crews need to get in with their stock. Commercial packers need to get their clients in. Everyone asks for exceptions and they usually get 'em. As it is right now, backcountry rangers are made out to be the villains 'cause they are holding back "progress" (?)

What about the mandate to preserve and protect for future generations. Or do we worry about making everyone happy?

Let's get real:

- (1) Let's manage, not just study forever.
- (2) Let's get an ecologist; not a range specialist. This is a National Park — not a BLM cattle range.

Of Bears and Men

Bear (Food Storage) boxes are our response.

Bear boxes are like money. We keep throwing them at the problem.

The majority of visitors, backcountry rangers, and Trail crew approve. They work. They also centralize use. That also means centralized sewage; lots of "cat holes". It may get messy out there, friends. So far folks are being pretty good. And it looks good. But what's in store around the corner? How can we say with a straight face: why a water problem?

In typical "bad bear" areas, for example, "Tyndall-Crabtree-Rock Cr" — there were no "bear incidents" this year. One ranger believes the boxes are forcing the bears to be wild. Another feels the boxes are forcing the bears out of the Park, only to be shot.

You decide. Or perhaps, we should research it.

LeConte: Rumors of bears roaming the Golden Staircase in midday, and food Thievery attempts on The Dusky Fork, below The "lip".

Wildlife

Submitted two hundred or so, rare and unusual (perhaps, not so rare) wildlife sightings Plus, a bird relative abundance chart, "week by week"

Vegetation

Nate Stephenson and I "rediscovered" a population of foxtail pine pushing the range limits in the White Fork drainage. Later, Micaela Fitzpatrick, Sandy Graban, Dan D., and I found other foxtail populations, further north, still, near Bench Lake.

Submitted a Flower Bloom Chart for LeConte: "sixty-five-some" species

Archaeological Sites

Three sites were reported from Kings Canyon NP

Trail Maintenance

Early season, I cleared the trails of avalanche debris.

Ned and crew did much good work, especially on the Dug, switches, and building step checks and causeways between Little and Big Pete Meadows.

Station Maintenance

Volunteers: Georg Büchi, Alan Dreyfuss, Micaela Fitzpatrick, and I completed work on the new shed and out house. That came down to shingling, braces, shelves, new threshold trim, anti-porcupine flashing around the bases of all structures, painting, and linseed oiling, new stovepipe caps, and other misc. See "Needs List".

Needs

Le Conte 1992

aspirin 1 bottle
ophthalmic ointment
latex gloves

TP (5)
pillow cases (3)
mattress covers (3)
pillow

large drinking mugs (3)

Matches

Fiber Tape (2)

large plastic bags (Trash)

5 gal. Blazo

Store generators (2) (Coleman 426 D 3 burner)

1 X 2" pine X 64' (4 X SIXTEEN footers)

Flower Bloom - Le Conte 1991

June 14 - 22

Jeffrey Shooting Star

Burn Lupine

Meadow Lupine

Manzanita

Butterweed/groundsel

Wall Flower

Buckwheat

Pussy Paws

Sierra Forget-me-not

Pale Laurel

June 23 - 29

Crimson Columbine

Sneezeweed

Mule Ears

Paintbrush

Macloskey's Violet

Live Forever

Golden Brodiaea

Corn Lilly

Butterweed

Alpine Phlox

Showy Phlox

Swamp Onion

Penstemon Newberryi
(Pride of the Mtns.)

Strawberry

Jewel Flower

Aster

Balsamroot

June 30 - July 6

Mariposa Lilly

White Thorn

Labrador Tea

Red Heather

Buttercup

Yellow Cinquefoil

Tobacco Brush

Sierra Gooseberry

Larkspur

Currant

(over)

June 30 - July 6 (cont)

Least-flowered Monkey Flower

Anderson's Thistle

C. Monkey Flower

Lodgepole Pine

Fussy Toes

Flower Bloom - Leconte 1991

July 07-13

Leopard Lily

Sierra Rein Orchis

~~Ranger's Buttons~~

Pentstemon, davidsonii

Blue-eyed Grass

July 14-20

Yarrow

Pennyroyal

Sierra Columbine

Elephant Heads

Mountain Ash

July 21-27

Sierra Primrose

Sky Pilot (above 11,000)

Yampa

Fireweed

July 28 - Aug 03

Cream Bush/Berry
Ranger Buttons
R.illardella, Silky
wld Rose

August 04 - Aug 10

Monks hood
Scarlet Gilia
mountain Spiraea
Winter green
Pine drops

August 11 - Aug 17

Sierra Gentian

August 18 - August 24

Le Conte Canyon

	06/14 06/22	06/23 06/29	06/30 07/06	07/07 07/13	07/14 07/20	07/21 07/27	07/28 08/03	08/04 08/10	08/11 08/17	08/18 08/24	08/25 08/31	09/01 09/07	09/0 09/11
Blue Grouse	FC	FC	FC	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Black Swift	U	U	U	R	R	R	R	R	I	I	I	I	I
Calliope Hummer	C	C	C	C	FC	U	U	U	U	R	R	I	I
Rufous Hummer	I	I	I	FC	C	C	FC	FC	FC	U	U	U	U
Belt Kingfisher				U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Red-br Sapsucker	C	C	C	C	C	C	FC	FC	FC	U	U	U	U
Hairy Woodpecker	FC	FC	FC	C	C	C	FC	FC	U	U	U	U	U
N. Thern Flicker	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
Olive-sided Flycatcher	C	C	C	C	C	C	FC	FC	FC	U	R	I	I
W. Wood Pewee	C	C	C	C	C	C	FC	FC	FC	U	R	I	I
Tree Swallow	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	R	R	I
Violet-gr Swallow	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	U	U	U	U	R	R	I
Stellar's Jay	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
Clark's Nutcracker	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Common Raven	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
MT. Chickadee	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	U	FC	FC	FC
Red-br. Nuthatch	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
Brn. Creeper	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
Am. Dipper	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
Golden-cr Kinglet	C	C	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	FC	FC	FC	FC
Hermit Thrush	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	FC	FC	FC	FC
Am. Robin	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	FC	FC	FC
Warbling Vireo	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	R	I	I
Townsend's Solitaire	FC	FC	C	FC	FC	FC	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Nashville Warbler	U	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Y-r Warbler	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	FC	FC	FC
MacGillivray's	U	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
Wilson's	FC	FC	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	FC	FC	FC

1991

Le Conte Canyon

	06/14 06/22	06/23 06/29	06/30 07/06	07/07 07/13	07/14 07/20	07/21 07/27	07/28 08/03	08/04 08/10	08/11 08/17	08/18 08/24	08/25 08/31	09/01 09/07	09/1 09/1
Western Tanager	-	-	-	U	U	U	U/R	R	R	R	-	-	-
Green-T. Towhee	U	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
Fox Sparrow	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
Lincoln's Sparrow	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U
Wh. cr. Sparrow	-	-	U	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
Dark-eyed Junco	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Red-winged Blkbird*	C	C	C	C	C	C	FC	FC	U	R	-	-	-
Brewer's Blkbird	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC
Brn-headed Cowbird	-	-	U/FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	U	U	U	U	U
Cassin's Finch	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	U	U	U
Purple Finch	U	U	U/FC	U/FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	FC	U	U	U
Red Crossbill	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Pine Siskin	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	R	R	R
Evening Grosbeak	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	R	R

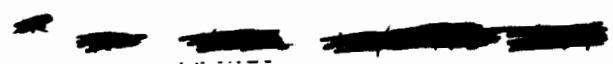
* Red-winged
Blk bird common
only at
Grouse Mdw.

D

	Present	Absent
Yellow-legged Frog	✓	
Pacific Treefrog	?	
Rainbow Trout	✓	
Brook Trout		
Golden Trout	?	
R-G Hybrid	?	
Unknown Fish		

Location identity code: CARTRIDGE PASS LAKES (south of THE PASS)
 Date: 08 15 91
 Observer: ROB HAYDEN
 Comments:

ALL LAKES BETWEEN CARTRIDGE AND SOUTH FORK KINGS HAVE YELLOW-LEGGED



	Present	Absent
Yellow-legged Frog	✓	
Pacific Treefrog	?	
Rainbow Trout		
Brook Trout		
Golden Trout		
R-G Hybrid		
Unknown Fish		

Location identity code: SOUTH FORK OF CARTRIDGE CR LAKES + POND (ALL)
 Date:
 Observer: HAYDEN
 Comments:



	Present	Absent
Yellow-legged Frog	✓	
Pacific Treefrog		
Rainbow Trout		
Brook Trout		
Golden Trout		
R-G Hybrid		
Unknown Fish		

Location identity code: Lake 11,440 south of Pinchot Pass
 Date: 09 15 91
 Observer: HAYDEN
 Comments:

Fish present

Information Note for Backcountry Rangers

Dave Bradford, who studied Mountain Yellow-legged Frogs (*Rana muscosa*) in Sequoia in the 1970s, visited the Hockett Plateau this summer and tells me that of 13 lakes and ponds he visited that had Yellow-legs as late as 1980, none had them this year. Some of them still have Pacific Treefrog (*Hyla regilla*). Two had acquired trout since 1980, presumably by human introduction, and trout generally wipe out frog populations by eating the tadpoles. There was no explanation for the other 11, continuing the disturbing news on these frogs.

We are intensely interested in fish and frog information for every body of water you can check out. Remember that Yellow-legs are found in the water or right on the edge, but Treefrogs often wander a good distance. We would prefer something like the following matrix for each lake/pond:

	Present	Absent	
Yellow-legged Frog	✓		Location identity code: Arrow Bain (match to mark on map) Nw of Arrow Peak Date: 08 13 91
Pacific Treefrog	?		
Rainbow Trout		✓	Observer HAYDEN all lakes
Brook Trout		✓	Comments:
Golden Trout		✓	
R-G Hybrid		✓	
Unknown Fish			

Use an X (and if necessary a ?) for each box. For frogs, if you can indicate adults with (A) and tadpoles with (T), that's even more helpful. Use a number to indicate body of water on a topo map, and match with number on the matrix.

Thanks.
Dave Graber