

SEQUOIA and KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Backcountry Ranger Annual Report Summary Information

1992

Lorenzo Stowell - Hockett m.d.w. Rang

STATION: Hockett Meadow LENGTH of SEASON:

June 1, 1992 to Oct 24, 1992

- 1. Total Visitor Contacts:
  - Day hikers: 27
  - Backpackers: 274
  - Stock Users: 208
  - Total: 509
- 2. Stock Observed: 226
- 3. Llamas Observed: 4
- 4. Total Miles Covered: 1083
  - Hiked: 304
  - Rode: 780
- 5. Trash Removed (pounds): 650 lbs
- 6. Total # Firerings Worked: 119
  - Rehab/Cleaned: 102
  - Removed: 17
- 7. Total Campsites Worked: 13
  - Rehabilitated: 5
  - Removed: 8
- 8. Total Law Enforcement Contacts: 0
  - Citations: 0
  - Type Violation: \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

Robin - PLEASE  
SHARE THIS WITH  
MIKE - I'D LI  
TO SEE A  
BREAK-DOWN  
WHERE THEY ARE  
GOING.

- Written Warnings: 0
- Verbal Warnings: 4
- 9. Emergency Operations: 2
  - Searches: 0
  - Rescues: 0
  - Medivacs: 2

- 10. Special Projects:
  - ① WILDERNESS SEMINAR
  - ② Stock Holding Pen AT
  - Quinn Patrol CABIN
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

Trees removed from  
the TRAIL with an  
axe 28

Lorenzo Stowell

Hockett mdw (1)

Oct 18, 1992

This was my second season at Hockett mdw and it was interesting and a busy one. The TRAIL crew visited twice, the Wilderness Seminar was held here in Sept. (15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>) and the STAFF trip followed on Sept 19<sup>th</sup>. There were many other visitors as well. One Richard Knight showed up without a pack and was very lost. Welcome to the Hockett Hilton Richard!

During the TRAIL crew visits much was done. Wood was bucked up, split, hauled etc for the TRAIL crew, Hockett Rangers, Wilderness Seminar and snow survey. Two new hitching rails were constructed - one at the Horse Camp at Hockett mdw - the other at Hidden Camp. One of the public outhouses was moved here at Hockett mdw. Several days were spent working with the TRAIL crew doing TRAIL work (raking rocks) and on the new bridge near Horse Creek. All the above were cooperative projects. The Hockett Rangers moved 17440 lbs of stone this season while doing TRAIL work etc.

The Wilderness Seminar put the heat on the Hockett Rangers but due to the tireless work of Carol Bennett, Dave Kangas and Dario Malengo everything came out fine. Thanks to management everything was well

S.S  
1992

Organized and I felt the "Seminar" was a success. The Staff<sup>TRIP</sup> was one night and felt like a vacation after the above.

Visitor use was down slightly from 1991 (553 - 1991 and 509 - 1992) and<sup>with</sup> more or less the same patterns of use due to the geographical reality of the area. i.e. Hockett Mdw, the South Fork meadow Camps, Horse Creek etc. are the most heavily used. Summit UK & Blossom UK are discussed separately. There were the usual visitors assists - lost stock (2<sup>total returned</sup>) assistance with horse shoeing - (2) lending of equipment (2) minor medicals (3 and 4) (5) The Bears moved in on the Hockett and one camp at South Fork Pasture but due to relentless education and visitor vigilance we were able to turn them back without "RiPoffs"!

The stock users continue to visit this area in representative numbers, Tim Shen and his outfit make every effort to cooperate and are doing well. "Education" is accepted there. Luckily for me I don't have to deal with Don Bedell - I deal with his confused, mostly, Greenhorn Teenaged "Packer" who do what I ask them to do.

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I have the "MO-JO", Authority, experience and the options to deal with those kids. The so called Adults who come in on the called BY DON OUT OF THE BARE GROUP CAN BE A PROBLEM - BUT NOT IF I SEE THEM FIRST. WE HAVE A FRIENDLY FIRM CONVERSATION AND THAT ENDS ANY PROBLEMS. I FEEL THAT WHERE POSSIBLE THAT NOT ONLY THE CLIENTS HAVE NP INSTRUCTION WHILE THE PERMIT IS ISSUED BUT THE COOKS, PACKERS ETC SHOULD ALSO BE PRESENT - THEY NEED IT THE MOST - ESP. SINCE SOMETIMES THOSE FOLKS CHANGE WITH EVERY NP. DON WILL NEVER CHANGE - THE NPS JUST NEEDS TO GET TOUGH AND WORK ON EDUCATING HIS EMPLOYEES - HE'S NOT GOING TO DO IT SO WE MUST! I HAD ALMOST NO PROBLEMS WITH HIS OUTFIT OR ANY OTHER STOCK GROUP THIS SEASON. JOHN KECK (FROM SPRINGVILLE) TOLD ME HE HAD BEEN COMING TO THE SOUTH FORK MOUNTAIN (ROCK CAMP) SINCE HE WAS 12 YEARS OLD - 62 YEARS AGO! WHEN ASKED HOW IT LOOKED IN COMPARISON WITH 62 YEARS AGO - HE SAID, "IT LOOKS ABOUT THE SAME - MAYBE BETTER!"

ONE OF THE FENCE PROBLEMS WAS SOLVED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HOLDING PEN AT THE QUINN PATROL CABIN. THE PEN WORKS FINE AND WILL HOLD HORSES REALLY WELL

And some mules will stay in. This Pen will help everyone who visits with stock. Thanks to management from the Hockett Rangers. The fence at Hockett continues to be a problem. The metal pole part of the fence is a total disaster. The entire fence is old, worn out and needs replacement. My experience tells me this is a crew type job with considerable cost in time, materials and labor.

Deer Hunter Patrol took place in the Hockett this season. It's imperative to continue relentless Hunter Patrol in this area to prevent both "in park" and out of park hunters from taking advantage of the lack of patrols. From my observations this season it's apparent that the Summit Uk Entrance to the Peckes Canyon Entrance had the most use - esp. the "Visitor Trail" that cut across from Summit to Peckes. The NPS needs to be present here esp on opening and closing weekends - The Friday before - if possible.

I had a productive, pleasant season at Hockett this year. Last year was a transition, this year a homecoming. I look forward to working with the NPS for next season as well. Thanks to all

L.S. Hockett  
Ranger  
1992  
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## Lower Blossom Lake 1992

The time to deal with Lower Blossom Lake is now. Unacceptable Resource Damage is taking place there now! After 2 seasons of close observations this Ranger recommends no wood fires (at any of the lakes) and closure of Lower Blossom Lake to overnight stock use. To prevent stock from visiting the lake at all hitching rails can be constructed away from the lake for day use only. Back packers (or stock users who carry their goods) could be allowed to continue camping there. Again no wood fires allowed. A sign could be placed between the lake and hitching rails clearly stating what's required. Continued large party stock use here will and is in fact creating another "Summit Lake Problem". Since Tim Sheen agreed last season (after conversations with this ranger) to discontinue his overnight use there this leaves only the Mineral King Pack outfit and the rare private user to deal with. Prompt, firm action now can prevent this fragile area from further degradation.

## Summit Lake 1992

Summit Lake continues to be a problem. After 2 seasons of close observations,

Summit Lake 1992

This Ranger sees no easy solutions due to lack of control the N.P.S. has in regard to the geographical and social realities of the area. Many ideas were put forth at the wilderness seminar - most to the point, enforcement of any kind of closure(s) here would be random and subjective at best. Any closure would require a total effort by the N.P.S. which would be difficult to sustain. In light of the realities and difficulties this Ranger now recommends no overnight stock use and no wood fires allowed at Summit Lake. This action would then require the same closure at cyclone meadow to prevent the problems moving there. Possibly some compromise can be worked out with a proactive approach with the area's users. In any case an active program needs to be put into gear in this area as soon as possible.

The "Visitor Trail" that cuts across to Peck needs to be looked at. Resource damage is taking place there due to heavy use. This trail also provides a "hideout" for visitors avoiding contact with the N.P.S. esp. during deer season. Perhaps this "trail" should be closed.

## Hitching Rails 1992

Wooden Hitching RAILS ARE CURRENTLY IN USE IN THE HOCKETT MEADOW AREA. THE LOCATION AND CONDITION OF THE HITCHING RAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Quinn Patrol Station: ONE - IN GOOD CONDITION  
ONE NEEDED OUTSIDE THE NEW HOLDING PEN.
2. Summit Lake - TWO - BOTH IN FAIR CONDITION
3. Slims Meadow - 3; 1 Broken - needs replacement NOW - ONE IN GOOD CONDITION - ONE IN FAIR CONDITION.
4. South Fork Pasture (UPPER CAMP) TWO<sup>(2)</sup> - IN FAIR CONDITION.
5. LOCK CAMP (SO. FORK mdw) ONE IN FAIR CONDITION - ONE BROKEN DOWN - NEEDS REPLACEMENT.
6. Hidden Camp - ONE - NEW & REPLACED 1992 - ONE BROKEN DOWN NEEDS REPLACEMENT - THE AREA MIGHT NEED YET ANOTHER HITCHING RAIL (?)
7. South Fork Crossing - TWO<sup>(2)</sup> IN FAIR CONDITION.
8. Hockett mdw: Public Horse Camp - ONE<sup>(1)</sup> - NEW 1992  
Public Hitching RAIL - NEAR CABIN<sup>(1)</sup> GOOD CONDITION.  
NPS TRAIL CREW CAMP - THREE (3) GOOD CONDITION.  
NPS TACK ROOM - TWO (2) GOOD CONDITION.  
Evelyn Lake - TWO (2) GOOD CONDITION.

ALL HITCHING RAILS ABOVE THAT ARE IN FAIR CONDITION NEED REPLACEMENT SOON (THAT'S 8 HITCHING RAILS THAT WILL NEED REPLACEMENT SOON AND 4 THAT NEED REPLACEMENT OR RECONSTRUCTION. (12 TOTAL)