

The visitors in general are better educated and informed than ever before on how to care for the wilderness and themselves in it. For those uninformed Law Enforcement ~~is~~^{ment} is not the issue. Education is the issue and works almost all the time. Wilderness users are always going to do what you request if you are courteous and polite.

Like last season and seasons in the past the Crabtree and Guitar Lake areas gets alot of use. Considering all the people through here (as many as 100 people per day in the Crabtree area and another 100 in the Guitar Lake area during the month of August) the area looks really good, probably better than it did twenty years ago when just as many people used the area.

The one sign at the JMT, Crabtree inter-section spreads the use out from one mile below Guitar Lk. to about 1 mile above Guitar Lk. This cuts use at Guitar Lake about fifty percent, making it acceptable in this rangers opinion.

Mt. Whitney has a steady stream of hikers all season long. Creating not too many problems for us from trailcrest to the summit because they all return to the east side after a short stop on the summit (thanks to the help of the guardian angel).

However, the Forest Service has a much

bigger problem, mainly where to put so many people and how to dispose of the human waste in such a narrow corridor.

Briefly, I'll give my opinion on a solution. The biggest problem is human waste. Solar toilets don't work here and never will. They need to fly it out and use the "Honey Bucket" system like we do on the Summit and like they used to do in the mid 80's when Marty Hornick was in charge.

The best way to solve wilderness problems is by being practical. Solar toilets, packing waste out on stock is not practical and unsanitary. Closing toilets on weekdays is also not practical.

They need to keep limits on camping and put some limit on day use, and go back to using the "Honey Bucket" system for toilets.

● Have a toilet at each area: ● outpost camp, before trail-camp, trail-camp and open new area SE of trail-camp w/ toilet (where they put trail-crew) - and use simple platforms w/ 50 gal. barrels in a hole -

- Employ maintenance person to maintain toilets
- Rotate rangers more
- Have a kiosk at Whitney Portal, with ranger on duty every day -

Not a simple problem but one that needs to be dealt with -

Administering the Forest Service Survey on Mt. Whitney was ridiculous and a big

imposition on the summit visitor. I did this at three different times this season as requested and all I can say is that it definitely wasn't practice! I had much better luck at Guitar Lake and at the ranger station.

Maintaining our "Honey Bucket" on the Summit went smoothly again this year. Improvements were a plastic apron around sides (covered with rocks) and a sign taped to a rock placed on lid. Hopefully this will keep snow out this winter.

Bear incidences were the lowest I can remember this summer. I did not take one bear report and I did not hear of any incidences from the north side of Foresters Pass like last year. The Forest Service still needs to put bear proof containers East of Kearsarge Pass, that was the only problem area I heard of. Our Bear Boxes are working Great! I saw 1 large bear at the lower crossing in September drinking from the creek.

The biggest problem in the Upper Kern area are the Military Jets. The overflights occur way to often. The Kern Canyon had more low-flyers than ever before and Crabtree, Rock CK and Tyndall areas had way too many also.

Park Administrators need to take a stronger stand on this. The reporting system in effect for the past 12 years or so is completely ineffective. Like the song "Stop, Hey, Whats that sound, everybody look whats going down". National.

security is not being threatened. We do not need to use park areas for military training. Parks are for peace and quiet!

The trail crew did some good work in the Rock CK, Army Pass area. The Crabtree area above Timberline Lake and the Tyndall area above Tyndall crossing need a lot of trail work. I think the trail crew should stay at least two weeks in an area, otherwise half of their work time is lost moving.

I was involved in two minor SAR^s in the area. The Arrowsmith and Stowell SAR^s. Both turned out fine, one was not lost and the other only a little lost.

The backcountry in these parks ~~are~~^{is} very beautiful. Wilderness managers need to get out as much as possible in order not to lose sight of this. Also they need to recognize that what we do out here is important for resource protection and visitor enjoyment and spreading the wilderness ethic!