

End of Season Report: LeConte R.S. 1996 George Durkee

"We're fine, we're just fucking fine."
Sandy Graban 7/29/96--Morgenson SAR

Stats:

Visitors Contacted	900	
Miles Hiked	650	
Citations	0	
Warnings	30 (camping on veg.; unclean camp etc.)	
Medivacs	5 (2 HAPE; 2 Horse-evacs; 1 'pooned climber)	
Searches	1	
Dead Mules	1	

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations included in all of our yearend reports could get a bit overwhelming--as well as repetitive. I'd suggest that you choose, say, 3 important issues/recommendations from all our reports and put energy into accomplishing them. I can't think of a single specific recommendation we've made in the last 15 years that's been acted on. This leads to a certain cynicism. As we discussed at LeConte, it might be a good idea to plan a small gathering in the backcountry towards the end of the season to try to arrive at a collective sense of issues, solutions and priorities. It's also perked us up in the past when there's been an attempt to respond to our recommendations with action taken or why it can't be accomplished--at least we know that this stuff's been read (TEST: if you're reading this, send me e-mail with code word ZULU)

So, here's my vote for 'top 3' things to start on this winter:

- 1) Close McClure to grazing as a memorial to Randy. I'm quite serious about this. Randy Coffman and Rob already talked this over and RC wasn't too keen on it. Debbie Bird won't even discuss it. I firmly believe it's the only meaningful act we can do to honor someone who worked here 30 years without the least bit of official recognition from the park. Randy worked at McClure for 8 seasons. In EVERY ONE of his year end reports, he recommended closing it to stock use (see my separate, attached report on grazing recommendations as requested by RC last year).
- 2) Remove Ladder drift fence & Stillwater Meadow drift fence. We don't need 'em, they just clutter up the backcountry. The Stock Management Plan says that drift fences should only exist to protect an area, NOT for the convenience of the packers. Both these fences exist ONLY for the convenience of packers. This still leaves a fence below Big Pete and another before going up to Dusy.
- 3) Change/combine the Bishop Pass entrance sign (see attached). There's 3 signs up there right

now--old aluminum ones. Combine into one sign. This has been suggested for some years and hasn't happened.