

# McCLURE 1997 SEASON END REPORT

VISITORS CONTACTED:	2634
MILES PATROLED	518
ENFORCEMENT CONTACTS:	38
MEDIVACS	3
SEARCHES	5
CAMP SITES / FIRE RINGS	198
TRASH REMOVED	285

⊗ Coming in from Florence Lk.  
is confusing near Muir Ranch  
due to signering. (Report to USFS)  
⊗ First junction as you come from  
Florence Lk.

⊗ McClure  
Concerns

Hiking Stick Return?  
M. Webb  
# (~~243~~) 626-398-8826

## RECOMMENDATIONS / OBSERVATIONS

### RADIO/ EVOLUTION REPEATER

The Evolution Repeater is a safety concern for all NPS employees and park visitors — The repeater plainly does not function  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the time — We can not, with good conscience, base an emergency response system on a failing communication link. We can not administer a wilderness operation with this inconsistent communication link. The repeater site has not been visited by a radio technician since early June 1997.

### HIKERS

Cross-country group size needs to be reduced to six to eight individuals. Yosemite has done this (our situation is much the same).

Boy Scouts still need to be tutored on not building rock walls, trail cairns, and enlarging firerings. Let's contact their "governing council" on this.

## MEADOW OPENING DATES

In order to better care for the meadows of the Evolution Valley Region, perhaps the opening dates should be pushed back two weeks.

Also, to further protect the meadows in the Upper Evolution Valley, namely, Darwin, Colby, and McClure, perhaps we could reduce the number of head to ten or less in those meadows. A group with greater than ten animals could camp at Evolution Meadow — just a thought — Darwin (Upper Colby) Meadow seems to be hammered annually, as it is the last place to camp with stock before going over Muir Pass.

## MEADOW MONITORING

This seems like a good time (since we have a new meadow monitor) to paraphrase some of Randy Morgenson's observations from his McClure End of Season Reports. He felt the program did not address the following resource issues:

- deep hoof prints
- urine kill of grass
- urine and manure in water
- urine piles in the meadows
- trails in the meadows
- scuffed/torn up sod
- roll pits
- severely impacted areas, where the animals were tied up

\* An enormous sum of money has been spent, since the '60's, rerouting the trails out of the Evolution Basin and Valley meadows, however they are not recovering, in part, because hundreds of stock run up and down those old trails all summer and fall. They may never have a chance to come back/grow back/rehabilitate, if this continues.

THREE CORNER ROUND BURRO GROUP

Three Corner Round needs tutoring again. They need to "go through" this park, rather than Inyo, for their permit and stock regulations info, including opening dates. They need to go over their trip plans with a subdistrict or district ranger, as they routinely disregard many NPS regulations. Here's an example for this year (from the station log-book):

July 9

Three Corner Round shows up in late afternoon, with 15 burros and 13 folks, "unaware" of the stock regulations and the conditions, namely (approximately) eight miles of snow from Evolution Lake to LeConte Canyon. They are headed for Darwin Lakes/Canyon - which is closed to stock. The night of July 8, they had camped in Upper Goddard Canyon (> 1 mile above the Hell-Far-Sure Pass Jct) in the area closed to stock and had an illegal fire. Many (in fact, most) of their planned future camps are further than 1/2 mile off a maintained trail (which

would make them illegal in this part of Kings, as well as LeConte, Bench, and Upper Woods Cr. areas) - also, they have failed to check the meadow opening dates for these areas, 7/15 and even 8/1, for Palisade Lakes and Upper Basin - they have the paperwork and permits - they have been an organized group since 1919. They have been dealing with NPS regulations since 1940 - why can they not get it right? They also wanted to camp at McGee Lakes, which is also closed to stock ("unmaintained trail below 10,400 open to stock use") McGee Lakes start at 10,800. McClure, Colby, Little Pete and other LeConte mds do not open 'til 7/15 and what about that eight miles of snow - we discuss options; suggest they stay at Evolution mdw (which opened 7/1) for tonight - suggest they think about it for awhile - can get a message out for them.

... Kelvin Dirkes, 3 Corner Round leader comes back, around 1930 hrs - discuss more options. I will get a message out. he will hike out over Wahou Col to North Lake and call or meet Jim Kelly of Big Pine (3 Corner Round Board of Directors member) and come up with a new plan.

July 11

. . . Kevin Dirkes from Three Corner Round gets back, checks in; They're going to head north; maybe re enter the park later when the meadows open - maybe via Taboose or Bishop Pass after 8/1

July 12

Three Corner Round, still around - They had established a camp in the rocks not too far, below the upper drift fence. Their kitchen was up on a minor cliff. one of the young lads was making cookies and baking bread for tomorrow's march. There were two locations where they had tied up the 15 critters; saw about seven dirt bath craters - all looked rather worn and impacted. You have to wonder if this is appropriate practice in those high fragile areas above Palisades Lakes, Upper Basin, extreme Upper Woods Cr., where they camp year after year. IT didn't look like minimum impact to me

## LLAMAS

Use is on the increase; Their method of grazing is to picket - we need to look at this - a couple of areas in McClure meadow were overgrazed this season, because of picketing.

"Trailhead and Co." a commercial llama group needs some special tutoring - They need to know that "customer satisfaction" (their words) is not reason enough to camp less than 25 feet from water and for a group to mat down knee high grasses to sleep/camp on the meadow. They need to be instructed not to burn plastic and tin foil - and especially not to overgraze portions of meadows by picketing their animals too long in one spot.

## HAZARD TREES

Jack T. and crew fell one large lodgepole, that was threatening the cabin

## RARE/SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES

Would be willing to locate and monitor/"protect for future generations"

## WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

NO BEARS AT MCCLURE

Submitted a myriad of wildlife observations to Graber

Highlights:

Three MT Lyell Salamanders at Tunemah Lake; a Bald Eagle in Ionian Basin, by MT. Solomons; and a deceased Western Kingbird at McClure meadow

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Submitted many site locations to The Park Archaeologist

## SERVICE PROJECTS

Can we enlist The Tulare and/or Fresno CCC; and Outward Bound to assist with campsite rehabilitation

## McCLURE CABIN

Jack Vance may replace the sill logs next summer; other possible improvements for cabin:

- new pine or metal shutters
- plumb cabin for propane
- Turn attic into a sleeping loft
- skylight

## VISITOR/RESEARCHER ASSISTANCE AND STATION IMPROVEMENTS

See station log-book

## LENGTH OF SEASON

Visitors are in the backcountry by early to mid-June  
We need to be there, too