

YEAR END REPORT  
KERN RANGER STATION

1998

Cindy J. Wood  
6-8-98 to 10-15-98

I was on duty at the Kern Ranger Station from June 26, 1998 to October 17, 1998. The road to Lewis Camp Trail Head, Quaking Aspen, was still closed due to snow. So, I rode in from the Jerky Meadow Trail Head to the Kern Ranger Station on June 26, 1998. This is a good trailhead, but it is a much longer and slower drive from headquarters compared to Quaking Aspen. It was snow free and I am glad I got to see the trail, as many visitors hike in from this trailhead and I now know the area and can answer questions concerning this route. Ranger Linda Wallace and other VIPs had already opened the station, done their work and left. The Kern Trail Crew were still basing out of the station and using the Ditch Camp when we arrived. Most of the opening chores were completed.

A. General Observations - Statistics

During the season I patrolled 877 miles of trail. I patrolled 690 miles on stock and 187 miles on foot. I contacted 722 visitors this season. (330 Backpackers, 128 Dayhikers, 6 Hunters, 29 NPS, FS & Fish & Game, 0 Rafters, 2 Kayakers, 57 Dayriders with 89 head of Stock and 170 Stock Users with 409 Head of Stock, 0 Burros & 0 Llamas.)

No arrests or citations this season. Verbal Warnings and Education for: food storage, bears in the area, foil and trash in the firepits, proper stock camping methods, water safety, trail conditions and fire safety.

There were no medivacs this season.

First Aid assists during the season included: blisters, splinters, sunburns, minor burns, cuts and scrapes.

One "Lost" person from Little Whitney Meadow, F.S., reported in at Kern Ranger Station. He had taken three wrong trails out of Little Whitney Meadow trying to exit the backcountry and return to Horseshoe Meadow trailhead. Information was radio'd out about the "Found" person and messages to reunite with his group as he had no overnight gear. Later that night, I again contacted Dispatch who was able to contact Inyo N.F., who radio'd Bob Olin at Tunnel Ranger Station, F.S., who was able to pass on the information to the parent. This halted a search that would have started officially the next morning by F.S. I accompanied the found person to Little Whitney Meadow the next morning after Dispatch confirmed the plan. He was met by his group and they exited the backcountry that day.

Lost Mules: A private stock user lost all four of his stock. They were all mules. They left Lower Funston Meadow and got through 2 fences and crossed the Kern River to leave the Park. They got through 3 fences on Inyo National Forest to return to the Horseshoe Meadow Trailhead. He hiked 22 miles to retrieve his lost animals. I checked the NPS fences, none were down, there were a few loose wires that I repaired. The mules must have jumped over.

Lost Stock: Several times this season, "lost" or roaming stock was found near the Kern Station. The stock belonged to Golden Trout Pack Station. The stock was either caught up and held for the packers or returned to the camp or pushed back down canyon. In most cases the stock was trying to continue up the Kern Canyon.



























