

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.

BOLO (ATL): James Thomson, September 28, 1998, possible depression, may be at the Kern Hot Spring. I checked all campsites up the Kern Canyon. Checked for recent tracks ect. I contacted a backpacker just north of Rattlesnake Creek who stated that he was James Thomson. He was overdue on his permit because he had tried to cross-country up the Big Arroyo Drainage and had turned back. He hiked out over Franklin Pass to Mineral King.

Check Abandoned Camp, FS: Dispatch radio'd with information that had been reported by a backpacker. The backpacker had seen a torn up tent in an abandoned camp. The person was worried that the party may have been injured or in need of help. The camp was located approximately 1 mile south of the Kern Ranger Station in Sequoia N.F., The camp with a torn up tent was located. I spoke to John Hinds and Frank Penfield. John Hinds stated that he had left the camp overnight to pack his wife back to Willow Meadow, F.S. He said he packed everything on his stock (food etc.), but he had left a bag of barley in the closed tent. During his absence a bear apparently broke into the tent to get the barley. Nothing else was damaged or taken, and there were no personal injuries.

Fire Reported: I radio'd in one smoke sighting to Fire Dispatch. The smoke was located 1/2 mile south of Kern Ranger Station and on the East side of the Kern River on Inyo National Forest. (Lightning Strike) Forest Service had a small plane checking the progress of the fire.

First Aid for Stock: Care and Penicillin for a mule recovering from a near drowning in a high creek crossing, he was swept down the creek. General care for minor cuts and scrapes.

Cellular Phone Use: I brought my own Cell phone into the backcountry. There was no problems keeping the two batteries charged up by solar. Two batteries were needed when making many calls or to keep one ready for emergencies or long calls. I also had voice mail and would check messages. The phone would only work on high passes or high areas. From the Kern Ranger Station I could reach Tower Rock in 1 1/2 hours via stock. You must be on the south side of tower rock and facing south in order to get out. The very top of tower rock is a dead zone. I could also phone out from Coyote Pass, Coyote Lakes Pass and Franklin Pass. The main problem I encountered was the busy system, I would receive a "System Busy" message often. It would often take 1/2 hour or more to get a call through. Once, I actually wore out 1 battery just trying to get one call out. It was good to have this other form of communication available. I used it to reach HQ a few times when the repeater was down.

Weather Summary: The Kern River and all Creeks were extremely high this spring. The Creeks were passable to most travelers by the end of July. The Kern River was not crossable to stock until late September. Farewell Gap held snow all season although it was passable to stock in September. Franklin Pass was snow-covered through September. Coyote Pass was clear of snow at the end of July. The Kern River stayed high and swift during most of the summer. Summer rains also kept the creeks high and the meadows wet.

B. Use Patterns

Backpacker use was slow this spring due to snow and high water. The highest use month seemed to be September. Early hikers came in from the South, mainly from Jerky Meadow, F.S. Later use switched to Lewis Camp Trail Head, once the road was opened, and from the East over Cottonwood Pass. In September the main use was from Mineral King.

Stock use was slow all summer, many groups camped on Forest Service land and did dayrides or dayhikes into the Park. Our Meadows were very wet and late to open this year. The Kern Trail 1/2 mile North of Upper Funston Meadow was flooded by the Kern River again this year and was not passable to stock and was a hazard to hikers until mid-August. Most overnight stock use was in September and October.

Mineral King Pack Station may have done a few trips into the upper Rattlesnake/Forester Lake area. Golden Trout Pack Station had a slower than average year. Most of their trips were on F.S. , although they did use the Park areas more in September/October. Rock Creek Pack Station sent an early trip into the area, but they did not stay overnight in the Park.

Private Stock use was low this summer.

Stock Concern: Possible contagious illness; A Mule strand of Herpes which can paralyze the back end of the animal and lead to the death of the animal. Mules were thought to carry it, but horses generally died from it. Golden Trout Pack Station was under a voluntary quarantine during late Sept. and Oct. Two animals were put down at the pack station and I know of one horse that was put down after a long trip through the backcountry.(From Lewis Camp trail head to Kern Station, Crabtree, Tyndall, Kern Canyon and back out to Lewis Camp trail head.) It has similar symptoms. This animal belonged to a private stock user named Steve Dunn, he sent a blood sample to Davis. This probably contributed to the lower fall stock use. It was thought that the virus might be transmitted from the grass to different animals for approximately three days. I don't know if any of this was confirmed, I heard blood samples from at least 2 animals were sent to Davis. A Forest Service horse also died in the pasture at Trout Meadow, the cause was unknown to the people I talked to at GTPS. Perhaps the Forest Service knows more about this.

Aircraft: Low Flying Military aircraft flights did occur in the area again this summer. I called in ten reports involving sixteen aircraft. Most occurred in late July and mid - September. Identified planes included: F-16's, F-14 and F-15. It was surprisingly quiet this spring with no low flyers.

Kayaker Report: I spoke to two kayakers this summer. They hiked in with their kayaks over Shepards Pass. They rated the river from Junction Meadow to the Kern Hot Spring as class 3 or 4 in general. One area is a 4+ and there is one Class 5 that they walked around. (One is about 5 miles north of the Hot Spring, the other is about 3 miles north of the Hot Spring) From the Kern Hot Spring to the Kern Ranger Station they called a Class 2 with a LOT of Logs. They also reported that they had been warned by friends of a hard section between Little Kern Lake and Grasshopper Flat on Sequoia National Forest. Also an area marked Falls on the map. They reported that when they left Kernville five days before, the river was rated 1300 CFS. They had expected the Kern River to be higher. The Kern River had dropped 1 to 2 feet in the previous few days.

Hunting Activity: Fall activity in the Forest Service was lower than average. Due to warm weather there were not many deer in the lower elevations. There was a lot of bear sign observed in the lower Kern Canyon all during the summer and two bear sightings in October just North of the Kern Ranger Station. The stock scare also kept some from coming into the backcountry.

C. Natural Resources

Rattlesnakes: I observed 10 rattlesnakes this year. Visitors reported 4 others. Very low sightings this season.

Bears: I observed 3 bears this season. Visitors reported seeing 2 others. Although my sightings were low, I observed a high amount of bear sign up and down the Kern trail all during the summer. There was a lot of scat, logs moved or torn into along the trail and tree markings. No bear problems were reported. I believe the bear that attacked the tack room at the station was a trash bear that came north from the Forest Service.

In Mid-June, one sow with three cubs who had been a problem at Giant Forest were flown into the Kern Canyon for relocation. They were left at the Kern Ranger Station small pasture. Ranger Linda Wallace from Mineral King was flown in to observe the bears and protect the Ranger Station and buildings from break ins. Later, I heard that the bears were observed in the Forest Service to the south. I heard that Fish and Game put down the Sow after she caused trouble, not realizing that she had three cubs.

In Mid-August after being on patrol up canyon overnight, I returned to the Kern Ranger Station to find the boards torn off of the tack room door and all the boards which cover the gray water sump were off and thrown around the area. A bear had broken in, thrown items around, left a lot of muddy paw prints and claw marks of the tack room building. Wash tubs were thrown and an outside mirror was broken, but no barley or medicine was eaten or taken. No damage to the Ranger Station Cabin. No other visits or sightings of a trash bear in the area for the rest of the season.

Butterflies: Higher than average sightings of all butterflies this season. Butterflies were also observed as late as October, even in the high elevations.

Snow Plants: Large amount of plants sighted this spring. Most groups were of 4 to 6 plants instead of single plants. New Snow Plants were still coming up in August, which is very unusual for the area.

Bald Eagles: I observed 1 bald eagle at Big Kern Lake next to the river. (A nesting pair used to be at Little Kern Lake, but the snag that held their nest fell over a few years ago.) I also saw 1 bald eagle flying south down the Kern Canyon just north of the Kern Ranger Station. Visitors reported 2 other sightings near Little Kern Lake in Sequoia National Forest.

Beaver: No observations this year. A few freshly girdled trees were seen north of Lower Funston meadow near the river.

Fire: I reported one smoke to Fire Dispatch that was located on Inyo N.F., ½ mile south of the Kern Ranger Station. The Forest Service checked the fire by airplane. It was a small fire, it went out on its own.

Meadows: All meadows were late to open this season. The Kern river flooded through Lower Funston meadow. It was opened in mid-August. Upper Funston was opened first, but it had wet areas due to river flooding. Other meadows and camps across the Kern River could not be accessed until late September due to high water. Coyote Canyon was late to open due to late snow melt and slow drying. Rattlesnake Canyon was also late to open and slow to dry. Junction Meadow was late to open, but it was also inaccessible due to the Flooded Kern Trail 1/2 mile north of Upper Funston, which was a problem for stock and people through August. A large boulder also blocked the trail to the east for part of the summer.

Meadows seemed to have very low use again this year. Upper and Lower Funston Meadows received the most use. Most use was during September. Snake Camp got a lot of use in October. The areas of wide sedge in these wet meadows seem to be expanding greatly, especially in the meadows flooded by the river.

Meadow Monitoring: Four exclosures were used in the area this season. (Upper and Lower Funston Meadows, Middle Rattlesnake and Lewis Camp Large Pasture.) All areas were monitored.

Sylvia and Nicole came to the Kern Canyon in late July to check on the conditions of Kern Canyon Meadows and to become familiar with the area and conditions. In late September I met Sylvia and Nicole in Middle Rattlesnake to check conditions and monitor the meadow. During this time, Sylvia thinks she may have found a new plant in the meadow. It's a small woody plant with red berries.

Prescribed Natural Fire: Proposed Plan for the Kern Ranger Station area, year 2000?, On September 10th and 11th, Scott Williams, Tom Burge, Steve Klump and I surveyed the area proposed for the burn and checked historic and cultural sites. Fuels, water sources and other factors were considered and will be addressed in the PNF proposal. The area would benefit from PNF. I hope this project will be funded.

Fishing: The Kern river and local creeks were very high and swift this spring. Linda Wallace observed whole trees being swept down river and the loud roar of boulders being moved. Fishermen reported good luck in September and October. They were very happy with the size and amount of fish caught.

D. Cultural Resources

Archeological Sites, Historic Sites and Structures: The sites near the station were checked during the summer. All the historic items in the station museum collection were inventoried and accounted for. None of the missing items from '95 were found or returned.

Some structures were written up for the GIS Project. All Archeological sites, Historic sites and Structures should somehow be added to the GIS Information.

E. Backcountry Facilities

The solar system was constantly used again this season. It charged radio batteries for two park radios, two cellular phone batteries, D and AA battery charger and two lights. The system worked well and only fell to medium charge a few times during the fall, so I believe the meter is working correctly. The batteries were left at a full charge.

The Forgotten Repeater was often unreliable this season. Often, it would not work in the morning or on cloudy days. Often it would seem to work, but no one would answer from HQ. (Apparently they could sometimes hear us but we could not hear them. Especially at Night.) Last year I heard a lot of traffic from Cedar Grove and Grant Grove...this year that was rare. During late Sept. when we had further problems with the repeater...we sometimes lost the 3 tones...during that time period...I would hear traffic at night from road patrol rangers out of giant forest on Tac 3. Hopefully more of the bugs can be worked out next season.

GIS Project: Forms were turned in for the Kern area. Including: Structures, Trails, New Sign Inventory, Camp Locations, Stock Camp Locations, Drift Fences, Hitch Rails, Bear Box Locations, Bridges, Pit Toilets, Historic Structures, Ranger Station, Maps were Marked with locations or corrections. It was a very interesting project. I look forward to seeing the revised maps.

Meadow Map - GIS: It will take more time to really ground check the new map. This season I only had time to check the main trailside meadows.

Ranger Station Projects: A special thank you to VIP Laura Storm, VIP Jack Shook and VIP Steve Wood. Projects accomplished ranged from packing supplies in on mules or packing trash out on mules to the much needed painting of the station floor. (Yes, a XXX Form was submitted and ok'd - years ago) A new flag pole was erected, fire wood split, fences and gates repaired and help with opening and closing chores and fences.

A special fall project was the clearing of the Coyote Creek crossing near the station. This was a dangerous crossing in spring due to a log jam and downed trees which made the crossing twice as wide and very swift. It also flooded into the log footbridge bypass trail. We cleared the log jam of brush and mud. We cut out three trees. We accomplished this work when the water was at its lowest and coldest in October.

A special thanks to the Kern Trail Crew. They did an excellent job replacing the log railing in front of the Kern Ranger Station. It was greatly needed. They also replaced the broken hitch rail at Irene's Camp.

Drift Fences: The trail crew worked on many drift fences this summer. They replaced the swinging gate at Lower Funston, upper drift fence with a rail gate. They rebuilt most of this fence. It's in great shape now. They replaced gate posts as needed in Rattlesnake Canyon and made many fence repairs.

Signs: The "By- Pass" trail sign, at the Kern Suspension Bridge, was replaced with a new sign this fall. The new wording is a great improvement: "By-Pass Trail to Sequoia National Forest for Visitors with Pets and Weapons" .

The "By-Pass" trail sign at the other end of the trail should also be replaced to match. The new wording would be: "By-Pass Trail to Inyo National Forest for Visitors with Pets and Weapons." It should also have the Forest Service and Park Service Logos as the other new sign has.

The " Willow Meadow Cutoff Trail" in Rattlesnake Canyon needs a junction sign. Many people use and look for the trail. The only time it has a sign is when it is "Closed" due to fires. Please Replace this sign. It has been unmarked since 1994 and is a problem.

The "To Protect this Fragile Meadow" sign at the Kern Hot Spring is a good sign and is in a good location at the south end of the meadow. There should also be a duplicate of this sign at the north end of the meadow. Visitors who approach from the north do not get this much needed information.

F. Trails

The Trail Crew flew into the Kern Station this year. Linda Wallace flew out when they arrived and the crew used the station and set up at the Ditch Camp behind the station. They continued the "Bear Watch and Cabin Protection" job. Eric Davenport was back as Crewleader with a new crew consisting of Charles and Patrick. The crew did a lot of excellent work this season. Along with replacing hitchrails and working on drift fences, they did a lot of ground work on the trails: cleaning water bars, digging out the sluff area on Coyote Trail and ground pruning. They blasted the large flat rock 1/2 mile north of the station and got that hazard removed. They worked on the short boardwalks and culverts on Rattlesnake Trail near cowcamp. They put up all drift fences north of the station area and did some repairs to all fences. Many new gate upright Posts. They made some cement repairs at the Hot Tub that were greatly needed.

The trail was flooded again 1/2 mile north of Upper Funston Meadow at the "Bog " area. This season it had the Kern River running down it. The water was 1 to 2 feet deep with a swift current. It had churned up dirt and created "Holes" that were 4 to 5 feet deep where the trail was constricted due to logs that had been cut out. The entire area was flooded and was over 1 foot deep, from the river bend to the rock slide area at the canyon base. There is no safe way to bypass this area, either on foot or stock. The backpackers try to use logs to get around it, but this is not possible. It is not safe for stock until it is totally dry... usually late August. Even when most of the area is dry there are now 2 bog areas to cross. One is on a new rerouted area at the south end of the problem area. It is a natural low area that is boggy but has a fairly solid bottom. The other bog is at the older reroute at the north end of the problem area, this bog has no bottom and is very unpredictable, stock often plunge a foot or more without warning. This year the trail crew widened out the log cutouts. Instead of a normal 4 foot opening, some are now cut out 20 feet wide. Even when the area is dry this is not an answer. Although it allows people and stock to bypass the 4 -5 foot deep holes, that are still open hazards and the worst of the exposed tree roots that trip people and stock, it only encourages the use and making of multiple trails and encourages resource damage to a much wider area. It seems to make the statement that the National Park Service approves and encourages this resource damage and is unconcerned with correcting a hazard or protecting the fragile meadow area.

The trail crew was going to push all their stock through this area ... no matter what. They planned on loose herding, which is only acceptable in "hazardous" situations and assumed they would have to unload all of the mules and hand carry all the loads through the flooded area. If they accepted the fact that the area was hazardous then they should have planned on avoiding the area until it was dry and passable to stock or repaired the area. (There is talk of eventually blasting a new trail along the canyon base.) They refused to go around, which is what I and all park visitors with stock have had to do for 4 years now. Luckily, by the time they brought their stock into the backcountry and decided to move all of their stock through it, it was almost dry. The river had dropped a foot or more and quit running down the trail. I was amazed how

quickly it dried out after the river quit running through it. A week earlier would have been a disaster. They did a lot of resource damage, but no stock was injured that I know about.

Problem Areas:

The Flooded Bog Area as mentioned above.

The long boardwalk has 3 planks broken out. The short boardwalk has 3 planks with loose spikes on the east side, they flip up if a horse or person is not in the center of the plank.

The Hot Spring Log Bridge needs 1 foot of fill dirt on the east approach.

Annual widening of the sluff area on the Coyote Trail.

Waterbar cleaning annually on all trails.

Drift fences and pasture fences need annual repairs, posts made and set as needed.

The tree leaning over the hitchrail at Lower Funston Meadow should be removed.

G. Camp Areas

A total of 43 fire pits were cleaned in the Kern area this season. 5 were Obliterated. The Hot Spring camps were the most heavily used this season. Firewood availability close to camps was the lowest here. This is due to the higher use area and the desirability of the area as a layover spot.

Trash, food and abandoned clothes and gear is still being left in the food lockers. Foil, cans, glass and trash are being left in some fire pits. Rocks are still routinely added to the fire rings. If a camp area is cleaned often, it tends to discourage a lot of these problems.

Many regularly used campsites received little or no use this year. This gave many areas and sites a chance to recover and look more natural. Even the Hot Spring Camps were lightly used this year, giving the whole area a much needed rest.

H. Permit System

As usual the NPS permit holders were much better informed and educated than those with FS permits. Most FS Permit holders received no NPS information at all. Most hikers were aware of the problems of high water and snowy passes and were either well equipped or aware that they might have to turn back. Stock users were well informed on late opening dates for our meadows in general. They knew most meadows and areas would be at least 2 weeks to 4 weeks late opening, but most had no solid dates or other specific information and relied on "Talking to the Ranger" when they got to the backcountry. Most of these had FS permits.

I heard no complaints about the Park charging for permit reservations.

I. Inventory

Kern Ranger Station:

- 2 Flashlights (D cell)
- 2 Headlamps (D cell for shower & reading light)
- 1 Headlamp (AA)
- 2 White gas lanterns (1 large & 1 small)
- 1 White gas two-burner stove - old
- 1 Folding oven for coleman stove
- 1 Roll up table
- 1 Station guitar
- 1 Oxygen pack with 1 jumbo tank and 2 extra full tanks
- 1 Large Orange first aid pack with blood pressure cuff etc.
- 1 Epsom Salts
- 1 Alcohol
- 1 Witch Hazel
- 3 Hydrogen peroxide
- 1 Visine
- 4-6 Sunblock
- 6 Insect repellent

Kern Ranger Station: Office Cupboard

- CFR
- Citations (new 1998)
- Courtesy Tags
- Lost and Found Reports
- Angler Surveys
- Forms and Medical Run Sheets
- Envelopes and Paper
- Carbon Paper, Paper Clips
- Stapler, Sissors, Ruler
- Sharpening Stone
- Snow Seal (1/2 can)
- Thumb Tacks
- Plastic Coating Sheets
- Coleman Mantles & Generators
- Tent Repair Kit
- Fishing Pole Repair Items
- Tape, Rubber Bands, Pens & Pencils
- Key for Angler Survey Box
- Key for Gun Locker
- Gun Locker (Mounted inside upper cabinet)

Other Items:

Solar Setup with three Batteries, Inverter, Amp Meter and AA Charger with 4 batteries

The History Boys found a bundle of flooring (tongue & groove) in the attic. This can be used in the future to repair the broken flooring at the station by the sink.

Museum Collection at the Kern Ranger Station:

This includes all of the Historic items marked with a SEKI Number and all items found by the Historic Preservation crew in 1996. Do Not Remove anything from the station. Inventory should be taken and written down yearly on the sheet inside the library cupboard.

All Historic Sites and items on the 300 acre "Lewis Camp" Cultural and Historic site are protected and have been surveyed. Do Not Remove any items from the area. This includes any glass, bottles, cans etc.,.....yes, even from the old dump sites behind the station , around the large pasture, the sawmill site in the small pasture, etc.

Supplies Under the Porch: (South End)

- 18 Tongue & Groove boards - old 8' Long
- 2 Short 2x4's
- 4 Short 1x boards
- 5 Gallons of Shingle & Floor Oil
- 4 Boxes of Chinking Rope
- 3 4x4 Posts
- 2 Sets of Dirt Boxes

There is no longer anything stored under the North End of the Porch. Please do not remove the new rock wall.

Kern Ranger Station: Tool Shed Inventory

- 2 Gallons Coleman Fuel
- 0 Gallons 50:1 Mix (Echo)
- 5 Tanks of Propane
- 2 Gallons of Bar Oil
- 2 Gallons Gray Floor Paint(Both are opened)
- 2 Gallons White Enamel Paint
- 2 Gallons Woodland Brown Stain
- 1 Gallon Paint Thinner
- 1 Pint Linseed Oil
- 1 ½ Pint Neatsfoot Oil
- 2 Cans of spray paint (1 brown and 1 green)
- 1 Can WD 40
- 1 Bubble Leak Detector (For Propane Lines)
- 2 Lubricating Compound Slyde
- 5 Tubes Roof Cement with Gun
- 2 Cans old Glazing compound and points
- ¼ Roll of clear Plastic
- ** 1 Echo Chainsaw with 1 new, but too long of a chain....sent out for tuneup in fall of 98
- File guides & tools, grease gun and 1 pair of chainsaw chaps
- 1 New Pit Toilet Seat
- 1 Roll Window Screen
- 0 Gunny Sacks
- 2 Round Wash Tubs
- 2 Wash Tubs with Stand (brought in 1998)
- 1 Mountain Maytag
- 1 Wash Board
- 3 Galvanized Buckets
- 10 Rolls of smooth fence wire
- 2 Wheelbarrows (1 with metal wheel and 1 with rubber tire)
- 1 Air Pump and Patch Kit
- 2 Lawn Chairs
- 2 Directors Chairs
- 3 Garden Hoses
- 2 Sprinklers and 1 Nozzle
- 4 Round Shovels
- 1 Pitchfork
- 1 Peevey Log Roller
- 1 Leaf Rake
- 1 ½ Asphalt Rakes
- 1 Stock Rake
- 1 Crosscut Saw - 4 foot
- 1 new Pruners, 2 old Pruners
- 2 Hatchets
- 2 Large Double-bit Axes, 1 small Double-Bit Axe
- 1 Polaski
- 1 Pick
- 2 Post Hole Diggers
- 1 Sledge Hammer
- 1 Come-a-long
- 1 Asphalt Bar
- 2 Splitting Mauls (1 old, 1 new)

- 2 Large Crowbars, 1 small crowbar
 - 6 Paint Brushes
 - 2 Rollers and 2 Pans
 - 3 Funnels
 - 2 Hacksaws with 1 dozen blades
 - 4 Files (8" & 10")
 - 2 Small Cement pointing trowels
 - 2 Small Cement rectangular trowels
 - 5 Putty Knives - various sizes
 - 1 Set open end wrenches
 - 5 Crescent Wrenches - various sizes
 - 1 Vice Grips
 - 3 Hammers
 - 1 Ball pean hammer
 - 1 Pipe Cutter
 - 1 Key hole saw
 - 3 Carpenter saws
 - 1 Limbing saw, 2 folding limbing saws
 - 1 Small Pulley
 - 1 Wire Brush
 - 3 Metal Splitting wedges
 - 3 Fiberglass chainsaw wedges
 - 2 Pliers
 - 2 Fencing plyers
 - 1 Needle nose plyers
 - 2 Channel locks
 - 10 Screwdrivers (Phillips & Straight)
 - 1 Glass Cutter (extra glass panes in the R.S.)
 - 1 Tape Measure - 12 foot
 - 1 Tape Measure - 50 foot
 - 1 Combination square
 - 1 Old Level
 - 1 Brace with Bits
 - 4 Monkey wrenches
 - Nails: 4D, 6D & 8D
 - Bolts, washers and screws of various sizes
 - 8 eye bolts, 6 eye screws
 - 3 Rolls of teflon tape & 1 roll metal plumbers tape
- Lots of ¾ " Plumbing Parts: nipples, unions, compression joints, elbows and plugs. Some pipe for repairs, but it would need a threader . Some 2" Parts for drainline, nipples & elbows. Extra pea traps and drain pipes. ¾ " valves & faucets. New faucet washers -various shapes & sizes.

Kern Ranger Station: Tack Room Inventory:

- 3 Bags of Rolled Oats
- ½ Bag of Alfalfa Pellets
- ½ Block of Mineral Salt (50 lb.)
- 2 Blocks of White Salt (50 lb.)
- 1 Mineral Camp Salt (10 lb.)
- 1 Shoeing Kit with new tools - 1998
- 2 Shoeing Chaps
- 1 Anvil
- 1 New, Extra Hoof Rasp
- 5 OO Shoes
- 3 O Shoes
- 2 1 Shoes
- 5 2 Shoes
- 2 Old Cinches
- 3 Old Halters
- 1 Bridle with Nylon Reins
- 1 Set of Bridge Boxes
- 4 Sets of Dirt Boxes (some have bad ears)
- Rivets & Burrs, snaps, buckles, rings & conways
- 2 Strips of Repair Leather
- 2 Old Saddle Pads
- 1 Easy Boot (size 1)
- 1 Gall Salve
- 1 Nitrofurazone Dressing
- 1 Clear Eyes
- 1 Corona
- 1 Wonder Dust
- 1 Caustic Powder
- 1 Pint of Surgical Scrub
- 8 Butte Tablets
- 1 Veterinary Liniment (old)
- 2 Blue Lotion Spray
- 3 Pints of Hydrogen Peroxide
- 2 Roll-on Fly Repellent
- 1 Fly Repellent Base
- 4x4 Pads, Needles - size 28, 4 Large Syringes, 10 Small Syringes, 1 Vet Wrap, 1 Stretch Gauze wrap,
- 2 Tubes of Banamine, 1 Tube of Phenylzone and 2 Bactoscrub-surgical scrub sponge-brush.

2 Bottles of Penicillin are in the Ranger Station First Aid Cabinet

Horse First Aid Kit Includes:

1 Bactoscrub-Surgical Scrub Sponge-Brush, 1 Vet Wrap, 1 Blue Lotion Spray, 1 Wonder Dust, 1 Clear Eyes, 4x4 Pads and 1 Roll-On Fly Wipe.

Wish List For Spring of 1999:

- 1 Box of #5 Cityhead Nails
- 1 Roll- On Fly Wipe
- Shoes - Depending on Stock- (10 Size 1, 10 Size 0, 10 Size OO)
- 1 Bag of Rolled Barley
- 1 Additional Lash Cinch (I have rope for it)

Oil For Leather
Butizine Tablets

L. Needs For Next Year

Kern Ranger Station:

- 1 Snow Seal
- 1 Duct Tape
- 4 Rolls of TP
- 2 Rolls of Medical Tape
- 1 Steno Pad
- D and AA Batteries
- 2 Gallons of 50:1 Mix For Chainsaw
- 2 Gallons of Coleman Fuel
- 1 Gallon of Brown Enamel Paint
- 12 Spikes - 12"
- 1 Glass Cleaner
- 10 Gunny Sacks
- 2 NPS Camera Batteries for Olympus - 1.55 V, (Varta Brand Battery # V 76PX)
- 2 Gate Valves - ½ inch
- 1 Splitting Maul Handle

Stove Pipe Needed:

Station: 6" x 6'

Shower: 6" x 5'

Equipment:

- 1 Larger Tent (4 Person)
- 2 Additional Sleeping Bags if available
- 1 Snake Moving Stick

Stock Supplies:

See Previous Page for Wish List

M. Recommendations

Replace the Willow Meadow Cut Off Sign in Rattlesnake Canyon.

Continue the use of "Alternate Route Maps" during trail closures.

Address the Flood and Bog Trail problem in the Kern Canyon on the High Sierra Trail.

Add another "To Protect this Fragile Meadow" sign at the north end of the Kern Hot Spring Meadow.

Replace By Pass sign south of the Kern Ranger Station, use new wording and have it match the other sign.

Improve the Forgotten Repeater for reliable communications.