

YEAR END REPORT

KERN RIVER RANGER STATION

1999

Cindy J. Wood
6-1-99 to 10-16-99

I was on duty at the Kern River Ranger Station from June 22, 1999 to October 16, 1999. This year it was decided that I would not have a helicopter mobilization flight. The Kern Trail Crew, who were already based out of the Kern Ranger Station, sent their packer, Nick Knutson, out to meet us at Golden Trout Pack Station on June 21st. On June 22nd, Nick packed 7 mules with our food and gear. I packed 2 animals and VIP Malinda Velte rode our VIP mule "Mitch" with my son Marshall. We rode into the station in one day with no problems and one good bear sighting at upper willow meadow. The trail crew was based at the Ditch Camp and most of the opening chores were completed.

A. General Observations-Statistics

During the season I patrolled 708 miles of trail. I patrolled 483 miles on stock and 225 miles on foot. I contacted 1,032 visitors this season. (474 Backpackers, 81 Dayhikers, 11 Hunters, 55 NPS, FS and Fish & Game, 0 Rafters, 2 Kayakers, 48 Dayriders with 74 head of Stock and 361 Stock Users with 778 head of Stock, 0 Burros & 0 Llamas.)

There were 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 and meadow use, water safety, trail conditions and fire safety.

I assisted with two Medivacs. I assisted Jackie Henman at Lower Crabtree Meadow with a helicopter medivac during the NPS/Military stock trip. Two members of the military were flown out.

I assisted Erika Jostad with a stock medivac at Rock Creek. I used NPS stock to move an ill visitor from Rock Creek Station to Rock Creek Lake Meadow so the Commercial Packers from Cottonwood Pack Station would take him and his party out the next day. (They would not come in the extra distance to pick them up.) Due to his worsening condition, he was flown out the next morning. His two friends and all gear were packed out as planned.

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

Stock First Aid included: basic cuts and scrapes, special trimming and care for lame NPS mule - Downer and penicillin for hurt trail crew horse.

SAR: Hasty search for a backpacker from a Sierra Club group who was missing overnight. Rob Pilewski was our radio relay between the Sierra Club leader who was with the Kern Trail Crew in Middle Rattlesnake Canyon, Park Dispatch who could rarely hear us, myself and Radio Shop-Jill Ortiz who was riding with me and testing the new satellite phone and pager in the Kern Canyon. Trail Crew members were helping search trails also. Nick Knutson checked the Willow Meadow Cutoff trail for tracks, as that was the groups old hiking plan, and Charles rode down to meet us at the Rattlesnake Creek confluence with the Kern River. Jill and I searched all camps and talked with visitors enroute. We met up with Charles and he was going to check the High Sierra Trail while Jill and I continued on to the Hot Springs Camps and the Blasting Crew Camp. We located the missing party near Big Arroyo Creek. He had missed the junction for Rattlesnake Canyon and had gone up the High Sierra trail and on to Moraine Lake before he realized he was off route. He dreaded dropping back into the Kern Canyon and then having to climb out again up Rattlesnake Canyon to meet back up with his group, so he almost headed towards Kaweah Gap and out to Mineral King, but he assumed a search was underway so he headed back. Charles packed his backpack on a mule and accompanied him to their camp after I radio'd out that he was found and in good health.

A "Near" search: A CCC corpmember disappeared between Tunnel Guard Station on Inyo National Forest and the Kern Ranger Station. He was missing overnight, but made his way back to his camp by Big Whitney Meadow the next day. He had gotten lost due to a lack of trail signs and multiple cow trails near Volcano Meadow.

ATL: Paul Valovich, I had met Mr. Valovich near the Kern Ranger Station. The ATL didn't come out until the next week.

Fires: Two Lightening caused fires. One was located near the Rattlesnake RAWS Tower, approximately 1 acre. The other was near the Big Arroyo on the East side of the Canyon.(9-19-99)

On 9-27-99, I found a small human caused fire at the Rattlesnake Creek confluence with the Kern River. A campfire that got away and was smoldering in the duff under 3 cedar trees.(size:6'x15')

On 8-18-99, the Tunnel Guard Station on Inyo National Forest burned to the ground. The old water tower and garages were not involved. The two F.S. employees recieved minor burns. A propane leak may have caused the fire.

Lost Stock: Due to low water, stock was able to cross the Kern river in many places by mid-July. Stock that was east of the Kern Ranger Station crossed the river 1/2 mile south of the station. Heading south, the 12 head were "slowed down" by the first fence and stopped at the second drift fence.

Other stock was lost when someone left the gate open on the Kern Suspension bridge.

Lost Stock: In late July, 2 horses and 1 mule were "lost" from the private land and they headed south. Unfortunately the Sequoia National Forest work crews had left all of the drift gates open. The stock went 10 miles before stopping at the Trout Guard Station fence. This stock got confused with the "Famous" missing stock from Cottonwood Pack Station since 1 horse was also a Palomino.....it took many radio calls, phone calls and pager messages to get it all straightened out!

Other stock from Golden Trout Pack Station were "lost" from Upper Funston Meadow. The stock went out on the "Islands" and crossed to the east side for 3 days.

Cellular Phone Use: I once again brought my own cell phone into the backcountry. This year I brought 4 batteries. In the spring when the repeater was down, I would ride to Tower Rock or Coyote pass every third day to check in for myself and for the trail crew. During the summer as radio communication was unreliable, it was good to have for backup.

NPS Satellite Phone & Pager: On July 23, 1999, Jill Ortiz flew in to test the NPS radio, repeater and station antennae. She brought in the new satellite phone and pager and also tested them with the radio shop. We tested along the trail between the Kern ranger station and the Kern Hot Spring. There are some "dead zones" probably due to the canyon wall and there are some "dead times" when no satellites are available, but it seemed to work most of the time. The pager worked well, but there is no instant transmissions. Sometimes it comes right through and other times it takes an hour. Messages are not necessarily in the order that they were sent in. The Satellite phone will cut out or hang up if the signal falls too low. This happened often near the Kern Ranger Station. To dial out, we must first dial "001" then the area code and number. We should have a list of direct dial numbers for Dispatch and other Park numbers that will be answered and not just an answering machine. We should also have the Satellite phone numbers of the other rangers in the backcountry. I had 2 batteries. They seemed to charge fine on the Solar System.

Weather Summary: The Kern River and local creeks were average this spring. They dropped quickly and were passable to most travelers by early July. The Kern River was crossable by stock by early July. A big rain storm hit the lower kern on July 11th. On July 13th a storm hit the Coyote Pass area, causing the small creek to rise and flood to 40 feet wide. The water ran black as it hit the Kern River. The Cistern and ditches at the Kern Station were flooded and had to be diverted. In September Hurricane Hillary moved through. It was a very dry and warm fall with creeks and the river very low.

B. Use Patterns

Backpacker and Stock used was low this spring. Visitors may have been spooked by the past years of high water and snow. In July most use came from the south and the east. In August and September more hikers came in from Mineral King. September seemed to be the highest use month.

Stock use was low this spring and slow but steady during the summer. There was a lot of day use. Golden Trout Pack Station had quite a few trips into the Kern area. They had several trips planned for the Tyndall area, but did not take the group as far as planned. Mineral King Pack Station did a few trips to the Kern. The Roberts group who got a special use permit for Milestone Basin did not actually go to the area. Fall stock use was up although it was a warm fall so hunting use was low in Forest Service.

Aircraft: Low Flying Military Aircraft flights did occur in the area again this summer. I called in 24 reports involving 36 aircraft. It was fairly quiet this spring with 1 report on June 25th and none in July. There were 2 reports in early August. On August 18th, after the Admiral was flown out of the backcountry on a medivac from the NPS/Military stock trip...the reports became numerous and continued until I left in October.

Hunting Activity: Fall Hunting activity was low in the Forest Service due to warm weather. There were 5 obvious stock hunting camps when I rode out. There was bear sign in the lower kern canyon all summer and fall.

C. Natural Resources

Rattlesnakes: I observed 10 rattlesnakes this year. Visitors reported 9 others. Sightings are on the increase.

Bears: I observed 2 bears this season. One at Upper Willow Meadow in Sequoia National Forest and one black adult bear south of Lower Funston Meadow. The bear ran from the sight of my stock and swam 2 fast stretches of the Kern river to get to the east side of the canyon. It was quite a sight. Visitors reported 4 others. One sow with a cub was seen at Junction Meadow, they passed through near the main camps but did not stop or act interested in the camps. One Adult was seen near Upper Funston, but ran away quickly and one adult was seen at the Private Land across from the ranger station.

Pygmy Owls: Three young pygmy owls were observed at Lower Funston Meadow near the main camp. They were out in the daylight in the tall grass under the cottonwood trees in early July.

Butterflies: Higher than average sightings of all butterflies this season. Butterflies were also observed as late as October even at high elevations. (Western Tiger Swallowtails, Pale Swallowtails, Red Admiral, California Sister, Echo Blue, Pine White & Mountain Fritillary.) I have never seen any Monarch Butterflies in the area, but in late September I saw 2 near the Kern Ranger Station.

Bald Eagles: I observed one bald eagle flying over the Kern Ranger Station. Later I observed one immature bald eagle near the ranger station. In the fall I observed two bald eagles flying up canyon over the Kern River, near Laurel Creek.

Beaver: One Adult was observed swimming in the Kern River just north of Big Arroyo Creek in a quiet backwater. The old Beaver pond area north of Lower Funston Meadow, the beaver metropolis, is almost dry. The ponds are now reeds and grass. No new sign. There is new beaver dams and activity near here. The river changed back into its old dry course and the beavers have been falling trees and building dams on slow channel.

Meadows: All Meadows opened on the "Normal" season schedule. The Kern River was low and dropped drastically in early July, so there were no flooding problems. Even the Meadow bog area north of Upper Funston Meadow was dry by Early July.

Most meadows had low use again this year. Upper Funston received the most use. Snake camp got use in July and September. The Lewis Camp Large pasture was much drier than in the past few years.

Meadow Monitoring: Four Enclosures were put up this season in new locations. (Upper and Lower Funston Meadows, Middle Rattlesnake, and Lewis Camp Large Pasture) All Areas were monitored.

Fishing: The Kern River and creeks were lower earlier this year and very fishable. Most people were happy with the size and amount of fish caught. There seems to be fewer German Browns being seen or caught in the Kern River.

D. Cultural Resources

Archeological Sites, Historic Sites and Structures: The sites near the station were all checked during the summer. All the historic items in the station museum collection were inventoried and accounted for.

E. Backcountry Facilities

The solar system was constantly used again this season. It charged radio batteries for 2 park radios, 2 satellite phone batteries, 4 cellular phone batteries, D and AA battery charger and 2 lights. The system worked ok, but was at medium charge most of the time. It dropped to Low charge quite a few times and I could not keep all of the radio batteries charged. I also had quite a few "dud" batteries that would not hold a charge, this didn't help either. This system may need another panel to keep it at full charge.

The Forgotten Repeater was often unreliable this season. The Kern Canyon was really a Dead Zone this spring. I could often receive but not call out or even get clicks out. There were also problems with the charging system, even after the wind generator was installed. Odder yet, there was actually a few times when I relayed for Crabtree or Rock Creek from the Kern Station! I relayed for Erika on a medical and 1 hour later could not get anyone to respond. It was very unreliable.

Meadow Map - GIS: It will take more time to really ground check alot of the meadows.

Ranger Station Projects: A special thank you to VIP's Jack Shook, Steve Wood and Malinda Velte. Their projects ranged from packing in a resupply, packing out trash, painting hitch rails, splitting firewood, fence repairs and opening and closing chores.

It took a month and a half, but Marshall finally found the plumbing leak in the main line. It was hidden under a freshly fallen tree. The tree had hit and broken the pipe at an unknown valve. It was nice to have water pressure and a shower again!!

Drift Fences: Routine repairs were done by the trail crew this year.

Signs: The "By-Pass" sign on Sequoia National Forest should be replaced to match the other one that was replaced last year. The new wording should 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 that the other new sign has.

The "Willow Meadow Cutoff Trail" in Rattlesnake Canyon needs a junction sign. Many people still use and look for this trail. The only time it is signed is when it is "Closed" due to fires. Please replace the 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. Especially since the Bulletin Board was taken down in 1995. Now there is no information at all at this main trail to the hot spring. Or the Bulletin Board should be replaced.

F. Trails

The Kern Trail Crew did a lot of excellent work this season. Eric Davenport was back as Crewleader with the returning crew consisting of Charles and Patrick with Nick Knutson as Packer. A special thanks for fixing the small gate at the large pasture. The crew did a lot of ground work on the trails: cleaning water bars, ground pruning, building rock steps and checks on the lower rattlesnake switchbacks and in middle coyote canyon. They worked on the short boardwalks in lower rattlesnake and added crushed rock culverts near cowcamp. They put up all drift fences north of the station and did some repairs to most fences. They pulled up the long boardwalk and the blasting crew pulled up the small boardwalk which is now bypassed by the new trail. (These structures should be taken off of the GIS Inventory) They also did a lot of nice rockwork and steps on Franklin Pass.

A Special thanks to VIP Malinda Velte who was on the other end of the crosscut saw and helped cut out three sections of a 70' long tree blocking the trail by the Kern Suspension Bridge. After much barring, we were able to roll the 50 foot butt end off the trail. A lot of sweat and a lot of luck went into the project.

The Kern Blasting Crew began the reroute this summer. The crew consisted of Tim, Dave, Goose, Lorenzo & Cambell. They spent June through September working on the reroute through the granite rockpile to avoid the notorious "BOG". They did a great job and completed the trail from the reroute to the small boardwalk. It's a beautiful stretch of trail and gives some excellent views of the river and canyon. Next year they plan to work towards the High Sierra Drift Gate.

Problem Areas:

Annual widening of the sluff area on the Coyote Trail.
The Hot Spring Log Bridge needs 1 foot of fill dirt on the East.
Annual waterbar cleaning on all trails.
The tree over the hitchrail at Lower Funston should be cut out.
Drift Fences and pasture fences need annual repairs, posts etc.
Both Hitch rails at Lower Funston are broken.
The disposal of the old boardwalk planks

The Kern River continues to cause the steep bank near 21" camp to cave in. The trail may need to be rerouted next year.

The lowest drift gate in Rattlesnake Canyon needs the holes enlarged on the post.

G. Camp Areas

A total of 50 firepits were cleaned in the Kern area this season. 5 were obliterated. The Hot Springs camps received the most use. Upper Funston camps also got a lot of use.

Trash, food and abandoned clothes and gear is still being left in the food lockers. Foil, cans, glass and trash are still left in firepits. Rocks are routinely added to the 3 rock fire rings. If a camp is cleaned often it does tend to discourage some of these problems.

Upper Funston Camps: The Kern River has changed its course and no longer runs past the camps. The slow, 3 foot deep water that used to run by here is gone. In July, the only water feeding this area is from Funston Creek. It appears to be only a small trickle, but it ran all summer and provided water for the camps.

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 little or no NPS information. Most stock users got no information or stock grazing cards.

I. Inventory

Kern Ranger Station

- 1 Headlamp(D cell for shower)
- 2 Flashlights (D cell)
- 1 Headlamp (AA)
- 1 White gas lantern
- 1 White gas two-burner stove (old)
- 1 Roll up table
- 1 Station Guitar
- 1 Oxygen pack with 1 Jumbo tank and 2 extra tanks(NO REGULATOR!!)
- 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 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
- Thumb tacks
- Plastic coating sheets
- Coleman mantles and generators
- Tent repair kit
- Fishing pole repair kit
- 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, AA charger with 4 batteries.

The history boys found a bundle of flooring(tongue & groove) in the attic in 1997. This can be used in the future to fix the floor by the sink in the station.

Museum Collection at the Kern River Ranger Station:

This includes all of the Historic items marked with a SEKI Number inside and outside of the station. Also all of the 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, dumps, obsidian flakes etc.....yes, even from the old dump sites behind the station, around the large pasture, the sawmill site in the small pasture, camps along coyote creek, etc.

Supplies Under the Porch: (South End)

- 18 Tongue & Groove boards - 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

- 1 Gallon coleman fuel
- 1 Gallon 50:1 Mix for Echo
- 5 Propane tanks
- 5 Gallons of bar oil
- 2 Gallons gray floor paint(both are opened)
- 2 Gallons white enamel paint
- 1 Gallon paint thinner
- 1 Pint linseed oil
- 1½ Pint Neatsfoot oil
- 2 Cans of spray paint (1 brown, 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 Large roll of clear plastic
- 1 Echo chainsaw with file guides & tools, grease gun & chaps
- 1 New pit toilet seat
- 1 Roll window screen
- 0 Gunny sacks
- 2 Round wash tubs
- 2 Wash tubs with stand(brought in by Cindy Wood in 1998)
- 1 Wringer (brought in by Cindy Wood)
- 1 Mountain maytag
- 1 Wash board
- 3 Galvanized buckets
- 10 Rolls of smooth fence wire
- 2 Wheel barrows (1 with metal wheel and 1 with rubber tire)
- 1 Airpump and patch kit
- 2 Lawn chairs
- 2 Directors chairs
- 4 Directors chairs to repair
- 3 Garden hoses
- 3 Sprinklers and 2 nozzles
- 4 Round shovels
- 1 Pitchforks
- 1 Peevey log roller
- 1 Leaf rake
- 1 Asphalt rake
- 1 Stock rake
- 1 Crosscut saw - 4'
- 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 with bad handle
- 1 Come-a-long
- 1 Asphalt bar
- 2 Splitting mauls (1 old and 1 new)

2 Large crowbars, 1 small crowbar
4 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 of open end wrenches
5 Crescent wrenches - various sizes
1 Vice grips
3 Hammers
1 Ball pean hammer
1 Key hole saw
3 Carpenter saws
1 Limbing saw and 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
11 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 and bits
2 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 3/4 " plumbing Parts: nipples, unions, compression joints,
elbows and plugs. Some pipe for repairs, but it would need a threader
and cutter. Some 2" parts for the drainline, nipples & elbows.
Extra pea traps and drain pipes. 3/4 " valves & faucets. New faucet
washers - various shapes and sizes.

Kern Ranger Station: Tack Room Inventory

2 Bags of Corn Mix
0 Bags of rolled oats
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Bags of alfalfa pellets
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Block of mineral salt(50 lb)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Block of white salt (50 lb)
1 Camp salt (10 lb)
1 Shoeing kit with new tools-1998
2 Shoeing chaps
1 Anvil
1 Extra hoof rasp
20 00 shoes
18 0 shoes
15 1 shoes
5 2 shoes
2 Old cinches
4 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
10 Butte tablets
3 Pints of hydrogen peroxide
2 Blue lotion spray
4 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 bactoscrub-surgical scrub
sponge-brushes.

1 Bottle of penicillin is 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 2000:

Shoes - depending on stock	Oil for leather
2 Bags of Rolled Barley (Not Corn)	Butizine tablets
1 Large bottle of penicillin	2 tubes Banamine
1 Bag of Alfalfa Pellets	2 tubes Phenylzone
1 Blue Spray	*A Cinch set up for work boxes
2 Hoof picks	

L. Needs for Next Year

Kern Ranger Station:

- 1 Broom
- 1 Asphalt rake
- 1 Sledge hammer
- 1 Fence plyers
- 2 Rolls flagging - 2 colors
- 2 Duct Tape
- 4 Rolls of TP
- 2 Rolls of Cloth Medical tape
- 2 Steno pads
d and AA Batteries
- 2 Gallons of 50:1 mix for Echo chainsaw
- 2 Gallons of coleman fuel
- 2 Gallons of brown enamel paint
- 12 12" spikes
- 10 Gunny sacks
- 1 ½ gate valve
- 1 ¾ " gate valve
- 1 Box tacks
- 5 Sandpaper 80 grit
- 5 Sandpaper 120 grit
- 1 Monkey wrench
- 2 NPS paper towels
- 1 NPS calendar
- 4 plates

Stove Pipe for cook stove: 6" x 6'

2 NPS Camera Batteries for Olympus -1.55V (Varta Brand Battery #V76PX

Equipment:

- 1 snake moving stick & can
- 1 NEW OXYGEN REGULATOR
- Canvas for 4 directors chairs

Books:

Sierra Nevada Natural History
Birds of North America
Discovering Sierra Birds
Place names of the High Sierra

- 20 Wildlife Obs forms
- 10 Grazing Obs forms
- 10 NPS Grazing report forms

Forest Service: 4 yellow metal "Close Gate" signs for bridge.

Zerox & Laminate: Blasting Warning(8), Lewis Camp Las Tulares(4)
Tunnel Story & Hockett Trail(4), Fishing Regs(2), Meadow Dates(2)
Bear Box Locations, Camping & Stock(4), Safety(2)

M. Recommendations

Replace the Willow Meadow Cut Off sign in Rattlesnake Canyon.

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

Add another "To Protect this Fragile Meadow" sign at the north end of the Kern Hot Spring Meadow. Or a sign that also incorporates other needed information, such as: stay on trail, no grazing, no soap in the hot tub and do not trample the meadow. Or replace the bulletin board at this location.

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

Improve the Forgotten Repeater for reliable communications.