

YEAR END REPORT  
KERN RIVER RANGER STATION  
2000

Cindy J. Wood  
5-31-00 to 10-19-00

I was on duty at the Kern River Ranger Station from June 28,2000 to October 19,2000. It was again decided that I would not have a helicopter mobilization flight. Unfortunately, no plans were made with the trail crew to pack in gear either.(This worked well last year.) I was able to get most of my NPS gear and food flown in on the trail crew flights.(Thanks to the crew and Steve Moffitt!) In the future, plans need to be made in advance for me to have access to extra stock or for the trail crew packer to assist.

On June 28,2000, I packed three animals and led four people to the Kern Ranger Station. Malinda Velte, the VIP and nanny, rode Honey, the VIP horse, and she led my son Marshall (age 3) who rode in a side box on Mitch, the VIP mule.(age 31) Also along on the trip was Jeff Verkouille, the new Hockett Ranger, who came along to get riding and packing experience, and his friend and VIP Matt. It was a long, slow trip with many problems with two new pack animals, new pads, logs to jump, rattlesnakes and for the grande finale...a packstring wreck at dusk....only 200 yards from the station!! The trail crew based out of the station for three weeks, so most of the opening chores were completed.

A. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS - STATISTICS

During the season, I patrolled 933 miles of trail. I patrolled 768 miles on stock and 165 miles on foot. I contacted 973 visitors this season. (406 Backpackers, 161 Dayhikers, 8 Hunters, 67 NPS, FS and Fish & Game, 0 Rafters, 0 Kayakers, 50 Dayriders with 60 head of stock and 281 Stock Users with 582 head of stock, 0 Burros and 8 Llamas.)

There were no arrests or citations this season. Verbal Warnings and Education were given for: Food Storage, Bears in the area, Foil and Trash in the firepits, Food or Trash left in the food storage boxes, Proper Stock Camping methods and Meadow Grazing, Water Safety, Rattlesnakes, Trail Conditions and Fire Safety.

## MEDIVACS AND ASSISTS:

I arranged for a horse medivac for Kalen Heid. He was camped at Little Kern Lake in Sequoia National Forest with two friends. He was having stomach problems and could not hike out. He sent his friends to request stock transport out of the backcountry. I radio'd out and arrangements were made for Golden Trout Pack Station to pack him out to Jerky Meadow the next day.

NPS stock evacuation and first aid for Stacey Jacobson, NPS Trailhead Ranger from Lodgepole. A severe case of "new boot" blisters left her limping in Big Arroyo Canyon enroute to Kern Ranger Station. I rode to Big Arroyo to pick her up and pack her backpack on NPS stock while she rode Honey, the VIP horse. She rode over Willow Meadow Cutoff and down Rattlesnake Canyon (14 miles) back to the Kern Ranger Station. (Her first real ride!) She took a rest day at the station, but did not improve enough to be able to hike out to Mineral King, so she joined us three as we rode out south to Lewis Camp trail head. (That's 19 very long miles on a Pack Saddle!!)

First Aid and NPS stock assist for Bob Meadows, NPS Employee. He gouged his right palm while crossing logs in the "Maze" area in the Kern Canyon. We had been checking meadows and gathering NPS stock. Stock assist up to Middle Rattlesnake Cyn.

First Aid for myself after being hit by a freak ricochet at the Ash Mountain Shooting Range during spring firearms qualifications. Severe bruising and laceration to right leg just above the knee cap. The next week at EMS training, I had an ER DR. from UMC check it and she said it was only slightly infected and should be ok.

Helicopter Medivac for Jim Mills, a retired doctor, who complained of heart problems. He was camped in Upper RAttlesnake Canyon with his wife. He talked to a stock group going by and told them he thought he'd had a heart attack, he had an irregular heartbeat and that he knew he needed a pacemaker. He needed help and couldn't hike out, so the two riders said they would report it at the Kern Ranger Station and get help. I recieved the report the next day. I was having some trouble getting out on the radio, so Dario Malengo, 316, relayed for me to Dispatch and later Rob Pilewski, 314, also assisted. Jim was flown out and his wife was later.

First Aid for VIP, Malinda Velte, for a severe rope burn on her hand. She was leading the new pack horse, Nelson, who has a bad habit of pulling back.

First Aid for myself after twisting my left ankle during a jumping dismount at Shorty's Cabin in Cloud Canyon. I wrapped it with two ace bandages, elevated it that night and then continued on by stock to Kern Ranger Station. (32 miles)

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

Stock First Aid Assists included: cuts, scrapes and rope burns.

I heard there was a drowning fatality at Little Kern Lake in Sequoia National Forest, which is three miles south of the Kern Ranger Station. It was a member of a Piles Boys Camp group. A helicopter was used. I never heard how or why it happened.

NPS Horse Fatality, Rambo - #22, the Kern Ranger riding and pack horse since 1994, fell to his death off the lower switchbacks of the "Chute" in the Kern Kaweah. I was packing him and using him to "tow" the new horse Nelson, who had been stopping and pulling back. Nelson "stalled out" on a corner jump and Rambo was trying to tow him. Nelson threw himself back repeatedly and the cotton lead rope must have been cut when hitting a sharp rock. It broke and sent Rambo off balance and he was thrown off of the trail. He crashed and hit about 20 times before coming to rest about 200 feet below the trail in a boulder field. He was already dead when I arrived at the scene.

NPS Horse Rescue, Nelson, the new Kern Ranger pack horse was "stuck" at the base of the "Chute" after Rambo fell and died. He seemed to be in shock and would not be led up the trail. He repeatedly refused to go up the switchbacks and would jerk back and spin around on the very narrow trail and almost fell off. I tied him up for the night and I radio'd out to Dispatch to contact Jim Harvey, 752, for suggestions or help of some sort. Without help, I felt that Nelson would probably go off the trail also and die. The next morning, Steve Moffitt, 751, and Jim Harvey arranged for three people and gear to fly in for the rescue. Eric Davenport, Tyler Johnson and Greg Feltis flew in and gave medication to Nelson, then Eric ran and led while we chased and yelled the secret "monkey noises". (A trail crew tradition) They helped me pack up Nelson and they flew out the gear I had retrieved from Rambo and sent me on my way. Thanks guys.

SAR: Assisted on Memorial Day Weekend at Mineral King with a SAR at Monarch Lake. Seizures and possible HACE. The Lemoore helicopter landed in the snow and flew him out to Visalia.

SAR: Memorial Day Weekend at Mineral King. I recieved a report at the Sawtooth trail head that Ray Beihaghi had hurt his ankle and needed help. I found him up the trail and assisted him down to his car. Mike Cole checked his ankle and did a run sheet and I packed up his camp at the Cold Springs walk-in sites. He was able to drive himself down to a Doctor after being splinted.

I found a "Lost" boy from Piles Boys Camp at Jug Springs in Sequoia National Forest. I had met two supervisors from the camp 1/2 mile up the trail, so I kept the boy there so they could help him and he wouldn't get lost again. Meanwhile, his group leader arrived at a trot. He was not "lost", but he was trying to "escape" his week long stint in the mountains. He had dumped most of his gear along the trail and was trying to get back to the road so he could hitch hike out of the area.

NPS Fire: Rob Pilewski, 314, reported a human caused fire at "Bahamas Lake" in Upper Rattlesnake Canyon. It was 15 feet by 15 feet in size, an escaped campfire. The fire crew flew in to check on it.

FS Fire, Manter Fire, near Kennedy Meadow. It is about 15 miles Southeast of the Kern Ranger Station. It sent a lot of smoke into the Park and Kern Canyon often was engulfed in smoke. Many visitors were concerned that their planned trail routes would be closed. This did not happen in my area, but it was very difficult to get current information on fire conditions and trail closures to give out to visitors. I mainly relied on information brought in by other backpackers.

Lost Stock: Although the Kern River was very low all year, there was only one report of a lost mule crossing the Kern River...and it left the private land to sneak into the Lewis Camp Large Pasture!

A saddled horse, with no rider, came running to the Kern Ranger station dragging its reins through Coyote Creek. I rode it back down the trail and found the Roberts group having a small mule wreck near the by pass trail. I assisted with holding stock, reloading the mule and returned the escaped lead horse.

Cellular Phone: I once again brought in my own cell phone with two batteries. I used it to check my voice mail messages and to call HQ as needed. It is good to have it for backup if there is any problems with the NPS radios. It did not get out at all from Tower Rock this year. This was usually the closest and easiest spot to use in the past. Cause unknown...I did get out fine from Coyote Pass, Franklin Pass and Elizabeth Pass.

NPS Satellite Phone and Pager: They are no longer functioning, the company apparently went under. Too Bad, they were good for a back up & emergencies. I especially liked the messages through the pager.

Weather Summary: An early and quick snow melt left the Kern River and local creeks very low this spring. They were passable to most hikers in late May. The Kern River was crossable to stock in early July. There was very little rain this summer and no major lightening storms. There was a light snow in October, but it melted off the same day. Coyote creek was very low this year, I had to rebuild the dam twice to keep water going to the cabin water systym and the ditch lines. It seemed more like a droust year.

## B. USE PATTERNS

Backpacker use was very low this spring. Trail conditions and pass and creek crossings were mostly snow free and easy, but there were very few hikers in July. Very little use came from the South or East by the station. In August more backpackers came in from Mineral King over Franklin Pass or Coyote Pass. September seemed to be the highest use month.

Stock use was low this season. There was a lot of day use, but overnight use seemed much lower than usual. Golden Trout Pack Station only had a few trips that came up into the Park and even their trips in FS were low. Mineral King did some spot trips with a few trips into Upper Rattlesnake Canyon. Private trips were also low and many "regulars" did not make any trips in this season.

Three backpackers reported that they found and somewhat followed the old cairned route from Big Arroyo north to Skyparlor Meadow. They said it was very strenuous and vague and that they would never do it again!

Kern Ranger Special Patrols: Orientation and training trip with Jeff Verkouille, 317, from Lewis Camp trail head to Kern Ranger Station. One week of training at Kern R.S. including: ropes and knots, the diamond and box hitches, packing loads in boxes and unusual top loads and catching and leading. Training rides: leading a pack animal, avoiding wrecks and tying stock. I then took Jeff and Matt over Coyote Pass to Quinn Patrol Cabin. Continuing on the next day to Hockett Ranger Station. I showed him how to open the station and we set up fence ect. We rode out to Atwell Mill and I helped him pack 2 animals and he headed back to Hockett and I continued on to Mineral King tack room for the night and over Franklin Pass & back to the Kern Ranger Station. (65mile loop)

NPS/Military Trip: I was asked by Debbie Bird, the Chief Ranger, to meet them at Crabtree Meadow. Before I left on the trip I heard that Jackie Henman's horse was lame and could not go and that there was no other horse available for her to use. So, I took Rambo along on the trip and she used him for the rest of the trip and I was able to go along and help with stock and ride out over New Army Pass (in a rain storm) and see the trail and country out to Horseshoe Meadow. (and Lone Pine) I rode back in via Cottonwood Pass, Big Whitney Meadow, Tunnel Meadow, Little Whitney Meadow and down to the Kern Ranger Station. (80 mile loop)

Leave No Trace (LNT) Stock Masters Course: A week long teaching course was held at Horse Corral Pack Station and at Sugarloaf Meadow near Roaring River Ranger Station in Kings Canyon National Park. I rode 75 miles to attend the course and patrol a lot of new country. (Rattlesnake Canyon, Little Five Lakes, Kaweah Gap, Elizabeth Pass, Roaring River Ranger Station and out to Horse Corral Pack Station.) I presented two LNT Principles covering: Leave what you find, pack it in/pack it out & Campsite rehabilitation. It was a very good course with a good mix of NPS, FS, BCHC and others. I rode back 60 miles to the Kern Ranger Station. (Roaring River Ranger Station, Cloud Canyon, Colby Pass, the Chute and down the Kern Canyon.)

Aircraft: Good news concerning the number of Low Flying Military Aircraft, I called in only two reports this summer involving three jets. There was one low flyer in August and two low jets flying together in October. This is a great improvement! Last year I called in 24 reports involving 36 aircraft. I think the NPS/Military Stock Trip is helping us to reach the right people who can reduce or end this problem.

Hunting Activity: Fall Hunting activity was low in the Forest Service again, due to warm fall weather. The snow in October did start to bring more deer down from the high country. I contacted four bow hunters and four rifle hunters. I saw six hunting camps as I rode out through Sequoia National Forest on October 19th.

#### C. NATURAL RESOURCES

Rattlesnakes: I observed 10 rattlesnakes this year. Visitors reported seeing 5 others.

Brown Headed Cowbirds: I had an early sighting of 2 females and 5 males on July 2, at Lower Funston Meadow. I usually don't see any until August around the Ranger Station. After this early sighting, I saw no others during the season.

Bears: I observed 8 bears this season. I saw a brown mother with a brown cub in Cold Springs Campground this spring. I saw one brown and blonde bear near Farewell Gap trail head. I saw 2 black bears near the Little Kern Bridge in Sequoia National Forest and 2 at Golden Trout Pack Station. There was bear tracks and bear sign up and down the Kern Canyon all summer. The only bear I actually saw was 1 adult brown bear near Laurel creek in Sept. Visitors reported seeing 1 black adult bear near Big Arroyo bridge. A brown sow with twin cubs was seen near the Kern Hot Spring. The twins were black with white spots on their chests. They were acting like natural wild bears and tried to avoid human contact.

Butterflies: Higher than average sightings of butterflies again this season. Butterflies were seen through October in all elevations. (Including: Western Tiger Swallowtails, Pale Swallowtails, Red Admiral, California Sister, Echo Blue, Pine White, Mountain Fritillary, Monarch, Mourning Cloak and whatever the black butterfly or moth with the bright red head is called.

Bald Eagles: I observed one bald eagle flying at Big Kern Lake in Sequoia National Forest. The Kern Trail crew saw a nest on the east side of Big Kern Lake. There was a bald eagle flying circles near the Kern Ranger Station in July. I again saw a bald eagle flying at Big Kern Lake when we rode out of the area in October. Visitors reported four other sightings. Two reports were of bald eagles flying down the Kern River within the Park. The other two reports were of sightings at Big Kern Lake. The tree with the old nest at Little Kern Lake fell over, last year?

Beaver: Three beaver were observed in the new beaver area north of Laurel Creek. I also saw one beaver swimming in Little Kern Lake, FS, near the lodge by the sandy beach. A visitor reported being "bumped" by a beaver while fly fishing north of Lower Funston Meadow.

Coyote: I observed one coyote near the Kern Ranger Station, one in Middle Ranger Meadow that ran through the meadow, then stood up on top of a big boulder and watched me for 20 minutes while I gathered stock. I watched one coyote in a burned over area near Sugarloaf Meadow, it was chasing a young fawn, but diverted when the fawn ran past me.

Red Shafted Flickers: There was a big increase in sighting this fall.

Squirrel and Chipmunk sightings were much lower this year, especially around the station. No pine cone gathering observed in July and August.

Misc.: Many Cedar trees near the Kern Ranger Station had alot of dead needles this year. The Soda Spring seemed a lot stronger this year. Bob Meadows reports seeing cone flowers in the small pasture. Bob and I observed baby tree frogs at Middle Rattlesnake meadow in late July.

Fish: The Kern River and other creeks were low this spring and very low this fall. Fishermen reported catching some German Browns this year and a lot of Rainbows of all sizes. There is a very high population of suckers.

Meadows: All meadows opened on the "Normal" season schedule. Most were very dry and it seemed more like a "Dry" year. The only meadow that wetter than normal was 21 inch meadow, due to a creek diversion which flooded the meadow. No meadows were flooded by the Kern River this year.

Most meadows had very little use. Upper Funston meadow probably recieved the the most use. Snake camp was used twice this year and 21 inch camp only once, but the grazing was mostly in the dry grass areas and not the meadow as it was still wet. The Lewis Camp Large Pasture was much drier this year. Only the very center of the meadow was wet. The area monitored as the "core" area and the location of the exclosure may need to be moved south next season, since the drier conditions are changing the location and grass types in the core.

Meadow Monitoring: Four exclosures were put up this season in new locations in the regular meadows.(Upper Funston, Lower Funston, Middle Rattlesnake and Lewis Camp Large Pasture) All areas were monitored in the fall.

#### D. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archeological Sites, Historic Sites and Structures: The sites near the station were all checked this summer. All of the historic items in the station museum collection were inventoried and accounted for this season. Four digital photos were taken of the Kern Ranger Station for Tom Burge, as requested. Do we want digital photos of the other historic items, sites and cultural sites next year?

Other historic or cultural sites I was able to visit this year were: Quinn patrol cabin, the old Hockett cabin site, Hockett Ranger Station and the mortar and pestle sites near there, a FS snow survey log cabin near Big Whitney meadow, the remains of Tunnel Guard station(FS), historic cow camp buildings at Little Whitney meadow(FS), Big Arroyo Patrol cabin, Mount Stewart plaque at Kaweah Gap, the Sheepherder Grave in Deadman Canyon, Lackey Cabin, Moraine Ridge - Shorty's Cabin and Basque Sheepherder Tree Carvings, Sugarloaf meadow mortar and pestle site, Old Snow Survey log cabin near Roaring River Ranger Station and Shorty's Cabin in Cloud Canyon.

#### E. BACKCOUNTRY FACILITIES

Kern Ranger Station: Three new solar batteries were flown in this spring to replace the three old ones that would not hold a charge. The system was constantly used and worked well. It charged batteries for two NPS radios, 2 cellular phone batteries, D & AA battery charger and 2 lights. It was left at full charge.

Eight tanks of propane were used at the station this season.

Special thanks to VIP Matt. He volunteered to get up on the station roof and sweep off all of the pineneedles while Charles belayed for him.



Special Thanks to VIP Malinda Velte, who staffed the Kern Ranger Station while I was away on patrols.(approx. 4 weeks) She also assisted with visitor information, cleaning camps, station chores, meadow monitoring, helping with stock and packing and leading stock. She also assisted the NPS Staff trip when they came through this fall when I was up north. She helped with packing propane tanks and other odd loads and helped with training the new horse, Nelson. (Not to mention keeping up with Marshall in her spare time) We'd like to thank the VIP Coordinator, Eric Weisman, this is the first summer that Malinda has received any VIP pay for her many valuable hours put in over the last three summers. She also was given a VIP shirt to use this summer. I hope this continues next season, as she plans to be back to watch Marshall, assist myself and the assist the Park visitors.

The Forgotten Repeater: It seemed to work pretty well this year. The new tower was put up. There doesn't seem to be any charging problems now and I only needed relays a few times this year.

Radio Problems: The VIP radio was not able to send or receive this spring. She was out of contact for 5 days while I was in the Hockett area. The helicopter was almost sent in to check on her.(which probably should have happened after the second or third day) Another radio was sent to the Kern Hot Spring with a trail crew resupply, it did not work either. We thought the problem was in the scan list or programming. It turned out to be two different bad antennae. The radios themselves were fine. Later that summer the same thing happened to Laura Pilewski. Apparently the radios are tested without the antennae. The antennae aren't checked and the radios are sent with old antennae or without the antennae or battery. If there has been trouble, I think an entire, pre checked, unit should be sent in, it would save a lot of time, cost & frustration. They also said that more than 1/2 of the home made whip antennae are bad, so don't count on them.

Drift Fences and Gates: Routine repairs were done this year. The main gate at the Lewis Camp Large Pasture needs to be rebuilt in the same historic style. The uprights are ok, but the gate itself is falling apart. It also needs some new rails by the main gate. The huge ponderosa with the big hole in it fell last winter, it took out part of the fenceline near the public pasture gate, but did not hurt the two gates there. The log itself is now part of the fenceline.

The golden trout boundary fence needs work next season. Eight posts are down and need to be replaced. Most of the other fences in the Kern Canyon are in good shape. Due to stock problems, time factors, snow and not being paid to finish up projects..... the four Rattlesnake Canyon drift fences were not dropped. This will cause extra work and problems next spring. My apologies to the trail crew.

Tree House Clean-Up: Rob Pilewski, 314, was able to get the demolition debris flown out this year.

Signs: The "By-Pass" sign just south of the Kern Ranger Station should be replaced to match the new one on the other end that went in during the fall of 1999. The new wording should be "By-Pass Trail to Inyo National Forest for Visitors with Pets and Weapons." It should also have the FS and NPS logos that the new sign on the other end has.

The "Willow Meadow Cutoff Trail" in lower Rattlesnake Canyon needs a junction sign. Many people still use this trail and it is on most maps. It is still open and is being maintained and it should be signed. There are two new style signs on the Big Arroyo side. The sign could simply read:

Big Arroyo Creek 4.0

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. In the past, visitors got this same information from the bulletin board that was on the north end by the trail to the hot tub, but this bulletin board was taken out in 1995 and not replaced. Now, visitors who approach from the north where all of the campsites are, do not get this information. The Bulletin board should also be replaced as it is a good location to pass on NPS information, put up notices and people actually read it while they wait for their turn in the hot tub!

It just came to my attention this fall that the Kings Canyon side of Colby Pass has a warning sign located 4 miles below the pass. (near Grand Palace Hotel camp, at the base of the Whaleback) It reads:

← Junction Meadow (Kern) 13  
Trail Not Maintained  
Not Recommended for  
Stock Travel

The Sequoia side has no sign. Should there be one?

#### F. TRAILS

The Kern Trail Crew did a lot of excellent work this season. Eric Davenport was back as the Crewleader with Charles and Dave (Goose) and Nick Knutson as Packer. The crew did a lot of ground work on the trails: cleaning water bars, building rock walls and rock steps and checks on the Coyote Canyon trail and the Rattlesnake Canyon trail. They put up all of the drift fences and did some repairs. They rebuild the two hitchrails at Lower Funston Meadow. They moved the north rail, so it is no longer under the leaning hazard tree. As a test to see how long they last, one was built out of dry, downed wood. The other is built with green unbarked wood for the rail and uprights, although the uprights are barked below ground level. The crew made a change and based out of the Kern-Kaweah for about 10 days. They did a lot of much needed trail work in that area.

The Kern Blasting crew completed the work on the southern section of the new crushed granite trail bypassing the Maze. They did some trail rehab to the old trail. They used the old boards off of the boardwalk to build checks. It definitely keeps hikers on the new trail, but makes stock gathering very hazardous. They completed the project mid-July.

#### Projects or Problem areas:

Annual widening of the sluff area on the Coyote Canyon trail. The Kern Hot Spring lob bridge needs one foot of fill dirt on the east approach. Is it being rebuilt next year?

Annual waterbar cleaning.

Annual repairs to fences and new fence posts made.

Disposal of the old boardwalk planks near the maze, they are piled within sight of the new trail.

The Kern River continues to cause the steep bank near 21 inch camp to sluff off. The trail may need to be moved back again.

#### G. CAMP AREAS

A total of 55 firepits were cleaned in the Kern area this summer and 10 sites were obliterated. The Kern Hot Spring campsites received the most use again this year. Upper Funston did not receive as much use this year. Lower Funston got a lot of stock and backpacker use and was used a few times to "spot" groups of fishermen who were brought in by Golden Trout Pack Station.

Ten newly created sites were found in the Kern Canyon and Rattlesnake Canyon. They were obliterated. Most of them were badly positioned within 25 feet of water or right next to the trail.

The Kern River is no longer flowing by the Upper Funston camps, but there is a small constant trickle from Funston Creek which is providing enough water for the camps.

The trail crew built a new hitchrail at the Upper Cow Camp in Rattlesnake Canyon. There was never a hitchrail here before. I thought we were going to use and encourage everyone to use highlines and not add any new hitchrails without special cause.??

The pit toilets at the Kern Hot Spring and Upper Funston are ok and will not need to be redug next year. The outhouse at the Kern Ranger Station is ok, but the seat is still broken.

Trash, food and abandoned items are still being left in the food storage lockers. Foil, cans, glass and trash are still being left in campfire pits. Rocks are routinely added to the 3 rock firerings. This all greatly increases the time needed to clean camps or rehabilitate the areas. If camps are cleaned often, it does help to discourage some of these problems.

#### H. PERMIT SYSTEM

As usual, the NPS permit holders were much better informed and educated than those with FS permits. Most FS permit holders recieved little or no NPS information. Most stock users did not get park information, grazing information or grazing cards and could not get their questions answered about special permits, grazing in specific areas or the number of animals allowed. Most people, backpackers and stock users had very little or no information about the Manter Fire, its location, smoke warnings, trail closures ect, and neither did I.

#### I. INVENTORY

See the next few pages.

## 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
- 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. Three new solar batteries flown in-2000 & Amp Tester

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.

The historic Ditches are to be kept open and maintained.

Irene's Camp and the Ditch Camp are historic and not to be changed.

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
- 2 1/2 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
- 1 1/2 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
- 1/4 Large roll of clear plastic
- 1 Echo chainsaw with file guides & tools, grease gun & chaps
- 1 New pit toilet seat
- 1 Roll window screen
- 4 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
- 1 Lawn chair
- 2 Directors chairs
- 4 Directors chairs to repair
- 3 Garden hoses
- 3 Sprinklers and 2 nozzles
- 4 Round shovels
- 1 Pitchfork
- 1 Peevey log roller
- 1 Leaf rake
- 1 Asphalt rake
- 2 Stock rakes
- 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.

1 New Ratchet Tool Set in Case(2000)  
 1 New Socket and Wrench set in Case(2000) Regular and Metric



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  
14 00 shoes  
7 0 shoes  
11 1 shoes  
5 2 shoes  
4 Old cinches  
4 Old halters  
1 Bridle with nylon reins  
1 Set of bridge boxes/ packed out in the fall of 2000  
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 0)  
1 Gall salve  
1 Nitrofurazone dressing  
2 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  
3 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.  
2 Quarts of Oil for Leather  
1 Bottle of penicillin is in the ranger station first aid cabinet  
2 Tubes of Banamine and 2 Tubes of Phenylzone  
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 2001 :

Shoes - depending on stock  
2 Bags of Rolled Barley (Not Corn)  
Easy Boot - size 1  
Butizine Tablets

\*A Cinch set up for work boxes

L. Needs for Next Year

Kern Ranger Station:

- 1 Asphalt rake
- 1 Sledge hammer
- Thick Bar Tip Grease
- 2 Rolls flagging - 2 colors
- 3 Duct Tape
- 10 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
- 4 Gallons of coleman fuel
- 2 Gallons of brown enamel paint
- 1 Wheelbarrow Inner Tube
- 10 Gunny sacks
- 1 1/2 gate valve
- 1 3/4 " gate valve
- 1 Box tacks
- 5 Sandpaper 80 grit
- 5 Sandpaper 120 grit
- 1 12 foot Garden Hose
- 6 NPS paper towels
- 1 NPS calendar
- 4 plates
- 1 Blue Spray Paint
- 1 Green Spray Paint
- 1 Box of Laminating Sheets
- 2 Rolls of Tape (Scotch)
- 10 Black Ink Gel Pens or Refills

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.

Zerex & Laminate:

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

## M. RECOMMENDATIONS

Replace the Willow Meadow Cut Off sign in Rattlesnake Canyon.  
The new sign could read:           Big Arroyo Creek   4.0

Replace the Bulletin Board at the Kern Hot Spring. This is a good place to give out information and it is actually read while people wait to use the hot tub!

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

Replace the By-Pass sign south of the Kern Ranger station. Use the new wording and have it match the new sign on the other side.

Due to changes in how the NPS helicopter can fly propane tanks, it sounds like only 2 tanks can be flown on one flight. The tanks are 75 pounds when full and can be very awkward for one person to try and pack on a mule. I have tried it with home made lumber racks and have had a tank fall off...10 miles down the trail. Special work boxes, similar to the bridge boxes, should be made to carry tanks safely and make loading easier.

Park radios should be tested with the issued antennae in place. If being sent into the backcountry to replace a bad radio, it should be tested with an antennae and sent in ready to use.