

# SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK  
FISCAL YEAR 2000

*Superintendent's Annual Report  
Produced by the Media Relations Office  
Yosemite National Park*

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## **FOREWORD**

The *Superintendent's Annual Report* is produced through submissions from each division of Yosemite National Park and includes summary information compiled during the federal fiscal year, October 1 to September 30. The organization of each division is based on the nature of the work performed by that group, and each submission varies accordingly. Yosemite National Park is made up of the Superintendent's Office and seven divisions. Park divisions are represented in alphabetical order following the Superintendent's office report.

During FY 2000, Yosemite's ONPS budget was \$20,416,443. Yosemite's visitation for the fiscal year was 3,538,801.

# FISCAL YEAR 2000 YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK HIGHLIGHTS

-- 1999 --

- October 7** Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and National Park Service Director Robert Stanton traveled to Yosemite to announce senior management changes to be effective October 25, 1999.
- Stanley T. Albright, park superintendent, was named advisor to the NPS Director for the Natural Resource Challenge, the service's plan for revitalizing natural resource programs in national parks.
- David A. Mihalic replaced Albright as the next superintendent of Yosemite National Park. Mihalic came from Glacier National Park, where he had been superintendent since 1994.
- October 22** Jan Davis, 60, of Santa Barbara, California, died when her parachute didn't open while attempting an illegal B.A.S.E. jump from El Capitan.
- November 10** The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) Joint Powers Authority signed an agreement with the park to implement a voluntary regional transportation system in the Yosemite area, serving Mariposa, Merced, and Mono counties.
- November 23** The Tioga and Glacier Point Roads closed for the season.
- November 24** Access hours for the El Portal Road were increased through November 28, 1999, to accommodate Thanksgiving holiday visitors. The road was open from 0630-2230 with construction continuing during nighttime hours. The road project is 50% complete at this time, with repairs completed to 60% of the deteriorated sewer line beneath the road.
- December 7** The Hetch Hetchy Road opened for the winter season, allowing access to the area until March, when construction work resumed to repair damage from the January 1997 flood.
- December 13** Mick Knutson, Henry Boger, Joseph Weber, and Avery Badenhop pleaded 'no contest' in the U.S. Magistrate Court for their illegal October 1999 B.A.S.E. jump from El Capitan. The defendants each received a one-year probation, a \$2,000 fine, and had to forfeit their equipment. The group also had to share the \$6,155 cost of recovering Jan Davis's body.
- December 17** Access hours for the El Portal Road changed to 24 hours a day through January 2, 2000, to accommodate holiday traffic.

December 22 The Tioga Road reopened due to unusually warm conditions.

--2000--

January 4 The wilderness permit reservation system changed to allow 60% of each trailhead's daily quota to be available by reservation. The wilderness permit reservation processing fee was increased to \$5 per person per trip.

January 14 The *Draft Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan* and *Environmental Impact Statement* was released for 60-day public review and comment. The plan presented five alternatives for protecting the Merced River in Yosemite, addressing resource protection, development of lands and facilities, and user capacities.

February 22 A minor rockslide occurred when a piece of rock fell from Middle Brother. There were no injuries or damage to structures. Northside Drive was closed to allow staff to monitor the area.

March 10 The public comment period for the *Draft Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan* and *Environmental Impact Statement* was extended through March 24, 2000 to allow additional time for the public to review the plan and submit comments.

March 20 The Hetch Hetchy Road access hours were changed to only allow vehicular access to the Reservoir and O'Shaughnessey Dam from Fridays at 5:00 p.m. through Mondays at 7:00 a.m. Construction work on the road continued during the week to repair damage from the January 1997 flood.

March 27 Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced the release of the *Draft Yosemite Valley Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* during a ceremony in San Francisco. The purpose of the draft plan was to provide direction and to propose specific actions to preserve Yosemite Valley's natural, cultural, and scenic resources, and to provide high-quality, resource-based experiences for visitors. The plan was based on the broad goals of the park's 1980 General Management Plan.

March 30 Northside Drive reopened after being closed for five weeks following the February 22, 2000, rockslide in the Middle Brother area.

April 11 A large-scale search began for Kieran Burke, 45, of Dublin, Ireland, when he was five days past due checking out of Curry Village accommodations. Twenty-five employees, five dog teams, and a helicopter searched the Yosemite Valley area and popular trails.

- April 18** Yosemite entered the National Parks Pass program and began selling the pass at entrance stations for \$50. The pass allows access to all national parks for one year.
- April 23** Access hours for the El Portal Road were increased through April 24, 2000, to accommodate Easter weekend visitors.
- Reconstruction of the El Portal Road is 75% complete.
- Repair of the deteriorated sewer line running beneath the road is completed.
- May 1** Access hours for the El Portal Road expanded to 0630-2230 daily. Construction continued during the nighttime hours.
- May 15** The Glacier Point Road opened for the season.
- May 19** YARTS started daily service along Highway 140 as well as between Yosemite Valley and Wawona.
- May 20** YARTS weekend service began along Highway 120 West.
- May 25** The Hetch Hetchy Road repair project was completed and the road opened to all vehicular traffic without restrictions. Since September 7, 1999 project work included:
- Addition or replacement of culverts and headwalls at 15 locations.
  - Removal of 487 feet of damaged pavement, sealing of surface cracks, and installation of a two-inch asphalt overlay on the entire road.
  - Re-grading and paving drainage ditches.
  - Repair of the historic guard wall.
  - Repair of damaged embankments and existing dry-stack stone walls.
- May 26** The Half Dome cables were installed.
- May 27** Vehicular access was allowed on the El Portal Road 24 hours per day through May 30, 2000, to accommodate holiday weekend visitation.
- YARTS weekend service began along Highway 120 East.
- May 30** Access hours for the El Portal Road returned to 0630-2230 daily to allow for evening construction work.
- June 20** A 34-year old woman from Toyota, Japan, died when she fell into the Merced River above Vernal Fall.
- June 22** The *Final Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan* and *Environmental Impact Statement* was released and the document was



- September 1** The park permitted the reopening of 49 cabins that were taken out of service in Curry Village due to the August 29 rockslide.
- Vehicular access was allowed on the El Portal Road 24 hours per day through September 5, 2000, to accommodate holiday weekend visitation.
- September 5** Access hours for the El Portal Road returned to 0630-2230 daily to allow for visitor access and evening construction work.
- September 11** Ruthanne Ruppert, 49, of South Daytona, Florida, was reported missing by relatives who contacted the park. She was last seen in Yosemite Valley on August 14, 2000, the day she was scheduled to leave for an organized seven-day backpack trip.
- September 19** The park offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who may have criminally introduced several large rocks into the sewer line in the El Portal area, causing the July 27, 2000, spill.
- September 27** Machine Shop employees attended the Environmental Achievement Award Presentation Ceremony in Washington, D.C., where they were presented with the Department of the Interior Environmental Achievement Award for 2000. The Shop was selected for their outstanding efforts in the use of re-refined oil, non-petroleum based hydraulic oil, aqueous solutions for general cleaning purposes, and the recycling of oil filters and tires.
- September 30** The El Portal Road Improvements Project concluded after two years of construction activities and limited access along Highway 140. Project work along the 6.4-mile stretch of road included:
- Stabilizing the roadbed.
  - Realigning and widening the roadway.
  - Adding and replacing culverts beneath the road.
  - Improving drainage along the guard wall.
  - Replacing the guard wall with one to that met federal safety standards.
  - Repaving the road surface.
- The improvements were completed through a partnership between the Federal Highway Administration and the park.

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## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

### **MISSION**

No Report

### **BUDGET**

No Report

### **STAFF**

No Report

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## **DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT**

### **MISSION**

The GPRA goals for the Division of Administrative Management have been integrated into the goals of the remaining park divisions due to the nature of the services provided by this division.

### **BUDGET**

- Total: \$2,583,314
- ONPS: \$2,361,150

The division's ONPS base funding included \$76,950 from the Pacific West Region (PWR) for support costs for the PWR Contract Specialist stationed in YOSE.

- Utility Income: \$50,000

The Division of Facility Management provided funding for division employees involved in the administrative support of utility income, Bills of Collection, etc.

- Hetch Hetchy Income: \$67,864

Hetch Hetchy (City and County of San Francisco) provided funding for administrative support costs relative to park-wide programs supporting Hetch Hetchy.

- Cost of Collection Income: \$104,300

The Division of Visitor and Resource Protection provided the funding of administrative support for conducting auditing of entrance stations and for a park ranger located in the Branch of Special Park Uses to conduct bus inspections and the permitting of tour companies.

### **STAFF**

Chief of Administration, Debra S. Brower, GS-14

1 Budget Analyst, GS-9

Total number of division employees:

46 Permanent employees

7 Temporary employees

3 Seasonal employees

2 Term employees  
3 Lapsed positions  
1 Resignation

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Debra S. Brower, Chief of Administration, transferred to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission effective September 24, 2000.
- The Chief of Administration, Budget Officer, and Chief of Procurement attended the Pacific West Region's (PWR) Administration/Maintenance Conference in San Diego.
- The Chief of Administration attended the Budget Process for NPS Managers training.
- The Chief of Administration participated as a member of the PWR Administrative Advisory Group.
- 79 personnel actions were initiated for division employees.
- 59 travel authorizations and travel vouchers were initiated for division employees.
- Paid overtime for division employees totaled \$19,516.

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## **BUDGET/FISCAL BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

Branch Chief, Maggie Martin, GS-12  
1 Budget Analyst, GS-9  
1 Term Budget Analyst, GS-9  
1 Budget Technician, GS-7  
1 Transportation Assistant, GS-5  
4 Accounting Technicians, GS-5

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Budget Technician attended the NPS fee collection training in Atlanta, GA. The employee, while serving as a member of the PWR Fee Collection Audit Team, assisted with a fee collection audit of Glen Canyon National Park.
- Elizabeth Tucker transferred from the Maintenance Division to the Fiscal Office as an Accounting Technician.
- Carmen Fay, Transportation Assistant, transferred to Everglades National Park in March 2000. The position was recruited. Dianna Stowell was selected for the position.
- Staff attended various computer training, temporary duty training, and permanent change of station training. Staff members also took NPS Internet financial courses.
- FY2001 park-wide budget submissions were consolidated and submitted in a timely manner. FY2002 ONPS budget submissions were processed using the Operations Formulation System (OFS). Program Management Information System (PMIS) submissions continued to be updated by park staff in preparation of future budget calls.
- Utility payments (telephone and electric) were in compliance with the Prompt Payment Act. Utility billings and deposits met all Cash and Debt Management Guidelines. Fee collection

audits complied with NPS 22 guidelines. Third party draft payments were in compliance with established guidelines.

- FY00 Yosemite National Park Budget:

• ONPS =	\$20,416,443	Yearend Balance =	\$ 2,390
• Fee Enhancement =	\$ 457,153	Yearend Balance =	\$ -3,170
• Cost of Collection =	\$ 1,738,177	Yearend Balance =	\$ 155,999
• Quarters =	\$ 1,459,366	Yearend Balance =	\$ 46,534

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## **HOUSING MANAGEMENT BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

Acting Housing Manager, Cindy Baker, GS-9

1 Housing Assistant, GS-5

1 Temporary Admin Support Assistant, GS-4

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Attended the California Regional Survey training in Denver. (5 year survey)
- Implemented the DOI Quarters Management Inventory System (QMIS) 2000 program and rates for Government Furnished Quarters (GFQ) using the new QMIS system.
- Three additional trailers were removed from the Park's inventory (Trailer Replacement Program).
- 421 housing units were listed on the housing inventory.
- 250 seasonal/temporary beds were allocated.
- Rodent proofing information was mailed to all occupants of Tuolumne District quarters.
- Staff participated in the Lead-Based Paint Management Team.
- Park housing information was provided to the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Housing costs charged to park accounts totaled \$54,952.
- Possessory Interest Tax refunds totaled \$62,612.

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## **HUMAN RESOURCES BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

Personnel Officer, Joanne Witherow, GS-13

1 Position Classification Specialist, GS-12

1 Employee Relations Specialist, GS-12

1 Personnel Staffing Specialist, GS-11

1 Personnel Staffing Specialist, GS-9

1 Worker's Compensation Program Manager, GS-9

1 Supervisory Personnel Assistant, GS-8

1 Personnel Assistant, GS-7

1 Personnel Assistant, GS-6

2 Personnel Clerks, GS-5

1 Workforce Support Clerk, GS-4  
1 Temporary Personnel Clerk, GS-4  
3 Temporary Office Automation Clerks, GS-4  
1 Term Personnel Clerk

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Personnel Officer Joanne Witherow transferred from the Department of Defense in April 2000.
- Personnel Clerk Emily Wilson transferred from the Navy in May 2000.
- Personnel Assistant Paul Sheehan transferred to Lassen Volcanic National Park in January 2000.
- Suzanne Grin was selected for the Personnel Clerk position.
- The park issued vacancy announcements for 128 permanent, 25 term, and 82 temporary positions.
- There were 42 permanent employees, 361 temporary employees, one term employee, and 27 Student Temporary Employment Program students hired/selected parkwide.
- 32 term employees were extended.
- 25 temporary promotions were processed.
- 3225 personnel actions were processed. Determinations were completed on classification issues that resulted in 301 additional personnel actions being processed. A total of 463 employees went through orientation.
- Issues reviewed included park policies, sexual harassment, and leave related issues.
- 180 background investigations, which are required on every employee working longer than six months, were sent to the Office of Personnel Management.
- 11 Medical RM-57s were completed for the law enforcement rangers. Documentation was maintained in the employees' medical files.
- 19 open season TSP-1's were processed. The increased employee access to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) website reduced the number of in-house requests.
- 423 supervisors or employees were counseled regarding health insurance, life insurance, TSP, retirement (6C), and drug testing.
- 137 pre-retirement calculations were completed for available options, disability, early out, and discontinued service.
- Three disability applications were completed and approved.
- 63 Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) open season changes were processed, audited for accuracy, routed to Denver for approval, returned for implementation through payroll action, and documented to the OPF file.
- Counseling, research, and calculations were completed on estimating earnings for four Military Deposits and three Temporary Time Deposits.
- 34 checkout interviews were conducted. This involved counseling departing employees on issues such as employee health benefits, life insurance, sick leave reinstatement rights, annual leave lump sum procedures, unemployment compensation benefits, and collection of employee identification cards.
- OWCP reported a reduction of injuries by 41%. This significant decline is directly attributed to a proactive approach to on-the-job injury prevention and safety awareness in Yosemite. All FY2000 injured employees were able to return to their pre-injury job. By keeping employees at work after an injury, the park saved significant dollar amounts in Continuation of Pay (COP)

payments/hours of lost production. A reduction of estimated 1000 COP hours averaged a \$10,000 savings for the park. Of all park cases, 15 remained active and 43 remained active dating from 1964 through September 30, 1999. Due to persistence and special attention given to the OWCP program, the park saved approximately \$1,140,000 (based on 75 year life expectancy – see incidents below). All cases, including prior year cases, continued to be reviewed.

- Management was assisted with returning employees to work, ensuring medical reports supported disability entitlements, reducing compensation payments when applicable due to retraining or when level of disability decreased, and monitoring cases for “red flags” (possible fraud/abuse), which were referred for investigation. Total savings amounted to over \$300,000.
- OWCP incidents of highest accomplishments:
  - Case 1: A 1987 injured worker receiving \$1,500 per month refused rehabilitation placement and was removed from OWCP rolls. The park initiated this action, which resulted in a projected lifetime savings of \$148,000.
  - Case 2: A 1981 injured worker was referred to Vocational Rehabilitation. The worker should have been able to return to work within two years after being on OWCP rolls, but has remained on the rolls for over 20 years. Rehabilitation compensation payments were reduced from \$2,100 per month to \$1,500 per month (saving \$162,000). Upon completion of the Rehabilitation Program, Department of Labor should be able to reduce monthly benefits to less than \$500 per month (saving \$300,000). Park initiated action.
  - Case 3: A 1982 injured worker was referred to Vocational Rehabilitation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time after being on the OWCP rolls for 17 years. The injured worker refused to cooperate with the Rehabilitation Program and is in the process of being removed from OWCP rolls. A projected lifetime savings of \$336,000 is expected from this park initiated action.
  - Case 4: A 1996 injured worker was receiving \$850 per month compensation as well as having \$60,000 in medical expenses paid. The worker was awarded his claim for a heart attack (condition) due to exposure to cleaning chemicals. The park questioned the acceptance of the case when information was provided to support that the exposure could not have caused the heart condition. A second opinion was sought and doctors supported that the condition was not related to his employment.
- Employee Relations staff advised and consulted with management regarding adverse actions. Assisted management with the preparation of formal counseling and removal letters. Reviewed management letters to employees to ensure that legal requirements were met. Attended meetings with management and employees to ensure parties communicated fairly.
- 27 adverse actions were processed.
- Eight grievances were filed.
- Nine EEO hearings were conducted.
- Coordinated two investigations conducted by the Office of Special Counsel.
- Managed the park’s Office of Government Ethics confidential financial disclosure program ensuring that 55 employees complied with filing requirements.
- Conducted dozens of informal training sessions and six formal training presentations. Provided information on over 100 training announcements.
- Staff members attended Federal Personnel and Payroll Systems (FPPS) training, FPPS security training, FPPS Servicing Personnel Office training, the DOI Human Resources conference, and Equal Opportunity training. Staff members took correspondence courses offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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## **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

Branch Chief, Dan Sohn, GS-13  
2 Computer Specialists, GS-12  
2 Computer Specialists, GS-11  
1 Computer Specialist, GS-9  
2 Computer Assistants, GS-6  
1 Term Computer Specialist, GS-9

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Ron Watson, Computer Assistant, resigned from his position in November 1999 to return to the private sector.
- Chuck Pribyl transferred from the Department of Defense in December 1999 as a Computer Specialist.
- Kevin Bowman transferred from the Department of Defense in April as a Computer Specialist.
- Training for the IM staff included: DOI Radio Workshop, various computer training, and Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) training.

### **Help Desk Activities**

- Completed 3852 help desk request actions.
- Configured and installed 239 new personal computers, including 180 Y2K replacements.
- Removed 204 surplus personal computers from service, including 180 non-Y2K compliant machines.
- Completed migration of 603 personal computers from Novell NetWare environment to Microsoft NT Network.
- Completed initial R&D for Citrix implementation of Lotus Notes.
- Logged 533 hours of staff time in developing or maintaining eight databases for various program offices.

### **Network Infrastructure Improvements**

- Installed a new Cisco 3600 Router in the El Portal Warehouse and replaced DSC/CSU units at three El Portal locations.
- Completed LAN cabling for the Criminal Investigation Unit in "Fort" Yosemite.
- Completed LAN cabling for the new Trails Office in "Fort" Yosemite.
- Provided WAN connectivity for three computers in the Tuolumne Meadow Wilderness Permit Station.
- Completed LAN cabling for the two Yosemite Valley Plan (YVP) office trailers in El Portal and provided network connectivity to over 25 YVP staff members located in the trailers.
- Replaced six Ethernet hubs with networking switches, which benefited "hardwired" LAN users throughout the park.

### **Electronic Mail System Improvements**

- Installed and configured a dedicated cc:Mail NT server for Yosemite Valley.
- Upgraded two cc:Mail servers and 200 client PCs from Lotus cc:Mail Release 8.4 to 8.5.

### **User Training and Special Projects**

- Installed and supported a temporary 25-user computer training lab for IDEAS training.
- Installed and supported a temporary LAN for Yosemite planners at Mariposa Fairgrounds.
- Installed and supported three computers for Yosemite planners at the Mariposa Best Western Motel.
- Supported 15 NPS employees with remote Internet and e-mail access in Missoula, MT, during the Draft Yosemite Valley Plan Comment Analysis project.
- Configured 12 PC workstations for a Geographic Information System (GIS) training session at Cedar Lodge.

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## **CONTRACTING, PROCUREMENT, PROPERTY, AND WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

Branch Chief, Sally Stansberry, GS-13  
2 Contract Specialists, GS-12  
2 Contract Specialists, GS-9  
1 Property Mgmt Specialist, GS-9  
1 Part-time Property Mgmt Technician, GS-7  
1 Property Mgmt Clerk, GS-5  
1 Mail & File Clerk, GS-5  
1 Supply Clerk, GS-5  
1 Temporary Supply Clerk, GS-5  
2 Temporary Mail & File Clerks, GS-4  
1 Supervisory General Supply Specialist, GS-11  
2 Materials Handlers, WG-5  
1 Motor Vehicle Operator, WG-8  
1 Seasonal Motor Vehicle Operator, WG-8  
1 Seasonal Materials Handler, WG-5  
1 Seasonal Laborer, WG-2

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Jill Clayton, Contract Specialist, transferred to the PWR Contract Office in March 2000. The vacant position was recruited and Cindy Madison was selected.
- Jack Rodman, Contract Specialist, transferred to the Department of Defense in December 1999.
- Roger Garza was selected for the Contract Specialist position funded by PWR. Roger transferred from the U.S. Forest Service in April 2000.
- Bonnie McFayden, Supply Clerk, transferred from the Department of Defense in October 1999. She transferred to the Internal Revenue Service in August 2000.

- Al Thorpe, Property Management Specialist, continued on his detail to the Volunteer-in-Park office.
- Ken Stowell transferred to the Materials Handler position in January 2000.
- Awarded 19 contracts and 39 modifications totaling \$680,000.
- Awarded seven contracts and 20 modifications totaling \$479,000 to small minority businesses.
- Awarded six contracts and 18 modifications totaling \$470,000 to Small Business Administration 8(a) firms.
- Awarded 19 Agreements totaling \$565,000.
- Awarded 1,439 purchase actions totaling \$2.774 million.
- Purchase card orders totaled 947 to the sum of \$1.413 million.
- Blanket purchase order transactions totaled \$282,000.
- 264 third party drafts were issued and totaled \$255,000.
- Purchase orders totaled \$684,000.
- Completed 30 Reports of Survey.
- Completed 37 Certificates of Unserviceable Property.
- Issued 230 new property identification numbers.
- Issued 79 wood permits.
- Returned 60 lost and found items.
- Copied 96 copy jobs.
- Warehouse sale transactions totaled \$678,000.
- Two Contracting Officers attended the Small Business Administration 8(a) and Hubzone conference.
- Implemented the first phase of the requisitioning through Interior Department Electronic Acquisition System (IDEAS).
- Staff members attended training in Simplified Acquisition, Advanced Simplified Acquisition, Stress Solutions, and IDEAS training.

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## **DIVISION OF BUSINESS AND REVENUE MANAGEMENT**

**Note:** While not formally approved and organized in FY2000, the Division of Concessions Management functionally combined with Special Park Uses from the Division of Administrative Management and Fee Collection from the Division of Visitor and Resource Protection. Accordingly, this report reflects each of these functions for FY 2000. This new divisional organization is the Division of Business and Revenue Management.

### **MISSION**

The Division of Business and Revenue Management makes significant contributions to the achievement of the following Mission Goals:

- Yosemite National Park's natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.

- Yosemite National Park contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.
- Visitors to Yosemite National Park safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities.
- Yosemite National Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the preservation of the park and its resources for this and future generations.
- Yosemite National Park uses current management practices, systems, and techniques to accomplish its mission.
- Yosemite National Park increases its managerial capabilities through initiatives and support from other agencies, organizations, and individuals.

## **BUDGET**

- Total: \$2,701,822 from all funding sources (excluding project work)
- ONPS: \$548,367
  - Concessions Management: \$402,900
  - Bear Program Funding: \$22,500
  - VIP Coordinator: \$55,000
  - Administrative Division Support: \$67,967
- Cost Recovery and Other Programs: \$434,047
- Fee Management, Cost of Collection: \$1,719,408

## **STAFF**

Chief, Business and Revenue Management, Martin Nielson, GS-14

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## **CONCESSIONS MANAGEMENT BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

1 Financial Analyst, GS-12  
 1 Civil Engineer, GS-12  
 2 Concessions Management Specialists, GS-11  
 1 Concessions Management Assistant (AO), GS-06

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **Yosemite Concession Services Corp. (YCS)**

- Full contractual compliance was sustained despite continued operational difficulties emanating from the January 1997 flood, which resulted in a loss of visitor accommodations and employee housing.
- YCS continued a long-term effort to improve guest services through customer service training provided to executive staff and first-line supervisors.
- *Special Accounts*

- Contributions to the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) totaled \$5,071,977. Of this amount, \$4,404,369 consisted of property damage insurance proceeds that were contributed to the CIF in accordance with Contract Amendment no.3 mentioned in the 'Insurance Settlement' section below. The remaining CIF contributions for FY 2000 totaled \$667,607 and consisted of twelve monthly deposits based on the applicable percentage of gross receipts generated. Contributions to the Government Improvement Account (GIA) totaled \$222,756.
- *Project Activity*
  - The year began with 143 projects that were nominated and made eligible for the CIF/GIA programs. A total of twelve projects were identified using the prioritization method of choosing by advantages. The criteria used included life safety, code compliance, resource preservation, employee environment, long-term plan implementation, and visitor service. Of greatest concern was the need to make some of the more intensely used visitor facilities more accessible to people with disabilities followed by the need to upgrade food service provided by the cafeteria at Yosemite Lodge.
  - Other projects included upgrading fire safety at The Ahwahnee; rehabilitation of the Curry Village registration, lounge, and amphitheater buildings; relocation of employee housing to El Portal; repairing balconies at Yosemite Lodge; preparing a comprehensive design for concession facilities to be located at El Portal; and rehabilitation of the White Wolf lounge and the exterior of the Wawona Hotel buildings. Special emphasis was placed on preparation of construction design with the expectation that many of these projects would be entered into the Project Management Information System (PMIS) funding program.
  - Total expenditures by YCS totaled \$557,032, compared to \$282,044 in FY 1999. As in previous periods, most of the projects that YCS undertook in FY 2000 were designed to improve visitor service areas. However, several projects were undertaken to repair concession-managed infrastructure, such as the replacement of the women's employee shower house at Curry Village with a temporary trailer; structural stabilization of the Ahwahnee Dorm, and repairing the Degnan's building roof and adding a heating system to the upper level.
  - Other projects, such as the refurbishment of The Ahwahnee bar, the remodeling of the Wawona Lobby and grocery gift shop, the remodeling of the Yosemite Lodge retail shop, and the remodeling of the White Wolf restaurant lounge, are examples of the type of projects YCS undertook that directly enhanced the visitor's experience. These were well thought out projects undertaken in revenue generating centers designed to enhance profitability. Where these areas were once out dated, poorly lit, and worn with years of service, they now have received treatments which have elevated them to a much higher standard of order, cleanliness, and design that serve the visitor much better.
- *Revenue Generation*
  - YCS continued to perform in a satisfactory manner during the year. Revenues for calendar year 2000 reportedly are slightly ahead of those recorded for calendar 1999 and will likely top \$90 million. However, revenue generation continues to lag behind the \$94.6 million attained during the year immediately preceding the January 1997 flood.
- *Soil and Groundwater Remediation*
  - YCS continued to perform soil and groundwater remediation using internal corporate funds. Remediation was conducted on four active sites, including the service stations located at the old Chinquapin site, Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite Lodge and Wawona. Over time, the clean-up program for these areas has provided excellent results. Another three years is

estimated to complete site clean up. As of December 2000 a total of 24 sites had been closed. YCS is to be commended for the extraordinary administration of this program over the last seven years.

- ***Employee Housing***

- Available housing for employees remained limited. In 1999, YCS received authorization to construct 120 temporary cabins without bath to be used for employee housing. These units were located at Huff House (80) and Lost Arrow parking lot (40). Each unit houses two employees, providing year-round accommodations for an additional 240 employees. The Terrace housing area was partially reopened in May 2000. This housing area was closed on August 31<sup>st</sup> following another rock fall incident and is expected to remain closed for the foreseeable future. The park will continue to work with YCS to identify a location suitable for replacement housing. As in 1999, the strong employment market continued to have a negative impact on YCS employee recruitment and retention. Park-wide employment peaked at 1,650 in 2000, compared to 1,700 in 1999.

- ***Insurance Settlement***

- In December 1999 NPS agreed to a second and final stage settlement of all YCS insurance claims related to the 1997 flood in the amount of \$4.5 million. Of this amount, \$1 million was designated as additional property damage insurance proceeds and \$3.5 million as YCS business interruption insurance proceeds. YCS obtained a total of \$7.5 million in property damage insurance proceeds.
- Terms of this settlement further provided that, pursuant to amendment no. 3 to the concession contract executed in September 1999, YCS agreed to pay into the Capital Improvement Fund an amount equal to the \$7.5 million property damage flood insurance proceeds (minus a \$443,230 reimbursement of flood repair expenses incurred by YCS). This provision arose from the need to first apply the \$7.5 million property insurance proceeds to a deed of trust between YCS and Universal Studios (formerly MCA) securing a note covering the former possessory interest improvements purchased under the concession contract. Contract amendment no. 3 provides assurance that the insurance proceeds will be available for repair and replacement of damaged and destroyed facilities.
- Contract amendment no. 3 calls for the \$7.5 million in property damage insurance proceeds to be paid into the Capital Improvement Fund on a monthly basis from October 15, 1999 through May 15, 2001. Through the end of FY 2000, YCS had deposited \$4,729,369.36 into the CIF in accordance with this requirement. These deposits are in addition to the regular monthly CIF contributions that are based on gross receipts mentioned above.

### **Ansel Adams Gallery**

- The Ansel Adams Gallery continues to be a "Satisfactory" concessioner offering an exceptional photographic and art business to park visitors and employees. In February 2000, photography workshops resumed after many years of being on hiatus. Based on comments from the Gallery staff, customer response was very favorable.

### **Yosemite Medical Clinic**

- Doctors Medical Center (DMC) received an "unsatisfactory" annual overall rating for the calendar year 2000, marking the fourth consecutive unsatisfactory annual rating for this concessioner. DMC resumed responsibility for all operational aspects of the medical clinic in November 1999.

- DMC notified NPS of its intent to reduce physician services and operating hours in February 2000. NPS notified the concessioner that wholesale modifications to required services would not be approved. The concessioner sought permission to modify operating hours and delivery of physician services. Permission to do so was granted. The approved operational changes did not have a negative impact on medical services. However, concerns regarding patient billing and the timely submission of the Annual Financial Report continued throughout the year.

### **El Portal Chevron**

- Apart from brief, intermittent periods between October 1 and December 31, 1999, this concessioner did not operate or otherwise provide visitor services during FY 2000. However, the concessioner did remove the existing underground fuel tanks in October 2000.
- The park is currently engaged in negotiations with an organization comprised of the existing concessioner and new prospective partners who are interested in providing fuel sales and minor automotive services under a temporary concession contract.

### **El Portal Market**

- The concessioner continues to provide excellent service to the local community and park visitors under less than ideal operating conditions. Ever since the January 1997 flood, business has been adversely impacted by restricted access on Highway 140. However, with completion of highway construction in September 2000, increased traffic and visitation should have a favorable impact on operations.
- Revenues have improved gradually since the 1997 flood but have not yet returned to pre-flood levels.

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## **SPECIAL PARK USES BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

Branch Chief, Special Park Uses, Robert Johnson, GS-13

#### *Permanent Employees:*

2 Administrative Support Assistants (AO), GS-05

1 Lands Program Manager, GS-12

1 City Program Manager, GS-12

1 Revenue & Fee Business Manager, GS-12

1 Volunteer Program Manager, GS-09

4 Park Rangers, GS-09

1 Volunteer Project Coordinator, GS-09

1 Budget Technician, GS-07

1 Supervisory Campground/Visitor Use Specialist, GS-09

6 Supervisory Visitor Use Assistants, GS-07

4 Lead Visitor Use Assistants, GS-06

8 Visitor Use Assistants, GS-05

### *Seasonal Employees*

79 Visitor Use Assistants, GS-04

2 Student Conservation Association Resource Assistants

57 Volunteers-In-Park

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Volunteers-In-Parks Office**

- Volunteers contributed 114,375 hours of community service to the park.
- Yosemite had the second highest number of volunteer hours recorded in the NPS.
- Yosemite's Volunteer Program Manager became a member of the Regional Training Team and conducted the first "How to Succeed with Volunteers" session at Santa Monica Mountains NRA.
- The volunteer crew leader position was taken from the program and reallocated to fill a position at the warehouse.
- Three Public Land Corps grants were received in the amount of \$43,506, (including funding for one Student Conservation Association (SCA) position) to lead the 126 volunteer groups that participated in the VIP program.
- Nine SCAs donated 3030 hours.
- 26 Interns were funded park-wide by the Yosemite Association.
- Completed 99% of the construction of the new Tuolumne Wilderness Permit Office, in Tuolumne Meadows, through volunteer labor.

### **Commercial Filming**

- Managed 42 film permits, one of which was a "long term" large format film.
- Filming activities/permit issuance was down 14%, possibly due to road closure and Screen Actor's Guild strike in Los Angeles.
- Cost recovery for short term permits was \$71,987. Average cost recovery per short-term permit was \$1756.
- Cost recovery for the film program was approximately \$119,823 (including Harrah's long term permit).
- Harrah's Film Corp--Since the original request to film a large format (IMAX-type) feature in Yosemite in FY 1997, the park has managed activities authorized in "Harrah's FilmCorp" permit. This project funded two GS-9 positions for the Concessions Division. A sequence was filmed in FY 1998. The corporation will resume filming in FY 2001 per authorization for extension. Director, Soames Summerhays, will return to the park to film the majority of the seasonal sequences.
- The "Hefley Bill," now Public Law 106-206, passed on 5/26/00, authorizing the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to require a permit and to collect fees for commercial filming on lands administered by the Interior and Agriculture. The fee will be based on the following criteria: 1) number of days film crew is present on public land, 2) size of film crew, and 3) amount and type of equipment present. The Secretaries can include other factors in determining appropriate fees as deemed necessary.
- The " Film California First" Program, supported by Governor Davis, allocates \$15 million annually over the next three years, to reimburse state, federal, and local agencies for costs

incurred in filmmaking currently reimbursed by production companies. The " Film California First" program began in Fall 2000.

### **Permitted Weddings**

- Distributed over 300 wedding information packages and applications; issued/managed 288 wedding permits through application, monitoring, billing; and monitored eight weddings at \$50-\$100 per event. Administrative cost recovery totaled \$42,000.

### **Incidental Business Permits (IBPs)**

- Planned, organized, and oversaw two commercial bus inspections, each lasting two full days, in May and in July. Coordinated inspections with California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers, Public Utilities Commission (PUC) personnel, and Yosemite district rangers and other supervisors to schedule park personnel assistance. Supervised and trained 3-4 law enforcement rangers each day in procedures for handling commercial tour bus violations. Developed and maintained on-site workbooks for field rangers. FY 2000 inspection summary:
  - 138 buses inspected
  - 56 bus companies cited
  - 20 drivers cited
  - 144 citations issued to 76 defendants (bus companies and drivers).
  - 14 buses placed out-of-service for driver and mechanical violations.
  - 1 arrest for driving under the influence of drugs.
- Maintained database for commercial tour bus companies. Utilized database to assist with statistical information requested by other park divisions, NPS program managers, YARTS Board and Public Information office, park partners, and neighboring visitor bureaus.
- Dealt with individual bus companies involved in permit suspensions, operating classifications, and fee schedule complaints.
- Prepared and mailed informational notices to all registered bus companies on several occasions regarding Highway 140 construction schedules and other activities affecting their visits to the park.
- Maintained start-up Tour Group Permit database with over 500 entries.
- Acted as park subject matter specialist regarding legal aspects of California Department of Transportation regulations and California Vehicle Codes affecting commercial bus transportation along State highway corridors to the park. FY00 statistics include:
  - 503 files (+46 from 1999)
  - 286 valid permits (+3 from 1999)
  - 34 invalid permits (-5 from 1999)
  - 46 in progress files (+36 from 1999)
  - Non-permitted entry notifications in progress (information not available)
  - 141 inactive files (+54 from 1999) (Companies that don't come to the park every year.)
  - Issued 81 citations for vehicle code violations.
  - Issued three citations for permit violations involving backcountry resource violations.
  - Issued two written warnings for resource violations and permit violations.
  - Suspended two permits for gross permit violations.
- Managed, prepared, and executed 40 Incidental Business Permits. Prepared for stock users, hiking groups, and chain installers.

- Worked with backcountry wilderness rangers to monitor permitted activities in the backcountry. Suspended permits for one stock user and one hiking group found to be in violation of permit conditions. Violation notices issued involved mandatory court appearances. Written warning notices were sent to one stock user and one hiking group regarding violation of their permit conditions. Attended West-side Packers meeting as interagency representative discussing stock use issues.
- Monitored chain installer activities.

### **Drug Abuse Resistance Education**

- Presented 16-week D.A.R.E. Program to grades 4-6. Prepared and taught one-hour anti-drug course once per week to El Portal Elementary students.
- Sponsored drug safety presentation to El Portal Elementary students as part of National Red Ribbon Week.
- Sponsored and oversaw four-week Physical Education Fun Run program for El Portal Elementary students in grades k-6. Planned and conducted El Portal Elementary "Fun run" competition.
- Maintained newspaper recycling collection box for El Portal D.A.R.E. fundraiser. Half of the funds went to the El Portal Elementary School Student Council. Sorted and recycled NPS aluminum cans for D.A.R.E. fund raiser.
- Elected to Region 3 California D.A.R.E. Officers Board as Co-Recorder-Secretary. Produced quarterly Region 3 newsletter. Attended Region 3 meetings off park.
- Attended local school functions as D.A.R.E. representative.

### **Tuolumne Watershed Protection Program**

- Yosemite National Park submitted the Tuolumne Watershed Five-Year Performance Agreement to the City and County of San Francisco in November 2000. This document provides the framework and direction for the park's relationship with the City and County of San Francisco.
- Believing that results are more significant to the City than the activities necessary to obtain them, the park cast most goals in the performance agreement as outcomes rather than outputs. The five-year plan will be implemented with the development of Annual Performance Plans (APP) each year. The first APP was drafted and will be implemented beginning on July 1, 2001.
- By being proactive with our watershed management program, the park intends for the Hetch Hetchy water supply to continue with its filtration avoidance designation (or unfiltered status) as approved in 1993. Watershed management for source water quality protection can be challenging, as it must balance the various, sometimes competing, activities and resources present within the watershed. Working together with the City, we are confident that the resources within the watershed will be protected for future generations.

### **Education Fee Waivers**

- 344 schools and other educational organizations came into the park under education fee waivers allowing a total of almost 16,000 students and 3,000 teachers, parents, and chaperones to enjoy and learn without being charged entrance fees. Of these 344 schools: 97 were college level courses, 308 schools were based in California, and 161 schools were repeat visitors to the park, having visited the park under the waiver program in FY 1999.

- Only 27 of almost 400 requests were denied waivers.

### **Fee & Revenue Management Program**

- In 2000, fees collected in the park totaled \$15,892,409; entrance stations collected \$13,793,624 and campgrounds collected \$2,098,785.
- A Pre-Authorized Debit System (PAD) for commercial bus entry into the park was initiated for all entrance stations in an effort to reduce the time of transactions and the amount of cash on hand in entrance stations.
- A security assessment was initiated with Federal Protective Services. Initial sight fact-finding visits began.
- The National Park Pass (NPP) was introduced for public sale in February, and internal procedures and guidelines were established.
- Several employee education and enrichment programs were offered, including: Verbal Judo, a self-defense class, Incident finance training, and Compass II training.
- Staff developed a new and highly successful program entitled 'Day in the Park' that allowed staff members a full day to explore and learn about areas in the park other than their work areas.
- Assistance was provided to other divisions on numerous occasions, including Interpretation, Protection, Maintenance, and Administration.
- Job Hazard Analysis Assessments were completed for all five park entrance stations.
- Arch Rock Entrance Station reopened.
- The Hetch Hetchy Supervisory Visitor Use Assistant position was upgraded to a full time position from a career seasonal position, enabling the supervisor to do outreach recruitment in the winter and manage the Educational Fee Waiver Program.
- The Hetch Hetchy entrance staff issued 400 bear canisters to backpackers. Even though it is not mandatory to carry a bear canister the staff was very persistent in making sure that each visitor entering the backcountry used a bear canister for food storage. As a result, the number of incidents involving bears taking food decreased.
- The Hetch Hetchy entrance staff played an active role in re-measuring the trail mileage in the Hetchy area using a measuring wheel. As a result of their involvement, the Protection Division hopes to replace the trail signs with accurate mileage.
- The Hetchy entrance opened May 17, 2000. One employee supervised both the Hetch Hetchy Entrance and the Big Oak Flat Entrance until September 10.
- Requested and received funding in April 2000 to hire two campground bear task team members to patrol campgrounds from 2200-0630 mitigating improper food storage and human-bear conflict. These positions were in addition to the campground staff already programmed.
- In November 1999, the Fee Manager and Campground Supervisor were chosen to represent the Pacific West Region on the National Park Reservation Service Evaluation Team. This was the second year park staff was chosen.
- A new Campground Manager position was established and hired in February 2000.
- Employees from Fee & Revenue Management were chosen to represent the park in two outreach recruitment trips to local colleges in April 2000.
- In June 2000, a bizarre coyote went around the Crane Flat Campground at night biting campers on the head.
- In July 2000, a camper in Upper Pines Campground shot off a handgun in the middle of the night from his tent into the campground because he thought there was a bear in his campsite.

- In August 2000, the campground program was able to move a larger under-utilized kiosk to the Crane Flat Campground to replace the existing dilapidated kiosk. Solar panels were installed on the kiosk for lights to enhance visitor safety at night and for fans to cool employees during the day.
- In September 2000, a campground ranger in the Upper Pines Campground wrecked her bike, fell over the handlebars, and knocked out her front teeth.
- In September 2000, the campground operation held a Mardi Gras celebration in appreciation of the campground hosts and presented them with embroidered jackets.
- In September 2000, campground staff completed a comparability study and proposed an increase in campground user fees for 2001. These fees had not been raised in five years in Yosemite Valley and three years in other areas of the park.

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## **DIVISION OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

### **MISSION**

The GPRA mission for the division is to maintain all park facilities in compliance as mandated by all regulatory agencies, as well as assure safe access for all park visitors and employees, protect the natural/cultural resources, and protect our capital investment.

### **BUDGET**

- Total: \$16,805,657
- ONPS: \$9,146,193
- Cultural Cyclic Maintenance: \$112,850
- Regular Cyclic Maintenance: \$513,411
- Repair/Rehab: \$668,640
- Title VI: \$45,000
- Equipment Replacement: \$383,350
- Construction: \$293,071
- YCS-Trails/Snow Removal: \$162,603
- Challenge Cost Share: \$15,000
- Federal Land Highway: \$14,400
- Hetch Hetchy: \$426,868
- USFS Forest Pest: \$5,000
- Utility Income: \$3,449,329
- Solid Waste Income: \$66,000
- Donation - Yosemite Fund: \$83,282
- Quarters: \$1,312,309
- USDE/PG&E Retrofit: \$16,145
- Mess Income: \$62,206

## **STAFF**

1 Chief, Division of Maintenance and Engineering, Edward Walls, GS-14  
1 Secretary, GS-7  
1 Computer Specialist, GS-11  
1 Facility Manager, Term GS-11  
1 Budget Analyst, GS-9  
1 Budget Assistant, GS-7  
1 Safety Tech GS-8  
1 Program Coordinator WG-9 (Detail)  
12 YCC Staff Members  
34 YCC Enrollees

FTE for the Maintenance Division: 242.39

FTE of lapsed positions: 27

New Hires: 7

Transfers: 1

Retirements: 3

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

Reorganized Historic Preservation from the Buildings and Grounds Branch to the Design and Engineering Branch

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## **ROADS AND TRAILS BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

1 Facility Manager, Roads & Trails, E. Dean Glenn GS-12  
62 Permanent employees  
20 Subject-to-furlough employees  
12 Detailed employees  
10 Term employees  
86 Seasonal employees  
0 Interns  
3 Volunteers

Work units: 4 Roads Districts, Solid Waste, Trails, Machine Shop, Sign Shop, Corrals, 2 Forestry Districts, YCC, Forester, Avalanche Management, Interior Fleet Management, and Explosives Management

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- All employees attended safety meetings and training. Implemented Job Hazard Analysis program. Employees attended training in prevention of sexual harassment, fire extinguisher use, and defensive driving.
- Supported park divisions and branches with various projects.
- Provided avalanche training or a refresher course to employees working in avalanche zones.

- Plowed and sanded roads in all districts when needed. Snow removal on Highway 140 was accomplished during construction phase with minimal damage to plows.
- Installed snow stakes in all districts as needed.
- Met with Cal Trans, Tuolumne County, Mariposa County, Madera County, and City of San Francisco road crews and engineers, USFS and BLM area supervisors.
- Patched potholes, and performed ditch and shoulder work on numerous park roads.
- Opened Tioga Road, Highway 120 East and Glacier Point Road in a timely and safe manner.
- Placed boundary rocks in campgrounds.
- Re-decked Slaughter House Bridge.
- Cleaned maintenance yards and transported unnecessary junk to the dump.
- Crack sealed Highway 41 and the Bridalveil Campground Road.
- Completed skin patching at Grouse Creek.
- Completed road grading on fire access roads in the Foresta area.
- Roadwork for YARTS bus system.
- Performed trash collection throughout the park without missing one scheduled route.
- Collected and transported 1,400 tons of trash to landfill. Drove 36,280 miles without personnel injury or vehicle damage.
- Supported the park striping contract with COTR's. Striped major parking lots throughout the park.
- Fabricated 90 arrowheads and 30 house nameplates. Numerous signs fabricated for Hetch Hetchy, YARTS, and other in-park and out-of-park concerns.
- Received the Department of Interior Environmental Achievement Award for the Machine Shop.
- Maintained 264 GSA vehicles.
- Passed the annual crane certification with no vehicles taken out of service.
- Fabricated new hangers for high voltage transformers.
- Total weight packed by stock operation: 202,500 tons. Stock included 110 horses and mules, which were shod once every three weeks.
- Comprehensive trail maintenance completed on 240 miles of trails.
- Accomplished trail logging on approximately 98% of park trails.
- Completed installation of new bridges at Echo Tenaya Creeks.
- Continued reconstruction/restoration of Mirror Lake Loop and Harden Valley/Pate Valley Trail.
- Completed reconstruction/restoration of Kerrick Canyon segment, Glen Aulin/Return Creek Trail, Frog Creek Ford, Pleasant Valley, Glen Aulin Lake and Young Lake trails. Began work on Little Yosemite Valley/Half Dome Trails, Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, South End Trail, and the Murphy Creek Trail.
- Completed brushing of Pate Valley/Rogers Canyon and Clouds Rest Trails.
- Completed demolition and removal of old bridge abutments on Tenaya and Snow Creeks at Mirror Lake.
- Completed installation of new slate walkway at Residence 49.
- Trimmed 102 trees and removed 273 trees.
- Responded to fire control call outs.

- YCC assisted with historic preservation of Merced Lake ranger cabin, barn, and icehouse. Removed 2,300 feet of old water line. Installed 22 new style bear-proof food storage lockers. Enrollees worked 10,276 hours and staff worked 4,562 hours.

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## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

1 Facility Manager, Buildings & Grounds, Terry Gamble, GS-13  
 53 Permanent employees  
 19 Subject-to-furlough employees  
 5 Detailed employees  
 3 Term employees  
 59 Seasonal employees  
 0 Interns  
 1 Volunteer

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Custodial Crew was moved from Yosemite Valley to El Portal (9 employees).
- Painted interiors on 24 units, totaling 62,127 square feet.
- Painted exteriors on nine units, totaling 23,288 square feet.
- Replaced roofs on 12 units.
- Replaced floor covering on eight units, totaling 6,451 square feet.
- Completed major rehab on three Motor Inn Cabins, upgraded electrical and plumbing, and installed new 3-in-1 cooking units (range, sink, and refrigerator).
- Installed new seamless gutter on five units totaling 650 linear feet.
- Replaced 1,680 square feet of decking with recycled materials at park residences.
- Completed landscaping and installed 300 linear feet of garden block wall on two housing units.
- Installed 3,200 square feet of sod lawn at three housing units.
- Planted 28 new large trees at three residences.
- Replaced 16 appliances (refrigerators, ranges, and dishwashers) at seven housing units.
- Completed Repair/Rehab.Package 134: Bear Proof Employee Tent Cabins. The park was given \$120,000 to hard side and bear proof employee tent cabins in Tuolumne Meadows.
- Installed modular shower house at Bug Camp.
- Installed modular restrooms at White Wolf.
- Converted Bug Camp tents 3052 and 3053 to hardtops (bear proofing).
- Replaced Shasta toilets with concrete CXT's at Porcupine and Yosemite Creek Campgrounds.
- Upgraded faulty services and deteriorated materials at Hodgdon building 6123 (shops and fire buildings).
- Completed a major rehab on residence # 726, including replacing appliances, 560 square feet of decking, 300 square feet of tile in the floor & shower area, and 110 square feet of hardwood flooring.

- Residence unit 49: Complete restoration of housing unit to convert from an office complex back to livable quarters.
- Building Unit 598: Refinished and painted front doors of Visitor Center (eight doors totaling 310 square feet).
- Building Unit 598: Extended East Auditorium Stage (95 square feet, totaling 52 hours, costing \$1,500 minus NPS labor).
- Building Unit # 54: Repaired structure damage from fallen tree. Replaced damaged deck, railings, and ramp. Completed 800 square feet of interior painting and repair.
- Building Unit #56: Completed installation of fire sprinkler system.
- Residence Unit 4: Repaired/ replaced porch stairs.
- Residence Unit 9: Removed deteriorated wood floor and replaced with new materials and under-floor supports. (300 square feet).
- Completed finish work on cabinets.
- Residence Unit 66: Rehab completed for bathroom shower.
- Residence Unit 74: Rehab completed for the entire interior.
- Camp 6 Parking Lot: Completed platform and foundation with ramps for handicap accessible restroom. Constructed and installed visitor bulletin board.
- Valley Campgrounds: installed new motion/photo sensors in all campground restrooms.
- Completed repair and painting of restroom partitions for 15 units.
- Secured and closed restrooms in the Lower and Upper Rivers campgrounds.
- Completed 840 unclassified work orders.
- Replaced 36 light fixtures with energy efficient fluorescent fixtures.
- Completed electrical system improvements to eight Wawona structures.
- Replaced old heating systems with energy efficient systems in six Wawona housing units.
- Installed energy efficient windows and storm doors on four Wawona housing units and one administration building.
- Installed energy efficient tankless water heaters, upgraded from electric to gas appliances, and installed wood stoves in four Wawona housing units.
- Roofing- 8,361 square feet at Wawona building units.
- Completed interior and exterior improvements to eight Wawona structures.

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## **DESIGN AND ENGINEERING BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

1 Branch Chief, Design and Engineering, Don Fox, GS-13  
 6 Permanent employees  
 2 Subject-to-furlough employees  
 3 Seasonal employees  
 0 Detailed employees  
 0 Interns  
 1 Volunteer

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Participated in preliminary design and project development on a significant number of projects.
- Fee Demonstration: Tuolumne Grove Trail Head parking, Wawona Campground, Tioga corridor campground packages, Tuolumne Meadows water and wastewater, Hodgdon Meadows water and wastewater, A.D.A. improvements, Lembert Dome and Skier's Hut restrooms, upgraded shuttle bus stops, constructed bikeways in Yosemite Valley, replaced Valley force main
- Line Item: Package 140, South Entrance Realignment and Package 473
- Federal Lands Highway Program: Package 565, Replace the South Fork Bridge, Package 150, Rehab Mariposa Grove Road, and Package 140, Realign South Entrance
- Repair/Rehab: Developed cost estimates for current submittal, approximating \$15,000,000. Crane Flat water system, Wawona water tank replacement, Chinquapin water system
- Operations: Bear damage impound yard in Yosemite Valley, Yosemite sign plan, security at entrance stations, alternate or by-pass route for Tioga Road, Yosemite Institute wastewater system
- Flood Recovery: Crane Creek Bridge, Yosemite Creek lift station rehab, Yosemite Valley and El Portal sewer main

### **Historic Preservation: Cultural Cyclic Program**

- Package 151, Hill Studio preservation: The park was given \$26,500 for the preservation work needed to stabilize Hill Studio.
- Package 152, Valley Museum log repair: The park was given \$10,000 to perform the cyclic maintenance needed to repair deteriorated log work at several locations around the structure.
- Package 153, paint historic district structures: The park was given \$50,400 to paint seven historic residences in Yosemite Valley.
- Package 339, stabilize 80% of historic railroad structure: The park was given \$25,000 to stabilize the railroad caboose.
- Replaced deteriorated decking and timbers on the Wawona covered bridge.
- Repaired stone foundation and deteriorated logs at Hodgdon cabin.
- Repaired/replaced logs, windows, and RC chinking at the Jorgensen cabin.
- Completed ADA entry improvements at the Ranger Club.
- Completed exterior preservation and maintenance at Hills Studio.
- Replaced north spandrel log at Indian Village/Valley District building.
- Repaired/replaced pylons, granite, and log gates at Tioga Pass entrance station.

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## UTILITIES BRANCH

### STAFF

1 Facility Manager, Utilities Branch, Richard Adams, GS-13  
47 Permanent employees  
10 Subject-to-furlough employees  
3 Detailed employees  
3 Term employees

18 Seasonal employees  
0 Interns  
0 Volunteers

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Treated 256,737,140 gallons of water park-wide.

### **Utilities Management**

- Completed the El Portal Wastewater Treatment Facility Risk Management Plan, required by Environmental Protection Agency regulations.
- Completed the El Portal and Wawona Wastewater Treatment Plant capacity engineering evaluation for Yosemite Valley Plan efforts.
- Contracted with Kennedy/Jenks Consultants A/E for park current and future engineering and construction.

### **Backcountry Utilities**

- Repaired and rehabilitated two backcountry camps using YCC labor.
- Completed leach field rehabilitation of backcountry camps.

### **Electric High Voltage Shop**

- Supported the Highway 140 construction efforts by designing and placing electrical and communication lines for entrance station.
- Replaced secondary electrical feeder lines within Yosemite Valley floor.
- Assisted in the construction of the energy management hardware provided by Department of Energy project manager.

### **El Portal Utilities**

- Completed the Energy Savings Performance Contract ECM's and started a measurement and verification plan.
- Completed the Department of Energy management project for the wastewater treatment plant greening of federal facilities efforts.

### **Valley Utilities**

- Completed the FY2000 Repair/Rehab Valley sewer collection system.
- Completed the Valley lift station rehab and SCADA system

### **Wawona Utilities**

- Completed the design and construction of a 200,000-gallon water tank.
- Completed 85% of the construction of Chinquapin water system.
- Completed the planning, design and rehabilitation of the Badger Pass wastewater septic tank and leach field system.

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## **DIVISION OF INTERPRETATION**

### **MISSION**

No Report

### **BUDGET**

No Report

### **STAFF**

No Report

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## **CURATORIAL BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

1 Branch Chief, David M. Forgang, GS-12

2 Curators, GS-11

1 Historian GS-11

1 Library Technician, GS-8

1 Museum Technician, GS-7

1 Museum Technician, GS-5 (seasonal)

6 Permanent employees

0 Detailed employees

0 Term employees

1 Seasonal employee

0 Interns

786 Volunteer hours

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Branch includes Historian, Museum, Research Library, and Slide Archive
- Published two articles on Native American culture.
- Provided training for permanent staff and seasonals in interpretation, as well as a session on wilderness history for Protection and Resources staff, and for interpretive competencies (Protection).

### **Branch Chief**

- Branch Chief and Curator of Ethnography consulted with representatives of the seven affiliated Indian tribal groups. Consultations were sought concerning the Yosemite Valley and the Merced River Plans, to begin formulation of a NAGPRA discovery plan and a gathering plan, to preview the new orientation film, and to solicit input on the Yosemite Falls project. Over 35 formal meetings occurred, in addition to informal appointments related to genealogical data, access to ethnographic and archival collections, and for monitoring archeological and other ethnographic sites.

- Wrote a section of the Yosemite Valley and the Merced River Plans, and served as part of the project review team for these plans.
- Provided professional support to the Southern Tuolumne County Historical Society in planning their museum exhibit and collection storage areas.
- Provided professional support to the Northern Mariposa County Historical Society, consulting on historic buildings and collection maintenance.
- Assisted the Mariposa County Historical Society in grant writing and in the design of an archival storage facility.
- Provided Mariposa County Archives Commission with advice on collections maintenance and preservation.

### **Ethnography**

- Curator of Ethnography furnished assistance to non-park museums by providing ethnographic information, exhibit planning, consultation, and other assistance. Non-park museums included the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Marin Museum of the American Indian, Museum of Eastern California, National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, Arizona State Museum, Pamplin Museum, and the Oregon State Historical Association.
- Answered more than 1,000 requests for ethnographic information.
- Assisted more than 62 Native American families with genealogical research.

### **Historian**

- Historian and Curator of Ethnography reviewed exhibit proposals and program scripts for Interpretation and draft reports for Archeology (Resource Management)
- Received the Yosemite Award from the Yosemite Fund.
- Provided professional support to the Fresno Flats Historic Sites Association, consulting on archives, collection development, and local Sierra National Forest and Eastern Madera County history.
- Assembled information on the histories of the Ledge Trail; Henness Ridge railroad grade; rockfalls at Happy Isles, Curry, Middle Brother and other locations; Yosemite cultural landscapes; Mariposa Grove cultural landscape; Southern California Edison reservoir sites; Glacier Point sewage system; fish and waterborne insect declines; Vermilion Valley glacial geology and archeology; and other projects in response to internal NPS requests, and in cooperation with other federal agencies, notably the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Forest Service.
- Historian assisted with monitoring rockfalls, responding to rockfall emergencies, assisting with rockfall FOIA requests, and providing interviews to media at the request of PIO/Media Relations Office.
- Historian wrote rockfall history for potential legal issues related to Happy Isles and Curry rockfalls for Solicitor's Office.

### **Research Library**

- The Research Librarian worked as technical expert for the bibliographies of the Draft and Final Merced River Plans as well as the Draft and Final Yosemite Valley Plans.
- Circulation figures increased from 1787 items in FY 1998 to 1966 items in FY 2000. New additions to the library included 157 books cataloged and 105 items added to the vertical files.

- Checked out 250 negatives for 48 photograph orders. 201 duplicate photographic prints were loaned out to NPS and park partners.
- Tours of the Research Library were offered for seasonal staff, Yosemite Fund council, a Monterey High School photography class, and an interpretive competency classes.

### **Museum and Collections**

- Installed two exhibits in the Yosemite Museum Gallery, which were viewed by 51,427 visitors. The Gallery was open 138 days and was staffed for 786 hours by Yosemite Association volunteers.
- Accessioned over 8,000 historic, archeological, and ethnographic items for addition to the park's museum collection.
- Processed 25 loans for exhibition, research, and conservation at other institutions, including The Frye Art Museum, Museo ItaloAmericano, Oakland Museum, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Stanford Art Museum, the Northeast Document Conservation Center, and the Southwest Museum.
- Submitted 1,040 museum catalog records, representing 46,234 items, to the NPS National Catalog. Database totals are currently 4,597 Accession Records, 52,113 Cultural Catalog Records (representing over 548,000 items), and 10,825 Natural History Catalog Records.
- Continued work on the collections inventory. The computerized inventory database currently totals 97,037 entries. The uncataloged accessions database currently totals 726 records.
- Assisted more than 50 researchers in using the museum collections.
- Filled 132 orders for 3,297 slides.

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## **EDUCATION BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

1 Branch Chief, Kathy Dimont

0 Permanent employees

0 Term employees

0 Seasonal employees

1 Intern (12 weeks/40 hours each = 480 hours)

2 Unilever High School student interns (10 weeks)

1 VIP for 4 weeks

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Disseminated traveling trunks to school district media offices surrounding the park.
- Recruited culturally diverse students for the Environmental Science Academy and ensured a meaningful experience for them in the park.
- Worked with the University of California, Merced, to ensure that mutual goals (outreach, environmental science education) were met.
- Recruited park staff members to teach outreach classes.
- Hosted two Unilever high school interns.

- Served fifteen 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms in the Environmental Living Program (about 450 students). Redesigned program to function with minimal NPS staff involvement.
- Coordinated Yosemite Association intern program.
- Sent out about 150 copies of *Discover Yosemite*, a field trip guide.
- Worked with field branch to continue Parks as Classrooms programs and Junior Ranger program.

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## **FIELD OPERATIONS BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

- 1 Branch Chief, Mary Kline, GS-12
- 1 Valley Ops Lead, GS-9
- 3 Supervisory (4-5 months/year) Park Rangers, GS-9
- 3 Field Operations Park Rangers, GS-9
- 2 Field Operations Park Rangers/Indian Cultural Demonstrators, GS-9
- 1 Indian Cultural Demonstrator, GS-5
- 1 Stagecoach Driver, GS-7
- 1 Field Support Clerk, GS-5

Total FTE: 66

18 Permanent employees

2 Detailed employees

0 Term employees

46 Seasonal employees

12 Interns

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Made 1,749,246 visitor contacts in park visitor centers.
- Made 363,920 visitor contacts on programs or roves.
- Participated in 26 public meetings making over 305 presentations on the Yosemite Valley and Merced Wild and Scenic River Plans.
- Partnered with the U.S. Forest Service and WildLink to reach classrooms across the world through an interactive web site.
- Partnered with the Yosemite Fund to purchase and train four new horses for the Historic Stage.
- Recruited and made job offers to students from Southern University and to others from the Sequoia and Kings Canyon and the Yellowstone team recruitment trips.

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## **INTERPRETIVE SERVICES BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

1 Branch Chief, Jim Corless, GS-12

1 Master Interpreter, GS-11

1 Park Ranger/Webmaster, GS-9  
1 Park Ranger/Exhibit Specialist, GS-9  
1 Production Manager, GS-9 (Detailed)  
1 Writer-Editor, GS-11  
1 Videographer, GS-9

4 Permanent employees  
1 Detailed employee  
2 Term employees  
5 Volunteers, 160 hours

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Produced four Yosemite Guides; three issues of the Planning Update; a series of fact sheets for both the Draft and Final Merced River Plan/EIS; a series of fact sheets for both the Draft and Final Yosemite Valley Plan/EIS; and posted information to the web along with copies of the plans.
- Created and implemented a Yosemite National Park Style Guide for publications.
- Designed and produced a series of exhibits for the Merced River and the Yosemite Valley Plans' Open Houses and "Road Shows".
- Staffed and help organize the public meetings for the Merced River Plan.
- Wrote the 'Visitor Experience' sections and participated as a core team member for both the Merced River and the Yosemite Valley Plans
- Researched, purchased, and learned how to use \$36,000 in new camera and editing equipment.
- Produced an educational video for park employees called "Living in Bear Country."
- Video-documented Yosemite Valley Plan hearings and press events. Provided stock footage related to the plan to the media. Footage included Secretary Babbitt's speeches, the El Portal Road Opening event, August traffic and parking, flood shots, scenics, etc.
- Provided stock footage to the History Channel, Discovery Channel, and private producers on topics including bears, floods, and fire.
- Produced a video for the Interagency Sierra Bear Council on the effectiveness of different models of bear-proof food canisters.
- Finalized plans to renovate the West Auditorium into a theater for a new film. Assisted in the production of *The Spirit of Yosemite*, a new orientation film.
- Completed a bronze relief map for the Glacier Point viewing terrace.
- Designed and installed ten wayside exhibits on the Yosemite Valley Plan.
- Hosted a brown bag lunch lecture series for ten presenters and 226 attendants.
- Completed a Fee Demo flyer.
- Assisted in the production of maps, graphics, and flyers for the El Portal Road project.
- Provided media set-ups (microphones and AV equipment) for the Yosemite Association's Spring Forum and fall member's meeting, as well as for four media events.
- Revised the park's web site.
- Participated on the Yosemite Bear Council. Assisted in production of several publications about bears.
- Provided more than 120 formal and informal interpretive programs.
- Provided interpretive coaching for both NPS and concessioner walks and other programs.

- Reviewed twelve products submitted by NPS staff for the interpretive competencies.
- Established and strengthened the relationship between NPS' and Yosemite Concession Services' interpretive programs.
- Provided interpretive training for interpreters, law enforcement, and fee collection staff both in Yosemite and in other California national parks.
- Established a Communications Team to improve internal and external communication efforts about planning and to encourage participation. To this end several positions were established: a Production Manager to coordinate all communication tools, a Web Manager, and a Writer/Editor. The Communication Team was central to the success of the public involvement efforts with the Merced River and Yosemite Valley Plans.

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## **MEDIA RELATIONS BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

- 1 Branch Chief, Scott Gediman, GS-12
- 1 Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-11
- 1 Park Ranger, GS-7
- 1 Public Information Clerk, GS-5
- 2 Details: One Park Ranger, GS-7 (1 year) and one Park Ranger, GS-9 (120 days)
- 1 Term Park Ranger, GS-5

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Managed media communications for the Yosemite Valley and Merced River Plans. Efforts included working extensively with the news media, buying advertisements for public meetings, issuing press releases, writing and distributing public service announcements, and attending public meetings throughout the state.
- Continued to handle all media and public relations aspects of the Sund/Pellosso and Joie Armstrong murders. Worked with the FBI and other surrounding agencies regarding interest in the cases.
- Handled all press and public relations aspects of the Jan Davis fatality associated with the B.A.S.E. jumping protest/demonstration in October 1999.
- Continued with active participation in the Yosemite Bear Council by issuing news releases, planning public awareness events, designing and distributing bear flyers, and distributing the weekly "Bear Facts."
- Handled 3,500 print and broadcast media contacts, including regional, national, and international news outlets. Examples include network affiliates from San Francisco, Sacramento, Fresno, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Reno. Also included were national television broadcasts and international news outlets from England, Japan, and several other countries.

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## **DIVISION OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

### **MISSION**

The division mission is to manage facility design and construction projects at Yosemite. GPRA Goals include Construction Projects, Natural and Cultural Resource Protection, Archeological Sites Condition, and Visitor Enjoyment.

#### **Objectives:**

- Estimating design and construction costs
- Requesting and obtaining project funding
- Developing a project phasing schedule based on compliance issues, size and complexity of projects, location, type of work, and amount of design needed
- Enhancing accountability through project managers who are responsible for projects from beginning to end.
- Ensuring that park staff is adequately involved with the facility development process
- Providing regular status reports on project progress and expenditures

The Project Management Division was established during the 1997 flood emergency as the Office of Flood Recovery, a term (approximately four-year) organization responsible for repair and rehabilitation of Yosemite's flood-damaged facilities. While flood recovery was underway, the park's design and construction project workload increased significantly through other fund sources (Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, Federal Lands Highways Program, Line Item Construction, and Yosemite Fund). To avoid excessive collateral duties for other divisions, and to provide consistent and efficient project management procedures, the accountability for these projects was consolidated. The Office of Flood Recovery was renamed the Division of Project Management in 2000 to reflect its role in managing the expanded range of projects. The term of the Project Management Division is yet to be determined.

### **BUDGET**

- Total: \$10,184,750
- ONPS: \$0
- Flood Recovery (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, PL 105-18): \$8,954,876
- 80% Recreation Fee Demonstration Program: \$701,727
- Federal Lands Highways Program (Alternative Transportation & ERFO funding): \$105,612
- Line Item: \$100,000
- Yosemite Fund: \$322,535

### **STAFF**

1 Acting Chief of Project Management, Bill Delaney, GS-14  
1 Acting Deputy Chief of Project Management, GS-13  
4 Project Managers, GS-13  
1 Project Manager, GS-12  
1 Compliance Manager, GS-12  
1 Budget Analyst, GS-11

1 Management Assistant, GS-11  
1 Archeologist, GS-9  
1 Environmental Assistant, GS-7  
1 Secretary, GS-6  
1 Secretary, GS-5

Total FTE: 14

Total FTE of lapsed positions: 1

Total new hires: 1 term appointment. Positions are encumbered primarily through term detail or term promotion assignments from other divisions within the park.

Total transfers: 0

Total retirements: 0

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Completed the three-year reconstruction of the flood-damaged El Portal Road (6.4 miles of Highway 140 within the park).
- Cleaned, inspected, and slip-lined 6.4 miles of the main sewer line beneath El Portal Road.
- Repaired and reconstructed 24 miles of flood-damaged highcountry trails.
- Installed new pumps, motors, and controls at sewage lift station to prevent future flood damage.
- Obligated \$8.9 million for flood recovery projects and for related planning such as the Merced River Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (MRP) and the Yosemite Valley Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (YVP); coordinated project estimating and phasing for proposed YVP actions.
- Completed the design for improvements to the West Auditorium's audio-visual, electrical, lighting, heating/ventilation/air conditioning, seating, flooring, and acoustical systems.
- Installed 2.2 miles of telephone cable between the park boundary and the entrance station to replace damaged overhead lines and to restore the safety link for fee collection operations.
- Completed 21 Categorical Exclusions regarding project work.

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## **DIVISION OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

### **MISSION**

No Report

### **BUDGET**

No Report

### **STAFF**

No Report

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- The majority of the Resources Management staff focused on the development of the Yosemite Valley Plan Final EIS. Although all permanent staff dedicated over 90% of their time to this high priority task, others within the division were able to accomplish projects and maintain several programs within the division. Accomplishments are identified by program area.

### **Vegetation Management and Ecological Restoration Programs**

- **Exotic Species Management:** Participated in the Central Sierra Noxious Weed Alliance and the Merced River Canyon Weed Team; controlled weeds in Yosemite Valley, Foresta, El Portal, El Portal Road corridor, and park-wide; donated over 1,000 volunteer hours to this effort (base, VIP, and Natural Resources Cyclic funding).
- **Species of Concern:** Completed surveys for plant species in the El Portal administrative site in conjunction with mapping of encroaching exotic species (base funding).
- **Ecological Restoration:** Continued restoration of Cook's meadow in Yosemite Valley with continued monitoring of water wells, vegetation transects, and elimination of ditches; completed restoration of old campground and restroom sites at Tenaya Lake; completed wilderness restoration at Smedberg and Benson Lakes, Tiltill Valley, Vogelsang Lake, Little Yosemite Valley and Lost Valley, and Elizabeth Lake (work was split between the Tuolumne and Merced watersheds); and initiated restoration at the Tuolumne and Merced Groves (Yosemite Fund (YF) funding).
- **Inventory and Monitoring:** Continued monitoring work associated with all restoration and construction projects (YF and FLHP funding). Projects included vegetation and ecological condition recovery; evaluation of exotic plant eradication effectiveness; 10-year post-fire recovery evaluations of plots and photo points within the 1990 A-Rock and Steamboat Fire boundaries; and giant sequoia GPS mapping and documentation in the Merced and Tuolumne Groves in conjunction with Yosemite Institute Stewardship project (base funding).
- **Presentations and Publications:** Presented posters and delivered a presentation at the West by Northwest conference in San Diego, Feb. 2000; delivered presentations to the West Valley College, San Jose State University, and to Wilderness Management staff for Yosemite and the Stanislaus National Forest (base funding).

### **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Program**

- **Tuolumne Meadows Former Fueling Station Remediation:** Upgraded remediation system to include air sparging.
- **El Portal Chevron Station:** Conducted preliminary investigation.
- **Environmental Quality Program** received regulatory "No Further Action" status for five former underground storage tank sites, upgraded remediation capacity at a sixth site, and began investigations at a seventh site.
- Received Regulatory "No Further Action Status" for Yosemite Valley General Maintenance Area Site.
- Received Regulatory "No Further Action Status" for Yosemite Valley Administration Building Site.
- Received Regulatory "No Further Action Status" for Yosemite Valley Former Paint Shop Site.
- Received Regulatory "No Further Action Status" for El Portal Former Barium Mill Site.

- Received Regulatory "No Further Action Status" for El Portal Waste Water Treatment Plant Site.

### **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA-"Superfund") Program**

- During Fiscal Year 2000 the Yosemite Environmental Quality Program conducted subsurface site investigations at five waste accumulation areas and dumps in Yosemite Valley and the Tuolumne Meadows region.
- Conducted Investigation at Curry Village Dump.
- Conducted Investigation at Pohono Pit Waste Accumulation Area.
- Conducted Investigation at South Pit Waste Accumulation Area.
- Conducted Investigation at Taft Toe Dump.
- Conducted Investigation at Gaylor Pit Dump.

### **Physical Science Programs**

- Continued to support Yosemite National Park Order II Soil Survey in conjunction with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Continued to support baseline water quality inventory research in conjunction with the United States Geologic Service.

### **Other Program Support**

- Yosemite National Park Safety Program: Served on Yosemite Safety Committee.
- Pacific West Region Environmental Audit Program: Served as a team leader for the Pinnacles National Monument Environmental Audit. Served as park point of contact for Yosemite National Park Audit.

### **Wildlife Management**

- Bears: The escalated Bear Management Program was successful during the program's second year, with incidents (654) and property damage (\$126,192) down 15% and 44%, respectively, from 1999 levels. Incidents and property damage decreased over 60% and 80%, respectively, from the high levels of 1998. The Yosemite Bear Council again played a key role in the success by setting program objectives, allocating funding, and addressing immediate issues throughout the year. Interdivisional cooperation in this program was good. Completed the Black Bear Management and Incident Summary Report 1/1/00-12/31/00.
- The Hornocker Wildlife Institute: Completed the first year of research in the systematic analysis of the interaction of human and natural factors that lead to human-bear conflicts. Surveyed visitors and employees for their perceptions about human-bears issues, assessed the effectiveness of informational materials, and evaluated past trends in human-bear conflicts.
- Inventory and Monitoring: Worked with Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Devil's Postpile National Monument, and the U.S. Geological Survey-Biological Research Division to write the Sierra Nevada Network Biological Inventory Plan. This plan is the first stage in the development of an Inventory and Monitoring program under the National Inventory and Monitoring Initiative. Data gaps were identified, and projects developed to fill those gaps. Collection and management of existing and future data are important components of the plan. The Washington Office of the NPS accepted the plan with minor changes.

- **Fish and Amphibians:** Through a cooperative agreement with the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory, approximately 1,200 bodies of water in Yosemite were surveyed to collect data on non-native fish, amphibians, and benthic invertebrates. This research is aimed at determining the impact of non-native fish, and identifying strategies for restoration of aquatic ecosystems. Results show that populations of mountain yellow-legged frogs in Yosemite are continuing to decline at an alarming rate, with the leading causes suspected to be predation by non-native fish and disease. Some lakes that have naturally reverted to a fishless state have been recolonized by frogs, whereas others have not.
- **Bighorn Sheep:** Park biologists worked with the California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service to develop recovery strategies for the endangered Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep. This included control of mountain lions, alteration of domestic sheep grazing allotments, and possible captive breeding. Some populations of bighorns in the Sierra are showing signs of recovery, but the herd nearest the park is apparently continuing to decline, with fewer than 20 animals left. Causes for this decline probably include lion predation and winter mortality.
- **Interagency Cooperation:** Park biologists cooperated with other agencies to address wildlife issues through participation in the Central Sierra Interagency Bear Group, Yosemite Deer Herd Advisory Committee, Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Interagency Advisory Group, Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Stakeholders Group, and the Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Conservation Strategy Group.

### **Cultural Resources**

- Received SHPO consultation for on-site discovery at Mirror Lake.
- Completed nine small-scale resource protection archeological monitoring projects.
- Coordinated resource protection programs for trails, hazard trees, and prescribed fire.
- Completed eight small-scale archeological inventories, as well as compliance for small-scale development or restoration projects
- Completed four large-scale inventory and site documentation projects: one in support of planned prescribed burns; one based on post-burn inventory; one of a reservoir basin (monitoring & updated documentation of previously inventoried area); one in support of wilderness restoration and one in support of trail reconstruction. Newly discovered sites were documented and previously known sites checked.
- Completed two excavation projects. One was conducted by a private researcher under an ARPA permit (two archeological sites in Yosemite Valley) and one was through the Western Archeological & Conservation Center at the historic dump, in support of waste accumulation area investigations.
- Instituted a pilot archeological site-monitoring program through Resource Protection ranger operations.
- Continued government to government consultation with seven park-associated tribes, including the first annual meeting of all park-associated tribes

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## **DIVISION OF VISITOR AND RESOURCE PROTECTION**

### **MISSION**

The division protects life and property, resources and resource values inherent with the creation of the park, and provides resource-related education to those living in and visiting the park.

The division manages the park's law enforcement, physical security, drug interdiction, emergency communications center and other telecommunications, physical fitness, and critical incident stress programs. It manages a jail and provides paralegal support for the court located in the park. The division provides emergency medical services and emergency operations such as search and rescue, from sheer cliff rock faces, avalanches, rockfall incidents, as well as wildfires, rivers or other bodies of water, etc. The division is responsible for wildland fire management, structural fire protection, prescribed fire, and fire prevention. Backcountry use management, monitoring, analysis, and climbing management are other duties undertaken. The division works closely with other law enforcement agencies and coordinates with the Regional Solicitor's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Magistrate. The division consists of permanent and seasonal staff primarily in the park ranger (law enforcement), fire management, and forestry occupations, but also including administrative specialists and support staff. (– from Yosemite National Park Strategic Plan)

### **BUDGET**

- Total: \$7,201,221
- ONPS budget: \$4,559,000
- City of San Francisco: \$1,075,522
- Mariposa County: \$72,235
- State of California: \$30,000
- Yosemite Fund: \$204,446
- FirePro: \$1,199,975
- Other: \$60,043

### **STAFF**

Chief Ranger, Robert Andrew, GS-14

1 Secretary, GS-7

1 Supervisory Budget Analyst, GS-9

1 Branch Chief, Assistant Chief Ranger of Operations, GS-13

1 Branch Chief, Assistant Chief Ranger of Law Enforcement Support, GS-13

1 Branch Chief, Assistant Chief Ranger of Fire Management, GS-13

1 Branch Chief, Resources Protection, GS-12

Total FTE: 119.50

Total FTE of lapsed positions: 5.47

Total new hires: 8

Total transfers: 9

Total retirements: 2

## **HIGHLIGHT**

- The FBI presented several employees with certificates for their initial work and assistance on the Joie Armstrong Case.

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## **FIRE MANAGEMENT BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

Fire Management Officer, Ed Duncan, GS-13

1 Fire Program Assistant, GS-6

1 Fire Protection Inspector, GS-8

1 Prescribed Fire Specialist, GS-9

1 Prescribed Fire Manager, GS-11

1 Fire Protection Specialist, GS-11

3 Supervisory Forestry Technicians (Engine Captain)

1 Assistant Fire Manager Officer, GS-11

1 Supervisory Forestry Technician (Helitack Supervisor), GS-9

1 Lead Firefighter (Cache Manager), GS-6

1 Forestry Technician (Dispatch Supervisor), GS-7/9

1 Supervisory Telecommunications Specialist, GS-12

1 Telecommunications Specialist, GS-11

1 Fire Ecologist, GS-9

1 Forestry Technician (Monitor Crew Supervisor), GS-7

6 Forestry Technicians, GS-6

3 Forestry Technicians, GS-5

1 Forestry Technician (Dispatch), GS-7

20 Permanent employees

0 Detailed employees

7 Term employees

40 Seasonal Employees

0 Interns

Total number of volunteer hours: 9,476 - Benefit to park \$135,636

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Jeff Power (Helitack Supervisor) did a detail as the Pacific West Region's Aviation Officer for six pay periods
- Aaron Fritzer (Valley Station Captain) served on the NPS Fire Equipment Board to help establish the Firepro Working Capital Equipment Fund.
- Bob Reece served on the Cal Interagency Incident Management Team 1 as Air Operation Branch Director (3 assignments) and was visited by President Bill Clinton and Secretary Bruce Babbitt in Idaho on the Burdorf Incident.
- Submitted a proposal for the new Crane Flat landing spot to the Planning Clearing House (waiting on EA).
- Submitted plan for the El Portal helicopter landing spot (waiting on EA).

- Provided aviation support to the maintenance division using a Type 1 helicopter to fly bridges to Tenaya Canyon and Snow Creek.

### **Major Fires**

- None! Full Suppression was initiated with the moratorium on fire use.

### **Other Incidents**

- Supported emergency responses to all the mutual aid incidents around the park.
- Emergency communications, logistical support, and the Incident Command Post were based out of the Fire Management Office.

### **Helicopter Program**

- The park helicopter flew for 228 hours and performed 95 heli-rappel operations for both fire and search and rescue missions.

### **Management Efficiency**

- Interagency cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection was enhanced this year with the contribution of approximately 9,000 hours of inmate labor from the Baseline and Mt. Bullion Conservation Camps.
- Projects included fire hazard reduction, assisting with roadside vegetation thinning, exotic plant removal, support to Valley Utilities, and Lake Eleanor Campground cleanup.

### **New Construction**

- No new construction projects were done.

### **New Acquisitions**

- A new helicopter support vehicle was purchased at a cost of \$62,000 (Firepro funding)

### **Wildland Fire**

- Wildfires (human-caused): 19 fires totaling 32.1 acres.
- Wildland (lighting-caused): 34 fires totaling 8.1 acres.
- Total fires: 53
- Total acres: 40.2

### **Structural Fire Alarm Responses**

- Administrative Flights: 13
- Air Ambulance standby: 46
- Alarm, no fire: 58
- Dumpster: 13
- Emergency medical service: 9
- False alarm, malicious: 2
- Fire or explosion: 11
- Hazardous condition: 26
- Motor vehicle accident: 67
- Public service: 8

- Search and rescue: 54

### **Prescribed Fire Operations**

- Seven members of the Hazard Fuels Crew were detailed to the Stanislaus National Forest to work on an initial attack crew of 20 Airborne Firefighters from July to October.
- South Fork PW3 area management burn 325 acres.
- Piles to reduce hazardous fuels were accomplished in Yosemite Valley, Forestra, Hodgdon, Wawona, and El Portal. 1,750 piles were burned.

### **Structure Fire Operations**

- Hosted one Structural Firefighter, Level II class and trained 40 new firefighters.

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## **LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT BRANCH**

### **STAFF AND HIGHLIGHTS**

Report submitted in hardcopy format. Original was placed on file with this report in the Research Library.

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## **OPERATIONS BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

1 Branch Chief, assistant chief ranger of operations, GS-13  
1 Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-12  
6 Supervisory Park Rangers, GS-11  
29 Park Rangers, GS-09  
1 Lead Administrative Technician, GS-06  
3 Administrative Technicians, GS-05  
1 Admin Technician detailed to Search & Rescue, GS-07  
1 Park Ranger detailed to Wilderness, GS-09  
2 Term Park Rangers, GS-07  
5 Interns  
0 VIPs

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Responded to 3,701 incidents/calls.
- Made 242 arrests.
- Completed 147 search and rescue responses, including five major ground searches.
- Assisted with 10 fatalities, including three related to motor vehicle accidents.
- Performed seven operations involving heli-repelling. Six resulted in saving injured and stranded visitors and one was a tactical operation.

- Assisted with the three significant rockslides in February, March, and July. Two of the slides resulted in road closures for multiple days. One slide was in Curry Village, and required a temporary evacuation.
- Actively participated in the Bear Management Program. The Bear Management account funded two and a half-seasonal rangers. 67 vehicles were towed due to improperly stored food.
- Medic 3 (contract ambulance in Yosemite Valley) responded to 196 calls and the rangers responded to 342 calls.
- A park ranger taught D.A.R.E. classes for the Yosemite Valley School
- Yosemite responded to numerous Critical Incident Stress Management callouts both inside and outside the park.

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## RESOURCE PROTECTION BRANCH

### STAFF

1 Branch Chief, Jeri Hall, GS-401-12

#### *Permanent Employees:*

- 1 Park Ranger (LE), Resource Protection Coordinator, GS-11
- 1 Park Ranger (LE), Wilderness Manager, GS-11
- 1 Park Ranger (LE-STF), Climbing Manager, GS-9
- 1 Park Ranger (LE-STF), Nordic Supervisor/Horse Patrol, GS-9
- 1 Park Ranger (LE-STF), Wilderness, GS-9
- 1 Park Ranger, Permit Supervisor, GS-9

#### *Detailed Employees:*

1 Park Ranger (LE), from Valley District (4 months), GS-9

#### *Seasonal Employees:*

- 6 Park Ranger, Wilderness Permits, GS-4
- 7 Park Ranger (LE), Climbing, Foot, Horse, or Nordic Patrols, GS-5
- 1 Outdoor Recreation Assistant, Resource Protection, GS-7

#### *Interagency Employee:*

1 (Term), Wilderness Education Project, GS-9

#### 10 Volunteers/Interns:

- 2 VIPs
- 3 SCA Interns (2 Permits/1 WildLink)
- 5 YA Interns

Total VIP Hours: 5,460

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Branch of Resource Protection was reorganized in November 1999 to include the Wilderness Management District and the Resource Protection Program.
- Branch Chief was designated as the Protection Division Coordinator for the Tuolumne Watershed Protection Program and as a representative to the park-wide team.
- Participated extensively in the development of the Tuolumne Watershed Protection Five Year Plan, 1999 Annual Report, and 2000 Interim Action Plan.
- Developed and coordinated a 40-hour, Region-wide, “Resource Stewardship for Protection Rangers” training course held for 38 participants in November 1999.
- Coordinated the development of a Region-wide “Resource Stewardship and Protection Training Curriculum” and gave presentations on it at the Chief Rangers Conference and to the Region’s Ranger Activities Committee.
- Served as member of an instructor cadre for “Resource Protection” at the service-wide “New Division Chiefs” training course at Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Presented a paper on “Prototype Universal Campsites at Lower Pines” at the Northeast Recreation Research Conference in April 2000.
- Branch Chief completed the first Pacific West Region’s Supervisory Leadership Training Program.
- Developed and coordinated a three day, interdivisional, “Archeological Resource Protection Act” training for Yosemite employees.
- Coordinated interdivisional development and implementation of a prototype monitoring program for “Archeological Sites at Risk.”
- Rangers monitored 35 archeological sites park-wide.
- Developed a Resource Protection Team that focused on improving communications between Rangers and Resource Management, resulting in greater protection of Yosemite resources.
- Served as a Protection Representative at a Foresta public meeting required as part of the resolution of an ARPA case.
- Resolved one case under the “National Park’s Resource Protection Act” (19jj), and performed resource damage assessments on six other cases.
- Initiated publication of “The Protection Ranger’s Resource Newsletter.”
- Participated as members of the Interpretive Management Team and Bear Council.
- Issued 16,656 Wilderness Permits, and provided resource protection information and education to each permittee. There were a total of 48,607 Wilderness Users who stayed a total of 100,404 Use Nights.
- Wilderness Patrol and Permit staff hiked 2,879 miles, and covered another 2,154 miles on horseback, in order to make 5,499 educational/resource protection contacts, and 60 enforcement contacts.
- The staff removed a total of 342 illegal fire rings.
- Authored the ‘Wilderness’ component of the Merced River Plan
- Assisted with a major restoration of the historical Merced Lake Ranger Station.
- Opened the new Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center to the public. This grant-funded building was constructed primarily by volunteers.
- Completed the Vernal Nevada Falls Trail sign project. Replaced approximately 70 signs along the trail corridor with 11 ‘Meeker’ style signs.
- Improved interagency cooperation with monitoring commercial use.

- Participated in the Backcountry Horsemen's Convention.
- Initiated a sociological and managerial impacts study with Robert Manning and Peter Newman from the University of Vermont.
- Hosted two congressional visits to Yosemite's wilderness.
- The WildLink project hosted its first group of culturally diverse students, introducing them to the concepts of wilderness management and preservation.
- Completed the Buffalo Soldier web site – [www.shadowsoldier.org](http://www.shadowsoldier.org).
- Measured 32 snow courses for the State Water Resources Board.
- Monitored six grazing transects.
- Removed and/or repaired four drift fences.
- Participated in U.S. Forest Service's Negotiated Rule Making process regarding bolting.
- Developed and implemented a Minimum Requirement Reporting procedure.
- Hosted the Central Sierra Wilderness Manager's Meeting

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT, FY 2000

SUBMISSION DATE: April 24, 2001

BRANCH OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT

BRANCH CHIEF, DON COELHO GS- 025-13

WORK UNITS:

CRIMINAL INVESTGATIVE UNIT (CIU)

One Supervisory Special Agent GS-1811-12  
Three Special Agents, GS-1811-11  
One vacancy, GS-1811-11

DETENTION FACICLITY

One Supervisory Corrections Officer GS-007-9  
Three GS-025-7/9 Park Ranger/Jailers  
Four GS-025-7/9 Park Ranger Jailers (vacant)

PARK WIDE COMMUNICATION CENTER

Two Supervisory communications center supervisors GS-10, GS-7  
Five emergency service dispatchers GS-5/7  
Two Vacancies'  
Two Fire dispatchers (One is seasonal)  
Two vacancies

PARK LEGAL OFFICE (Prosecutions)

Two Paralegal Specialist (vacant)  
One seasonal employee GS-6 (law school graduate)

## ADMINISTRATION

One Administrative Assistant, GS-303-5

## DIVISION TRAINING COORDINATOR

One Park Ranger, GS-025-9

## COMMUNITY SERVICES (Special Emphasis Officer)

One Park Ranger, GS-025-9

Nine Volunteer staff (VIP) "Desk Officers"

Two GS-5 Lead traffic technicians (seasonal)

Ten traffic technicians GS-1/2 (seasonal)

## BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

Branch Chief assisted WASO as a task force member in major rewrite of service wide medical screening program. Project is on going.

Negotiated and entered into three Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with three of four surrounding counties.

## C.I.U.

Investigated two hundred and seventy five criminal cases

Twenty-one civil cases in which three are multi million dollar tort claims against the National Park Service.

Thirteen Responses to out of Park assignment to assist the region and other Park requests for investigative assistance.

Supervisory S/A is leading service wide task for in rewriting certain portions of Directors orders as they pertain to Law Enforcement.

Supervisory S/A is regional S.E.T. leader. Working with PWR in upgrading S.E.T. training, requirements and recruiting.

Park S.E.T members responded to seven callouts.

Developed park Special response team to deal with in Park, emergency situations.

## DETENTION FACILITY

Dealt with three hundred and sixty two in custody prisoners. This was an increase of fifty prisoners from 1999

Seven hundred and eighty prisoner nights (over night stays), an increase of sixty nights from 1999 numbers.

Conversion from 007 series to 025 Park Ranger series was accomplished. This will result in a local intake program in which recruitment will be at the GS-5/7 level.

## COMMUNICATION CENTER

Accomplished a major move from old dispatch center in Yosemite Valley to new facility in El Portal.

Consolidated fire dispatch and emergency service dispatch into a true all risk communication center.

Upgrade antiquated equipment into new state of the art communications that incorporated Enhanced 911, C.L.E.T.S., local files, record keeping into a C.A.D. system.

## LEGAL OFFICE

Made twelve hundred and thirty three separate appearances presenting cases before the U.S. Magistrate. Of these cases, approximately one third were felonies that were committed in Yosemite.

Conducted fifteen full-scale trials of which thirteen convictions were obtained.

Appeared twenty six times in U.S. District court to assist United States Attorney in trial of felony cases emanating from Yosemite National Park

## ADMINISTRATION

Developed database to track RM-57 (service wide L.E. Medical standards program) results and medical test cycles for Yosemite Rangers. It is the first in the service and will be used service wide.

## DIVISION TRAINING COORDINATOR

Coordinated approximately two thousand hours of training for the Branch. Training included L.E., Fire, S.A.R., and horse/backcountry operations.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

Serves on four-area/county wide task force, three of which the Ranger was elected to serve as chairperson for the 2000/2001 term.

Developed as serves as the division representative on the N.P.S./Y.C.S. mid level manager and community outreach committee. A group that was formed to deal with Visitor protection/Y.C.S employee issues.

Took lead in establishing the summer Traffic task force. Recruited from local school in utilizing S.T.E.P program to introduce local school and inner city youth to the national Park service.

Re-Initiated the community bicycle registration program through his over sight of the volunteer (VIP) "Park Desk Officer " program.