

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_

=====

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 16000192

Date Listed: 04/21/2016


Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Property Name

Tulare  
County

CA  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

4/21/2016  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

**Location:**

The Street Location is amended to add: *Along High Sierra Trail, 11 miles East of Crescent Meadow.*

**Classification:**

The *Resource Count* is revised to add one contributing structure and remove one non-contributing structure (Trail Segment). [While the segment of the High Sierra Trail passing through the camp was first laid out prior to the establishment of the concessionaire camp, it nonetheless existed during the period of significance, serving as the main historic access to the wilderness campsite, while also defining the physical layout of the camp into two separate (concessionaire and administrative) functional areas. The trail segment contributes to the historic significance of the district during the period of significance.]

**Description:**

The dimensions of the *Ranger Patrol Cabin* (1934) should read 14' x 18'. [Typo correction]

These clarifications were confirmed with the NPS FPO office.

-----  
DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

192

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Bearpaw High Sierra Camp

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: Sequoia National Park

City or town: Three Rivers State: California County: Tulare

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

	<u>3/9/2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>NPS FPO</u>	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u>X</u> meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
	<u>2/12/16</u>
Jenan Saunders	Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	California State Office of Historic Preservation
Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

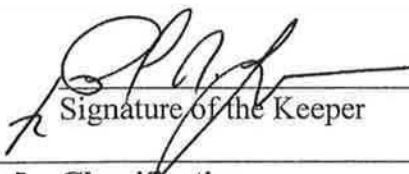
Tulare, CA  
County and State

---

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

4/21/2016  
Date of Action

---

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Camp  
GOVERNMENT/Patrol cabin

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/Camp  
GOVERNMENT/Patrol cabin

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VERNACULAR/wood frame

OTHER/Rustic

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, canvas, metal

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

---

### Summary Paragraph

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp is located in Sequoia National Park, California, in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is accessible only by trail, typically via an 11.3 mile journey along the High Sierra Trail from the Crescent Meadow trailhead. The camp is perched dramatically on a mountainside, at 7,800 feet in elevation, with spectacular views across the valley of the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River and east to the peaks of the Great Western Divide. This nomination evaluates Bearpaw High Sierra Camp, a concession camp that provides overnight lodging, and two National Park Service ranger patrol cabins that are adjacent to the camp. The concession camp, which opened in 1934, consists of six guest tent cabins, a dining hall and kitchen, a manager's tent cabin, a shower building, a guest toilet, and an employee restroom. The camp is one of six backcountry High Sierra Camps in the National Park System, and is the only one outside of Yosemite National Park. The tent cabins and the dining hall and kitchen are contributing buildings. The High Sierra Trail separates the camp from two ranger cabins that lie on the north side of the trail. One is a rustic style log cabin built under the Public Works Administration program in 1934, the same year that the concession camp was constructed, and it is a contributing building. The other is a wood A-frame cabin built by the NPS in 1964; it was built outside of the period of significance, and is a noncontributing building. The segment of the High Sierra Trail that passes through the camp is a noncontributing structure, since it was constructed before the period of significance. Bearpaw High Sierra Camp and the associated rustic patrol cabin retain integrity to the historic period.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

---

## **Narrative Description**

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp is located in Sequoia National Park, at 7,800 feet in elevation. The camp is set on the edge of a slope above the valley of the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River, with views over the valley to the Great Western Divide, one of the tallest subranges in the Sierra Nevada Mountains with peaks that soar to over 13,000 feet. It is accessed via an 11.3 mile hike along the High Sierra Trail from the Crescent Meadow trailhead. The site is noteworthy for its spectacular setting, which has remained unchanged since 1934.

The concession camp consists of six guest tent cabins, a kitchen and dining hall, a manager's tent cabin, a shower building, a guest toilet building, and an employee restroom tent. There are other small scale features scattered around the site, such as a wood-fueled water heater and camping tents that serve as employee sleeping areas, but these are removable and change location from year to year. There are also two ranger cabins, one dating from 1934 and built in the rustic style, and the other an A-frame built in 1964. Both ranger cabins are set just north of, and across the High Sierra Trail from, the concession camp.

Visitors approach the camp from the northwest on a short rock-lined spur trail from the High Sierra Trail. The High Sierra Trail bisects the camp as it runs between the two ranger cabins and the concession camp. The trail as a whole is 49 miles in length, from the Crescent Meadow Trailhead to its terminus at the John Muir Trail. The segment that runs through the camp was built in 1930, and thus falls outside of the period of significance for this nomination.

On the north side of the High Sierra Trail, across from the concession camp, the two ranger stations are set close together in a small clearing in the mixed conifer forest of white fir, red fir, and Jeffrey pine. The rustic ranger cabin is set just northwest and uphill of the 1964 A-frame; the A-frame is set upon a level building site created by a dry-laid rock wall on two sides. To the south of the trail, the forest gives way to a larger clearing; the dining tent, manager's tent, guest toilet, and shower are set amidst sparse trees, while the tent cabins are set on granite interspersed with montane chaparral (primarily manzanita). The manager's tent, the shower building, the guest toilet, the employee restroom tent, and the kitchen and dining hall are laid out from west to east along the trail. The six guest cabins are set southwest of the kitchen and dining hall; cabins 1, 2, and 3 are aligned above cabins 4, 5, and 6. The latter three are closer to the steep drop-off at the edge of the mountain, though all six cabins appear as if perched on the mountainside.

## **Contributing Buildings**

### Guest tent cabins

There are six guest tent cabins, each with wood platforms and off-white canvas walls and roof. Metal tent frames support the canvas. Each tent measures about 10' wide, 12' long, and 8'10" tall at the canvas roof peak. The wood platforms have post and pier foundations. Three wood steps lead to the door of each tent, and a wood plank door provides entry to each tent. The canvas walls on each side except for the front contain a screen window with a canvas shade. Floors are

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp

Name of Property

Tulare, CA

County and State

wood plank. Each tent contains two twin beds, a nightstand, and two chairs. The cabins are accessed via a path from the kitchen and dining hall. Cabin #1 is closest to the dining hall, while cabin #6 lies at the end of the path, furthest from the hall and at the edge of camp.

Most of the cabin materials have been replaced; the wood frames and canvas suffer in the harsh alpine environment of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Metal interior tent frames and square, dimensional lumber have replaced the round timbers, cut on-site, that originally supported the tents. However, the cabins are still canvas tents on wood platforms, and they retain their character. Like the High Sierra Camps in Yosemite that are listed on the National Register, the exact location of each cabin may have changed slightly since 1934. However, the location of the group of cabins as a whole has remained the same.

Despite the changes in materials and minor changes in individual location, the tent cabins retain integrity as part of the Bearpaw High Sierra Camp. The number, style, and function of the cabins remain the same, and they continue to be clustered in the original site, down the slope from the dining hall. The setting, amongst granite and manzanita on the edge of a mountainside with the same views over the valley of the Kaweah River to the Great Western Divide, is the same. Feeling and association remain intact, and the cabins would be easily recognizable to a visitor from 1934.

#### Dining hall and kitchen

The dining hall and kitchen is a single building set at the edge of the forest, with expansive views from the front porch. It contains 480 square feet, including the porches. This building is wood and canvas, and it contains more wood elements than the tent cabins. The building contains wood pony walls on all four sides; canvas or wood frame windows are set between the walls and the roof. A wood plank door with a screen window on the east side of the building serves as the guest entrance to the dining room; an identical door serves as a back door. A plywood roof tops the building, though the wood is concealed from the exterior by the canvas that is stretched across the top. The canvas is supported at the edges by round timbers; it is unclear if any of the timbers are original, but they resemble the original wood supports.

Three wood 4-light windows are set on either side of the door. Two 4-light windows are set on the building's north side, near the front corner of the building, and two additional 4-light windows are set in the middle on this side. Three 4-light windows are also set on the south side, at the front corner. Canvas is stretched between the top of the pony walls and the bottom of the roof structure along the remainder of the building.

Front and back porches extend from the east and west end, respectively. Three stairs on the building's north side lead to the front porch. The porch offers spectacular views and is a favorite spot for guests. Deck railings are made of round timbers. Three vertical round timbers extend from the porch floor; canvas is fastened to the top of these poles, and this creates shelter for the porch. The back porch contains a propane grill, used for guest meal preparation, and is also used for employee meals.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

The interior is simple and rustic. The floor is wood plank and exposed roof trusses are visible overhead. The building is divided into two spaces—a dining room and a kitchen. The dining room is furnished with long wood tables, picnic benches, and wood shelves. The kitchen contains modern appliances, food storage, and food preparation tables. A doorway with saloon-style doors is set in between the rooms.

The dining hall and kitchen retains integrity to the historic period. While some wood and canvas elements have been replaced, the building remains in the same location, and the setting has changed little. There is still original design and workmanship evident in this building, and feeling and association remain very strong. Guests still gather here for meals at communal tables and enjoy the spectacular views from the front porch.

#### Ranger patrol cabin (1934)

The cabin, built in 1934 with Public Works Administration funds, is 14' by 18" and 252 square feet. The building is log construction, with log walls; each log is 10" to 12" in diameter, with 20" logs at the base of the cabin. A 10" log girder and log rafters as well as log joists provide structural support. 8" log beams serve as the bottom chord of the roof truss. The shake roof is gabled with eaves. Three log purlins protrude beyond the roof line at the gable ends, making them prominent features of the front and rear of the cabin. A vertical plank door is set on the south side of the cabin. Double casement windows, each with six panes and 2'4" by 3', occupy the middle of the east and west side of the building. The interior walls, floor and ceiling are ¾" by 4" tongue and groove.

The cabin was likely used for winter storage for the camp when the ranger was not in residence, and is now used for year-round storage for the Bearpaw High Sierra Camp concession. Though it is no longer used as a patrol cabin, it retains integrity to the historic period. The exterior logs are largely original, though some show signs of rot. Some elements of the windows and roof may have been replaced. The cabin remains in the same location, across the High Sierra Trail from the Bearpaw concession camp. The setting, along the trail in coniferous forest adjacent to Bearpaw High Sierra Camp, has remained largely the same, though the addition of another ranger patrol cabin in 1964 does slightly compromise integrity of setting. Design, workmanship, and materials retain integrity, as do feeling and association; the rustic cabin is clearly associated with the Emergency Conservation Work programs and the rustic architecture that was built in national parks in the 1930s.

#### Noncontributing Buildings

##### Ranger patrol cabin (1964)

This building is a wood-framed, A-frame ranger patrol cabin built in 1964. It houses a ranger during the summer months, and includes a kitchen, bath, living room, and loft bedroom. The building is set on a concrete slab foundation, and contains one story with a loft. It is clad with vertical redwood siding, painted brown, and is topped with a wood shake roof that extends to the ground. Access is via a wood and glass front door, set on the east side. There are three slider windows on the rear side of the cabin, two 3' x 2' windows on the lower half of the building and



Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

one 5' window on the upper half. On the front, a large 5' fixed window is set on the upper story, and two 5'4" fixed windows, set over two 2'8" sliding windows, are placed on the lower level. A large, 6' deep concrete slab porch, sheltered by a roof overhang, is set in front of the building. A solar panel has been fixed to the front of the building, as has the wood "Bearpaw Ranger Station" sign that used to be affixed to the rustic ranger cabin built in 1934. The building is set on a slope, and a dry-laid rock retaining wall has been built to provide a level surface on the eastern and southern sides of the cabin. The building is noncontributing since it was built in 1964 and thus falls outside of the period of significance of this nomination.

#### Manager's tent

This is a canvas tent cabin, similar to the guest tent cabins (measuring 10' x 20'), set to the northwest of the guest shower building. The manager's tent originally was adjacent to the back of the dining hall building, so that the manager could detect when bears or other animals might try to enter the dining hall. Due to the move it is a noncontributing resource.

#### Employee restroom tent

The employee restroom tent is set just west of the dining and kitchen hall. It contains a toilet, sink, and shower for employee use. This was not present during the period of significance, and is a noncontributing resource.

#### Guest shower building

This small (95 square feet) building is set in between the toilet building and the manager's tent. It was built in the 1990s in approximately the same spot as a previous shower building. The building contains horizontal redwood plank walls with vertical plank doors, and an asphalt shingle roof. It contains two shower stalls, each with a small changing area, and a sink. There is no evidence that the camp originally contained a shower building, and since this was constructed after the period of significance, it is noncontributing.

#### Guest toilet

A flush toilet is located in a small redwood plank building. The building dates from the 1990s; it replaced a canvas-walled toilet building. It is noncontributing.

#### Integrity

The location of the camp and the rustic ranger cabin are the same as when the facilities were built in 1934, and they remain accessible only by trail. Within the camp, the six guest tent cabins remain in the same general location, though the exact location of each tent cabin may have been slightly altered. The setting, just off the High Sierra Trail in a forest clearing on the edge of a mountainside high over the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River and facing the Great Western Divide, remains the same. The camp's design retains integrity, as the layout, spatial relationships, and style generally have not changed. While the individual materials have necessarily been replaced on the tent cabins (the wood elements of the tent platforms are periodically replaced, as is the canvas), the character of the cabins retains integrity and the type of materials—canvas and wood—are the same as were used when the camp opened.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

Workmanship is still evident in the ranger cabin and the dining and kitchen tent, though the simple style of the guest tent cabins did not provide an example of superior workmanship when they were constructed. The camp and the log ranger cabin still strongly exhibit integrity of feeling and association. A visitor to the camp in 1934 would have a hard time identifying changes to the site, with the exception of the addition of the noncontributing 1964 ranger patrol cabin.

The camp retains a simple, rustic feel. The function of the camp, as a concessioner-operated overnight lodging for Sequoia National Park visitors, remains the same. Six tent cabins still accommodate only twelve guests. Guests trek more than eleven miles up the High Sierra Trail to visit the camp, just as they did in 1934, and meals are still provided. The water is still heated by wood-fired heater, as it has been since the camp opened, and the water continues to be piped from the same marsh above the district. The camp continues to be supplied by a mule train that leaves from the Wolverton trailhead each week. The rustic ranger patrol cabin is now used for storage for the camp, and it has not been altered to accommodate this purpose.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION

CONSERVATION

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1934-1942

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1934

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Sequoia and General Grant National Parks Company

Public Works Administration

\_\_\_\_\_

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp is significant under Criterion A at the local level of significance in the areas of Recreation and Conservation. The camp is one of six backcountry High Sierra Camps in existence, and it is the only one outside of Yosemite National Park.<sup>1</sup> The High Sierra Camps were the brainchild of the first National Park Service director, Steven Mather, and they are an expression of the National Park Service's plan to educate visitors about the agency's wilderness and conservation objectives as well as to encourage them to visit and explore backcountry areas. At Sequoia National Park, Superintendent Colonel John White sought, through the construction of Bearpaw High Sierra Camp, to lure visitors away from the congested Giant Forest area and into the spectacular High Sierra, thus dispersing crowds and introducing people to the remote, roadless alpine areas of the park. After its construction in 1934, Bearpaw High Sierra Camp allowed park visitors to travel to and stay overnight in the backcountry without the burden of carrying food and shelter. The camp is tangible evidence of management philosophy in Sequoia National Park during the 1930s, and it remains a popular overnight accommodation in the park. The period of significance is 1934 to 1942, beginning with opening of the concession camp and construction of the ranger patrol cabin. The camp represents the park's management philosophy during the New Deal era, and 1942 marks the end of the era of New Deal development in national parks.

One of the contributing buildings—the rustic style Bearpaw ranger patrol cabin, built in 1934—is individually eligible under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance. It is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of Conservation and Politics/Government for its association with Franklin D. Roosevelt's Public Works Administration (PWA) program, and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a good example of rustic architecture in national parks. The PWA provided economic stimulus during the Great Depression, and the National Park Service built the ranger cabin under this program. Along with the Civilian Conservation Corps, the PWA was one of two of President Roosevelt's relief programs that transformed national parks from areas with little infrastructure into parks with well-constructed roads, trails, and buildings that would serve both park staff and tourists. The ranger cabin is a good example of the rustic architecture that predominated in national parks between World Wars I and II. The log building's simple form, use of local materials, and rugged, handcrafted appearance are indicative of the rustic style. It retains the physical characteristics of the style that was developed by the National Park Service.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Sequoia National Park became only the second national park in the United States when it was established by Congress in 1890. Little development occurred in the park's first decades. Service facilities, campgrounds, roads, and trails were inadequate to serve park visitors and staff. After

<sup>1</sup> All of the Yosemite High Sierra Camps were listed on the National Register of Historic Places July 18, 2014.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

the creation of the National Park Service in 1916, Sequoia (along with Kings Canyon National Park, then called General Grant) received special attention from the agency's first director, Stephen Mather, and the first round of planned development began in the park. From 1916 to 1931, the park strove to build the infrastructure and amenities that would accommodate growing numbers of people. During this time the park constructed nearly all of the roads and trails that are still in use, as well as administrative and service buildings, including the park headquarters at Ash Mountain. A large new development at Giant Forest, including four campgrounds, attracted legions of new visitors.<sup>2</sup> Concession developments, too, helped to attract new tourists and provide new facilities for their use. The Sequoia and General Grant National Parks Company became the park concessioner in the mid-1920s, and their new concession cabins and camps in Giant Forest drew additional people to the famed Sequoia forests. Between 1916 and 1931, as these new roads and facilities opened, park visitation rose eightfold.<sup>3</sup>

However, the new developments and corresponding rise in visitors brought unintended consequences. Park facilities were concentrated in a relatively small area—the Giant Forest, where 80% of park visitors spent their time. Sequoias have shallow roots, and they suffered when trampled or impacted by construction. Concentrated visitor use in Sequoia National Park developed areas displaced wildlife and damaged other vegetation. The crowds and traffic jams that developed in the Giant Forest also negatively impacted the visitor experience, in the mind of park superintendent Colonel John Roberts White.<sup>4</sup>

White had attained the position of Sequoia National Park superintendent in 1920, only a year after beginning his career with the National Park Service as a Grand Canyon park ranger. A retired military officer who had served in Europe during World War I, he initially agreed with his peers in the NPS (most notably, NPS director Horace Albright, who firmly believed in a “parks for people” philosophy) who supported extensive new park developments. By the late 1920s, however, White and other Sequoia staff began to express concern about overdevelopment, large crowds, and the destruction of park resources. The park's development program had succeeded in attracting legions of visitors, and White became increasingly aggravated by the overcrowded campgrounds, garbage, noise, and traffic, as well as the multitude of activities that he felt were out of place in a national park.<sup>5</sup>

As a result, White became an advocate for limiting development and encouraging the dispersal of crowds away from the Giant Forest. While some in the NPS continued to push for amusements like a movie theater, a golf course, and tennis courts in Sequoia, White sought to promote winter sports, naturalist programs, and perhaps most importantly, wilderness hiking. He felt responsible for the problems he encountered at Sequoia, since he had been superintendent

---

<sup>2</sup> Larry Dilsaver and William C. Tweed, *Challenge of the Big Trees: A Resource History of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks* (Sequoia Natural History Association, 1990), accessed online at [http://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/dilsaver-tweed/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/dilsaver-tweed/index.htm).

<sup>3</sup> Dilsaver and Tweed, Chapter 6 (no pagination).

<sup>4</sup> Richard Orsi, Alfred Runte and Marlene Smith Barazini, *Yosemite and Sequoia: A Century of California National Parks* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990), 23.

<sup>5</sup> Orsi et al, 23.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

when most of the park's facilities were built, and he now sought to emphasize education and interpretation rather than building programs. He thought national parks should be distinct from other places in American life—different from, and better than, even state parks and national forests. White believed that preservation of the park's atmosphere should be paramount in any discussion of development. He fought plans to build new roads, electric power lines, and amusements such as dance halls, and he strove to get park visitors on their feet and onto park trails, especially in the park's backcountry. Congress had expanded the park by 140% in 1926, and much of the addition was the mountainous terrain of the Sierra Nevada.<sup>6</sup>

White had loftier goals than simply wanting to disperse crowds when he began to promote wilderness hiking in Sequoia National Park. He subscribed to the idea that urban Americans were "overcivilized," an early twentieth century notion that urban life produced a physically and mentally weak citizenry, and that time spent in wilderness was the cure. The expansion of the park in 1926 gave White the opportunity to develop new trails for hikers, and he fought plans to build roads into these alpine areas of the park. As historian Larry Dilsaver explains, White "had become convinced that the future of the parks and, indeed, the future of the conservation ethic in America, lay in the wilderness." In his eyes, it was crucial that the public visit the Sequoia wilderness, but it was just as important that the wilderness remain free of the developments that plagued the Giant Forest.

However, the problem of luring visitors from the crowded car campgrounds, cabins, and trails of the Giant Forest to the Sequoia backcountry loomed large. Before 1926, most of Sequoia's trails were rough; many were former sheep trails. After heavy lobbying by the Sierra Club, the park began an extensive trail building program in the late 1920s. In 1927, staff built or improved 30 miles of trail, and this pace continued in subsequent years.<sup>7</sup>

It was the High Sierra Trail, the first trail across the Sierra Nevada Mountains built for recreation, that first provided tourists with access to the alpine wilderness areas of Sequoia National Park, and the trail's construction led to the creation of Bearpaw High Sierra Camp. White was instrumental in the creation of the High Sierra Trail. Constructed at great cost over five seasons, beginning in 1928, the gently graded and well-designed pathway connected the park's famous forests with the mountainous areas of the park's 1926 addition. It led from Crescent Meadow up the Kaweah River Canyon to the Great Western Divide at Kaweah Gap; later, funds were appropriated to continue the trail to the Mt. Whitney area to the east. White worked closely with an engineer (some of the trail was blasted into granite mountainsides), and it may have been the best-constructed mountain trail in the national park system at the time.<sup>8</sup>

As White had intended, the trail allowed hikers and horseback riders to access the Sequoia backcountry. He proudly stated, "The magnificent domes, cliffs and pinnacles of the River Valley-Hamilton Lake region, fully equal to the far-famed Yosemite itself, have been brought within four or five hours easy riding from Giant Forest." The trail was, in White's words, "the

<sup>6</sup> Dilsaver and Tweed, 6; Orsi et al, 25.

<sup>7</sup> Dilsaver and Tweed, Ch. 5.

<sup>8</sup> Dilsaver and Tweed, Ch. 5.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

first high class trail to be flung across the Sierra Nevada and it traverses the choicest of Sierran scenery. It is unexcelled, if it is equaled, by any trail in America.”<sup>9</sup> In 1933, he expressed great satisfaction with the trail construction program in the park as a whole. “Hundreds, nay thousands of youths, girls, men and women are learning to leave their automobiles,” he wrote, “to go afoot through the forests and over the mountains. The trails are making a fine contribution to our national life and are in a measure offsetting the softening features of our modern civilization.”<sup>10</sup>

The High Sierra Trail allowed visitors to access the park’s backcountry more easily, but White knew that most visitors were not equipped to stay in the wilderness overnight. Camping in the backcountry during this time usually meant hiring a pack train to carry supplies, since camping gear was too heavy for most people to carry on their backs. Despite his opposition to overdevelopment in the Giant Forest, he thought that minor developments in the backcountry of the park would be appropriate if they would help disperse crowds and educate visitors about the park’s wilderness and conservation objectives. In the summer of 1933, White and George Mauger, the chief of the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks Company, the park concessioner, ventured out on the High Sierra Trail to choose a location for the park's first backcountry camp—a High Sierra Camp.<sup>11</sup>

High Sierra Camps, which offered simple lodging in tent cabins as well as meals, were first established in Yosemite National Park as a way to provide tourists with simple accommodations in the park’s backcountry. They were the brainchild of Steven Mather, the first NPS director, who sought to encourage tourists to visit more remote areas of Yosemite. Mather had organized pack trips for politicians, newspaper editors and other influential people in order to garner support for the park, and he realized that many more people would enjoy visiting the park’s high country if they could do so without worrying about procuring their own food and shelter. In addition, Mather believed that congestion in Yosemite Valley could be relieved if tourists were given the opportunity to stay in the backcountry without the hardship of carrying their own supplies. The camps could also be used for interpretive purposes, educating park visitors about the Yosemite wilderness and NPS philosophies about conservation. This would also serve, in Mather’s opinion, to “broaden the appeal” of lesser-known parts of Yosemite.<sup>12</sup>

In 1916, the first camps, with tent cabins and meal service, were established in the Yosemite backcountry. They were an immediate success. The original camps changed locations and eventually closed, but five new camps were opened in 1924, and these too proved wildly popular. The facilities not only offered food and shelter, but the interpretive services of a

<sup>9</sup> Sequoia National Park Annual Report, 1932, Sequoia National Park Archives; Dilsaver and Tweed, 134.

<sup>10</sup> Charles Palmer and Fred Brown, *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park Historic Resources Study* (draft), 73, National Park Service Pacific West Regional Office-Seattle history files.

<sup>11</sup> Dilsaver and Tweed, Chapter 6.

<sup>12</sup> Andrew Kirk and Charles Palmer, “Historic Resources of Yosemite National Park Multiple Property Documentation form,” National Park Service Pacific West Regional Office history file, 47-48.



Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

naturalist who led guided hikes and offered lectures.<sup>13</sup> It was this model that White sought to follow when he began planning to establish a High Sierra Camp in Sequoia National Park.<sup>14</sup>

The site White and Mauger chose for a High Sierra Camp at Sequoia National Park, at Bearpaw Meadow, afforded spectacular views of the Great Western Divide and the valley of the Kaweah River. The site was perched on the edge of a steep, chaparral-covered south facing slope. White described the setting. "Poised above the Kaweah Yosemite...among scenery as spectacular and inspirational as any in the Parks or in the Sierra. The view is often compared to that of Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park—vast depth in canyon, polished granite domes and spires, forest and mountain in a great amphitheater, waterfalls and the rhythm of distance waters, and nearby meadow and wildflower gardens."<sup>15</sup> The camp would become an expression of the wilderness experience at Sequoia, as other backcountry facilities—Yosemite's High Sierra Camps, Phantom Ranch at Grand Canyon, and Sperry and Granite Park Chalets at Glacier—represented the wilderness at those iconic parks.<sup>16</sup>

The concessioner hired workers to build the tent platforms for the camp in the fall of 1933, and a NPS crew, most likely a Civilian Conservation Corps "spike" (temporary) camp crew, constructed supporting infrastructure. Concession employees cut poles on site to support the canvas tent walls of the cabins. NPS workers laid 1000 feet of water pipe to transport fresh water to the camp and built 1.5 miles of pasture fence nearby to contain stock. The stock were used for supply pack trains, as well as for guest transportation, since some guests would choose to ride to the camp in its first years.<sup>17</sup> The camp opened in June of 1934, and was originally known as Bearpaw Hikers' Camp. Lodging was \$1.50 per night, and meals cost \$1.<sup>18</sup> The camp accommodated twelve guests, two per cabin, and was open between the last weekend in June and the first weekend in September. A husband and wife team managed the camp. The camp's supplies were delivered by pack train from Wolverton trailhead.

White was pleased with the completed camp, and he reported that it fulfilled "a long felt need" at Sequoia. Travel to the park had grown by 21% between 1933 and 1934, when the camp was built, and visitation continued to increase despite the Great Depression. Park superintendent White pointed out that due to highway improvements, the park was located "an easy five hour drive" from Los Angeles, and he believed that Sequoia often received "overflow" visitation from

---

<sup>13</sup> Kirk and Palmer, 84.

<sup>14</sup> William Tweed, "SEKI Historic People and Places, Bearpaw Meadow" Sequoia National Park archives. Three other backcountry lodging facilities opened in national parks during the 1910s and 1920s: the stone Granite Park and Sperry Chalets at Glacier National Park, and Phantom Ranch at the Grand Canyon. These differed from the High Sierra Camps in that they were not expressions of management philosophy; instead, they were built by railroads as profit-seeking ventures.

<sup>15</sup> Tweed.

<sup>16</sup> The backcountry lodging facilities at Glacier and Grand Canyon National Parks opened in 1914 and 1922, respectively. These differed from the High Sierra Camps in that they were built by railroads as profit-seeking ventures; they were not a result of NPS management philosophy or park efforts to encourage wilderness visits.

<sup>17</sup> John White, Superintendent's Monthly Report, Sequoia National Park, October 1933.

<sup>18</sup> Tweed.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

Yosemite as tourists found that park increasingly crowded. “Sequoia has grown almost without advertising,” White noted.<sup>19</sup>

Bearpaw was unlike any other facility in the park, and staff promoted the scenery, hiking and fishing to visitors that were unfamiliar with backcountry camps. Guide services to the camp were available, and visitors could hire pack animals to transport themselves or their baggage.<sup>20</sup> Illustrated signs at Crescent Meadow educated visitors about the camp, and rangers promoted the facility in their lectures in Giant Forest and Grant Grove. As a result, camp visits grew tremendously during the 1930s. The first year, fewer than 100 guests visited Bearpaw, while by 1940, still during the Great Depression, the camp hosted 291 people over the 10-week season. After World War II, the camp frequently filled to capacity each night.<sup>21</sup>

Just after the Bearpaw High Sierra Camp was completed in 1934, the NPS built a rustic style cabin across the High Sierra Trail from the camp. The building was constructed under the Public Works Administration program, one of two New Deal relief programs that transformed national parks. Development in national parks prior to 1933 had been sporadic due to a system wide lack of funds, but two New Deal relief programs—the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)—provided the parks with the funds and manpower to facilitate an unprecedented building program. The unemployment rate had reached 25 percent during the Great Depression, and these New Deal programs were meant to alleviate high unemployment and stimulate the economy.

The Public Works Administration was established by Congress in June of 1933 under the National Industrial Recovery Act. The PWA was meant to provide employment, to boost the economy through the construction of large public works projects, and to provide Americans with useful infrastructure. Unlike the CCC program, the government did not employ PWA workers directly; rather, they contracted with established companies. Projects funded with PWA funds were meant to be ready to build, and this worked well for national parks, which often had master plans that called for new buildings and structures and no funds to implement the plans. Many of the approximately 34,000 PWA projects were large structures and buildings such as roads, bridges, dams, schools, and hospitals. In national parks, work included the construction of roads, trails, campgrounds and utilities—infrastructure that was sorely needed. National parks also gained resources ranging from fire lookouts to ranger cabins to maintenance garages.<sup>22</sup> At Sequoia National Park, the programs vastly expanded infrastructure and tourist amenities, and PWA crews built the rustic log cabin at Bearpaw Meadow in July of 1934.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>19</sup> John White, 1935 Superintendent’s Annual Report, 1, Sequoia National Park archives.

<sup>20</sup> “Important Announcement regarding the opening of Bearpaw Meadow Trail Camp”, June 28, 1938, Box 1629.

<sup>21</sup> Daniel Tobin to director, National Park Service, September 11, 1936, Box 90; Sequoia-General Grant National Park Company Semi-Monthly reports, 1935-1942, Boxes 1631 and 1632, NARA-College Park.

<sup>22</sup> Harlan D. Unrau and G. Frank Williss, *Expansion of the National Park Service in the 1930s: An Administrative History*, (National Park Service: Denver Service Center, 1983), online resource [http://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online\\_books/unrau-williss/adhi3d.htm](http://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/unrau-williss/adhi3d.htm).

<sup>23</sup> Brown and Palmer, 98-99.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

The buildings constructed by the NPS in Sequoia National Park during this time, including the cabin at Bearpaw, exhibited the rustic style that had become prevalent in national parks between World Wars I and II. Architects sought to design buildings that were naturalistic and to preserve the natural character of a site by subordinating the building or structure to the natural environment through the use of native materials and designing buildings and structures with low, rectangular forms. Low-pitched and gabled roofs were common. It was not enough to simply use local products, however—the materials had to look rustic and unfinished. Log structures were meant to look rugged and handcrafted. Rustic buildings and structures were meant to enhance visitors' experiences in the natural world.<sup>24</sup> Through the use of standardized architectural plans produced in the field office and adapted to each park, a uniform style of National Park Service rustic architecture emerged. Thomas Vint, NPS's chief landscape architect (who had also trained as an architect) was largely responsible for the adaptation and refinement of the style in western national parks. With his staff at the Western Field Office in San Francisco, his office was well-positioned to work closely with Colonel White in building structures in Sequoia National Park.<sup>25</sup>

At Sequoia National Park, buildings constructed in the 1920s and 1930s are characterized by wood shingles, granite, logs, and exposed redwood framing. Buildings were often painted a dark brown; window trim was pale green; roofs are medium pitched gable roofs, and foundations are battered stone or stone veneer. Most of the buildings are small and low-rise, with simple rectangular shapes. Vertical features such as battens are often found on the gable ends of the buildings. Groups of buildings are set so that they follow the contours of the land.<sup>26</sup> The Bearpaw Meadow ranger cabin, with its rustic log construction, gable roof, small size, and rectangular shape, situated amongst the firs, exhibits the tenets of the rustic style.

The building was originally designed to provide grain and tack storage for rangers' horses and the pack animals that brought supplies to the concession camp. White had requested money to build an adjacent two-bedroom ranger station, and this was meant to provide an outpost near the concession camp and along the park's most heavily traveled trail.<sup>27</sup> As White noted, "It is a logical base for control of this important district."<sup>28</sup> However, his request was denied. Since the two-bedroom cabin was not constructed, a ranger instead lodged in the small, rustic one-room

---

<sup>24</sup> Albert Good, *Park and Recreation Structures*, (Boulder, CO: Graybooks, 1990), 2-6; Linda Flint McClelland, *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*(Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1998), 394-5.

<sup>25</sup> McClelland, 195-97.

<sup>26</sup> National Park Service, *Architectural Character Guidelines: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park*, (Denver: National Park Service, 1989), 1.

<sup>27</sup> John White to director, National Park Service, August 15, 1934, NARA-College Park, RG 79, Records of Sequoia National Park, Box 1607.

<sup>28</sup> John White, "Sequoia National Park, Physical Improvements," Box 1608. The ranger station and barn complex was meant to be one of three nearly identical complexes (along with Hockett Meadow and Redwood Meadow) built in the Sequoia National Park backcountry. White was annoyed, and stated, "Oddly, the barn was provided for and was built, but the ranger station was not authorized. The real important item was the station." The Redwood Meadow ranger station, built on the site of an existing ranger cabin, was about six miles by trail from Bearpaw Meadow, and the site offered superior pasture for rangers' horses and pack animals. The NPS may have denied funds to Sequoia National Park for the cabin at Bearpaw due to the close proximity of Redwood Meadow.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

log cabin when on patrol. The building also served as winter storage for the Bearpaw Camp, since tent canvas and furnishing could not withstand the heavy winter snows of the area.

After World War II, hiking and backpacking rose in popularity, and Sequoia visitors increasingly took to trails by foot. This meant that the High Sierra Trail and Bearpaw High Sierra Camp were busier than ever, and having a ranger stationed at Bearpaw for the duration of the season became a necessity. By 1951, park staff, realizing that a larger ranger cabin would not be built in coming years, had officially renamed the building a patrol cabin, with a ranger seasonally occupying the rustic, one-room building. In the early 1960s, the NPS finally realized that better ranger quarters, with a kitchen and bathroom, were needed. In 1964, the park built a new ranger station, A-frame in style, and the existing ranger station was leased to the concessioner for year-round storage. The new ranger station was set just to the east of the rustic ranger patrol cabin, between that building and the High Sierra Trail. The NPS did not construct the ranger station under the Mission 66 program, though it was built during this era. Park staff also upgraded the utilities for the Bearpaw Camp at this time. The water and sewer system for the camp, which also served the new ranger station, was replaced in the early 1960s; the system was reengineered in the 2000s. A propane lighting system was installed in the camp kitchen/dining tent at this time as well.

With the exception of the A-frame ranger station built in 1964, Bearpaw High Sierra Camp has changed little since 1934. Its first guests would easily recognize the site, the camp buildings, and the view, as well as the rustic log ranger cabin. Supplies still arrive by pack train, while guests arrive on foot via the High Sierra Trail. Water is still heated with a wood-fired water heater. The camp is filled to capacity every night during the open season, and guests enjoy the same views and accommodations as guests did in 1934. While elements of the tent cabins have necessarily been replaced over the decades, the location, setting, feeling, and association of the camp retain a high degree of integrity, and some of the design, materials, and workmanship remain evident. The camp is similar to the National Register-listed High Sierra Camps at Yosemite National Park; the buildings in these camps have also had canvas and wood elements replaced, some elements have changed location, and the camps as a whole retain integrity.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

### Archives

National Archives and Records Administration, San Bruno, CA, RG 79, Records of the National Park Service, Sequoia National Park.

Sequoia National Park archives, Three Rivers, CA.

### Primary and Secondary Sources

Brown, Frederick and Charles Palmer. *Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park Historic Resources Study* (draft). National Park Service Pacific West Regional Office-Seattle history files.

Dilsaver, Larry, and William C. Tweed. *Challenge of the Big Trees: A Resource History of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks*. Sequoia Natural History Association, 1990.

Good, Albert. *Park and Recreation Structures*. Boulder, CO: Graybooks, 1990.

McClelland, Linda. *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

National Park Service. *Architectural Character Guidelines: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park*. Denver: National Park Service, 1989.

Palmer, John. "Bearpaw Meadow Camp: An Analysis." September 1983. Sequoia National Park archives.

Orsi, Richard, Alfred Runte and Marlene Smith Barazini, *Yosemite and Sequoia: A Century of California National Parks*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990.

Tweed, William. "SEKI Historic People and Places: Bearpaw Meadow." Sequoia National Park archives.

Unrau, Harlan D. and G. Frank Williss. *Expansion of the National Park Service in the 1930s: An Administrative History*. National Park Service: Denver Service Center, 1983.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Sequoia National Park Archives

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.35

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.565330                      Longitude: -118.620986

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See sketch map and USGS map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes all of the contributing and noncontributing resources associated with Bearpaw High Sierra Camp and the two Bearpaw ranger patrol cabins. The boundary also largely corresponds with the boundary designation for the lands assigned to the camp concessioner. However, the concessioner assigned lands are in two discontinuous parcels that exclude the 1964 ranger cabin and the High Sierra Trail, and the nomination boundary has been drawn so that the camp and two ranger patrol cabins are within one contiguous parcel.

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Christy Avery  
organization: National Park Service, Pacific West Regional Office-Seattle  
street & number: 909 First Avenue, Fifth Floor  
city or town: Seattle state: WA zip code: 98104  
e-mail Christine\_Avery@nps.gov  
telephone: (206) 220-4127  
date: January 2016

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
City or Vicinity: Three Rivers  
County: Tulare  
State: California  
Photographer: Christy Avery  
Date Photographed: June 15, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 19 Path from High Sierra Trail leading to camp; dining hall and kitchen in center, employee restroom tent on right, view to south
- 2 of 19 Dining hall and kitchen, view to southwest
- 3 of 19 Dining hall and kitchen, view to northwest

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

- 4 of 19 View from front porch of dining hall and kitchen, view to south
- 5 of 19 Dining hall and kitchen from the trail to the tent cabins, view to north-northeast
- 6 of 19 Dining hall and kitchen interior
- 7 of 19 Tent cabins #2-#6, view to south-southwest
- 8 of 19 Tent cabins #2-#4, view to west-northwest
- 9 of 19 Cabins #5 and #6, view to southwest
- 10 of 19 Cabin #6, view to southeast
- 11 of 19 Cabin interior
- 12 of 19 From left to right: Employee restroom tent, guest toilet (partially obscured by tree), guest shower building, and manager's tent, view to south
- 13 of 19 Guest toilet (left) and guest shower building, view to southwest
- 14 of 19 View from camp over the Valley of the Kaweah River, view to south
- 15 of 19 View east from camp toward the Great Western Divide
- 16 of 19 1934 rustic ranger patrol cabin (left) and 1964 ranger patrol cabin, view to southeast
- 17 of 19 1934 rustic ranger patrol cabin, view to southeast
- 18 of 19 1934 rustic ranger patrol cabin, view to southwest
- 19 of 19 1964 ranger patrol cabin, view to northwest

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

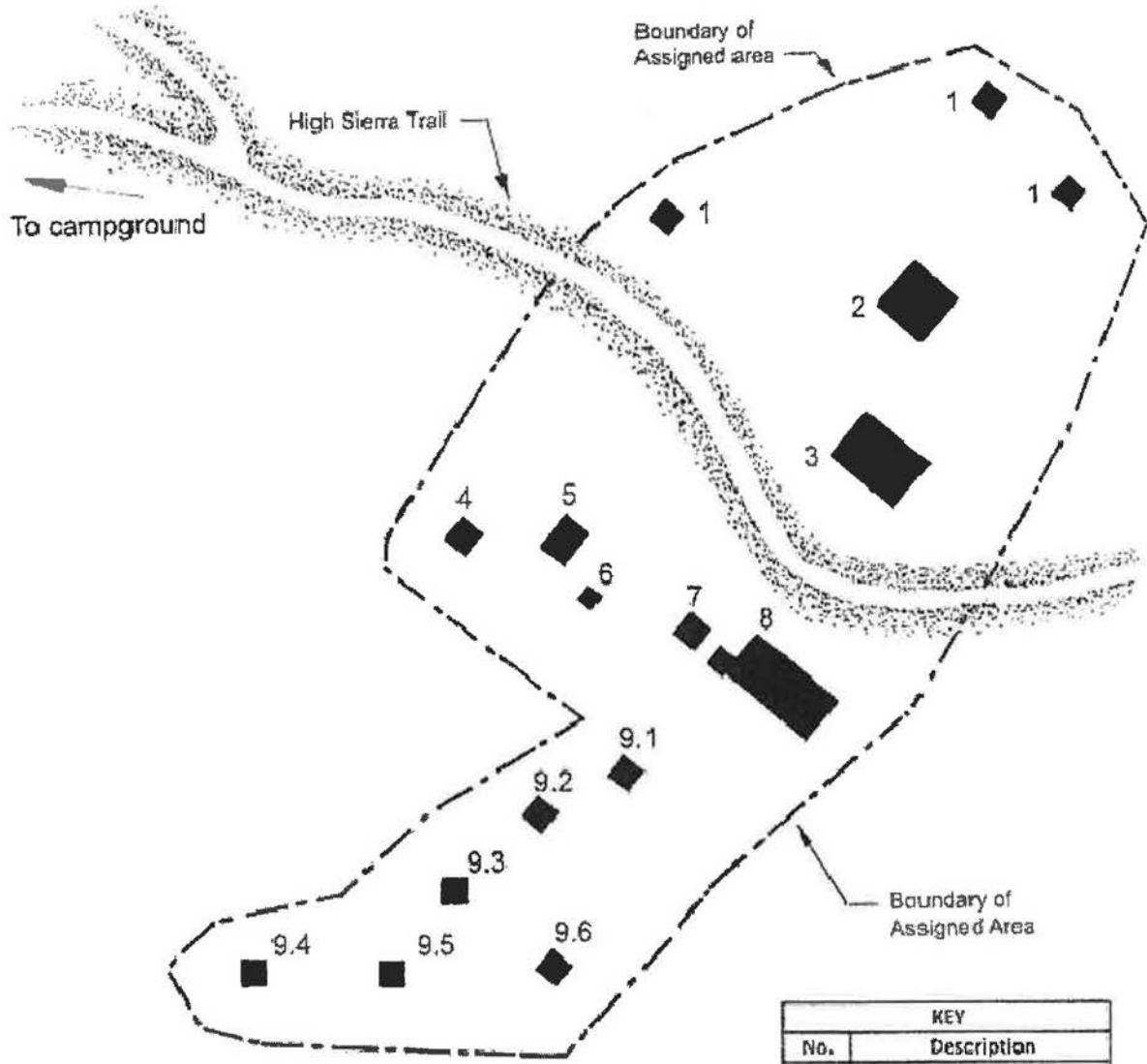
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
 Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
 County and State

**Sketch Map**

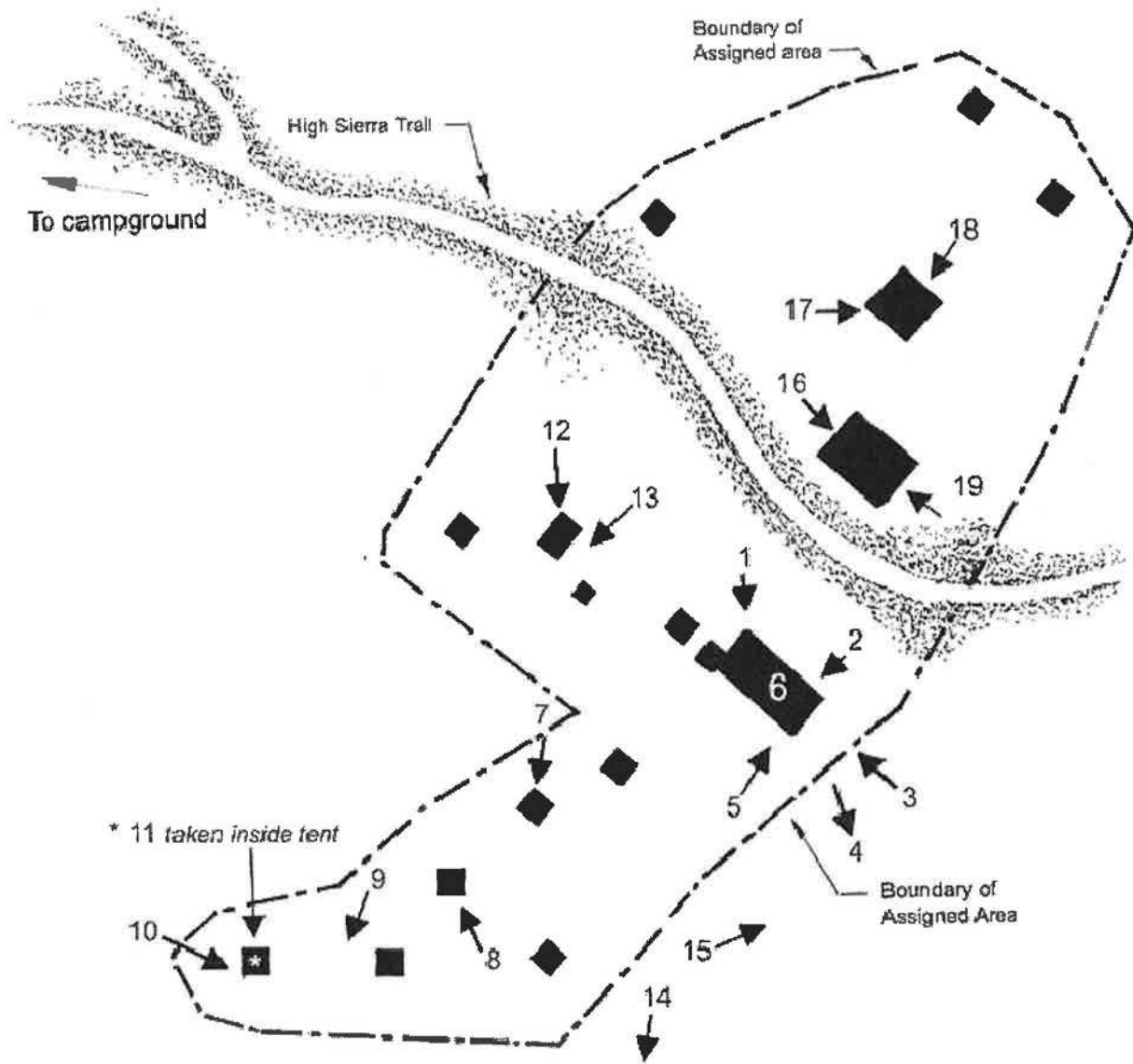


KEY	
No.	Description
1	Employee Tent
2	Ranger Patrol Cabin, 1934
3	Ranger Patrol Cabin, 1964
4	Manager's Tent
5	Shower
6	Toilet
7	Employee Restroom Tent
8	Kitchen & Dining Cabin
9	Guest Cabins 9.1 to 9.6

Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

**Photo Key**



Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

**Figure 1.** Bearpaw ranger patrol cabin, 1934



Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

**Figures 2 and 3.** Bearpaw High Sierra Camp tent cabins looking east, date unknown



Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Name of Property

Tulare, CA  
County and State

**Figures 4 and 5.** Bearpaw High Sierra Camp dining hall and kitchen building, date unknown

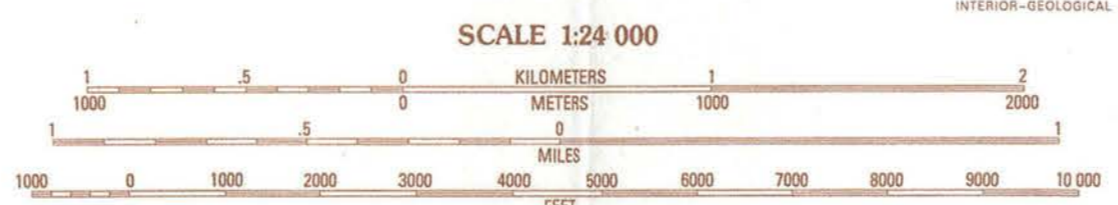




36.563330  
-118.620986

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CONTROL BY USGS, NOS/NOAA COMPILED FROM IMAGERY TAKEN 1976 AND 1984 PHOTOINTERPRETED USING IMAGERY DATED 1993 NO MAJOR CULTURE OR DRAINAGE CHANGES OBSERVED PLS AND SURVEY CONTROL CURRENT AS OF 1985 BOUNDARIES VERIFIED AND NAMES REVERSED 1994 PROJECTION LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC BLUE 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR TICKS, ZONE 11 UTM GRID DECLINATION CALIFORNIA, ZONE 4 1994 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION 14°30' EAST VERTICAL DATUM NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929 HORIZONTAL DATUM NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1927 (NAD 27) North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any Federal and State reservations shown on this map. No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings. Where omitted, land lines have not been established or are not shown because of insufficient data.

**PROVISIONAL MAP**  
Produced from original manuscript drawings. Information shown as of date of photography.



SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808  
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1 Mt. Silliman
2	3	4	2 Sphinx Lakes
3	4	5	3 Mt. Brewer
4	5	6	4 Lodgepole
5	6	7	5 Mt. Kaweah
6	7	8	6 Silver City
7	8		7 Mineral King
8			8 Chagoape Falls

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

**ROAD LEGEND**  
Improved Road .....  
Unimproved Road .....  
Trail .....

○ Interstate Route    □ U.S. Route    ○ State Route

**TRIPLE DIVIDE PEAK, CA**  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1993

36118-E5-TF-024







ENTRANCE

























WELCOME TO BEARPAW

NOTICE  
The National Park Service has been authorized to manage the area under the National Park System. This area is now part of the National Park System and is managed as a National Monument. The National Park Service is committed to providing a high quality visitor experience and to protecting the natural and cultural resources of the area. We encourage you to follow the rules and regulations of the National Park System and to enjoy the area responsibly.

YOU ARE HERE ON THE BEARPAW TRAIL  
SEE THE BEARPAW TRAIL MAP FOR MORE INFORMATION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RESTORATION AREA  
PLEASE STAY ON TRAIL

















BEAR PAW  
RANGER  
STATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Bearpaw High Sierra Camp

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Tulare

DATE RECEIVED: 3/11/16 &pw DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/06/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/21/16 &pw DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/26/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000192

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Bearpaw High Sierra Camp is locally significant under National Register Criterion A and C, in the areas of Recreation/Entertainment, Conservation, Politics/Government, and Architecture. Intended as a means of getting Park visitors out beyond the congested Giant Forest area of Sequoia National Park and into the Sierra high country, the 1934 Bearpaw Camp was a crucial component of the high country camp system planned for California's regional parks (Yosemite, Sequoia, Kings Canyon) during the early twentieth century. The seasonal camps combined permanent facilities with simple platform tent cabins designed consistent with the NPS' rustic aesthetics. The camps were envisioned not just as additional recreational venues, but as educational tools by which the Parks could introduce visitors to the vast landscapes of the National Park system and promote a better appreciation for the conservation objectives of the NPS. Although physically located within Sequoia NP, the camp property aligns with the registrations requirements previously set out in the Yosemite MPS for backcountry wilderness camps. The NPS administrative facilities adjacent to the camp reflected the use of Federal Depression-era work relief programs to construct handsome, rustic-style infrastructure facilities in the Parks during the 1930s.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C  
REVIEWER Paul Lusignea DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 4/21/2016

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR  Y  N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100  
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053  
calshpo@parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



February 12, 2016

Joy Beasley, Federal Preservation Officer  
Deputy Associate Director  
Park Programs and National Heritage Areas  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street NW, Room 804  
Washington, DC 20005

Subject: **Bearpaw High Sierra Camp  
Tulare County, California  
National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Ms. Beasley:

Enclosed please find the **Bearpaw High Sierra Camp** nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Superintendent Woody Smeck requested we return the concurrence to David T. Humphrey, Cultural Resources Program Manager at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

I concur that the district is eligible for listing at the local level of significance under Criteria A and C in the areas of Recreation, Conservation, Politics/Government, and Architecture, with a period of significance of 1934-1942. I have signed the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form signature page as commenting official.

We will retain a copy of the nomination and set of photographs for our records.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Amy Crain of my staff at (916) 445-7009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jenan Saunders", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jenan Saunders  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks  
47050 Generals Highway  
Three Rivers, California 93271-9651

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
I.A.2

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

February 19, 2016

Joy Beasley, Federal Preservation Officer  
Deputy Associate Director  
Park Programs and National Heritage Areas  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street NW, Room 804  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Beasley:

We are pleased to enclose the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the *Bearpaw High Sierra Camp*, located within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI). Also enclosed is a letter of concurrence from the California Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Jenan Saunders that endorses the district as being eligible for listing at the local level of significance in the areas of Recreation, Conservation, Politics/Government and Architecture under Criteria A and C, with a period of significance of 1934 to 1942.

The Cultural Resources Program Manager at SEKI David Humphrey has coordinated with National Park Service, Pacific West Region (PWRO) Historian Christy Avery to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In addition to the California State Historic Preservation Office and me, the nomination has been reviewed by the following SEKI staff; Resources Management and Science Division Chief Christy Brigham, Cultural Resources Program Manager David Humphrey, Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist Nancy Hendricks and Archaeologist Jessie Russett.

Please direct questions, comments and listing to Mr. David Humphrey, Cultural Resources Program Manager by telephone at 559.565.3139, by facsimile at 559.565.4207, via e-mail at [dave\\_humphrey@nps.gov](mailto:dave_humphrey@nps.gov) or by U.S. mail to the address above.

Thank you for your work protecting California's irreplaceable cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

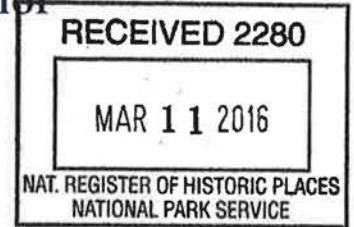
Woody Smeck  
Superintendent  
Enclosures

cc w/out enclosures: David T. Humphrey, Cultural Resources Program Manager, SEKI  
Christy Avery, Historian, PWRO



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240



March 9, 2016

## Memorandum

To: Acting Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

From: Federal Preservation Officer, National Park Service *JDB*

Subject: National Register Nomination for Bearpaw High Sierra Camp, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Tulare County, California

I am forwarding the National Register nomination for the Bearpaw High Sierra Camp, located in the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The Park History Program has reviewed the nomination and found the property eligible with local significance under Criteria A and C, with areas of significance of Architecture, Conservation, Politics/Government, and Recreation. If you have questions, please contact Kelly Spradley-Kurowski at 202-354-2266 or [kelly\\_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov](mailto:kelly_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov).



Lusignan, Paul <paul\_lusignan@nps.gov>

---

## Bearpaw High Sierra Camp

2 messages

---

**Lusignan, Paul** <paul\_lusignan@nps.gov>

Wed, Apr 13, 2016 at 12:11 PM

To: Kelly Spradley-Kurowski <kelly\_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov>

Hi Kelly,

A few minor corrections to the Bearpaw Camp nomination.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. If I don't hear from you I will proceed with the listing and the SLR with a probable listing date of 4/21/2016.

Paul R. Lusignan  
Historian, National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
202-354-2229, fax 202-371-2229

---

 **bearpawhighsierracamp.slr.doc**  
33K

---

**Spradley-Kurowski, Kelly** <kelly\_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov>

Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 8:14 AM

To: "Lusignan, Paul" <paul\_lusignan@nps.gov>

Those look fine to me. Thanks, Paul.

Kelly Spradley-Kurowski, PhD  
Historian and Manager, National Maritime Heritage Program  
National Park Service  
1201 I (Eye) Street NW, #2261  
8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005  
[kelly\\_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov](mailto:kelly_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov)  
phone: 202-354-2266  
fax: 202-371-2229

**Like us on Facebook!** <https://www.facebook.com/NationalParkServiceHistory>

[Quoted text hidden]