

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT



YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

FISCAL YEAR 1996

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HIGHLIGHTS

- October 7** Baek Jung Man, 27, of Seoul Korea, who sustained minor injuries in a fall was rescued from "The Nose" route on El Capitan.
- October 10** Half Dome cables are removed for the season.
- October 12** Fire Management Specialists ignited a 10 acre prescribed fire in the vicinity of Mirror Lake.
- October 13** Female NPS campground employee abducted and assaulted by a suspect later identified as Philip Lund. The ensuing park-wide manhunt closed the Tioga Road from October 13-15 and lasted 12 days.
- October 25** Philip Lund, 56, suspect in the October 13 abduction of an NPS employee, was captured in Tenaya Canyon and charged with two felony counts, kidnapping and assault with a dangerous weapon.
- October 25** The "Bridal" wildfire, suspected to be of human origin, was discovered in the Bridalveil Creek drainage. A total of 125 personnel were assigned to the fire, including 4 hotshot crews and 4 helicopters.
- October 27** Containment of the 150 acre "Bridal" fire was expected by 6 p.m., with control anticipated by October 29.
- November 16** Lack of Federal budget requires partial shutdown of the park. All day-users are denied access to the park.
- November 17** All campgrounds were vacated by noon due to park closure. Yosemite National Park closed to all visitor use effective 3 p.m.
- November 20** Yosemite reopened to the public at 8 a.m.
- November 22** It is announced that reservations for wilderness permits can be made up to 24 weeks in advance by mail or phone. A reservation processing fee of \$3.00 per person was implemented for the first time.
- December 11** Tioga and Glacier Point Roads closed for the season.

- December 16** Partial government shutdown requires suspension of some services, the park, however, remained open.
- December 18** Yosemite National Park is directed to close to all day-use visitors and entry for recreational use due to lack of approved Federal budget. Only those visitors with confirmed overnight lodging and camping reservations are allowed entry.
- December 20** Yosemite is closed to all visitor use.
- January 6** Yosemite reopened to the public.
- January 15** Campground reservation procedures changed. DESTINET (formerly MISTIX) began accepting reservations up to four months in advance beginning on the 15th of each month.
- February 9** Closure of climbing areas in expectation of five active peregrine aeries were announced. They included sites on Lower Cathedral, the Rhombus Wall, Glacier Point Apron, The Rostrum, and Hetch Hetchy.
- February 21** The new policy for the opening and closing of the Tioga Road was announced.
- March 15** Approval of the Glacier Point Rehabilitation and Restoration Project announced.
- March 28** A temporary gross weight restriction of 14,000 pounds was put into effect on the Mariposa Grove Road due to saturation of road-bed soils and concerns about damage to the road surface.
- April 2** Local resident, Matthew "Matt" Baxter, sustained fatal injuries in a 300 foot climbing fall on El Capitan. Two other climbers were airlifted from the North Dome Gully area after notifying rangers that they were stranded by cell phone.
- April 3** Retired Los Angeles county school teacher and long time Yosemite volunteer, Jack Phinney, 75, announced as the recipient of the 1995 Yosemite Fund Award.
- April 8 - 11** Transportation Symposium held in Fresno, CA
- April 12** Jonathan Patrick Dainow, 31, of Castaic, CA, drowned in the Merced River below the Happy Isles road bridge while trying to rescue his dog.
- April 15** Yosemite Association begins operating a new 900 telephone information service to supplement the National Park Service System. All revenue generated from this fee for service line was earmarked for educational programs.
- April 18** Noted Yosemite artist Stephen Lyman, 38, of Sandpoint, ID was reported missing when he failed to show up for a scheduled press interview and Sierra Club benefit

appearance following a visit to Yosemite.

- April 19** David Brower, founder of Earth Island Institute and the Brower Foundation, noted author and former Sierra Club Director, kicked off Yosemite National Park's celebration of National Park's Week with his presentation, "CPR for the Earth".
- April 20** The body of Stephen Lyman was discovered in the Cathedral Rocks area by two climbers. NPS Search and Rescue members had also been searching the area. Lyman appeared to have died from injuries sustained in a fall.
- April 26 - 28** As part of the new Tioga Road Opening Policy, pedestrians and bicyclists were allowed access to the first 6 mile section of the Tioga Road, from Crane Flat to Walker Party.
- April 30** Superintendent announced that visitors to Yosemite might expect traffic delays during spring weekends, including the Memorial Day weekend.
- May 9** Press conference held on Tioga Road prior to blasting at Olmsted Point. Photos allowed while crews planted explosives, and following the blast. No one was allowed in the area while the blast occurred.
- May 16** Heavy rains caused the Merced River to rise to flood levels, which required the closure of all highways into Yosemite Valley. Highway 140 sustained damage from a rock fall and undercutting by swift running water. Southside Drive in Yosemite Valley sustained road damage and Northside Drive had 3-4 feet of standing water in places. Campers in Valley campgrounds were evacuated, those visitors staying in lodging facilities were given the option of remaining in the park or being evacuated.
- May 16** Two Austrian climbers rescued from El Capitan.
- May 18** Yosemite reopens to the public following flood. Tioga Road remained closed.
- May 20** Half Dome cables put up for the season.
- May 23** The U.S. Magistrate rules that the Austrian climbers rescued on May 16 will be held liable for rescue costs of \$13,325. The climbers were placed on one year summary probation and directed to make restitution to the Yosemite Mountain Safety Fund. The Fund is used to replace Search and Rescue, as well as, Emergency Medical Services equipment, and to pay for training in these fields.
- May 24** Glacier Point Road opened for the season. Tioga Road remained closed. Visitors were again cautioned regarding possible restricted access over Memorial Day weekend.

- May 26** Search for Ashleigh Wiggins, 14, of Fresno, CA was begun after park rangers received a missing hiker report. The search focused on the area emanating from Ostrander Lakes where she had last been seen.
- May 28** Ashleigh Wiggins located along Illilouette Creek, 5 air miles from the place she had last been seen. Despite two nights of exposure to near freezing temperatures Wiggins was uninjured. At the peak of the search over 200 searchers and support personnel from various agencies were involved.
- May 31** Tioga Road opened to the public with a 10,000 pound gross vehicle weight limit in place due to the high water content of soils beneath the road surface.
- June 4** Mirror Lake improvements (redirecting, removing and improving trails and path to correct damage to natural resources) proposed. Public comments on EA accepted until July 1, 1996.
- June 7** Changes to Peregrine Falcon related climbing restrictions were announced. The restriction on the Rostrum was lifted while all other previously announced restrictions remained in place.
- June 7** The Hetch Hetchy Road was closed to all visitor use Monday through Friday for repair. Limited foot and bicycle use was permitted on weekends.
- June 11** Weight restriction on Tioga Road lifted. Possibility of traffic delays in Tuolumne Meadows due to sewer line construction announced.
- June 14** New Wilderness Center Exhibits unveiled. Representatives from the National Park Service, The Yosemite Fund, and the Texaco Foundation were present for the ceremony.
- June 27** Search for Jacob Passey, 17, of Mountain View, CA, begun earlier in the day, ended when he was located and rescued from a ledge 150 feet below the north rim of the Hetch Hetchy reservoir canyon near Wapama Falls.
- July 5** Two fatalities occurred at opposite ends of Tenaya Canyon. Sam Meier, 24, a Yosemite resident from Buffalo, WY, was believed to have drown after repelling down the face of Hidden Fall and falling in to Tenaya Creek. Alejandro Fernandez, 23, of Vigo, Spain, sustained fatal head injuries in a 130 foot fall while trying to descend Tenaya Canyon to Yosemite Valley.
- July 10** A massive rock fall occurred at 7 p.m. between Washburn Point and Glacier Point. The air blast, resulting from the intact mass of granite hitting the ground where it powdered, caused several hundred trees at Happy Isles to blow over. Falling trees demolished the snack stand, damaged the Happy Isles Nature Center, and caused two severe injuries. Emiliano Morales, 20, of Montebello, CA was

killed by a falling tree. Several other people in the area at the time of the rock fall were treated for dust inhalation and released from the Yosemite Medical Clinic. The entire Happy Isles area and the Vernal-Nevada Falls trail was closed to the public. Numerous state, federal and volunteer organizations assisted with the search for further victims.

- July 14** All climbing routes on the Glacier Point Apron are closed until further notice.
- July 19** The Hetch Hetchy road between the Hetchy entrance station and the O'Shaughnessy Dam reopened to the public following completion of extensive road repair.
- July 20** The Vernal-Nevada Falls trail reopened to the public at 8 a.m., with the trailhead rerouted to the east side of the Merced River. The Happy Isles area remained closed to public access, however, shuttle bus service also resumed on the Happy Isles loop.
- July 20 - 21** Advance White House staff visited the park to look at feasibility of a possible Presidential vacation in Yosemite.
- July 21-27** Minimum impact stock use and public contact skills training for the California Ghost Riders was held in Yosemite. Ghost Riders are part of a cooperative program between the National Park Service, the US Forest Service, and the Backcountry Horseman of California to protect the Sierra Wilderness.
- July 26** Eight Prescribed Natural Fires were being monitored throughout the park. Potential visitors were notified that smoky conditions might occur on the Tioga Road and in the surrounding wilderness.
- August 7** A search was initiated for two missing males, 14 , Michael Derham and Russell Dwyer, who had last been seen August 6 at 11 a.m., near the Bridalveil Creek Campground.
- August 8** Missing teens found in a precipitous area below the Panorama Trail. The teens, who had minor injuries, were taken to Yosemite Medical Clinic for treatment and then released to their families.
- August 10** Yosemite Youth Conservation Corps celebrated its 25th anniversary with a reunion at Badger Pass Ski Lodge.
- August 10 -12** Secretary of the Interior Babbitt and family vacationed in Yosemite.
- August 12** Two Boy Scout leaders contact National Park Service Rangers to report that they killed a bear by throwing rocks at it. The event sparked international media attention and controversy.

- August 15** The National Park Service and the US Forest Service made the decision to jointly manage 13 separate wildfires, burning in adjacent areas of Yosemite National Park and the Stanislaus National Forest as the Ackerson Complex. At the time of this decision the fires totaled 1,602 acres. The fires burned for almost a month, with many of the individual fires coalescing into one large fire. Final acreage was estimated at over 59,000 acres. Firefighters and support personnel came from all over the United States, Mexico, and Costa Rica. Yosemite National Park had numerous employees assigned to the fire - some for a few days and many for the entire duration of the fire.
- August 25** Yosemite celebrated the National Park Service's 80th birthday with a "free fee" day.
- September 1** A small rock slide occurred on the Upper Yosemite Falls trail, between Columbia Rock and a bend in the trail locally known as Observation Point. There were no injuries associated with the slide, however, the trail remained closed until repairs could be completed. It reopened on October 4, 1996.
- September 16** The body of Ruth Carr McIntosh, 74, of Gardnerville, NV was found by search teams in Paiute Canyon, north of Tuolumne Meadows. McIntosh, who had Alzheimer's Disease, had last been seen on Saturday, September 14 at 1 p.m. by her husband and their hiking companion.
- September 30** The National Park Service announced that inconclusive evidence precluded the prosecution of two Boy Scout leaders who admitted killing a bear while trying to drive it from their campsite on August 12, 1996. Evidence at the scene supported the reported cause of death, but necropsy results were inconclusive. A determination as to the exact mechanism of injury could not be made. With insufficient evidence to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the death was other than accidental, the decision was made not to prosecute.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Staffing

A short series of staff assignments to head up this branch of the Superintendent's Office ended as Chief Ranger Bob Andrew completed his detail and returned to Visitor Protection in December, 1995.

The Park Volunteer Coordinator position was reassigned to the Office of Special Park Uses in June, 1996. The Public Affairs assistant position was returned to the Division of Interpretation in July, 1996. Lisa Dapprich, as Public Affairs Officer, and Linda Abbott continued as members of this office, and Chip Jenkins joined the office in November, 1995.

Projects

Office staff was joined by two MBA interns from Stanford University, Jack Herrick and Dan Frank in June, 1996. Their assignment from the Superintendent, under the guidance of Chip Jenkins, was to create a detailed proposal for a feasible day use reservation system for Yosemite National Park. Their efforts were reviewed and well received by Park management as well as key NPS management staff outside of the Park.

Chip Jenkins assumed the role of Park liaison with The Yosemite Fund. The Glacier Point project was begun with a ground breaking ceremony, and work continued through the fiscal year. The Happy Isles project, heavily damaged just as it was being completed, became a continuing project with the need to clean and repair displays, repair the building, and reconfigure the trails. The Wilderness Center in Yosemite Valley was completed and dedicated for public use. Other projects included bat and mountain lion research, backcountry trail rehabilitation, Mirror Lake rehabilitation, historic film restoration, historic resources GIS, expanded bike path, and others.

The office staff worked with the Superintendent, the Deputy Superintendent, and the division chiefs to identify and prioritize management issues, Park goals and objectives, to design and implement public relations strategies relative to major Park planning efforts and other issues important to the Park, and to provide information on a variety of legislative initiatives.

The staff, under the direction of Lisa Dapprich, also coordinated the visit of Secretary Babbitt to the Park, OMB Examiner Craig Crutchfield's trip to the Park, assisted in coordinating exploratory efforts for a Presidential visit, and worked as part of team planning and hosting for the Transportation Symposium.

OFFICE OF SAFETY & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA conducted a RCRA Compliance Inspection in June. The resulting Warning Letter laid out specific items to be corrected. A majority of the items were corrected immediately and others are in the process of remediation.

Equipment/Supplies

Purchased 12 radio beacons for use in avalanche work \$2280.

Supplied Hazardous Materials Pocket Response Guides to various park units for spill response.

Hazardous Materials and Waste

The Tuolumne County Hazardous Materials Business Plan was updated and sent to Tuolumne County Public Health.

The Hazardous Waste Management Plan is in Final Report form.

A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event was sponsored jointly by NPS, YCS and Mariposa County Department of Public Works. The one day event was held in El Portal and met with minimal response.

Hydratech installed a citrus-based parts washer in the Machine Shop on a six month trial basis. The machines are sponsored by the System Support Office. Use of this machine will reduce hazardous waste generation and resultant fees.

Aero-solv installed an aerosol can machine which will safely discharge aerosols which will reduce hazardous waste generation and resultant fees. This is the same type of unit currently used by YCS.

Hazardous waste removal was conducted by Safety Kleen, Philip Environmental, Laidlaw Environmental and Greenfield Environmental. The Park disposed of 24.456 tons of hazardous waste in CY 1996 which is essentially the same as CY 1995 (24.369 tons). The removal cost for hazardous waste has diminished to almost 50% due to better control of the various storage lockers and due to a conscious effort on the part of the generators to consolidate waste(s). The storage lockers are being updated with new supplies and equipment.

Vehicle hazardous material spill kits are now stocked in the warehouse.

The Safety Office and various other accounts spent the following approximate amounts in relation to hazardous waste:

- 600 pounds of batteries were recycled at a cost of \$5648
- Supplies and equipment - \$ 11,790
- Disposal fees - \$ 40,400
- Other disposal associated fees - \$ 4,153

Inspections

Conducted bi-monthly evaluations of all park pools for chlorine residuals and safety management.

The Park Sanitarian conducted food establishment inspections during the summer season in Lassen Volcanic National Park, and at Whiskeytown Dam in conjunction with the Field Service Office Public Health Service Officer.

No major problems were noted during in-Park food service or public water systems inspections.

Conducted inspections of the High Sierra Camps in conjunction with Concessions Management and Professional Services.

Loss Control Program

The Accident/Incident Report Form (DI-134) is no longer required. A replacement form has been generated but has not yet been implemented.

Medical Surveillance Program

Developmental work on the medical surveillance database continued with direction from Information Management. This database will streamline the entire medical surveillance process from planning and scheduling through billing.

Two medical surveillance clinics were held in which 108 people were examined at a cost of \$47,533. Implemented new billing procedure which greatly reduced requisition processing time and resulted in more timely payment to PHS.

Met with Public Health Service/Federal Occupational Health representatives to review the 1996 medical surveillance goals and plan the direction for 1997.

Notable Events

Tioga Road Operational Safety Plan available in final report form. Snow consultant Norm Wilson provided services and training during the 1996 Tioga Road opening.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Citations resulting from a 1995 employee death were reduced.

Personnel

Lloyd G. "Oly" Olson was selected as the Safety Officer. Previously the Wawona Sub-District Ranger, Oly began as the Safety Officer in January. He will continue with his Wawona Section 35 duties.

The Industrial Hygienist (IH) position remained vacant during the reporting period. WASO Safety Officer Dick Powell detailed Tim Radtke, DOI Industrial Hygienist, to the Park for a two week overview of operations to assess the need for an in-house IH.

The Secretary position was reclassified to Safety Technician.

The Safety Office moved to its current location on the second floor of the maintenance building with minimal impact on the surrounding environment.

Public Health

California Department of Health Services (DHS) Vector Control Branch in coordination with Resource Management and the Park Sanitarian, monitored for density and location of ticks. They flagged Wawona campground, El Capitan meadow and areas in El Portal to gather ticks to test for Lyme disease infection. It was determined that there is a minimal Lyme disease infection rate of the *Ixodes pacifica* tick population.

Vectorborne illness complaints were investigated and dismissed or remedied as warranted.

Some foodborne illness complaints were received. Investigation and laboratory testing concluded that none of the complaints were valid or warranted.

Bedbugs were a recurring problem at Curry Village. Positive and definite steps are being taken in accordance with Integrated Pest Management techniques. YCS management has been proactive in the eradication of this problem. Stephen Frantz, State of New York Dept. of Health Services, provided a

detailed on-site assessment and recommended methods of eradication for control of roaches.

Safety Council

The Safety Technician attended monthly meetings as the Park representative to the Central California Federal Safety and Health Council.

Safety, OWCP & Training (SOT) Group

Safety, OWCP & Training formed a work group to enhance communication to better manage our resources. The SOT Group sponsored the first session of an ongoing series of mandatory safety training classes.

Reduction of noise induced hearing loss will be a major focus of this group. The Deputy Superintendent and Chief of Maintenance received a briefing on identified park personnel with the potential of hearing loss as determined by the medical surveillance program.

Training

The Safety Officer attended the following training:

- Management Retreat at Bass Lake
- Managerial Grid Training in Fresno (40 hours)
- OSHA s Hazard Communication Standard (8 hours)

The Park Sanitarian attended the following training:

- Annual Public Health Meeting and review of the Food Code in St. Louis (32 hours)
- Food Code Training in San Francisco (8 hours)
- Hazardous Waste Information Meeting in Modesto (8 hours)
- Hazardous Waste and Pollution Prevention Conference in Phoenix (24 hours)
- Integrated Pest Management at Albright Training Center (40 hours)
- Managerial Grid Training in Fresno (40 hours)
- OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (8 hours)

The Safety Technician attended the following training:

- Concepts in Travel (TDY) in Sacramento (24 hours)
- Ergonomics in the Workplace (16 hours)
- Health and Safety for Workers: Laws and Regulations in Davis (16 hours)
- IMPAC Credit Card Training (2 hours)
- First Responder Operations level locally (24 hours)
- Personal Protective Equipment (16 Hours)
- OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (8 hours)

The Safety Office video library currently contains numerous videos on a variety of topics available for general safety training. We also have access to the OSHA video library.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

BRANCH OF BUDGET AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Funding

ONPS	13,114,742	BAL	7,186
FEE ENHANCEMENT	3,756,604	BAL	63,754
FEE COLLECTION	713,325	BAL	425
TOTAL	17,584,671		

Other Funding

8801-HZY	PUBLIC HEALTH	1,500	BAL	-0-
8801-MHM	PCB SOIL DIPOS	4,077	BAL	-0-
8801-SPI	AWARDS	26,600	BAL	-0-
8801-SVC	VIP	17,000	BAL	-0-
8805-LDD	DRUG	63,000	BAL	18
8805-PPA	ARPA	5,000	BAL	-0-
8809-SCC	WILDERNESS EXH	15,000	BAL	-0-
8813-MCN	BEAR LOCKERS	10,000	BAL	-0-
8813-MHM	UST-VALLEY OIL	16,484	BAL	14
8813-MHM	UST- TM	141,000	BAL	-0-
8813-MHM	TM/EP CLEANUP	10,500	BAL	-0-
8813-NAZ	AIR MONITORING	15,000	BAL	-0-
8813-NII	SOIL MAPPING	100,000	BAL	-0-
8813-RAZ	VISIBILITY MONIT	3,500	BAL	16
8814-CMC	CURATORIAL	130,000	BAL	-0-
8814-SCC	HISTORIC FILM PRES	1,100	BAL	-0-
8814-SDT	INTP TRAINING	3,850	BAL	-0-
8814-UOC	ARCHIVAL STORAGE	46,500	BAL	-3
8815-MCE	SODA SPRINGS EXH	8,900	BAL	-0-
8822-MCR	CHIPS	10,000	BAL	-0-
8822-MCR	PAINT TRAFFIC LINES	75,000	BAL	-0-
8822-MCY	YCC	48,360	BAL	-0-
8822-MRT	MIST TRAIL REHAB	77,000	BAL	-0-
8823-CMS	PRESERVE HIST STR	68,000	BAL	-0-
8823-CMS	MUSEUM ROOFING	51,500	BAL	-0-
8823-MCB	ROOFING	134,900	BAL	-0-
8823-MRG	REPLACE CG EQUIP	22,100	BAL	-16
8823-MRB	UNSATIS TOILETS	155,000	BAL	-24
8823-MRB	EP HSNG REHAB	53,800	BAL	63

8823-MRB	MATHER HSNG REHAB	52,500	BAL	-0-
8823-MRB	VALLEY HSNG REHAB	99,500	BAL	-0-
8823-MRB	WAWONA HSNG REHB	94,200	BAL	1
8825-MCS	WASTEWATER	150,000	BAL	-0-
8825-MCY	WATER TREAT TRAINING	2,500	BAL	32
8825-MRU	YOSE CREEK LIFT STA	326,000	BAL	-0-
TOTAL		2,000,013		
Storm Damage	04	131,841	BAL	23
Construction	05	2,094,897	BAL	615,084
Fire	42A	403,655	BAL	47,198
Fire	42B	570,139	BAL	2,418
FWAA	44	1,139,031	BAL	717,421
TOTAL		4,339,563		
Income				
-				
DONATIONS		964,343		
REIMBURSABLES		2,911,157		
LIVING HISTORY		15,851		
MESS OPS		80,723		
QUARTERS		1,015,468		
UTILITIES		4,015,451		
TOTAL		9,220,904		
PARK TOTAL		33,145,151		

The end of FY96 showed the park completed the fiscal year within its budget.

The park was 2.01 under its ceiling of 510 FTE.

4,378 - Bills for Collection were issued.

3,530 - Third party drafts were processed.

\$235,204 was spent on travel and \$317,855 on change of station costs, which generated over 2,300 associated travel documents.

BRANCH OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT

Yosemite's housing management office has been a participatory party in the management of the housing program for the National Park Service. In the last year, two major revisions and new programs have benefited from the inclusion of Yosemite housing personnel in the planning, drafting, and implementation of the *Quarters Management Information System*, and the re-write of the *Government Furnished Housing Management* guideline, NPS-36.

In response to these new programs and guidelines, the Park housing office has begun redrafting of its own housing management guideline to incorporate the new programs. This ongoing effort is involved in an in-depth effort to provide an in-house document that will provide management with the guidance to manage housing into the 21st century. As part of this effort, a major review of Yosemite's required occupancy plan was begun in FY96 and is expected to be completed in FY97. The new plan will address Park needs as well as detail the housing use to accommodate employee requirements. This plan is intended to coincide with the requirement of NPS-36.

-- The housing office completed the coordination and assignment of new single family homes in Rancheria Flat, El Portal, for NPS employees and their families, providing quality, energy-efficient residences within a reasonable commute distance to Yosemite National Park. Determinations of assignment were approved by park management under the auspices of the Park 'Bid' system. Consideration is being given to those employees whose primary work site is Yosemite Valley, thus reducing commute costs in time and money for those affected employees.

-- Housing began an assignment conversion of twenty-four one and two bedroom apartments in Riverview, El Portal, to long-term type 'seasonal' employees. This plan allows the Park to provide better housing in general to its employees. Seasonal living in the El Portal area are being accommodated in housing more suitable to the needs of employees. The inventory of this short-term housing, including the motor inn cabins, is enabling the Park to gradually alleviate trailers and mobile homes for housing NPS employees. The trailers provide temporary housing for interns and Volunteers-in-Parks, providing a direct benefit to the Park for added expertise and programs not otherwise possible.

-- The housing office, after spending several years in helping plan and review the new QMIS, successfully implemented the new housing inventory and rental rate setting computerized programs, meeting the mandatory deadline of the second full payperiod in March 1996. This program was undertaken even with the retirement of a housing assistant, the shutdown of the government during the critical preparation time, and the continued implementation of the Ten Percent Cap program. In addition, this particular year was a landmark year as a new California survey of rates and its implementation was introduced to coincide with the annual changes and deadlines.

-- With the resolution of the NPS budget, the ten percent cap initiative was dropped. The Park housing personnel, once again, was successful in providing adequate notice and new rental rate adjustment information to its quarters residents within the determined deadline for the changes.

-- The housing office worked closely with payroll office to ensure that employees deductions for

quarters and in some cases, utilities, were proper and timely. These major changes were successful for more than 500 personnel affected. Incremental, quarterly changes continue through this first portion of FY97.

-- At the end of FY95, the housing office physically relocated its offices with little disruption to its daily operations. Improvements have been realized in communication with NPS operations and with employee occupants.

-- Housing Manager spent two weeks in Washington, DC rewriting the revision of NPS-36, the Quarters Management Guideline. Yosemite housing operation personnel were called upon to review and to comment further on the final revisions. This was accomplished within the time allotted.

-- The Housing Manager was asked to work with the Park team in addressing questions from the Office of the Inspector General regarding new housing. Files and records were made available as requested.

-- The implementation of a Government-wide computerized program, QUARTERS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM, was successfully inaugurated at Yosemite. This new program included pluses and minuses for the Yosemite office operation. No longer were we able to track employees by Social Security number to coordinate with the payroll operation, nor did we have computer access to mailing address for occupants, but created a database to manage the mailing program. We participated in the review of the program and the introduction of the new system, meeting all deadlines. The Housing Management operation met the deadline for implementation of the new five-year survey of rental rates for all its government housing, apartments, and trailers for both seasonal and permanent employees.

-- New assignments were made for permanent and seasonal housing, numbering more than 1000 assignments and vacates in the fiscal year for 455 rental units.

-- The housing office has communicated regularly with the various divisions of the Park and its district personnel to accommodate housing needs for individuals and in support of routine and special programs. This year the office set up two living units to accommodate short-term assignment of personnel in lieu of lodging at a substantial savings to the Park.

-- The housing management office provided written notification and the EPA publication, Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home to occupants in houses older than 1978, families with small children and woman of child-bearing age. This program was initiated in the Park a number of years ago through the housing office. The continuing warning program will provide full disclosure of any known lead hazards in the Government housing units.

-- Housing office personnel have been responsible for learning new computer programs such as Access and Excel, and Word with the advent of WINDOWS. Much of this has been by trial and error, but has resulted in new forms for various housing processes.

-- This past year has resulted in communications with park staff. Electronic mail has been used daily to resolve housing concerns, to "advertise" available housing for employees and to communicate with

The DOI hiring freeze, DOI RPL, and later CTAP/ICTAP regulations were other major challenges that greatly complicated our normal staffing work. Again, formal and informal training was provided on these developing requirements.

We became trained and certified in our expanded delegated examining authority. Open to the public recruitment has definitely increased within the park. Mandatory listing of our vacancies in OPM's worldwide computer vacancy database is significantly increasing the number of applications we are receiving, creating a larger workload per vacancy. So far we are keeping up with it well.

We issued 71 permanent position vacancy announcements, 14 term announcements, 12 temporary announcements, and our two regular seasonal bulletins. Application volume is up in all categories. The timeliness of all phases of our staffing processes continue to improve.

Classification/Wage Administration:

-We established 16 permanent and 31 temporary Visitor Use Assistant positions

Processed 316 temporary appointments

- Processed 194 permanent appointments, reassignments, promotions conversions to career, etc.
- Prepared requests for changes to the organization chart and dealt with the position management issues involving 124 positions and documented these on the organization chart for Supt.'s signature
- Received coverage for 3 Criminal Investigator positions and completed availability pay project
- Classified 44 positions / 27 upgrades / 2 downgrades / 15 same grade (may be change in series or title)
- Established 13 conversion positions
- Submitted 11 position packages to WASO for 6 (c) coverage
- Completed processing of 6 (c) packages for 17 CSRS Park Ranger employees / 1 Prescribed Fire Specialist / 1 Forestry Worker Supervisor
- Served on National Park Service Natural / Cultural Resources Careers task force. Wrote 16 Natural Resources benchmark Pds. Audited 15 employees / positions performing either natural resources or cultural resources work
- Reviewed Maintenance Careers classification computer program
- Prepared listing by division / branch of existing temporary positions and dates classified or last

other NPS areas, field office, and WASO housing operations, and especially with Park management and occupants. A regular schedule of monthly meetings regarding housing assignments was met. The action committee includes the Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Maintenance, Administration Officer, Facility Manager, and Housing Manager.

-- All of the accomplishments and projects have moved forward despite the lack of sufficient staff.

BRANCH OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The relocation of the human resource office took on another phase this past year with the addition of another building conversion to help in completing the merger of all of the branch into one building. New systems furniture was added to the present offices which makes a more efficient, safer work place for all employees.

One of the goals of the Human Resource Officer was to prepare subordinates and the work environment for continuing in an efficient manner after their retirement.

The unit of processing/payroll is ready to meet the challenge of the new automated FPPS system. Because of the expertise of that unit, this park is far ahead of the rest of the Service in implementing and testing the new system.

During the two 1995 furlough periods, that office assured that every employee received their paycheck which was a tremendous accomplishment in itself.

With the hiring of a new supervisor who had previous FPPS experience, this park is the first and largest park in the NPS to go live on the new automated payroll system. Yosemite has been recognized servicewide for that accomplishment.

Processing/payroll functions have been integrated into a single unit with a technical specialist who is responsible for an organization and all of the accompanying questions and problems. Each division will now have one contact person to work out situations that may occur in either the processing or payroll function.

Because of the combining of this function, we were able to take one the processing positions and reallocate it to a position that would concentrate solely on the employee benefits program which has been sorely neglected up to this time.

Staffing

This was a very challenging, chaotic year. We entered our second season under the new temporary employment regulations, which involved training the park in temporary position management and record keeping procedures and responsibilities. We had numerous formal and informal training sessions on this, and our work is still not done.

certified for accuracy. Supervisors will use these lists to determine which temporary Pds need to be reviewed (by date) and revised or rewritten and submitted for classification in preparation for the season. Additionally, any discrepancy in their records and ours will be corrected.

Compensation Return to work Program

- Processed 143 new 1996 Injuries
- Processed 73 1995 claims that carried into 1996
- Continue processing of 10 active claims from prior to 1995
- Coordinated 9 surgeries
- 5 schedule awards are still pending from 1996
- Returned back to work 4 employee's with permanent restrictions (Schilling, Durazo, Shenk (chose not to return), Simms)
- All new claims are sent to DOL within 3 working days (Previously was 2 - 3 weeks)
- All billing is sent to DOL within 2 days of receipt if case has been accepted from DOL (previously 2 - 3 weeks)
- Injury Log is current and maintained daily with available cost and lost days information

Human Resource Development / Employee Relations / Employee Benefits

Utilizing our new training room we were able to provide many training opportunities on-site this past year. In addition we were able to be the site for training sponsored by the PWFA such as Water Operators Certification Training, Contracting Officer's Representative Training, First Responder Awareness Training. One of the on-site training opportunities that was especially popular again this year was the training provided to employees in Mid-Career Retirement. In addition, we coordinated an on-site session of "Orientation to National Park Service Operations" for employees of Yosemite National Park as well as for employees from throughout the Pacific West Field Area. We also provided assistance in coordination of the Lead Paint Abatement classes for the Pacific West Field Area, and assistance in the coordination of the Avalanche training given in the Spring for employees of the Maintenance and Ranger Divisions of Yosemite National Park.

Supervisory / Managerial Training

Managerial Grid

We provided supervisory / managerial training on-site and in nearby Fresno this past year. Twenty-

eight participants from Yosemite, including all Division Chiefs, attended Managerial Grid where they learned how to increase their objectivity in dealing with others and gain insights into their own management style. The goals of the seminar, that participants agreed were met, were effective use of critique, increased team effectiveness, use of candor, and increased ability to manage intergroup conflict.

Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

Because interest was expressed to hold more training that emphasized effective management we were able to get Alan O'Neill of Lake Mead and members of his staff to facilitate a session at Yosemite in our new training room. Evaluations of the course reflected that participants learned a great deal about prioritizing and setting goals.

Off-Site Training

We arranged for 140 employees to obtain necessary training through the various training programs provided by the National Park Service, FLETC, and private vendors. Such training included Electrical Safety, Emergency Dispatch, 3-day Mobile Crane, EEO Counselor Training, Training in Accessibility, Maintenance Worker Training, Industrial Waste Treatment, Real Property, Fundamentals of Electric Power, and Advanced Critical Incident Training, among others. We also arranged for employees to receive computer training under a unique and flexible arrangement with a vendor in Fresno. In addition we sent three employees to FLETC and five employees to Mott Training Center for Plumbing and Electrical Training. We also send Human Resource Processing personnel to Denver to sharpen their expertise in the Federal Personnel Processing System.

Safety Training

Safety training continues to be one of our priorities, and to better plan for effective safety training and initiate an overall Safety program, the Safety Office, in conjunction with the OWCP Specialist and the Resource Development Officer, have organized and meet at least twice a month to strategize future interventions. We are currently in the process of setting up a Safety for First Line Supervisors course tailored to the needs of Yosemite National Park.

Performance Management

Because we were initiating a new performance management system in FY96, the Resource Development Officer provided nine on-site mini-seminars to the various supervisors and individual units throughout the various geographical sites in the Park. The goals of the mini-seminars were to provide information in how to utilize the new performance management system to put in place performance plans for employees that :

1. identified the purpose of individual jobs or positions in the unit and determine whether the accomplishments of the unit and its people are aligned with the mission.
2. define expectations
3. for those accomplishments for which improvement of employee performance is value-added, identify the causes of performance deficiencies and
4. suggest performance improvement solutions for targeted accomplishments.

In order for this to be successful, supervisors

must assure that employees have the knowledge and skill necessary to perform-as well as making sure the processes surrounding the worker contain the information, expectations, feedback, tools, resources, processes and incentives necessary for exemplary performance.

We are planning future mini-seminars to include all of Yosemite supervisors and expand on individual topics such as how supervisors / managers can give employees clear, appropriate expectations. We believe that continuing this type of training for our supervisors and managers has a big payoff in helping supervisors and managers in setting goals thereby maximizing overall organizational effectiveness.

Awards Program

Monetary awards totaling approximately \$140,000 were given in FY96 as follows: 44 Special Act or Service Awards, and 187 performance-based awards, and 3 group awards. Awards certificates were printed, and the correct award amounts were added to the recipient's pay during the appropriate pay period. In addition, Human resources processed 16 Quality Step Increases (QSI's) for nominated employees during 1996. Our non-monetary award programs, which we call our Excellence-in-Service program, nominated and awarded items to 41 employees. Excellence-in-Service items were limited to the \$25 cap this fiscal year. The awards committee is currently exploring raising the amount to be spend on non-monetary incentive awards. The regulations permit supervisors to grant time-off awards without further review for periods not to exceed one workday. Thus, many of our supervisors were able to provide immediate recognition for a job done through this program. Twenty-three time-off awards that exceeded 1 workday were submitted through higher review, approved and successfully processed. Recently nominations were requested for a new award initiated this year as the Barry Hance Memorial Award. Selection for this award will take place during the next fiscal year.

Retirement Counseling and Benefits Processing

We provided information on the following subjects to employees as the requested it: general computations under CSRS and FERS retirements, Civilian Deposits and redeposits, military deposits, optional retirements, early out retirements, refunds of excess deductions, part-time service computations, disability retirements law enforcement / firefighter retirement eligibility, life insurance, health benefits, thrift savings plan, social security, survivor benefits. 2. Retirements, 2 Disability Retirements and 1 Death in Service were accurately processed. Many other complex and confidential situations were successfully dealt with involving employee and survivor benefits.

Human Resources Branch 96 Accomplishments

We established 16 permanent and 31 temporary Visitor Use Assistant positions

- Processed 316 temporary appointments

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- Prepared requests for changes to the organization chart and dealt with the position management issues involving 124 positions and documented these on the organization chart for Superintendent's signature
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- Injury Log is current and maintained daily with available cost and lost days information

BRANCH OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Standardized park management and selected support staff on Microsoft Windows 95, Office Professional and Internet Explorer. Developed zero-based budgeting and issue-tracking applications for the above group.

Continued a major application development project to improve wilderness permit management.

Developed system specifications and, in partnership with the Yosemite Association, worked with MEGAbase, Inc. of Mountain View to develop an enhanced client/server version of the application.

Software developed in-house now in use at Yosemite, Sequoia-Kings Canyon, Bridgeport Ranger Station of Toiyabe NF and Lee Vining Ranger Station of Inyo NF. Helped Inyo NF develop specifications for related application.

Developed a medical surveillance application for the Safety Office.

Designed a detailed database to manage and track projects related to the Capital Improvement Fund/Government Improvement Account programs for Concessions Management.

Implemented a help desk database to improve management of computer support and more efficiently utilize the limited FTE available.

Negotiated a significantly reduced group rate for New Horizons computer training in Fresno.

Provided critical assistance to Human Resources during the conversion of personnel and payroll operations to Internet transmission and the FPPS payroll implementation.

Provided YoseNet connectivity to the old warehouse and prescribed fire offices in Yosemite Valley, Human Resources and Yosemite Association offices in El Portal, and to the Yosemite Fund in San Francisco.

Completed YoseNet conversion from ARCNet to Ethernet.

Started a strategic move from a Novell Netware/DOS/miscellaneous software environment (with little standardization) to a Microsoft Windows NT/Windows 95/Office Professional environment.

Developed a revised design and specifications for the park utility billing system.

Managed several major computer virus outbreaks.

Evaluated group scheduling using Schedule+.

Continued a dialog with management to ensure the program remains closely aligned with park goals.

Developed a technical training strategy to improve professionalism and quality of service.

Assisted with Web site projects for Interpretation, the Yosemite Association, and the YATI project.

Continued ongoing network planning and development efforts and began planning for a Yosemite "intranet".

Started the final phase of YoseNet connectivity for the Research Center, which will provide improved access to GIS data.

Standardized the Office of Strategic Planning & Partnerships on Win 95/Office 95.

Provided Internet-based data to management during the two government shutdowns.

-Evaluated news-gathering software for on-line services (CompuServe) and the Internet.

Administered the park CompuServe business account to provide users without YoseNet connectivity access to the Internet.

Conducted a thorough revision of the Microlog automated attendant system.

BRANCH OF PROCUREMENT, CONTRACTING, PROPERTY MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL SERVICES

Accomplishments for fiscal year 1996

Small Purchases/Contracting

The small purchasing section of the Branch had 5,237 actions for a total dollar amount of \$3,851,998.44.

The Government IMPAC credit card program was introduced to Yosemite through an intense training program put on by the park, with all paperwork being submitted to the SSO for appropriate action. Blanket purchase agreements have been audited and we are processing less of the blankets for FY-97 due to the credit card.

The contracting section of the branch had 72 actions with a total dollar amount of \$2,299,913.11. This was accomplished while also mentoring the Contract Specialist at Lassen Volcanic National Park through 3 contract actions with a total dollar amount of \$268,153.18. This entailed the complete review and correction of each solicitation and many phone calls for training sessions.

We also assisted the SSO by performing contracting actions for Death Valley for a total dollar amount of \$2,577,197. This necessitated our Contracting Officer making two trips to Death Valley.

Our Contracting Officer also took the responsibility of a multitude of agreements for Death Valley, Lassen and Santa Monica Mountains. We also took responsibility from the SSO for all UC Davis and CPSU agreements.

Property

The property specialist participated in the Property Task Force with the Washington Office and other field areas to streamline and restructure the NPS property programs.

The Branch reviewed and commented on the new NPS-44 property draft for the Washington Office.

A new system for advertising excess property was implemented.

The wood permit program was transferred from the Protection Division to this area and a new system has been implemented.

The property specialist has held meetings with all but two Division Chiefs to streamline the personal property inventories in the park. This will enable the property office to meet the deadlines of the Washington Office as well as force the custodial officers to perform the required hands on inventory.

A proposal was submitted and approved for Board of Survey procedures which will enhance the productivity of the Board members while still maintaining the integrity of the program.

Another proposal was submitted and approved to streamline the accountability of appliances and air conditioning units that will result in substantial time savings for all parties. This will remove over 900 items from the property inventories.

The lost and found program has handled approximately 10,000 items since January 1996. This was accomplished even after the resignation of one of the employees.

Accounts Payable/Travel

The Accounts Payable and Travel Section was transferred to the Fiscal Office.

Warehouse

The warehouse operation continues to add new items but the Branch Chief plans a meeting with Maintenance Foremen to standardize and add other necessary items to the inventory. The commissary operation had only minor problems this year. A complete inventory of the warehouse is planned for November.

BRANCH OF SPECIAL PARK USES

This branch recovered an estimated \$208,700 in costs to totally fund the Branch Operation including five permanent staff (VIP Program funded separately), equipment, vehicles, supplies, materials, training, utilities, travel and details. This branch was created from the ground up to include program managers in incidental business permits, filming, commercial tours, weddings, and hopefully soon land use. Five divisions are represented in classified PDs for these staff positions.

Filming. Created Yosemite's first ever full time Film Coordinator in May who issued 33 permits who recovered costs approximating \$20,000. Negotiated a \$139,500 film permit with a major film company desiring to produce a film of Yosemite utilizing an IMAX format. Filming and cost recovery tentatively beginning November 1997.

Commercial Vehicles. Created Yosemite's first ever Commercial Tours Manager who cost recovered \$62,750 (at only \$250 per company) with permitting initiated in June. An estimated 290 commercial companies entered approximately 15,838 times.

IBPs. Created Yosemite's first ever full time Incidental Business Permit Manager and program effectively creating numerous IBPs for multiple permittees, discovered a \$34,000 underpayment by one permittee, discovering many expired and unpermitted activities parkwide.

Lands. Initiated and completed Draft Management Lease Guidelines as a precursor for El Portal regulations required by law. This effort represents the largest progression in this most controversial and complex issue since 1986 when the 1958 legislation was last revised. This progress should mark the beginning of the end for implementing a lease program effectively resolving this 38 year old matter.

Weddings--Some 167 wedding permits were issued with cost recovery at approximately \$15,000.

Volunteer Program--Established Yosemite's first ever full time VIP Manager. This manager reports 262 individual volunteers and 45 groups (997 people) contributing an estimated 71,828 total hours.

Initiated multiple proposals and programs, which may produce in excess of \$1,000,000 in FY96. The branch also provided vehicle use for other administrative branches and occasionally other divisions. Some outside division financial support was also provided. Assistance in Fire, SAR, and Law Enforcement was also contributed. Additional programs and revision of old permits are planned for FY97.

DIVISION OF CONCESSIONS MANAGEMENT

DIVISION OF CONCESSIONS MANAGEMENT

Budget and Personnel

The FY96 budget for the Division of Concessions Management was \$320,000, a 5% decrease from the FY 95 base.

The Financial Analyst position was filled in August. Marvin Mann joined the division in August following a career with the Federal Government and private industry.

Bill Rust, a Civil Engineer previously assigned to Yosemite's Maintenance Division, was detailed to assist with program oversight of Capital Improvement and Government Improvement accounts. Following the completion of the 120 day detail, Bill was permanently assigned to the Division.

Bonita Robinson accepted a permanent secretarial position in June.

Pat Bussy, a Volunteer-in-the-Park, provided volunteer clerical support for eight weeks during the summer season.

Christopher Mavis, a Practicum Student from Pennsylvania State University, was assigned to the Division during the fall. Chris was a Park and Recreation major who returned to Penn State to graduate in December.

At year end, the Division consisted of the following positions:

GM-14 Division Chief (Martin L. Nielson)

GS-12 Construction Representative (Mary Hazell)

GS-12 Construction Analyst (William Rust)

GS-12 Civil Engineer (Michael Wichmann, detailed to the Maintenance Branch of Professional Services)

GS-12 Financial Analyst (Marvin Mann)

Three GS-11 Concession Specialists (Annette Catamec, Bill Fay and Kim Tucker) GS-5 Secretary.

Park concessioners responded to a number of unforeseen events during the 1996 fiscal year, including:

Two successive government shutdowns in November and December 1995, extending to mid-January 1996, created operational and financial chaos for private businesses and their employees. All concessioners responded well to the unprecedented park closures, recognizing that these events did not occur as a result of manageable natural events or the decision of local park managers. YCS provided basic services such as food service, recreation, automotive services and grocery sales to local residents. The El Portal Market was very supportive of local residents by extending credit to employees who were

out of work.

The Merced River flooded in mid-May, causing restrictions of visitor access to Yosemite Valley for two days. Some YCS facilities were flooded, including parts of Housekeeping Camp, Yosemite Lodge cabins and employee housing areas located near the river. Orderly evacuations occurred with minimal loss of property and no significant injuries or loss of life.

The Ackerson Fire, which began on August 14, caused the early closure of White Wolf Lodge to visitors. The lodge was used as a fire camp with essential food services being provided by the concessioner.

Concession Operated Campgrounds

A work group was formed during this year to begin developing a prospectus for concession operated campgrounds in the event a decision was made to privatize park campgrounds.

~~Concession Operations~~

Yosemite Concession Services Corp.

In March, YCS and the Service began a series of candid meetings between key staff members of both organizations in an attempt to improve communication regarding topics of mutual concern. These meetings were thought to be successful in initiating discussions of both organizations' "institutional culture" which contribute to policies and/or actions that might be misunderstood by members of the other organization. We anticipate that these meetings will be incorporated into the ongoing organizational relationship between YCS and the NPS.

Happy Isles:

The Happy Isles Snack Stand was destroyed by a tree falling as a result of a major rockslide in the area on July 10, 1996. Following a closure of the impacted area, YCS was given permission in mid-August to place a mobile snack stand near the NPS restrooms at Happy Isles in an effort to continue service to persons accessing the trail system in the area.

Food and Beverage:

Brent Kelley, Food and Beverage Manager, left the park and was replaced by Christian DeVos. Mr. DeVos is a career food service professional who most recently served as Executive Director for the Chicago Fund on Aging and Disability, a non-profit organization.

YCS initiated a number of food service concepts during 1996, including:

- an outdoor barbecue at the Yosemite Lodge
- a "Coffee Corner" was added to the Yosemite Lodge cafeteria in October

A comprehensive renovation of the Yosemite Lodge Mountain Broiler Room and Four Seasons Restaurant began in August. This project will include expanded indoor seating at the Broiler Room. The Four Seasons Restaurant will be renovated to accommodate a soup/salad/carvery buffet.

The annual Bracebridge and New Year's Eve dinner and dance held at The Ahwahnee were canceled due to the Park closure during the government shutdown. A decision was made to offer Bracebridge guests who had been drawn for the 1995 lottery to be carried over to 1996.

High Sierra Camps:

The Glen Aulin High Sierra Camp sewer system posed sanitation and environmental concerns which were addressed and are anticipated to be corrected prior to reopening in the spring of 1997.

YCS reduced stock use serving the High Sierra Camps by approximately 10% as a result of menu and linen service changes. Bulky foods such as corn on the cob were eliminated and bed sheets were discontinued. Travelers to the High Sierra Camps were encouraged to buy travel sacks at a nominal price or bring their own sheets. Future methods for resource impact reductions will be considered again for next season.

Stables:

The concessioner initiated a request to eliminate the stable operations in Yosemite Valley and Wawona, while retaining stock support for the High Sierra Camps and continued trail rides from the Tuolumne Meadows Stable. Significant public input was received from individuals and groups who supported and opposed the proposal. No final decision has been made with regard to the long-term future of these services.

Retail:

Valerie Trenter, joined Yosemite Concessions Services Corporation (YCSC) in April, replacing the former Retail Vice President, John Graham.

Ms. Trenter is committed to furthering the Gift Mission Statement by making significant changes in merchandise buying which will be more oriented to the Park's interpretive themes.

Lodging:

Twenty-four guest cottages were refurbished at The Ahwahnee Hotel in November 1995. The remodeling project for hotel and public rooms within the building was initiated this year. This project should be completed by early 1997.

The NPS and YCS finalized the selection of properties to be used for comparison purposes with in-park lodging facilities during periodic rate reviews. We anticipate that these well-established properties will be suitable for comparison to in-park accommodations for the next three to five years.

Swimming Pools:

The Yosemite Lodge and Curry Village swimming pools were closed early in the season so that renovations which would bring these pools into code compliance could be performed in the late summer and fall. The project is anticipated to be completed prior to the pool opening in mid-May 1997.

Service Stations:

A methanol fueling station has been installed at the Yosemite Lodge gas station, but has not been utilized as much as anticipated.

Employee Housing:

Primestar satellite television service installation was completed at the Yosemite Lodge and Ahwahnee housing areas. Renovations were initiated at the Yosemite Lodge Annex dorms to include restrooms in the recreation room complex and dormitory buildings "K" and "L". Also, new carpet, paint, ground improvements, etc. were made during the course of this year.

-Kitchen renovations were completed in the Ahwahnee dormitory.

CIF/GIA Program:

During 1996, per the contract, monies were deposited in both the Government Improvement Account and the Capital Improvement Account on a regularly monthly basis. A total of 82 projects were active in planning, design or construction phases over the course of the year, with expenditures totaling \$4,581,324.

The overall projects in the program consist of a variety of project types, sizes, and complexity. The basic breakdown of the types of projects being accomplished, based on fund allocations, are as follows:

GMP/CSP Advancement	59%
Facility Improvements	7%
Improved Visitor Services	12%
Resource Preservation	10%
Health and Safety	4%
Code Violations/Compliance	3%
Employee Facility Improvements	3%

Among the most significant projects undertaken to date was the beginning of construction of a new food service and retail facility at Glacier Point. A picnic area, amphitheater and viewing area will be included in this project; these improvements will be paid for by The Yosemite Fund.

The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery operated in a fully satisfactory manner throughout the operating period.

Yosemite Medical Clinic

Doctors Medical Center (DMC) assumed daily operations of the Yosemite Medical Clinic on January 1, 1996 pursuant to the terms of CC-YOSE005-95. Community members continued to express concerns regarding the new concessioner's decision to not retain any of the four established clinic physicians. Additional issues of concern regarding overall clinic operations surfaced throughout the operating year. In September, Doctors Medical Center was placed on a formal, 90-day Performance Improvement Plan.

As a part of the concession contract, DMC operated and staffed an ambulance, (subcontracted with Mercy Medical Transportation of Mariposa). This service proved to be very successful in that patients were treated promptly in a professional manner by private operators who supplemented the traditional EMS provided by NPS staff.

El Portal Chevron

The concessioner's business was negatively impacted by the intermittent government-wide shutdowns in November and December 1995 and January, 1996. NPS Concessions Management staff continued to be concerned about the concessioner's contract performance and compliance. Talks continued between the concessioner and NPS staff regarding prospective options available for continued operation of the service station. The Park intends to develop a new contract prospectus for this service in the coming year.

El Portal Market

Although revenues were down due to the government-wide shutdown, the concessioner's business was not severely affected. The concessioner extended credit to local residents who were unexpectedly out-of-work during the shutdown; accounts were subsequently collected in due course. The concessioner continued to operate in a satisfactory manner during the operating period.

DIVISION OF INTERPRETATION

STAFFING

Personnel

Hired new Public Information Officer, Scott Gediman.

Created two GS-5 public information clerk positions out of Jeff Samco's vacant GS-9 position.

Detailed Laura Seager to LAME, resulting in new job for her at that park.

Provided training detail as assistant field operations branch chief for Chief of Interpretation of War in the Pacific, Rose Manibusan.

Kristen Ramsey, Park video specialist, re-assigned to Interpretation.

Created and filled RM/Interp liaison position with Laurie Lee Jenkins.

Re-assigned Raye Santos to public information clerk, leaving park photographer position vacant all year.

Continued to lapse Dan Card's, Marla Shenk's, and Paul Pfenninger's GS-11 positions along with Kris Fister's and Althea Roberson's GS-9 positions. These positions were occupied and funded upon my arrival- budget erosion (step increases, promotions, cost of living, base funds to curatorial, loss of Lisa Dapprich salary, etc.) has not allowed for their being re-filled.

All personnel put under the new program for performance standards.

Trainings attended and held:

Conducted the following classes for park staff:

Interpretive Competencies.

Monitoring, Coaching and Evaluating Employees.

Storytelling with world renowned storyteller, Susan Strauss.

Basic Communications (maintenance mostly).

Sent employees to the following:

Employees signed up for computer training on the New Horizons package.

National Association for Interpretation Workshop.

Supervisory Training.

Exhibit Planning.

Leadership Seminar Instructor.

Cultural Resources workshops.

FISCAL AND BUDGET

First year that TM watershed interpretation funded by Hetch Hetchy money.

Special funding developed so rangers in uniform could lead High Sierra Loop Trips and YA seminar programs. Hundreds of letters received praising this program.

Branch chiefs trained to greater depth to take on their Interp budgets so division budget assistant could take on two other divisions budgets.

Division of Interpretation well within budget tolerances at close-out due to the fine work of all branch chiefs and especially the Budget Assistant, Patricia Walls.

Allocated base funds (27K) to begin the process of weaning soft funding from Curatorial Branch permanent positions.

Teacher workshops, stage operations (even with a short shut down due to loss of a driver for a bit), barn dances and other fee programs were all in the black this year.

New computers and radios were purchased for much of the division resulting in higher quality work and safer programs for visitors.

FIELD OPERATIONS BRANCH

Over 200,000 visitors and students participated in staff-lead interpretive and formal education programs.

Handled 20,000 phone calls, 15,000 pieces of mail, 2,000 press contacts, issued 90 news releases, coordinated 75 international VIPs, and had about 4 million visitor contacts in the park's visitor centers.

Completed and opened new exhibits at the Nature Center at Happy Isles.

Park Website designed and online.

Two new YA theater programs this year: "Friendly Fire", about an injured 49er being raised by local Indians and his view of the impacts on the native peoples as the Yosemite area is "discovered"; "No Barriers", Mark Wellman's video/evening program on appropriate/resource-sensitive use and opportunities for physically challenged use of Yosemite.

Wawona and Big Oak Flat contact stations closed in winter due to the decision to concentrate fiscal impacts to that time of year.

BRANCH OF FIELD OPERATIONS

Offered over 52 different types of programs during the summer guide period throughout the park.

Offered over 30 programs in the fall guide.

Offered 12 programs in the winter guide.

Staffed and operated 25 High Sierra Loop trips with uniformed rangers.

Supervised and trained 12 interns.

Succeeded in breaking down district and divisional lines by sharing staff and resources to accomplish: loop trips, A seminars, Junior Rangers programs, school programs and daily tours.

Utilized over 20 YA volunteers to staff the Kodak orientation show and 3 other volunteers to assist in the visitor center during the year.

Recruited the previous ICM intern back to finish her masters project redesigning our I'M demonstration area, resulting in a better work area for employees and a much better demonstration area for the public.

Staff was shared between the Interpretive services, Field, Education and Information Services branches.

Additionally, funding came from four sources: ONPS, YA, YCSC and San Francisco.

Radios and computers/printers were upgraded, redistributed and shared.

Provided developmental training (OJT) for three new seasonal supervisors, four permanent employees and one term employee, in supervision and operations.

Held a Storytelling workshop for staff and volunteers with internationally known storyteller, Susan Strauss.

Found outside sources of funding for the barn dance program and raised \$1400.00 dollars from the PYHC quilt raffle for costume aid next year.

Recruited and hired a new stage driver who organized and operated the program on a self-sustaining basis. Health of the horses and quality of the program was improved.

Hosted three cooperative events with the American Indian Council of Mariposa County.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES BRANCH

New bilingual (English/Miwok) trail guide for the Indian Village completed.

The Guide to the Yosemite Cemetery rewritten.

Seven special exhibits done.

Completed "Bears in Balance", Happy Isles Rockfall and Housing videos.

Published four editions of the "Yosemite Guide", which involves all the park partners and other divisions.

Upgraded equipment and light/sound/video systems in the Indian Cultural Village and auditoriums.

EDUCATION SERVICES BRANCH

Instituted a self-guiding junior ranger program for shoulder seasons.

New Environmental Living Program teacher handbook completed.

Implemented a park-wide, ranger-led junior ranger program.

Upgraded self-guiding explorer packs.

CURATORIAL SERVICES BRANCH

Duplicated 200 historic negatives, accessioned 51 new items into the collection, 250 books added to the library, 1011 new images added to the slide collection, and 2249 slide orders filled.

New Bally building HVAC/fire suppression installed and storage equipment ordered.

Historian Jim Snyder completed wilderness cultural resource survey and provided expertise and information on HI rockfall, Ackerson fires, and provided training to staff and YI.

BRANCH OF INFORMATION SERVICES

Public Information Office

Responded to press calls and contacts from all types of media, including on air television and radio

interviews, newspaper interviews, magazine and feature story reporters, and documentary film makers from around the world.

Conducted press and public information duties for several major incidents throughout the fiscal year, including the flood in Yosemite Valley, the rockslide near Happy Isles, the bear incident, and Ashleigh Wiggins and other Search and Rescue operations.

Handled routine press operations including the opening/closing of the Tioga Road, the Glacier Point Construction ground breaking, and several resource management projects in the park.

Provided extensive support work on the Ackerson Complex fire. One staff person was assigned full-time for thirty days to the complex as a Fire Information Officer. The Daily Fire Update, provided by the Ackerson FIO staff, was faxed by Yosemite PIO to park offices, the press and local agencies. Office staff handled some press and internal park relations pertaining to the fire.

Coordinated approximately 35 international VIP groups comprised predominately of park officials and political constituents. The Branch Chief met with 10 of these groups. The Park International Visitor Coordinator met with and coordinated speakers for the remainder of the groups. Countries represented included Japan, Korea, Germany Australia, Italy, Scotland, and England.

Assisted the United States Information agency with film crews from Latvia and Montenegro. Both crews were producing documentaries on national parks in the United States. Facilitate the filming of documentary film projects for the Japanese Broadcasting Corp., and the ADR German TV.

The public information office also handled information phone calls from the general public, and responded to written information requests. Revised and updated nearly all of the park site bulletins for distribution by the Public Information Office, park visitor centers and surrounding area visitor bureaus and chambers of commerce.

Assisted other division in the dispersal of information, i.e. production and distribution of Visitor Alert flyers and brochures.

SOP for information clerk duties and office operations prepared. Training conducted for student interns, field and PIO staff.

Took over management of the park's Web Page, and the management of the Microlog automated phone system, both used to provide information to visitors.

Visitor Center/Contact Stations

Managed all five park visitor centers/contact stations including scheduling, budget needs, sop's, donations, YA relationships, etc.

Provided assistance, direction and natural/cultural history information to the 4.1 million visitors that

enter the park.

Coordinated the YATI kiosk implementation in the Valley Visitor Center. This included providing YATI with park information, assisting with kiosk setup, coordinating information with dispatch and Caltrans, and planning the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Inter-Divisional Cooperation

Facilitated protection meeting on PR campaign on the ranger image.

Assisted with design of Wilderness Center and exhibits.

Provided interpretive training to protection rangers so they could meet their competency requirements for education under ranger careers . Obtained funding from FLETC to assist with this training.

Assisted in electric bus event, produced electric bus site bulletin, and supervised alternative power/clean air interpreter.

-Through Aid-to-NPS/intern program, provided 26 interns for Interpretation, Protection, Superintendent's office, and Resources Management.

Through Aid-to-NPS, provided funding for resources management work.

Worked to establish the three-way sharing of our budget assistant.

Took over time consuming fee waiver program from Protection.

Provided road construction site bulletins and road direction personnel in TM.

Provided integration of RM/science/education and all the park staff/partners through the publication Resources Connection .

Worked closely with Concessions Management on a number of projects: Art Activity Center, Yosemite Lodge, Glacier Point, gift store sale items, Wilderness Center items.

Trained Concessions Management employee in interpretive skills.

Coordinated fabrication of mobile bear/food storage exhibit for RM problems at Curry Village and other locations.

Worked with Protection on Commencement 2000 program.

Conducted "Basic Communications" for ALL park staff dealing with visitors.

Partners

Draft MOU with the Sierra Club/LeConte done.

Draft agreement with YA done, along with supplemental agreements on Ostrander ski hut and Wilderness Center.

YA sale items SOP done and approved.

Policy Guidelines for Interpretation done.

Work begun on YA Scope of Sales Statement.

Inter-partner training programs begun with YCS, YI, NPS, YA, and LeConte.

20 YA volunteers performed orientation program introductions, freeing NPS for more field programs.

Aid-to-NPS program better organized. Priorities submitted by NPS accepted and approved by YA board.

Continued improvement in communications/interaction with interpretive park partners through the IMT, education/YI interactions, YCS/YA/YI interactions, etc.

New LeConte manager arrives.

The Ansel Adams Gallery, YCS transportation, and a member of Concessions Management join the Full IMT. Wilderness participation continues to be spotty.

Assistance for the websites for YA and YF is provided. These websites are on line and approved.

Implemented comprehensive partner program monitoring plan.

YATI kiosks installed. Division assisted in ribbon-cutting .

Partnered with BLM, Forest Service, YI, Wilderness, and others to provide teacher workshop on Sierra Wilderness.

Worked extensively with YF in coordinating funding/planning for numerous exhibits/waysides/museum projects.

Hosted three cooperative events with the American Indian Council of Mariposa County.

Park/Cluster/Field/Service-wide Assistance

Served on Division Chief Board as Duty Officer- developed issues list.

Served as chair of the Happy Isles Team.

Assigned to Awards Committee.

Served on Concession Project Forum.

Chair of cluster Interpretive Advisory Group (Pacific/Great Basin and Pacific Islands-spent about 10 work-days worth of time on this last year).

Service-wide issues

Development of Interpretive Training and Competencies Program (Yosemite to be model park)

Worked with DSC on service-wide design for prototype signs.

Worked on service-wide VIP standards.

Provided interpretive training to other parks.

Worked on the following park plans: VIP, LeConte landscaping plan, Tuolumne Grove parking area design, Glacier Pt. design, Tuolumne Meadows DCP, Yosemite Lodge redesign, park sign plan, Ackerson Fire burned area rehab assessment.

Provided NPS representative to the National Watchable Wildlife program.

Staff participated in park-wide objective setting workshops.

DIVISION OF MAINTENANCE

The FY96 Maintenance program evolved, not from the written plan which had been developed, but from one emergency to the next. The various shutdowns throughout the first quarter wrought havoc on any semblance of planning which may have been in place. Operations were restricted officially to basic infrastructure preservation and minimal to no visitor services. During this period, maintenance pushed the bounds of working as many employees as possible to complete crucial water, sewer, buildings and roads projects which would have had exponential negative financial effects if they were not completed before winter. This was in direct conflict with shutdown orders, but overwhelmingly to the park's and employees' benefit.

Scarcely out of winter and barely into spring opening season, the May floods hit. Maintenance infrastructure was particularly vulnerable and employees worked non-stop for over 24 hours to avoid millions of dollars in facilities damage and to get visitors out and roads opened as soon as possible. Maintenance took the lead in documenting damages and obtaining \$805,000 in damage repair for the park. Significant here was the parkwide perspective used in rooting out all financial flood liabilities and securing funding for all affected divisions. Maintenance also negotiated with the Regional budget office for 80% of this money to come in no-year funds to allow the most efficient spending. Six weeks later came the rock slide; four weeks later the fires. One disaster a year can actually motivate employees and provide myriad opportunities for park improvements and personnel challenges. One disaster a month can overwhelm and demoralize a work force, particularly when it seems the same employees are called upon over and over to bring the park back to operating status. Specifically, the roads and utilities crews worked endless hours in each disaster, facilitating the fastest possible return to normal.

UTILITIES BRANCH

Cross Connection

Conducted safety and awareness meetings with affected shops and warehouse to establish a baseline for Uniform Plumbing Code regulations, the purpose of backflow devices, and proper devices to use. Organized training and re-certification classes for NPS and concessioner testers. Provided assistance to other parks with implementation of their programs.

Electronic Shop

Provided control systems for several maintenance and utility applications, i.e.: solar pump controls; chlorine and turbidity safety shutdown systems; park hazardous material monitoring on fuel systems; and drinking water pump controls.

Backcountry Utilities

Upgraded two water systems (May Lake and Vernal Fall) to Department of Health Services Standards. Repaired sewer vaults at two High Sierra Camps.

El Portal Utilities

Completed and put into service the facets of the Sludge Handling Improvement Package 504BB, including a new digester, septic receiving station and dewatering centrifuges to meet Federal 503 regulations for sludge disposal. Completed and put into service several modifications to the El Portal Community Water System, including two new wells, storage tank and chlorine contact chambers. Completed several minor modifications to plants to comply with Hazardous Waste and Energy Programs.

High Voltage

Repaired several park electrical services damaged by major natural occurrences during the year. Monitored new construction of services in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne.

Mather/Yosemite Valley Utilities

Rehabilitated portions of water/sewer systems in Yosemite Valley and Mather area. Participated in design and planning of next phases of upgrades to water/sewer systems in all areas.

Wawona Utilities

Complete upgrades to several water systems at Union Point, Bridalveil Creek and Mariposa Grove to comply with Department of Health Services requirements. Continued improvements to wastewater treatment plant, i.e.: electrical energy savings by installation of pump controls; and improvement to septage handling.

Utilities Management

Completed several internal and external studies regarding composting, electrical energy retrofitting of utility buildings, water and sewer rehabilitation and sanitary surveys. Established a Utility Electronics Shop. Completed several rehabilitation and construction projects to existing water and wastewater systems.

ROADS & TRAILS BRANCH

The Roads & Trails Branch was particularly hard hit during most park emergencies and spent collectively 25% of their work year on the flood, rock slide and fire. For over three weeks, there were 35 Roads & Trails employees working full time on fire support.

Participated with a multi-divisional task force to create new guidelines and procedures for spring opening road operations.

Committed hundreds of work hours responding to 1995 OSHA violations regarding Spring Opening.

Implemented the new Spring Opening Plan, working closely with and being trained by a hired avalanche consultant.

Completed high quality chip seal on 14 miles of route 41.

Used inmate crews to accomplish major brushing project on the Hetch Hetchy Road.

Completed logging and minor maintenance on all 800 miles of trails for the second time in 15 years.

Trail crew numbers rose to 77 individuals (most ever) through special projects funding and expansion of cooperative agreements with California Youth Authority and CCCs (received 28,000 hours in free labor).

- With the forester s assistance, milled hazard trees for Pate Valley bridge stringers, saving the park \$8,000.

Completed 30 miles of major trail rebuild/rehabilitation.

Obtained three new \$200,000 Oshkosh snow plows to replace worn out 1970s versions.

Purchased a computerized silk screen computer and output device. This put us in compliance with OSHA regulations and has more than tripled our sign production. Completed 637 sign work orders (over 3,500 signs) in FY 96, including 551 signs required for flooding/rockslide/fire emergencies.

BRANCH OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Hodgdon Meadow Trailer Replacement - Provided design, survey and A/E contract management for development of construction drawings and specifications for new duplex housing units in Hodgdon Meadow.

CIF Project Support - Provided technical engineering and design services support to the Division of Concessions Management for review and inspection of CIF projects.

Concessions Maintenance Program Review - Provided oversight of the concessionaire Maintenance Management Plan, including technical review of their proposed maintenance program and construction documents, analysis of utilities and infrastructure related issues and facility inspection and code analysis.

Sign Study - Provided continued support for the Yosemite Sign Study. Services included providing A/E

management, extensive site survey, technical support and archival information.

Co-Composting Partnership - Entered into cooperative agreement with Mariposa County to develop design and implementation plan for co-composting facility at Mariposa Landfill, in order to meet state mandated diversion requirements. Co-composting will divert 70 percent of the municipal solid waste generated by Yosemite and Mariposa County from landfill application to recyclable products and agricultural grade compost.

Transportation Symposium- Provided co-chairmanship and technical support for the Transportation Symposium.

YARTS - Developed \$36,000 contract with Merced County Association of Governments for Yosemite Area Regional Transportation Strategy administration. Strategy accomplishments for 1996 included documentation of past transportation planning findings, identification of visitation trends for the region, and development of strategy goals and objectives through public meetings and YARTS workshops.

Tuolumne Visitor Center Parking - Provided construction supervision for completion of the parking lot and entrance road.

Phase IV Bikepath - Completed design and construction of the bikepath from Curry stables to Southside Drive. Construction funding was provided by the Yosemite Fund, with design and construction inspection by Professional Services.

Crane Flat Helitack Building - Designed and contracted building construction. Construction funding was provided by the Boise Interagency Fire Center through the Yosemite Fire Management Office.

Sentinel Bridge Walkway- Completed design and construction of the bikepath from Sentinel Bridge to the chapel crossover at Southside Drive.

Courthouse Modifications - Design and construction of modifications to Valley courthouse completed.

Happy Isles Nature Center - Provided site and utility mapping documents for emergency response to the rock fall and design assistance for building repair.

Partnership Projects

Sanitary Watershed Surveys - Conducted Tuolumne Water Plant Tracer Study in cooperation with San Jose State University.

Crane Flat and White Wolf Photovoltaic Project - In cooperation with Sandia Laboratory, hybrid photovoltaic systems have been proposed for these developed areas replacing diesel engine-generator

facilities. Energy conservation measures up to 70 percent have also been proposed identifying these areas as possible renewable energy demonstration sites.

Sequoia National Park - Provided staff for survey of fire damaged archeological sites.

Mariposa County Co-Composting Demonstration Project - Yosemite, Mariposa County, and the State of California formed a partnership to demonstrate the co-composting of solid waste to recycle more than 70 percent of the solid waste generated in the park and surrounding communities. Planning was initiated in FY95, with a cooperative agreement signed in 1996 for implementation planning.

Yosemite Area Regional Transportation Strategy (YARTS) - Is an undertaking by Yosemite National Park and the five surrounding counties of Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono and Tuolumne to develop and implement regional transportation solutions for Yosemite and the region.

Yosemite Area Traveler Information (YATI) - This project is an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) project funded and sponsored by Caltrans, directed by a management board of local elected officials, state and federal agency staff, and coordinated by the Merced County Association of Governments. YATI encompasses the greater Yosemite region, including Yosemite National Park and the five surrounding counties of Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono and Tuolumne. The purpose of the YATI project is to test a system of communicating information to the Yosemite region traveler.

Line Item Construction Program for 1996:

504DD, New Housing, Rancheria Flat - Construction of new single family housing continued in the Rancheria Flat area with the addition of seven new structures and improvements to community recreation sites. Project was completed in 1996.

504BB (3), Solids Processing Improvements, El Portal Waste Water Treatment Plant - This project increases the plant's solids processing capabilities, adds a new digester and two new de-watering centrifuges, demolishes the old incinerator and replaces worn metal roof panels. Project was completed in 1996.

504BA (4A), El Portal Vehicle Maintenance Building - This project involves the construction of a 20,000 square-foot vehicle maintenance shop and demolition of the Valley Mess Hall. The project was 95% complete in 1996.

504BA(4B), El Portal Shop Building - This project involves the construction of a 30,000 square-foot shop building and 54,000 square-foot parking structure. Construction was awarded in FY 96.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS BRANCH

In FY 96, the Buildings & Grounds Branch accomplished the following:

Removed the El Portal fire dorm to accommodate the personnel office move from the Valley.

Remodeled offices in the Valley Warehouse and the Administrative Building.

Constructed an office addition to the front of the Courthouse in the Valley.

Rehabilitated historic structures including the Meyer Barn, Sasche Snow Survey Cabin, Anderson Cabin at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center, and the Crane Flat Lookout, and replaced the fire sprinkler system in the Yosemite Valley Chapel.

Rehabilitated 12 permanent employee housing units.

Remodeled the Arch Rock Entrance Restroom and purchased a new restroom facility for the Tuolumne Visitor Center.

Reroofed 33 structures throughout the park.

- Replaced 14 earthen pit toilets with new vaulted toilets in seven visitor use areas.

Upgraded 80 campsites with new tables and grills.

DIVISION OF VISITOR PROTECTION

BRANCH OF FEE COLLECTION

In January, 1996, Fee Collection operations were removed from the districts and placed in a separate Protection Division Branch under a Fee Management Supervisor. All park entrance stations and campgrounds were included in this reorganization.

The high spring runoff in mid-May continued for over a week and flooded campsites in Lower Pines, Upper and Lower River Campgrounds. Group Camp was closed from May 15-23 because of the flooding.

The rockslide in July closed the back loop of Upper Pines for a week due to dust and dirt and the potential for new rockfall.

CHIEF RANGER

The division continued to operate at sub-standard staffing levels and four more vacancies went unfilled. Permanent field Law Enforcement personnel have dropped from 48 in 1994 to 32 this past year and no commissioned seasonal staff were hired except for backcountry. A corresponding drop occurred in reported incidents.

During FY1996, the Division of Protection entered into a reorganization designed to allow more efficient use and allocation of resources during this period of decreasing staff and "real" funding. The program was based to a degree upon the Incident Command System structure with a goal of achieving a more operational oriented control of resource allocation.

Basically, the division was changed from three districts and seven sub-districts to five districts under an Assistant Chief Ranger, Field Operations. The SAR/EMS function was also added to this branch. The Dispatch function was moved from the Chief Ranger to the Assistant Chief, Law Enforcement Support and a Branch of Administrative Support headed by a Supervisory Budget Analyst was created. All Division Administration Technicians, except the Chief Ranger's Office, were placed in this unit. All fee functions were combined under a Fee Program Supervisor. Wilderness function did not change.

Resource Protection Program

A parkwide Final Draft Vegetation Management Plan was completed and circulated for in-park review. The final draft which contains goals, objectives, strategies for implementation and a description of 40 plant communities is expected to be complete in April 1997. This plan is a precursor for the revision of the Fire Management Plan and coincides with the revision of the Wilderness Management Plan.

Protection Division staff participated in a two day scoping session with representatives from the NBS

inventorying and monitoring program for development of a parkwide vegetation map. Prototype map development will begin in 1997.

Initiation of the development of a Resource Protection Plan began with scoping and field reviews with Protection Rangers to identify, categorize, and prioritize resource protection issues and potential solutions. Writing of this plan will begin in 1997.

A training session was presented for seasonal law enforcement staff on the Archeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) including a review of Yosemite's archeological resources. An expanded training course will be presented in 1997.

BRANCH OF FIRE MANAGEMENT

Personnel

At peak strength in August, we had 51 personnel assigned to the Branch:

- 7 permanent employees
- 10 less than full time
- 31 seasonals
- 2 communications personnel
- 1 permanent position filled with seasonal

Jeff Power became the Field Area representative for the Aviation Safety Rappel/Short Haul program.

Dean Clark served on the NPS Fire Equipment Board to help establish the Firepro Working Capital Equipment Fund.

Bob Reece served on Cal Interagency Incident Management Team 3 as Air Support Group Supervisor (4 assignments).

Mike Polovina became the NPS representative for the California Region 5 Dispatchers Steering Committee.

Major Fires

Stumpfield Fire, Mariposa County. The park supported this foothills incident with one structure engine, one wildland engine to cover Mariposa Station and the helicopter. A total of 14 homes were destroyed.

Ackerson Complex, Yosemite. Started on August 14th at 0824 and declared out on November 19th., 48,700 acres were burned within the boundaries of the Park. This was the largest fire recorded in the history of Yosemite National Park. At peak strength, over 3000 personnel were assigned to the

Ackerson Complex, qualifying the camp as the third largest town in Tuolumne County. Fire was managed under Unified Command with the Stanislaus National Forest. Fireline rehabilitation will be ongoing. No major injuries were sustained and only one garage was lost. Prescribed burning on North Mountain in the early 90's, prevented serious damage to vegetation over a large area of park land and timber on a USFS Near Natural Area.

Fire Statistics

Type	Number	Acres
Human Caused	31	10
Lightning Caused	17	48,800
Prescribed Natural	16	1470
Management Ignited	10	1160
Support Actions	29	

Other Incidents

The Branch supported emergency responses to the Rockslide Incident in July and the floods in May. Emergency communications, logistical support, and the Incident Command Post, were based out of the Fire Management Office.

Personnel from the Branch provided planning and support for both Park closures, and the transportation symposium.

Helicopter Program

The Park helicopter flew for 390 hours and performed 123 heli-rappel operations for both fire and search and rescue missions. In addition, the helicopter program supported 18 prescribed natural fires, numerous fire support missions to the interagency community, maintenance, roads and trails, and various administrative missions.

Management Efficiency

Interagency cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection was enhanced this year with the contribution of approximately 10,000 hours of inmate labor from Baseline and Mt. Bullion Conservation Camps.

Projects included fire hazard reduction, assisting with prescribed burning, roadside vegetation thinning, exotic plant removal, support to Valley Utilities, and flood control and cleanup.

Prescribed fire utilized one Student Conservation Aid, who contributed 640 volunteer hours to Park's

vegetation program.

Three government surplus utility vehicles were operated through the year with an estimated savings of at least \$10,000.

Co-located the emergency fire cache/search and rescue operations at the old Valley warehouse.

New Construction

Contract awarded for the construction of the new flight operations building at the Crane Flat Helibase with a completion date of June 1st. Supplemental appropriations in the amount of \$93,580 for FY-96, and \$20,000 for FY-97 were awarded.

New Acquisitions

A new Type 1 structure apparatus for Yosemite Valley was purchased at a cost of \$193,000.

A new 1800 gallon watertender was purchased for wildland/prescribed burning at a cost of \$97,500.

BRANCH OF FIELD OPERATIONS

Tuolumne

Opened for the season on June 2nd; numerous projects were implemented including: upgrading the ambulance cache, trailhead signs installed, and interagency work on commercial stock use. Increased multiple day patrols into the backcountry covered previously unreached watershed areas.

Wawona District

Personnel responded to 5 poaching arrests; 3 suicides; 2 major SARs and 5 minor SARs; 2 fatalities; and numerous MVAs. Projects completed include: move to new Ranger Office, elimination of the Badger Pass Station, implementation of YCS traffic control system at Mariposa Grove, and parkwide MCI drill.

Mather District

Personnel were involved in the Ackerson Complex in numerous interagency overhead positions. The Ackerson Complex burned substantial portions of the NW section of the district threatening the Hetch Hetchy housing complex during the month of September.

Valley District

Personnel (no report)

EMS & SAR

Total of 610 EMS related incidents this year ranging from ankle injuries to cardiac arrests. Mercy Ambulance responded to 351 incidents (or 58% of all reported EMS incidents). Total of 186 SARs through November 1, 1996. SAR related fatalities: 13; outside agency assists: 8; Rescue of 2 Austrian climbers after they were caught in a storm with inadequate gear resulted in a \$13,000 fine. Base jumper death on El Capitan resulted in 6 individuals cited. Court case pending. Notable incident: death of Stephen Lyman, landscape artist, fell while scrambling in the Cathedral Rocks area.

Wilderness Operation

The Yosemite Wilderness staff issued 15,582 wilderness permits and 4,844 reservations to a total of 60,800 overnight wilderness users. We contacted over 64,000 day and overnight users in the field while patrolling 5748 miles of trail in the summer and more than 1200 miles in winter. Almost 400 hours were spent on SAR's, and 415 hours were spent staffing the Ackerson Fire. These activities, coupled with a variety of many others, were accomplished with 11 paid personnel and over 8,400 hours of volunteer or student intern time.

Notable events included the completion of the new Yosemite Wilderness Center; use of the new computerized reservation system which brought in a revenue of \$56,100; establishment of the interagency Wilderness Education Project in Yosemite with its broad outreach activities; rebuilding of the Sasche Springs Patrol Cabin; staffing of Little Yosemite Valley and oversight of Badger Pass NPS activities; multiple restoration and monitoring programs in conjunction with the Resource Management Division; onsite participation in developing African wilderness management; and a decrease in wilderness use due to two major rock slides, a flood, the Ackerson Fire Complex, and the federal budget shutdown/resultant park closure.

BRANCH OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT

Investigations

The investigators worked over 100 cases in the past year. Closure rate has been 70% to date. Closure had resulted in arrests, fines and restitution in most cases.

Notable 1995 cases this year:

- Phil Lund sentenced to 30 years and 5 months for kidnapping.
- Michael Lee Marsh, indicted for kidnapping/carjacking of a visitor from the wilderness parking lot in August, 1995.
- A local man was sentenced to 2 years and 3 month incarceration and a \$5,000 fine for burglaries committed against hotel guests in 1995.

Prosecution

Handled the initial complaint on 12 felonies before the U.S. Magistrate in Yosemite. Filed 398 misdemeanor cases and processed 2500 violation notices through the Central Violations Bureau.

10 persons were entered into the Drug court program, two remain in the program at this time.

The prosecutor's office had the assistance of a Certified Student Attorney from May to August.

The prosecutor's office has obtained the assistance of Mariposa County allowing the referral of local juvenile offenders to the state system.

Instituted a victim, witness assistance program with Beth Stockdale as the coordinator.

Dispatch Operation

Reviewing operations SOPs and rewriting those that need updating. Hiring the remaining 3 permanent dispatchers.

Jail Operation

The jail has processed 437 prisoners from January 1, 1996 through November 26, 1996.

The jailers have assisted the field operation by providing over 1000 hours of time to the field units.

DIVISION OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

PLANNING COMPLIANCE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCE BRANCH

Air Quality Program

Hosted Federal Clean Air Partnership Semi-Annual Meeting - The meeting focused attention on the competing resource management concerns of prescribed natural wildland fires and prescribed burns and subsequent impacts on air quality. Cooperatively managing these divergent programs will challenge the best efforts of public land managers.

Air Quality Program Improvements - Developed air quality document reporting efficiencies at air quality monitoring stations to expedite mailing of data to California Air Resource Board and Air Resource Services, Inc.

Air Quality Monitoring Technician Position - Converted from a term to a permanent position, lending continuity to program management and identifying the program as a permanent fixture of the regulatory compliance section of Resources Management cross-training detail opportunity announced parkwide.

Air Quality Interpretation Funding Obtained - Air quality interpretive program development coordinated by YOSE Interpretation Division. Liaison, Laurie Lee Jenkins, with WASO/ARD.

Environmental Contamination Program

Railroad Flat Landfill Closure Monitoring - Staff monitored methane and groundwater monitoring wells at the former landfill. Three previously destroyed groundwater wells were replaced and sampled. The annual report has been completed.

Barium Mine Remediation Cost Recovery/Barium Mill Tailings - A map using GIS was prepared of the mill tailings area. This will allow avoiding archaeologically sensitive areas when fill soil is applied over the tailings. Staff is preparing contract cost expenditures incurred during remediation of the former barium mine. These cost expenditures will allow the NPS to attempt cost reimbursement under the Comprehensive Environmental Recovery, Compensation, and Liability Act.

Landfill Closures - Two former dump/landfills, Camp 6 and Curry dump, have been given regulatory closure and removed from the Mariposa County list.

Funding proposal submitted for potential toxic dump clean-up at Gaylor Pit.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Assessment - Staff is assisting the Safety Office on this project by compiling status and inventory information on all park Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) and landfill/dumps.

Underground Storage Tank Program

General - Yosemite National Park received formal regulatory closure for twenty additional NPS owned USTs. Further work was requested by the State of California on seven additional NPS owned USTs. Staff completed required quarterly monitoring and reporting.

Tuolumne Meadows - The final remediation plan for the former leaking fuel tanks at the NPS fueling station at Tuolumne Meadows began this summer season. An old UST at the visitor center is scheduled to be removed in 1997.

Yosemite Valley - The oil sump associated with the former garage in Yosemite Valley has been excavated and removed. The NPS submitted a regulatory closure request for this site.

El Portal Waste Water Treatment Plant - A groundwater monitoring well was developed at this site.

Yosemite Creek Campground - The NPS is negotiating with Pacific Bell on efforts to remove an old repeater building.

Planning and NEPA Compliance Program

Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan, Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Addendum

- Coordinated in park development and support for completion
- Coordinated pre-release internal review
 - Completed and coordinated public involvement strategy
 - Briefed media, local officials, local citizens and constituents on aspects of the draft plan.

Environmental Assessments completed

- Replacement of South Fork Bridge Merced River, FONSI signed.
- Mirror Lake Rehabilitation and Restoration Project, FONSI signed.
- Glacier Point Rehabilitation and restoration, FONSI signed.
- Wawona Point Telecommunications System Upgrade. FONSI sent to PWFO for signature.
- Phase V Bikeway in Yosemite Valley. FONSI preparation in progress.

Environmental Assessment preparation underway

- Tuolumne Meadows DCP.
 - Crane Flat / Yosemite Institute Septic Replacement EA in progress.

53 Categorical Exclusions processed

Water Resources

Water Resources Management Plan scoping completed. Writing in progress.

Acted as technical consultants to the City of San Francisco, during scoping and development of the Tuolumne River Watershed Strategic Plan scoping.

Funding proposal submitted for wetland delineation in high-risk subzones.

Conducted and facilitated Merced River Wild and Scenic River Workshop.

CULTURAL RESOURCES BRANCH

Cultural Resources Program Administration

Cultural Resources Compliance actions in FY96. 33 projects were reviewed by the park's cultural resource staff

- 2 projects were dropped following NHPA, NEPA, and technical review
- 29 projects were cleared under programmatic exclusion
- 1 project required an assessment of effect and SHPO review
- 0 projects were adverse effect determinations

Valley Implementation Plan Management

Transportation Symposium - Planned and conducted Transportation Symposium, April 1996, working with Professional Services and an Incident Command Team. A panel of nationally recognized experts evaluated the technical feasibility, and experiential, environmental and cost aspects of alternative modes of transportation, in a symposium that included the park's regional partners and representatives of national and regional organizations and others, including district Congressman.

Draft VIP Preparation - Worked with Denver Service Center in preparing a draft VIP. Prepared a Public Involvement Plan and initiated ongoing dialogue with the surrounding counties (including presentation to 4 Boards of Supervisors), environmental groups, business interests and other interested publics. Released a public newsletter on the VIP planning process; prepared a draft for newsletter #2; prepared other written materials; and dealt with multiple media interests on VIP matters. Conducted field work and analyses that will be used in preparing the VIP. Initiated consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer.

Field Area Support - Served on planning committee for Pacific West Field Area's "West by Northwest"

conference, coordinated work sessions and prepared white papers (including Ecosystem Management).

Geographical Information System Program

Valley Implementation Planning - Developed, refined, analyzed and displayed GIS data used for VIP analysis. Participated in impacts workshop, where data and analysis was used to assess impacts of various alternatives. Prepared "briefing booklet" for use by Superintendent (and others).

Developed numerous graphics in support of the Transportation Symposium, participated in same.

Ackerson Fire - Provided operational support in the form of data and plots for the Type I and Type II teams managing the Ackerson complex fire(s). Applicable data included fire history, fuels, slope/elevation/aspect, cultural sites, satellite imagery, digital orthophoto quadrangles, aerial photography, etc. Coordinated multiple FARSITE runs on behalf of Type I team. Provide similar support for BAER Team.

Prescribed Fire - Provided GIS support for Prescribed Natural Fire program, 1996 season, including collection, processing and display of GPS data.

Technical Support - Resources Management Programs - Provided plots for Resource Management (also Research and Forestry): restoration, mountain lion sightings, vegetation, Water Resources Management Plan, etc. Participated in Merced Wild and Scenic River workshop, developed maps for final corridor designation.

Provided technical support to Inventory and Monitoring projects - soils mapping, design/planning phase and the 1996 field season;

Provided plots for interpretation - individual interpreter programs, wayside exhibits, VIP programs, etc. vegetation mapping, pilot project begins in FY97.

Provided various plots for Ranger Activities and associated incidents including boundary location/demarcation, SARs, and the Rockslide at Happy Isles.

Regional GIS Program Development - Convened meeting of area GIS specialists, primarily from adjacent National Forests, to discuss on-going projects, possible cooperative efforts, and future incidents (such as the Ackerson fire).

Acted as the PGB cluster "program lead" for GIS; assignment began recently, will continue for foreseeable future.

Conducted Map & Compass and GPS training sessions.

Provided data to number of entities, both within-park and to external interests (FOIA, etc.).

Archeology Program

Inventory/evaluation at Merced Grove - Cultural Resource survey of the Merced Grove area, including documenting a historic entrance road and other features and sites.

Ackerson Complex Fire Support - Archaeologists from Yosemite and other NPS and USFS units performed Resource Advisor functions during the largest fire documented in Park history.

1996 Flood Support - Archaeologists provided clearance for emergency activities and sensitive resources submerged by flooding in Yosemite Valley.

Phase 8 Valley Electric - Archaeologists monitored trenching and other ground-disturbing activities during upgrade of secondary electrical lines in Yosemite Valley.

Phase 2 Tuolumne Sewer - Archaeologists monitored trenching during replacement of sewer lines in Tuolumne.

Historic Resource Recording at Wawona Meadows - A historic split-rail fence, CCC camp, and remains associated with early resort/ranching activities were documented at Wawona Meadows.

Archaeological Testing at Tuolumne Meadows - Results of 1995 testing at a single prehistoric site were analyzed and reported.

Archaeological Reporting of Excavations at White Wolf and Tuolumne Meadows - Results of excavations at three prehistoric sites were analyzed and reported.

Archaeological Synthesis and Revised Research Design - Work continued, under contract, to synthesize 13 years accumulation of archeological information and to revise the 1981 Parkwide Research Design. A draft is expected to be distributed for peer review in early 1997, and finalized later that year.

Publication of draft reports - Five backlogged survey and excavation project draft reports were published in FY96.

Archaeological Subsurface Survey in Tuolumne Meadows - Augering was conducted at seven sites in Tuolumne Meadows in an effort to delineate site boundaries.

Wilderness Cultural Resources Survey - Archaeologists conducted cultural resource inventory in support of Park wilderness ecosystem restoration.

El Portal Rancheria documentation - Work began, under contract, to document the remains of a historic

Native American rancheria in El Portal.

Archaeological Monitoring at Glacier Point - Under contract with the Park's concessioner, consultants monitored ground-disturbing activities during rehabilitation of visitor facilities.

Archaeological Clearance and XXX - Many support consultations were provided for NPS and concessioner activities. Several "no effect" archaeological clearance reports were filed, and several XXX reports were prepared.

Native American Relationships

Park representatives continued consulting with the Yosemite Consultation Committee, a subgroup of the American Indian Council of Mariposa County on various Park undertakings and activities. Larger planning actions such as the Valley Implementation Plan and the Yosemite Valley Housing Plan were included. Work continued, although little progress was made on an agreement for traditional activities. Consultation under NAGPRA, for the disposition of human remains and associated funerary objects, continued.

Park representatives met with the Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Government in an attempt to establish better working relations.

Three multi-tribe meetings were held: one to discuss upcoming archaeological fieldwork for the 1996 summer season; one to discuss archaeological and Native American monitoring during construction; and one to discuss a research design guiding work at historic Native American resources.

Historic Architecture Program

Completed Restoration of the Sasche Springs Snow Survey Cabin.

Completed the Restoration of Anderson Cabin.

Completed the Restoration of Meyer Barn.

Promoted the Historic Architecture Program through Public Speaking:

- Yosemite Association Spring Forum March 1996
- Yosemite National Park Ranger Program June 1996
- Resources Seminar Yosemite National Park July 1996
- Le Conte Lecture Series --- Sierra Club September 1996
- National Association of Olmsted Parks Conference October 1996

Selected and coordinated the funding of three interns during Summer of 1996.

Three Summer Interns assisted in the preparation of compliance, and research documents. The interns completed the following under the direction of the Historic Architecture Program:

- Draft Cultural Landscape Report for Big Meadow in Forresta
- Draft Cultural Landscape Report for Cooks Meadow
- Draft Walking Tours for Tuolumne Meadows
- Draft Walking Tour for Yosemite Valley
- Draft National Register Nomination forms
- Created a base map with building numbers for Yosemite Valley
- Assisted in condition assessment of Sasche Springs Snow Survey Cabin
- Organized Historic Architecture Program files

Coordinated Volunteer participation on Andersen Cabin Restoration.

Reviewed numerous CIF project specifications and proposals.

Reviewed Ansel Adams buildings projects.

- Worked Closely with YCS and Interior Design Firm on the Remodel of The Ahwahnee Hotel Rooms.

Prepared the RFP's for the Historic Structures and Condition assessment for The Ahwahnee and Wawona Hotels.

Reviewed YCS compliance documentation.

Prepared NPS compliance documentation.

Served as the Concessions Project Forum Delegate for Resources Management

NATURAL RESOURCES BRANCH

Wildlife Management Program

Bear Management

As of 11/21/96, there have been 575 human/bear incidents, resulting in a little over \$300,000 in property damage.

Twenty-seven bears have been captured; 17 of these were relocated, one was killed.

A total of 386 bear-proof food lockers were installed by CC in Tuolumne Meadows and Yosemite Valley, replacing old lockers that were dilapidated and too small.

Bear entry of "bear-resistant" dumpsters increased dramatically, prompting efforts by Wildlife Management and Maintenance to increase their effectiveness. A solution is still being sought.

Mountain Lions

Data on mountain lion observations continued to be collected to monitor for situations that would threaten human safety. No alarming incidents were reported, but informational signs were placed on trails in Yosemite Valley, Wawona, El Portal, and Foresta.

Wildlife Management personnel assisted in a USGS study of mountain lions that is aimed at determining lion use of the park's developed areas.

Peregrine Falcons

Three active peregrine falcon nest sites were monitored. A total of five young were fledged from these sites.

Northern Goshawk

The second year of a two-year survey for northern goshawks in the park was conducted. Data show a higher density of goshawks in the relatively intact habitats of Yosemite, compared to adjacent habitats where grazing, logging, and other human activities cause impact.

Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep

Wildlife Management led an interagency census of the reintroduced herd of Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep adjacent to the park. A total of 51 bighorns were found, indicating excellent over-winter survival and spring reproduction. Last year's census revealed that nearly 65% of the herd had died during an extraordinarily severe winter.

Bats

Surveys of bats continued, focussing on two T&E species: northern mastiff bats and spotted bats. Results are still pending, but previous surveys have shown that the park provides good habitat for both species.

Ecologic Restoration Program

Wilderness Restoration (Yosemite Fund)

Inter-divisional (RM, Protection and Maintenance) implementation of wilderness restoration projects at

ten backcountry lakes (Hook, Lower/Middle/Upper McCabe, Lower/Middle/Upper Sunrise, Johnson, Chain and Vernon) and along Virginia and Spiller Canyons.

Overall a total of 334 campsites were removed and 97 campsites were cleaned and maintained. A significant multi-tread trail section through a meadow near Vogelsang was also restored.

This was the first year that trail crews were utilized for implementation of restoration work in order to reduce the impacts from duplicating stock use needs. The Virginia Canyon and Vogelsang trail crews worked on campsite and trail restoration projects. The involvement of key staff on the Ackerson Fire prevented the accomplishment of original goals and project work list this year.

Two High School Student Conservation Association crews worked again this year, one crew worked at Chain and Johnson Lakes, and the other at Sunrise and Vernon Lakes.

Wilderness impacts monitoring continued with the completion of WIMS II surveys at several locations. New this year was the development of a monitoring system to evaluate the success and effectiveness of wilderness restoration project work.

Mirror Lake (Yosemite Fund)

EA and FONSI signed in August 1996!

Major Chevron volunteer work directed by both trails and restoration staff. Chevron worked five weekends for a total of approx. 1500 person hours.

The upper parking lot has been completely restored which included removal of old chemical toilets, remaining asphalt from the last phase, and mulching and several dozen native plants were planted in the area. Also 276 feet of enclosure fencing was constructed along the edge of the upper parking lot.

Over 850 tons of asphalt has been removed from the roadway between the upper parking lot and lower pool/new vault toilet area. The large rock from the rock wall fill face is being used on the all-access trail at Mirror Lake and other project sites parkwide. The old road is being out-sloped and the area returned to its natural topography, restoring slope gradients, stream channels and topsoil to the area.

Construction of 900 feet of the all-access interpretative trail began this fall and should be completed in a year. Some fencing and revegetation work has been completed along the all-access trail, but final work will be done in 1997.

Old railroad irons were removed from the dam at Mirror Lake along with other human-placed hazards. [Over the last two seasons about 2-3 feet of downcutting has occurred at the dam - L. Johnson observation.]

Housekeeping Camp (Yosemite Fund)

Continued revegetation efforts along the streambank with more willow cuttings, mulching and seeding (NPS staff and DeLoitte and Touche volunteers).

New interpretive signs were written for Housekeeping Camp to help visitors better understand our project, and a handout was written for visitors to receive when they check into their cabins.

Eight Housekeeping units will be removed this fall (per the GMP) which will enable the existing restoration enclosure fence to be relocated to protect additional critical riparian and terrace areas along the Merced River.

Due to unforeseen natural events (flood, rockfall and fire) in the Park this year and the prolonged involvement of key resource management staff on the Ackerson Complex (Fire), prevented the program from accomplishing several projects this year:

Merced Grove Road (Yosemite Fund) - Cultural survey work is completed and EA is in progress.

Tenaya Lake (Yosemite Fund) - Delayed due to key staff involved on the Ackerson Fire (RM and Maintenance Divisions).

Cooks Meadow (Yosemite Fund) - Need to complete EA and finish cultural surveys.

Emergency Assistance - Unforeseen Natural Events

May '96 Flood

Required restoration staff time to evaluate the impacts of the flood to the 12 riparian restoration project sites along the Merced River in Yosemite Valley; repair several damaged stream banks; and replace 47 fence rails that floated away.

The 12 riparian restoration project sites held up well during the May flood. Only two project sites had measurable erosion and vegetation loss, though this can be attributed to natural erosional processes.

Happy Isles Rockfall

Developed a mitigation plan for the Happy Isles area with the focus of maintaining the features and results of this natural process to as full extent as possible.

Built 1520 feet of new fencing to maintain a physical barrier/closure to keep the public out of this hazardous area. Repaired some of the damage to the restoration project site (oak tree tubes, fencing near public access points). Future work will include clean-up and slash removal, and restoration of impacts to the overall area.

Completed four new river cross sectional surveys upstream from the Happy Isles Gaging Bridge to monitor possible impacts from the logjams created by the rockfall and to evaluate flood potential.

Photo points for long-term monitoring were established along the west side of the slide and along the Sierra Point Trail.

Ackerson Complex (Fire)

The Ackerson Complex fires burned 59,606 acres, with 47,234 acres on national park, 11,092 acres on national forest, and 1,280 acres on private lands, with a fire perimeter of 80 miles.

The following fire suppression damage statistics pertain to Park areas only:

- Fire damages include 44 miles of hand-line (this includes interior lines that were burned over and secondary lines that were not used to hold the fire);
- 410 feet of dozer-line;
- 3.4 miles of trails used as holding lines, 0.5 miles of Wilderness road used as holding line, 10 miles of Wilderness road used for crew transportation and logistical support;
- and a total of 6 acres of impacted areas used as spike camps, helispots, pump stations, drop points, and pullouts.

The fire area, ranging in elevation from 2861 feet in the Tuolumne River gorge to 7927 feet near Harden Lake, is dominated by scrub, chaparral, and black oak communities at the lower elevations and montane meadows and dense coniferous forests at the mid to upper elevations. Fuel loadings were heavy in most of the burn perimeter, causing fire behaviors beyond those normally expected in these communities.

Burn intensity as mapped by members of the FS and NPS BAER teams totalled 40,675 acres (86%) low intensity burn, 1,529 acres (3%) moderate burn intensity, and 4,984 acres (11%) high intensity burn. The highly burned area above the Hetch Hetchy road corridor could pose a risk to the road, culverts, and structures downstream of the burn area.

Resource advisors from Yosemite National Park and Stanislaus National Forest were assigned to the incident on August 14, and an emphasis was placed on Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics in the designated Wilderness, potential Wilderness, and near-natural areas of the Park and Forest.

On September 6, 1996 the NPS Resource Advisor mobilized a BAER Team for the Park lands, comprised of Yosemite National Park subject matter experts and members of the FS BAER Team. The NPS BAER Team, tasked with evaluating short-and long-term rehabilitation needs of the Park lands, developed this plan to address the following issues:

- Cultural and natural resource values impacted by the fire or the fire suppression actions;
- Facilities or improvements impacted by the fire or the suppression of the fire;
- Rehabilitation requirements by federal and state laws including the Wilderness Act,

Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and applicable and relevant resources management mandates.

The Ackerson BAER Report/Plan was completed on September 27, 1996, with a multi-year funding request of \$1.6 million for projects ranging from fire suppression rehabilitation, hazard tree mitigation, road and trail maintenance and repair, to monitoring T&E species and mitigating noxious exotic species.

Vegetation Management Program

Vegetation Planning, Management, and Monitoring

Oak Woodland Monitoring (Yosemite Fund) - Work continued on California black oak woodland restoration, protection, and monitoring. This 9-year old program has shown a high level of success so far, with over 30% survival of planted oak seedlings. In addition, oak seedlings are becoming naturally established in many of the protected and treated areas throughout Yosemite Valley. Thirty-eight planted seedlings are now over 1-meter tall, showing fairly rapid growth for this species. All protective fencing, tree shelters, and signs were maintained and upgraded this year, and protected sites were weeded of exotic species. Data analysis is now being done to assess differing growth rates and levels of vigor in planted vs. naturally established seedlings, and between seedlings that did or did not receive fertilizer treatments in the spring of 1996. A paper was presented on the methods and interim results of this project at the California Oak Symposium in San Luis Obispo, California in March, and at the Society for Ecological Restoration conference in Yosemite in November. The presentations have resulted in numerous inquiries and interest from other agencies and individuals, since this project is the oldest ongoing restoration project involving California black oak in the state.

Meadow Management (Yosemite Fund and Maverick Movie) - The management plan was completed in draft form in early spring, and is being reviewed and completed this fall. Additional sections are being drafted to address exotic species and fire management in the meadows.

Exotic Plant Management (Unfunded) - Although this program continues to be unfunded, it continues to receive significant emphasis due to the potential and actual threats of exotic species establishment in many sections of the park. There are at least 130 exotic species growing within Yosemite National Park to date (which is nearly 1/10th of the park's flora), and new species are being introduced each year, with accompanying threats to the native ecosystem. Due to lack of funds, most eradication work has been done by volunteers under the direction of park staff. Work this year again focused on species that have been of concern for quite a while; bull thistle, common mullein, yellow and white sweet-clover, Himalayan blackberry, ox-eye daisy, and Jerusalem-oak. In addition, yellow star-thistle reared its ugly head in El Portal this year, where it has begun to move rapidly away from road corridors and construction areas onto undisturbed slopes above the residential areas and into rare plant habitats. An inter-divisional group has been formed to strategize on management and control options, and a strategic plan will be developed for 1997 to address the numerous aspects of exotic plant identification, control, and eradication. Contacts have also been made with agency counterparts on adjacent lands to address exotic species management on an ecosystem rather than jurisdictional level.

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Monitoring (Unfunded)

The park list of TES species was changed to reflect the elimination of the candidate species designation for Federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act. All species formerly in the "C2" category were changed to "federal species of concern", and added to the park's list of species of concern. A monitoring plan is being developed, which will address monitoring protocols, different return frequencies for species with varying levels of disturbance and susceptibility to impacts, and recommendations for monitoring following natural events such as fires, where effects to natural populations are unknown at this time. Although the plan will be comprehensive, covering all park sensitive and state and federal listed species and species of concern, the current monitoring program will have to be limited in scope until funding becomes available.

Revegetation and Construction Projects

Washburn Point (Yosemite Fund) - Over 1,000 feet of fencing was constructed by vegetation management staff during completion of the rock walls and walkways by Trails staff. The planted species on the slope below the new observation area were watered as needed over the summer, and plant-protection screens were maintained over the plants on this very harsh slope. A contract for nursery propagation is being drafted for out-planting in the fall of 1997 and 1998.

Tuolumne Sewer Line (City of San Francisco) - A 5-person revegetation crew, work leader, and biological technician were assigned to this project over the duration of the summer. They revegetated the remaining salvaged plants onto finished sections of new sewer line in the Tuolumne campground, and then salvaged plants along the planned route for new trenching and sewer line relocation. Approximately 10,000 sq. ft. of plants were salvaged. As sections of the line were completed by the contractor, the crew replanted with plants that had been stored in adjacent beds covered with shade cloth, and applied mulch to reduce moisture loss in the newly replaced plants. Approximately 8,000 sq. ft. were replanted by the time winter snows closed down all Tuolumne operations. During the summer, a number of new techniques were experimented with, including using a "bobcat" (small dozer) blade to salvage large continuous sections of sod, and minimizing salvage and replanting needs by working closely with the contractor to fine-tune trenching methods. This revegetation work has been helpful in documenting the effectiveness of plant salvage and replanting, as opposed to plant propagation, in subalpine revegetation projects where conditions are harsh and plants are extremely slow growing.

Chilnualna Bridge (Federal Highways) - Construction of the bridge was completed in 1996. In November, plants that had been salvaged from the site prior to construction, and seeds collected from adjacent areas, were replanted and scattered. A "top dressing" of mulch was added to protect the seeds and break up the impact of raindrops on bare soil, completing the project.

South Fork Bridge (Federal Highways) - Bridge construction was delayed until FY98. Additional seed was collected within the proposed construction area, and is being stored until it is needed. Long-term photo monitoring points were installed to document the pre-existing vegetation, construction progress, and post-construction revegetation effectiveness.

Phase 8 Electrical Upgrade, Yosemite Valley (DSC) - Resource damages associated with this project resulted in funds becoming available for impacts mitigation. Temporary fencing was installed to

block off an unplanned trench route that has developed into a social trail across Cooks Meadow, and soils have been decompacted and mulched to encourage native grass re-establishment over the winter.

YCS CIF Projects (Unfunded) - Technical advice was provided to move a number of CIF projects forward, including landscaping plans for The Ahwahnee Hotel and Yosemite Lodge, Housekeeping Camp re-design, and the Glacier Point construction project.