

A2621(PGSO-RH)

Memorandum

To: Division Chiefs, Safety Officer, Research Scientist

From: Superintendent

Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report
Reply Due: February 12, 1996

It is now time to compile the information for the 1995 Annual Report. The report is now based on the fiscal year, rather than the calendar year, and should cover the last three months of 1994 as well as nine months of 1995. We are directed by the PWFA Office to discuss the most significant concerns, problems, events, trends, and decisions affecting park management during the fiscal year. If we have experienced any effects of the downsizing and reengineering of the National Park System in our Park operation, we are encouraged to note it in the report.

Please direct your submittal to Lisa Dapprich, via CC:Mail, by February 12. If you have questions, you should contact Lisa at extension 662.

B. J. Griffin



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite National Park, California 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A2621(PGSO-RII)

MAY 29 1996

Memorandum

To: Field Director, Pacific West Field Area

From: Superintendent, Yosemite

Subject: Annual Superintendent's Report

Attached is the subject report from Yosemite National Park for Fiscal Year 1995.

B. J. Griffin

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Enclosure

CC: SUPT OFFICE

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

SUPERINTENDENT'S

ANNUAL REPORT

FY1995

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SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Fiscal Year 95

HIGHLIGHTS

October

- October 4 - Tioga Road closed due to snow; 16 inches were reported at Tuolumne Meadows. The road reopened on October 6.
- October 4 - A rock slide below Arch Rock on Highway 140 temporarily delayed traffic on that road.
- October 5 - Thirteen people were rescued from El Capitan after being caught off guard in a cold storm. There were no major injuries.
- October 6-10 - Superintendent Finley's "Agenda 95" group visited the Park.
- October 11 - The Superintendent decided to close the Ostrander Ski Hut due to fecal coliform in Ostrander Lake.
- October 14 - Dr. Carl Sharsmith, a 63-year veteran of the National Park Service and the oldest ranger in the NPS, died at the age of 91. Carl, who worked seasonally in Yosemite since 1930, completed the 1994 season in Tuolumne.

November

- November 1 - Senator Barbara Boxer met with Superintendent Finley to discuss park issues. Local business owners and environmentalists were invited to a round table discussion with the Senator.
- November 2 - Tioga Road closed due to snow. Road conditions were assessed on a daily basis.
- November 3 - Glacier Point Road closed for the season.
- November 7 - Superintendent Finley departed to begin his assignment as Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park. Yosemite Chief of Maintenance Kevin Cann assumed Acting Superintendent duties for Yosemite until a replacement was on board.

- November 7 - Director Kennedy announced the appointment of Barbara J. "B. J." Griffin as Superintendent of Yosemite National Park.
- November 10 - The Tioga Road officially closed for the season.
- November 28 - The Mariposa Grove Road was closed for the season due to deteriorating conditions of the road.

December

- December 1 - Due to lack of business, Yosemite Concession Services closed Badger Pass Ski Area on weekdays between December 5 and 16.
- December 12 - Rock slides on Northside Drive at Three Brothers caused the closure of one lane on Northside Drive. Traffic was convoyed around the slide.
- December 31 - The annual visitation for 1994 was 4,105,755.

January

- January 6 - A rock slide occurred at 11 p.m. on Highway 140 at Windy Point which closed the road until January 7 at 9 p.m.
- January 11 - Hal Grovert was named Deputy Superintendent for Yosemite.
- January 22 - B. J. Griffin arrived in Yosemite to begin her assignment as Park Superintendent.
- January 24 - A \$3.00/person fee was implemented for wilderness permit reservations; no fee is charged for permits obtained in person.
- January 27 - A rock slide on Highway 140 just above Windy Point closed the road until 4 p.m.

March

- March 10 - All non-essential employees were given Administrative Leave at 3 p.m. due to concerns about potential slides and run-off activity on Park roads. By 6 p.m., Highways 41 and 140 closed due to growing concerns regarding slides; at 6:30 p.m., Highway 140 became impassable and at 11 p.m., Highway 41 became impassable.
- March 11 - At 6 a.m., a rock slide was discovered on Highway 140 below Windy Point; a 71-foot section of road was removed by a 25'x15'x18' boulder which fell

onto the road. Crews began constructing a foot path across the slide area of Highway 140 and clearing slides on Highway 41.

- March 13 - A walk-over/shuttle began on Highway 140 for essential NPS employees working in Yosemite Valley; concession employees and others drove around via Highway 120 or, when it opened, Highway 41. Federal Highways officials surveyed damage on both Highways 41 and 140. Highway 41 reopen date was estimated at 1-2 weeks, while Highway 140 was estimated at 3-5 weeks.
- March 18 - Highway 41 reopened.

April

- April 5 - Highway 140 reopened to all traffic.
- April 12 - The Superintendent met with representatives of surrounding communities regarding potential spring road/park closures and restricted access.
- April 18 - Washington instructed the park to roll back Special Use Permit fees to 1994 levels.
- April 29 - Highway 140 closed to all traffic due to a rock slide ¼ mile east of Parkline. The road remained closed overnight due to instability in the hillside above the road, but reopened in the morning with no restrictions.

May

- May 8 - The Park's new Wilderness Center opened in Yosemite Valley, with David Brower as a guest speaker.
- May 20 - Park access was restricted from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. due to traffic congestion in Yosemite Valley. Visitors were turned away at entrance stations.
- May 21 - Park access was restricted due to traffic congestion from 12 Noon to 2 p.m.; visitors were turned away at the entrance stations.
- May 27 - Park access was restricted from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; 1200 cars were turned away.
- May 28 - Park access was restricted from 10:45 a.m. to 3:40 p.m., with 2,000 cars turned away.

*Access restrictions continued every weekend through the Fourth of July weekend.

- May 30 - Kelly Gleason, 33, a nurse at the Yosemite Medical Clinic, fell near Hidden Falls in Yosemite Valley and died of head injuries sustained in the fall.

June

- June 1 - Wilderness permit reservations were taken by telephone; previously, they had only been made by mail.
- June 4 - A Norwegian national died after falling at Columbia Point in Yosemite Valley.
- June 5 - A press release was sent out advising of the possibility of high water from heavy spring runoff infiltrating the sewage system and advising of possible evacuation if the system shut down. It generated major media coverage and public concern.
- June 7 - The cables were put in place on Half Dome for the summer season.
- June 7 - The new exhibits for the Mariposa Grove Museum were dedicated. The project was funded through The Yosemite Fund by Texaco and the Bank of America.
- June 7,8 - OMB examiner Jim McDivitt visited the Park to look at housing and transportation issues.
- June 8 - The NPS road crew punched through on Tioga Road and met the Mono County road crew.
- June 13 - Barry Hance, Mather Roads Foreman, died after being caught in an avalanche at Olmsted Point while plowing the road. Counseling sessions were made available to all employees after Barry's death.
- June 22 - The Superintendent held an all-employees' meeting to discuss the death of Barry Hance and the circumstances leading up to it.
- June 23 - A Yosemite License Plate Day event was held at Residence #1. License plate sales surpassed 26,000 for an all-time record for special license plate sales.
- June 27-30 - A Board of Review was held regarding circumstances surrounding the death of Barry Hance and the plowing of the Tioga Road.
- June 30 - Tioga Road opened for the season. In order to allow the roadbed area to better stabilize and dry, a gross weight limit of 15,000 pounds was placed on vehicles using the road; buses were prohibited.

- June 30 - The first electric bus arrived in Yosemite.
- June 30 - Arpath Toh, 47, of New York, NY, died of a heart attack while hiking on the trail near the top of Yosemite Falls.

July

- July 1 - The Glacier Point Road opened for the season.
- July 2 - The last day of restricted access to the Park.
- July 4 - James Baker, 35, of Modesto, CA, drowned in the Merced River after his motorcycle left the road and propelled him into the river.
- July 9-16 - A massive search was conducted for Jeanne Hesselschwerdt, 37, of Arlington, MA. She had last been seen 100 yards north of Summit Meadow on the Glacier Point Road. No significant clues were found.
- July 11 - The decision was made to not open the High Sierra Camps due to the short summer season caused by heavy snow pack and the concern for significant resource damage due to wetness.
- July 13 - The public announcement was made regarding the High Sierra Camp closure.
- July 16 - The South Turner prescribed natural fire was ignited by lightning.
- July 25 - Weight restrictions were lifted on the Tioga Road; buses were now permitted.
- July 31 - A climber from Korea died due to injuries received while climbing on El Capitan in Yosemite Valley.

August

- August 15 - A French national died when swept over Nevada Fall.
- August 29 - Michael Gerde, 50, of Huntington Beach, CA, died while ascending the Half Dome cables.

September

- September 3 - Rex Kahler, 30, of San Diego, CA, died when swept over Nevada Fall.
- September 3 - The body of Jeanne Hesselschwerdt was discovered in Bridalveil Creek.
- September 9-10 - Traffic in Yosemite Valley was rerouted in an experiment designed to relieve traffic congestion in the east end of the Valley and expedite vehicle departure from the Valley.
- September 14 - The Conness prescribed natural fire was detected.

THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

On November 7, B. J. Griffin was named as the new Superintendent for Yosemite. She arrived in the Park to assume her duties February 8. Hal Grovert was named as the Park's new Deputy Superintendent, and also arrived in early February.

Superintendent's Secretary Karen Warren accepted a position in the newly created Office of Special Park Uses on February 1. Linda Abbott assumed the position until a replacement was chosen. Sharon Clark was hired in June to replace Karen Warren, and Linda Abbott accepted a new, second secretarial position in the Superintendent's Office to support the Office of Strategic Planning and Partnership.

In May, combining the functions of the Management Assistant (Frank Dean), the Public Affairs Officer (Lisa Dapprich), and the Volunteer Coordinator (Kim Sumeriski/Nancy Brissenden), the Superintendent created the new Office of Strategic Planning and Partnerships as a branch of the Superintendent's Office. This office began operation in May under Frank Dean. In June, Management Assistant Frank Dean accepted the position of Assistant Superintendent of Point Reyes National Seashore. He departed for his new assignment at the end of June. In July, Bill Delaney assumed his position, working in a 120-day detail; Delaney was followed by Chief Park Ranger Bob Andrew in a second 120-day detail.

Two student interns from the Stanford University MBA program, Tia Yanson and Terri Miles, worked in the OSPP Office during the summer under the direction of the Superintendent and the Management Assistant. The focus of their work was day use reservations and concession-run campgrounds.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

BRANCH OF BUDGET AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Funding	Budget	End of Year
ONPS	13,553,934	BAL -2
FEE ENHANCEMENT	3,972,200	BAL 5,735
FEE COLLECTION	<u>715,000</u>	BAL 1,547
 TOTAL	 18,241,134	

Other Funding

8801-HZY	SAFETY TRAVEL	1,600	BAL	-0-
8801-MHM	HAZ WASTE	46,000	BAL	-0-
8801-SPI	AWARDS	24,000	BAL	-0-
8801-SVC	VIP	15,590	BAL	1
8803-	FIREPRO	632,860	BAL	3,540
8805-LDD	DRUG	65,000	BAL	310
8813-595	FED HIGHWAYS	142,078	BAL	4,796
8813-CCA	ARCH DESIGN	44,500	BAL	39
8813-MCN	BEAR LOCKERS	11,100	BAL	-0-
8813-MHM	UG TANKS	86,000	BAL	-2,020
8813-MHM	CLEANUP	38,000	BAL	171
8813-NAZ	AIR QUALITY	16,000	BAL	-441
8813-NII	SOIL MAPPING	200,000	BAL	-25
8813-PAA	ARPA	5,000	BAL	82
8813-RZA	AIR QUALITY	3,500	BAL	-0-
8814-CMC	CURATORIAL	123,300	BAL	-109
8814-CMS	CHAPEL,FSS	28,000	BAL	-0-
8814-UGZ	NAGPRA	3,000	BAL	-0-
8814-UOC	CATALOGING	19,000	BAL	-2
8814-UOC	BALLY BLDG	81,000	BAL	-0-
8821-417	EQUIP REPLAC	663,114	BAL	-0-
8821-421	STORM DAMAGE	591,000	BAL	125,513
8821-634	STORM DAMAGE	363,700	BAL	1,043,600
8821-CMS	HIST PRES	72,800	BAL	-0-
8821-CMS	PARSON LODGE	11,000	BAL	-0-
8822-417	EQUIP REPLAC	309,667	BAL	-0-
8822-595	FED HIGHWAYS	70,000	BAL	-6
8822-MCR	TRAFFIC LINE	50,000	BAL	-0-
8822-MCR	CHIP & SEAL	175,000	BAL	-0-
8822-MCY	YCC	48,000	BAL	-132
8822-MRT	MIST TRAIL	75,000	BAL	-0-
8823-408	HOUSING INIT	109,273	BAL	1,999
8823-MCB	BLDG EXTERIOR	100,000	BAL	-0-

8823-MRB	TOILET REPL	90,000 BAL	-0-
8823-MRB	FIRE PROT SYS	20,000 BAL	-0-
8824-408	HOUSING INIT	70,000 BAL	36,378
8824-MRB	HVAC DESIGN	70,000 BAL	650
8825-MCU	WATER SYS	75,000 BAL	-0-
8825-MRU	WATER SYS	80,000 BAL	52
TOTAL:		5,629,082	

Income

DONATIONS	551,304
REIMBURSABLES	2,150,378
LIVING HISTORY	16,192
MESS OPS	23,939
QUARTERS	918,329
UTILITIES	4,250,459
TOTAL	<u>7,910,601</u>

PARK TOTAL 31,780,817

- The end of FY95 showed the park completed the fiscal year within its budget.
- The park was 1.0 under its ceiling of 515.45 FTE.
- 4,180 Bills of Collection were issued.
- 4,310 Third Party Drafts were processed.
- 785 Travel Authorizations were issued which generated over 2,355 associated travel documents.
- The new AFSII system was implemented. Complete Parkwide implementation of the automated 10-238 Development Package Program was started.

BRANCH OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT

Three double-wide government mobile homes located in the El Portal Trailer Court were surveyed and await removal action.

Eleven employees and their families were assigned newly constructed homes in the Rancheria Flat area of El Portal. Five of these employees report to duty at Yosemite Valley work sites. In addition, seven employees were assigned apartments in El Portal. This brings to a total of 21 employees living in apartments located in El Portal, of which at least seven employees have previously been housed in Yosemite Valley. Sixty apartments have been constructed for employee housing totaling 60 bedrooms.

The closing of the El Portal Trailer Court continues to be an action plan with a closing deadline of 1999. The rental rates for trailer and mobile home pads have increased with the new California Survey of Rental Rates. This caused two tenants to initiate plans to remove their privately owned units.

The Departmental program, Quarters Management Information System (QMIS), was introduced in FY95, and housing management personnel were trained in the use of the new computerized operation. Yosemite served as a test park for QMIS from the inception through the final implementation process. A number of changes have resulted in the program from findings and suggestions from Yosemite staff.

Housing in Yosemite has grown steadily to a total of 439 rental units. More than 700 assignments were processed. The assignment of government housing involves the cooperation of many park units such as the Payroll and Fiscal offices, and Buildings and Grounds maintenance units located throughout the park. Many divisions and programs rely on the availability of both short term and long term bed space for a variety of personnel.

More than one million dollars was collected from housing rentals during the course of the year, mostly by payroll deduction. With few exceptions, utilities were paid separately.

The Housing Management Office moved from the temporary modular building in El Portal town center to the new Warehouse/Maintenance complex located at the Railroad Flat area in El Portal. The Housing Office is located in the Maintenance Management Operations area. This move generated a more cohesive operation, improving communications and linkage between the administrative and maintenance functions dealing with employee housing.

BRANCH OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Office was relocated from Yosemite Valley to the El Portal Administrative Site. A significant rock slide on Highway 140 was partially responsible for the relocation. During the road closure, personnel staff could not access the materials needed to accomplish daily tasks. The remodeling of the Chevron dorm began in May and was completed in November. The dorm became the new site for the Human Resources branch.

The relocation joined the processing and payroll functions into one cohesive unit. Both units now share the same files and hardware for the ever-changing PAY/PERS system. Joe Balancier, from Hawaii Volcanoes NP, was hired as the supervisor for the processing and payroll units.

In March, four park employees attended the NPS briefings on the initiation of 6(c) retirement for law enforcement park rangers. During the year, approximately 150 law

enforcement park ranger position descriptions were prepared and submitted to the Washington Office for inclusion in 6(c) retirement coverage.

The Human Resources Officer met with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Human Resources staff in March to explore means of combining seasonal hiring processes. The IRS seasonal hiring mirrored Yosemite's seasonal hiring. The possibilities of combining recruitment efforts were discussed.

The Human Resources Officer, Position Classification Specialist, Staffing Specialist, and Employee Development Specialist attended the Human Resources Workshop in San Diego during August. The workshop discussions included the restructuring of the Pacific West Field Area, the new temporary hiring regulations, addition of delegations to the field, the new 6(c) law enforcement retirement and pay, availability pay for GS-1811 investigators, changes in the Federal Pay Personnel System (FPPS), the results of the sunset of the Federal Personnel Manual, and a major discussion of the new NPS Merit Promotion Plan and the new NPS Performance Appraisal System.

Worker's Compensation Program

An automated data tracking program was established for tracking OWCP cases and the costs incurred with these cases. Two long term and complex cases were brought to closure. Approximately 188 new OWCP cases and 25 carry-over cases from 1994 were processed.

Advice and guidance was provided to other parks on OWCP questions and case development for some of the more complex cases. OWCP training was provided for park supervisors.

Staffing

Staffing activity was significantly up from previous years. The park issued 80 merit promotion vacancy announcements, and 10 competitive vacancy announcements from which 126 permanent positions were filled. In addition, 15 competitive vacancy announcements were issued for term positions from which 19 term positions were filled.

Seventeen seasonal employment vacancy announcements specific to various GS positions and 41 different types of WG positions were issued. Approximately 15 seasonal park ranger certs were worked from which 318 seasonal selections were made. Over 1850 applications were processed and rated to fill these 318 seasonal positions.

Major changes occurred in personnel regulations including sunset of the FPM, implementation of the new seasonal/temporary hiring regulations, and a new federal application replacing the SF171. Significantly complicating personnel work were major changes in DOI, WASO, and Field Director Office, freeze/Reemployment Priority List guidelines. Management advisory service requests were more frequent and demanding than normal.

Supervisory and secretarial training was provided in the many aspects of the new seasonal hiring regulations at branch, division, and Parkwide briefings held throughout the year.

Presently, Yosemite has 463 established permanent positions, 25 term positions, and 290 seasonal positions. Approximately 44 seasonal/temporary positions were converted to permanent or term positions.

Over 10,000 employment inquiries were received not including the thousands of calls/visits from park employees.

Advisory services to other park areas was provided as requested.

Payroll

	UNITS	AVG/PayPeriod
Time & Attendance Reports	15,981	N/A
Time & Attendance Corrections	6,211	239
Agent Checks	1,110	43
Supplemental Paychecks Issued	81	3

Processing

SF52s/System Generated Actions & Other FPPS Actions	3,850 actions
Classroom Training - FPPS	33 participants
Hours of Donated Leave to Yosemite Employees	232 hours
Orientations - Permanent/Term Employees	17
Orientations - Temporary	212
Retirement Applications	6
Applications for Spousal Benefits	2
Deposits for Military Service	11
Deposits for Temporary Service	14
Benefits Counseling	60
TSP/Health Benefits Open Season Changes	100

Classification

Approximately 80 positions were submitted for 6(c) coverage (20 year retirement coverage). Sixty-nine permanent positions were classified. Forty-four position changes

including the establishment of new positions, movement of positions from one organization to another. Thirty pay determinations were made on controversial issues such as hazard pay, promotions, etc.

Awards

Monetary awards totaling \$160,080.00 were given in FY95 as follows:

- 13 Special Act or Service Awards
- 72 Fast Track Awards
- 178 Performance based awards
 - 2 Group awards
- 23 Time Off Awards
- 16 Quality Step Increases

The non-monetary awards program, Excellence in Service Awards, awarded items to 56 employees. Excellence in Service awards included reprinted and framed historical photographs, Yosemite belt buckles, watches with the NPS logo, clocks displaying the Excellence in Service logo, and commemorative plates of Half Dome. Although by regulation non-monetary awards can be valued at only \$25 or less, \$1,370 was spent during FY95 to purchase the non-monetary items. This program is felt to be very meaningful and successful in boosting morale among the employees.

Performance Management/Employee Development

Because the supervisor has important personnel management responsibilities associated with performance management, a workshop specifically designed for Yosemite was provided. Goals, which were successfully met with two groups of participants, were to give supervisors knowledge in the various performance improvement techniques so that they may better develop and motivate employees to reach their fullest potential. Concentration on performance improvement by providing a framework for implementing a competency based performance plan that would easily translate over to the new Department of the Interior Performance Management System scheduled for implementation during FY96. Continuing this type of training for supervisors and managers has a big payoff in helping supervisors and managers in setting goals, and thereby maximizing overall organizational effectiveness.

One of the major events of FY95 was the inclusion of a training room in the new Warehouse/ Maintenance Complex. As a result, many training opportunities on-site including Introduction to Park Program Management, Orientation to National Park Service, Mid Career Retirement, computer training, and AutoCad.

In addition to providing training opportunities to 260 employees on-site, 121 employees obtained necessary training through various programs provided by the NPS, FLETC, and private vendors. Training included Bear Management, Street Survival, small purchases,

employee relations, water treatment plant operation, wastewater treatment plant operation, basic blasting, basic law enforcement, basic firearms instruction, EMS education, trauma care, and Resources management. The park sent 4 employees to FLETC and 5 employees to the Mott Training Center for Maintenance Management.

Safety training continued to be a priority. Tree Hazard Analysis, Lead Abatement Procedures, Hazardous Waste Handling and Management, Confined Spaces for Entrants and Attendants, Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support, and Structural Fire Training were among the training classes in which our employees participated during FY95.

BRANCH OF INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Norm Hiestand accepted a promotion to Sequoia National Park's Information Management Office.

Two seasonal employees, Gary Arbuckle and Michael Thornton, were added to the staff in order to aid with network expansion, improve the Microlog voice mail system, and provide data/telecommunications support.

The staff helped in the procurement, installation, and management of a 32% increase in the number of personal computers; from 248 to 328.

Help Desk procedures were formalized to improve the quality of customer service to park staff.

The conversion from ARCNet to Ethernet was completed. The Human Resources Office and Yosemite Association Office in El Portal were added to the park network. A new network was installed at the El Portal Warehouse/Maintenance complex.

Access to the Internet was begun through the DOINet gateway in Menlo Park.

Migration to the MS-Windows 95 and Windows NT Server/Workstation operating systems and to the MS-Office software suite, including MS-Office Professional and Office for Windows 95 was begun.

Portions of the new Wilderness Permit System were implemented at Yosemite, Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks and the Bridgeport Ranger Station of the Toiyabe National Forest (NF). The staff worked with the Inyo National Forest to "outsource" the project.

Development of the medical surveillance, cooperating association membership, issue tracking and zero based budgeting database applications continued.

BRANCH OF PROCUREMENT, CONTRACTING, PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, AND GENERAL SERVICES

In the middle of the fiscal year, the entire Branch made a major move from Yosemite Valley to the new Warehouse/Maintenance Complex in El Portal. All areas were up and running within two weeks with the Accounts Payable and Small Purchasing sections being ready in only one week.

Turn-around time on DI-1 requisitions remained at 3-5 days depending on the complexity of the procurement. This is a major improvement over prior years three week delay. This improvement was due in part to the computerization of the section and the streamlining of work assignments. The Small Purchasing section processed 4,300 actions for a total of \$587,824.

Interest paid by the park remained at an all time low.

The travel section, which deals with temporary duty travel and permanent change of station, was transferred to the Accounts Payable section. The service provided to park staff has improved.

The Lost and Found operation moved to the new Warehouse/Maintenance Complex prior to the rest of the branch. The office operated in a much more efficient manner with the greater space afforded to them. The return rate of lost items and customer satisfaction improved. Many letters of appreciation were received from the public with regards to lost items being returned to them.

Property management contracted with the General Services Administration to perform an auction. The proceeds exceeded \$30,000. The property management staff managed to perform their regular duties even with the additional impacts this type of sale imposed on their time. The personal property inventories were turned around sooner than in previous years.

The Contracting section lost John Beaver to Mammoth Caves National Park. The park hired Roy Navik from the Pacific West Area through the OPOP system. Due to the restructuring and reorganization efforts of the NPS, Yosemite has been granted an unlimited Contracting Officer's Warrant with approval to deal directly with the Regional Solicitor's Office located in San Francisco. The Contracting section successfully awarded 38 contract actions in the amount of \$920,244.

With the option of utilizing the third party draft system, the staff was able to cut "paper" orders by one-third. This saved on interest, paperwork and employee time. Blanket purchase agreements were reduced by one-fourth.

Materials Handler Supervisor Mark Kirner accepted a position with the Bureau of Prisons. The warehouse operation continued to operate efficiently under David Sheehan,

who was temporarily promoted into the supervisor position. The warehouse became more cost efficient by buying on a larger scale after moving into a more spacious area.

BRANCH OF SPECIAL PARK USES

The newly-created Office of Special Park Uses (SPU) moved to the El Portal facility (formerly known as the A76 building) on January 17, 1995. The branch has responsibility for all special use permits, Letters of Authorizations (for service organizations), Incidental Business Permits, and Letters of Permission. The purpose of this office is to recover all costs of providing the necessary services associated with these permits in accordance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-25, 1991.

The Office of Special Park Uses' operation and recovery costs were reviewed by the Inspector General's Office (IG) in their audit of May 11, 1995. The inspectors approved the program.

The SPU staff attended meetings/workshops such as the Santa Monica Filming seminar at Santa Monica NRA, Western Regional Contracts training in San Francisco, Special Park Uses workshop in Redding, and the DOI Field Solicitor-PWA in San Francisco

Most of the special use permits fall into seven general categories: wedding, filming, bus, chain installers, First Amendment, land use, and incidental businesses. Contact numbers are composed of both originator contact and office personnel originated contact:

Weddings

A special use permit is required for any wedding held at any location within Yosemite National Park.

Permits - 63	\$1,650
	<u>725</u> (monitoring)
	\$2,375 TOTAL
Contacts - 400	

Filming

Filming permits are issued for commercial filming or photography and also for documentaries which promote NPS programs, policies, and philosophies.

Permits - 26	\$ 2,500 (one fee, waived)
	3,250 (donations)
	<u>5,962</u> (monitoring)
	\$11,712 TOTAL
Contacts - 500	

First Amendment

Most of the First Amendment to the Constitution (Freedom of Speech) permits were issued for the sale of tee-shirts with a printed environmental message. Special Directive 95-11, issued August 11, 1995, directed the park to discontinue permitting the sale of tee-shirts and other message-bearing merchandise at demonstrations and special events in the National Park Service system. It also provided guidance on what may be sold as "printed matter" under NPS regulations, 36 CFR 2.52.

Permits - 6 groups	NO FEES
with 22 permits issued	
Contacts - 150	

Commercial Passenger Carrying Motor vehicles

These are calendar year permits for companies which own/operate buses traveling into Yosemite National Park. A briefing paper was compiled on buses on May 3, 1995.

Permits - 274	\$68,500
<u>Invalid - 48</u>	
TOTAL 322	
Non-permitted entries - 41	
Local small tour buses - 7	<u>\$ 1,750</u>
	\$70,250 TOTAL

Chain Installers (1994-95 Winter)

Fifteen individuals were issued authorizations to provide snow chain services within the park. Authorized services included the installation, removal, and repair of snow chains at designated chain control points on roadways and parking lots within Yosemite.

Permits - 15	\$1,625
Attended training course - 25	
Contacts (no record)	

Special Use Permits (SUPs)

These special use permits were comprised of various uses such as El Portal land uses, community events, commercial vehicles, hang gliding, and religious events.

Permits - 29	\$2,450
Contacts - 300	

(There are 87 El Portal residential land permits, a few are current, but most permits have expired.)

El Portal leases \$6,300

Incidental Business Permits (IBP)

The Office of Special Park Uses assumed responsibility for the former Commercial Use License (CUL) program and began planning the implementation of its replacement, the Incidental Business Permit program. These permits had previously been issued to business entities by the Concessions Management Office for the following commercial activities: saddle and horse pack trips, guided backpacking trips, guided day hiking, environmental education trips, and tow truck service. New procedures for permit application, administration, and monitoring were developed in anticipation of increased permit activity. The SPU office has received approximately 100 requests for IBPs for various activities.

Permits - 1	\$150 (Cal Adventures)
Contacts	(no record except as noted above)

****Total FY1995 Income: \$178,462**

A sampling of permittees who pay large fees are listed below:

\$21,720	Wawona Redwoods
24,000	Golden State Cellular
24,000	Cellular One
1,800	Odgers Bulk Plant
5,190	Pacific Bell
2,600	Mel Brooks (washer/dryer)

Several new programs were originated and proposed, and are awaiting implementation. These include proposals for rafting, climbing, washer/dryer, commercial passenger carrying motor vehicles, and commercial/group use valley reservations.

DIVISION OF CONCESSIONS MANAGEMENT

Budget & Personnel:

- The FY95 Budget was 336,800 including the increase to base from FY94..
- A Construction Representative position, GS-809-12, was filled to administer the Capital Improvement Fund and Government Improvement Accounts maintained by Concessioners. The position was filled by Mary Hazell, an Architectural Engineer who had been working as General Engineer for the Southwest Region in the office of the Associate Regional Director of Planning.
- Ron Parker left the Division of Concessions Management in October. He transferred to Chickasaw National Recreation Area as a Resource Management Specialist.
- Bonita Robinson was hired in a seasonal position. She started working for the Division at the end of June as an Office Automation Clerk.
- The Financial Analyst position was announced multiple times but remained vacant during the full year.
- Jackie Steuer was out all year on a work related injury.
- Kim Tucker, Annette Catamec, William Fay, Ron Parker, and Mary Hazell received Performance Awards for maintaining high quality work efforts.
- At year end the Division consists of a GS-14 Chief, a GS-12 Construction Representative, a GS-12 Civil Engineer (detailed from the Maintenance Branch of Professional Services), two GS-11 Concessions Management Specialists, one GS-9 Concessions Management Specialist, and a seasonal GS-4 Office Automation Clerk.

Concession Contracts and Other Authorizations:

Medical Clinic Contract:

In late March, Samaritan Health Services notified the park of their decision to not renew their contract to provide health services at Yosemite Medical Clinic. Six health care providers responded to a Prospectus issued in June. Tenet Healthcare Corporation, Inc., dba. Doctors Medical Center of Modesto was awarded the new 15-year contract effective January 1, 1996. The local community expressed great concern when it was announced that none of the existing physicians would be retained.

El Portal Chevron:

The Bevingtons expressed interest in obtaining a long-term contract in order to sell their business. Since planning for El Portal has not been addressed, at year's end this issue remains unresolved.

Commercial Use Licenses:

During the year, direction from WASO resulted in changing Commercial Use Licenses (CUL) to Incidental Business Permits (IBP) which are issued on a modified Special Use Permit form. In November, responsibility for issuance and administration of CULs/IBPs was transferred to the new Office of Special Park Uses located in the Administration Division.

Chain Installer Permits:

In October, responsibility for these permits was transferred to the Office of Special Park Uses.

Tour Bus Program:

In early spring, responsibility for these Special Use Permits was transferred to the Office of Special Park Uses.

Cellular Phone Special Use Permit (SUP):

A second SUP for the location of equipment and provision of cellular telephone services within the park was issued this year. Under the terms of the SUP the facilities will be located at five existing communications sites (Yosemite Valley, Sentinel Dome, Crane Flat, Tuolumne Meadows, and Wawona Point) servicing the developed areas of the park.

Contract Administration:**Yosemite Concession Services Corp. (YCS):****Food and Beverage:**

This year, YCS refurbished The Loft Restaurant in the Degnan's building and converted it into the new "Pasta Place." The menu and food service concept was changed to help expedite quicker food service.

A trial "core menu concept" was implemented for fast food items. This provided the concessioner with a quicker response to their request for rate adjustments for specific fast food items. This concept will be used on other food and beverage menus in the future.

Retail:

In July, the Yosemite National Park Gift Shop Mission Statement was signed and went into effect at The Ansel Adams Gallery and at Yosemite Concession Services gift shops. Themes related to the park are being developed for each of the shops and will offer park visitors more environmental and educational selections from which to purchase.

High Sierra Camps:

The five High Sierra Camps remained closed during the 1995 season due to snow and weather conditions which made a reasonable operating period unfeasible.

Lodging:

A number of "full review" comparability studies for overnight accommodations were accomplished, involving travel to a variety of out-of-park properties. As a result of this process, some comparison properties that had been used in the past were eliminated as more suitable properties were identified.

Stables:

YCS submitted a proposal to close the Valley and Wawona stables and eliminate the trail rides at the Tuolumne stables. The proposal was the subject of an article in *Western Horseman*, numerous newspapers, and a joint resolution by the California Legislature and Governor. Park management has not yet formally responded to the proposal.

Capital Improvement Fund/Government Improvement Account Program:

During 1995, per the contract, monies were deposited in both the GIA and the CIA on a regular monthly basis. A total of 40 projects were active in planning, design or construction phases over the course of the year, with expenditures totaling \$1,668,417. Nine planning phases, 14 design phases and 18 construction phases were completed this year.

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	44%
Improved Visitor Services	15%
Health and Safety	6%
Employee Facility Improvements	5%
Facility Improvements	11%
Resource Preservation	13%
Code Violations/Compliance	6%

Transportation and Tour Services:

Shuttles provided satisfactory visitor service with operations continuing at Yosemite Valley, Wawona, Badger Pass, and Tuolumne Meadows. The net passenger counts are as follows: Valley Floor Shuttle - 3,407,846, Wawona Shuttle - 209,983, Badger Pass Shuttle - 24,377, and Tuolumne Shuttle - 4,550. The total ridership for all shuttles was 3,646,756 which represents an 3.6% increase from the previous year.

The Divisions of Concessions Management and Interpretation initiated a program to provide improved training to YCS and additional personnel for auditing the various tours.

Maintenance Program:

In 1995, changes took place in the YCS Maintenance Division. The company hired a new Director of Facility Services. The intent is to guide the organization from one that has been operating in a “reactive” maintenance mode to one that focuses on “proactive” maintenance. The company has already purchased the computer hardware to begin implementation of a computerized maintenance management system in early 1996. A software choice will be made in the near future. Full sale utilization of such a system will vastly improve the company’s ability to maintain a workable equipment/asset inventory, keep track of maintenance needs, schedule work tasks, and report its efforts to the NPS Concessions Management Division

The Ansel Adams Gallery:

The Ansel Adams Gallery’s Government Improvement Account was used to take care of safety problems at one of the residences. Funding has been approved for additional improvements which were initiated during the course of the operating year.

Yosemite Electric Bus Demonstration Project:

The total amount of funding available for this project was increased to \$1,375,000 due to the execution of an agreement with the California Energy Commission providing an additional contribution of \$280,000. The first two buses purchased for this project were delivered to the park and were dedicated by Deputy Secretary of the Interior John Garamendi on September 22, 1995.

Slides, Snow And Park Closures:

This was a taxing year for concessioners. In March, heavy rains caused slides closing all three routes into the Valley. These closures lasted from a few hours to over a month. Park visitation was high in May and June, as well as holiday weekends, resulting in temporary restrictions on visitors entering the park. Heavy snowpack in the high country resulted in the latest opening of the Tioga Road ever, June 30th. Snowpack was such that High Sierra Camps did not operate.

Service-wide Involvement:

Marty Nielson, Annette Catamec, and Kim Tucker were actively involved in service-wide “streamlining” programs this year. Marty is the chairperson for the overall operations program redevelopment. Annette serves as chairperson for the Food Code Task Force and is involved with two additional operational task forces. Kim is working on new evaluation standards for general and employee housing operations.

DIVISION OF INTERPRETATION

Due to reorganization, this report reflects functional areas rather than geographic districts.

Chief Park Interpreter

- In November, 1994, Rick Smith was hired as the new Chief of Interpretation.
- Work was begun on reorganization of the Interpretive Division to face new fiscal and operational challenges.

Branch of Field Operations

Personnel

- Retired/Transferred - Dan Card retired; Paul Pfenninger, Althea Roberson, and Linda Brindle transferred.
- Hired - Kimberly Cunningham-Summerfield was hired as a permanent interpreter in the Indian Cultural Program. Jessica Daskal, Mary Beth Shenton, Sarina Lambert, Julie Ahern, Dave Dahler, and Noreen Mc Clintock were converted from long-term seasonal and temporary positions to term appointments.

Statistics of Visitor Services in Field Operations

- The interpretive staff made 282,718 contacts at attended stations (not visitor centers).
- Visitor contacts for walks and talks: 40,205
- Visitor contacts at campfire programs: 105,956
- Visitor contacts at demonstrations (including the Indian Cultural Program): 828,764
- Visitor contacts recorded at self-guiding facilities (through interpretive media): 85,293
- Visitor contacts through the Deaf Services Program: 359/up 6.5% over last year.
- Volunteers contributed 16,025 hours of service to the Interpretive Division. Interns comprised 50% of our summer staff in Yosemite Valley and Wawona areas. In total, 68 volunteers donated time to the Division; 12 were Yosemite Association (YA) interns.

Examples of Branch Activities

- Volunteers, including YA-funded interns, contributed substantially to branch programs; the greatest increase came from the YA volunteers who did the Orientation Show introductions throughout the summer.
- Through a joint project funded by YA and visitor center donations, a partial upgrade of auditorium theatrical lighting was completed.
- Three major exhibit planning activities were undertaken, all funded by The Yosemite Fund: Happy Isles Nature Center (HINC) complete exhibit replacement; 30 new, mostly resource management-driven wayside exhibits throughout the Valley; and development and installation of the Mariposa Grove Museum exhibit for a spring opening in Wawona.
- Branch staff worked with the wilderness branch on designing and developing the Wilderness Education Center.

Branch of Public Information

General

- Responded to 39,442 telephone and 20,288 written information requests.
- The six Visitor Contact Stations/Centers contacted 4,414,134 visitors.
- Produced over 93 press releases.
- Handled over 2,600 press/media contacts.
- Produced 260 issues of the Daily Report and 52 issues of the Weekly Update.

Personnel

- Lisa Dapprich moved from the Public Information Branch to the Office of Strategic Planning in May.
- Nikyra Calcagno was hired as a Park Ranger managing public information in February.
- Kris Fister accepted a position in Interpretation at Denali National Park, Alaska, and was detailed to Yosemite as the Public Information Officer in July.
- Marla Shenk was on OWCP leave from May - October 1995.

Branch of Curatorial Services

Yosemite Research Library

- Acquisitions: Accessioned 167 volumes. Catalogued and processed 268 items.
- Circulation: 1,830 items including 856 books, 536 photos and 325 periodicals.
- Public Contacts: The library was open to the public 213 days. Averaged 153 visitors and 68 phone calls per month. 270 information requests - 34 of which were photo related.
- Researchers: Assisted 61 researchers, including the 606 Studio staff which produced the Tuolumne Meadows DCP.
- Photo Orders: 62 projects using Research Library negatives were completed. 11 internal orders with the NPS photographer and 51 private orders with Leroy Radanovich and Bob Woolard. 307 negatives were retrieved from the library's files.
- Periodicals: Maintained 90 periodical subscriptions (66 which are purchased) and 3 newspaper subscriptions; compiled a monthly news clipping file.
- Training: Attended the Antiquarian Book Fair in San Francisco, February 25, 1995.

Historian

- As coordinator of the Wilderness Historic Resources Survey, supported by the Yosemite Fund, the Historian spent most of the fiscal year 1995 completing the field work and field records for that survey. At the close of this eighth and final season, survey participants had covered 12,935 miles recording 1,691 blazes, 32 buildings, 91 structures, 101 trails, and 38 other features in Yosemite and bordering wilderness areas. Entry of survey data into the park Geographic Information System began.
- Work toward completion of the museum storage building was an important focus as it will allow the first proper storage of Yosemite's extensive records.

Visuals Center

- **Exhibits:** An exhibit of historic works from the Yosemite Museum Collections was installed in the Museum Fine Arts Gallery. Five exhibits were hung in the Visitors Center.
- **Special Projects:** During March, 4,000 slides, never before processed into the filing system were transported to El Portal, sorted, and prepared for addition to the collection.

- The Visuals Center also aided in ANCS cataloging of photographic negatives.

- **Slide Archive**

Total orders filled: 153; Monthly average: 12.75

Total slides supplied: . . . 3,814

Usage breakdown: (Number of orders/number of slides)

Yosemite 44/1913

Interpretation. 23/715

Curatorial. 7/430

Administration. 1/4

Research 3/194

Wilderness 3/25

Fire Management 1/116

Resource Mgmt. . . 5/254

Other

Other NPS facilities: 6/197

Requests referred to list of outside sources: 13

Other agencies 3/91

Duplicates added to file (est.): 800

YA 5/92

YF 11/138

YI 5/291

Outside. 66/1069

Slides accessioned: 805

Images added to data base: 577

Number of images now in data base: 8,618

Museum

- One hundred and one accessions were recorded during 1995; half of these were gifts to the National Park Service (50), closely followed by field collections (48).
- Nineteen outgoing loans were made of over 300 objects in the collection for study and/or exhibit outside Yosemite. Over 300 objects were exhibited in the park this year.
- Continued progress was made in the computerization of collection records. 4,248 accession records; 40,211 cultural records, and 10,347 natural history records have now been entered into the Automated National Catalog System. The park's computerized inventory database now contains entries for 84,246 objects, representing 86% of the cataloged collection.
- A number of notable acquisitions to the park's museum collection were made in 1995, including a Western Mono basket made by Rosalie Bethel, original artwork by Jo Mora for the Yosemite poster published in 1931; a Mono Lake Paiute basket collected by James Schwabacher in the 1920s; a contemporary portfolio of Tom Millea

platinum prints; several historic souvenir items; and a number of small format 19th century photographs of the park.

- A detailed list of cataloged film footage in the museum collection was prepared for use by staff and researchers.
- Martha Lee, Museum Registrar, researched and authored a chapter on publications for the Museum Handbook, Part III.
- Craig Bates wrote the Scope of Work and contracted for the Wawona Cultural Affiliation Study, and, with Barbara Beroza, the Scope of Work for two NAGPRA research projects.
- Craig Bates wrote the Scope of Work for a Native American oral history project.
- The final NAGPRA inventory for human remains and associated funerary objects was completed and submitted to WASO.
- Craig Bates worked with a designer to rehabilitate the museum lobby to provide an improved visitor experience. Yosemite Fund approved \$38,000 for final design drawings.
- Craig Bates coordinated, selected images, wrote text, and saw through completion the new wayside exhibits in the Indian Village.
- Martha Lee and Beth Hanson rewrote and replaced all text in the Indian Cultural Exhibit.
- Craig Bates assisted the American Indian Council of Mariposa County in conducting workshops on traditional dance and the manufacture of traditional dance regalia.
- Dave Forgang, through contract, completed the electrical service, lighting, intrusion and fire alarms, for the archival storage building.
- The heating, ventilation, air conditioning system, and sprinkler system (fire suppression) for the archival storage building was designed and successfully awarded.

Branch of Education

Budget

Personnel - Paid Staff

- Sue Branch unofficially acted as Education Specialist while also completing her duties as the Education Coordinator until the new Education Specialist, Lynda Doucette, was hired in late July, 1995. A GS-11 permanent staff person, Susan

Gonshor, was detailed into the Education Coordinator position from mid-December through mid-February 1994 while the Education Specialist position remained vacant and the Education Coordinator position was furloughed.

- A GS-5 seasonal park ranger, Tanya Long, worked from June through the beginning of November. She assisted with administrative support, editing of the Teacher Guide, developed and conducted Junior Ranger programs and the Fall School Program.
- A GS-7 seasonal park ranger, Maggie Wolfe, coordinated and developed lessons for the summer Junior Ranger program and supervised two Junior Ranger staff members from mid-June through the end of August.

Personnel - Help from other Districts, Yosemite Institute, etc...

- Shelton Johnson from Valley Interpretive staff served as a host and conducted programs for the Commencement 2000 field trip.
- Noreen McClintock from Wawona Interpretive staff assisted the Education program by conducting some spring school programs and drawing maps for the Teacher Guide. Laura Seager from Wawona Interpretation assisted in editing of the Teacher Guide.

Personnel - Volunteer Staff

- YA student intern Tanya Long assisted in developing and presenting the Parks as Classroom Program, administrative support, and editing of the Teacher Guide.
- Volunteer Laura Sefchik also assisted with conducting the Parks as Classroom Program from March through mid-May.
- YA student intern Alvis Mar assisted with conducting and developing the summer junior ranger program from mid-June through the end of August.
- Five teacher interns shared their expertise in curriculum development through their participation in the Teacher Intern Program from mid-July through mid-August.
- A total of nearly 1,833 VIP hours were donated to the Education Branch this year: 960 student intern hours, 145 regular VIP hours, and 728 teacher intern hours.

Operations/Projects Highlights

Parks As Classroom

- School classes spend an hour with a park ranger followed by an hour of discovery and exploration. The educational materials presented correlate with the California State Frameworks and include an NPS message of protection and preservation. Spring classes focus on Yosemite's natural history while fall programs are based

on the park's cultural history. The spring program ran from mid-April through mid-May 1995. Limited budget and staffing resulted in turning away 34 classes; 44 classes with 1667 participants (1267 students and 400 adult chaperones) were accommodated. The fall program ran from mid-October through mid-November 1994. Twenty-five classes were accommodated, with 726 students and nearly 100 adult chaperones being contacted.

Junior Ranger Program

- The 1995 Junior Ranger Program ran from July 4 through September 1, 1995 in Yosemite Valley. Four separate programs were offered five days each week including Mewuk culture, Wildlife ecology, forest ecology, and Aquatics. Eight hundred and fifty-eight children attended these Junior Ranger programs. Junior Ranger programs were also given in Tuolumne and, for the first time, in Wawona. Fifty-six children were served in these two areas. The Junior Snow Rangers program, which is a self study program during the winter, had 373 children earn patches.

Teacher Intern Program (TIP)

- This program brings teachers to Yosemite for five weeks in the summer while developing curriculum-based programs on topics related to the natural and cultural history of Yosemite. Lessons for the "traveling trunks" project were edited and new lessons were added. In 1995, five school districts were represented in the TIP, including Yosemite Elementary School. Their involvement continues to foster a necessary partnership in education in Yosemite. The TIP also helps keep the Education Branch current with changes in the education field.

Teacher Workshop - Environmental Living Program

- Ninety teachers and chaperones attended two weekend workshops in the fall to prepare for the spring Environmental Living Program.

Outreach Projects

- Wawona Interpretive staff initiated an outreach program with Green Meadows Outdoor School in Fish Camp. Up to 100 students and chaperones were reached each week during this evening program.

Miscellaneous

- One hundred twenty-one requests for special or school programs were declined due to staffing levels.
- An additional 310 students of all grade levels (from pre-K through university) were contacted by special-request educational programs (not part of the Parks As Classroom program offered in the Valley).

Partnerships

- A new management technique involving all groups interpreting Yosemite began in FY95 called the Full Interpretive Management Team. This group consists of all branch chiefs, two representatives from field staff, Yosemite Concession Services, Yosemite Association, Yosemite Fund, Yosemite Institute, and Le Conte (Sierra Club), and meets once a month to discuss and coordinate interpretive issues and planning.

Yosemite Fund

- Through the wilderness survey, the Historian developed and shared park information with other agencies and institutions, including the US Geological Survey (rock slides, mapping, glaciation), the University of Nevada Basque Studies Center (sheepherding and shepherd's art), and the University of California, Davis (salmon range on Yosemite area rivers). Wilderness survey data also contributed to cultural resource monitoring and mitigation during the Turner Meadow Fire. Through the wilderness survey, the Historian worked closely with the Yosemite Fund.

Yosemite Institute

- Instructor Hans Manske gave training to Education staff and Teacher Interns and assisted in development of lessons for the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Kits (Travelling Trunks). Pete Devine gave an excellent four hour training in teaching techniques to Education staff.

Environmental Living Program

- During the environmental living program, students stay overnight at the Pioneer History Center and assume the roles of historical people who influenced the development and protection of Yosemite National Park. Twenty four schools attended with a total of 1,008 participants (768 students and 240 adult chaperons).

Commencement 2000 - Sacramento Chapter

- Commencement 2000 is a multi-agency program designed to inform and educate inner-city youth about natural resources and environmentally based careers. This program has been supported by the Park Service's former Western Regional Office by a National Park Foundation grant. Targeted schools were Luther Burbank High School, Goethe Middle School, and Bidwell Elementary School in Sacramento. Once annually, Luther Burbank School visits Yosemite for a four day long education program.

Meetings throughout the year resulted in stronger partnerships with:

- The Yosemite, El Portal and Wawona Elementary Schools - we gave special programs for these schools, attended partnership meetings with Yosemite Elementary School, and hired a Yosemite Elementary School teacher as a teacher intern.
- The Le Conte Memorial staff (sponsored by the Sierra Club) - Laura Sefchik, one of our education volunteers, is also a Le Conte Memorial staff member and was able to share new teaching techniques learned with Yosemite's Education Branch.
- Yosemite's Wilderness staff, by working jointly on the Wilderness Box, Wilderness Education Center planning, and input from Wilderness on our spring school program.

International Visitors Program:

- October, 1994: Finland 2; Japan 12
- November, 1994: Australia 2
- December, 1994: China 6; Japan 21
- January, 1995: Korea & Malaysia 3
- February, 1995: Australia 3
- March, 1995: Japan 2
- April, 1995: Italy 3; Thailand 20; Ukraine 19
- May, 1995: Japan 17; China 17
- June, 1995: Australia 1
- July, 1995: None
- August, 1995: Japan 1
- September, 1995: China 11

DIVISION OF MAINTENANCE

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 ongoing support to the Division of Concessions Management for CIF related projects, including technical engineering/architectural review of proposed design and construction documents, engineering analysis of utilities and other infrastructure related issues, construction management services for in-progress CIF construction projects, engineering code analysis and inspection of concessioner facilities and assistance and oversight in the development of a concessioner Maintenance Management Plan.
- **ERFO Flood Damage Report:** Developed documented evidence of winter flood damage to park federally owned roads and related infrastructure, resulting in the funding of \$1.5 million for day labor and contractor costs to repair these facilities.
- **ERFO Related Projects:** Provided inspection, consultation, design, contract management and construction management services on several construction ERFO projects, including Highway 140 rock slide, Angell's Wash, Wawona Tunnel and Foresta Road repairs.
- **Sign Study:** Provided continued support for the Yosemite Sign Study. Services included providing A/E management, extensive site survey, technical support and archival information.
- **May Lake Water System:** Provided continued design and technical support on the May Lake water treatment system which was constructed by the Branch of Utilities. The project emphasized sustainable design, utilizing renewable energy sources and advanced technology.
- **Wawona Night Soil Tank:** Completed Design of a 15,000 gallon reinforce concrete night soil tank at Wawona Waste Water Treatment Plant. Construction of the tank is currently in progress and scheduled for completion in the Spring of 1996.
- **El Portal Administration Offices:** Completed design and development of contracting documents for the construction of new Administrative Offices in El Portal. The construction of these facilities has not been funded.

Partnership Projects

- **Sanitary Watershed Surveys:** Conducted sanitary watershed surveys of the Merced River and South Fork Merced River in cooperation with San Jose State University. Both final reports were forwarded to the State of California in compliance with drinking water regulations.
- **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.
- **Picnic Area Design, Pinnacles National Monument:** Provided staff and resources for the design and survey of a new parking lot and picnic area.
- **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 50 percent of the solid waste generated in the park and surrounding communities. Planning was initiated in FY95, with design completion estimated for 1998.
- **Tuolumne Meadows DCP:** In cooperation with Cal Poly Pomona, provided technical assistance in development of the Tuolumne Meadows Development Concept Plan. Provided field survey, site analysis and archival information to project participants.
- **911 Mapping:** In cooperation with Ohio State University, performed extensive site survey and AutoCADD development of 911 maps for the El Portal and Yosemite Valley Districts. Began preliminary development of 911 maps for Wawona and Hodgdon Meadow districts.

Line Item Construction Program for 1995

- **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 80% complete in 1995.
- **504BA (2A), El Portal Waterline Extension:** Project involved the installation of a new 12-inch waterline from Rancheria Flat to the El Portal Waste Water Treatment Plant. The waterline provides fire service to the new Warehouse and Maintenance facilities. Project was 100% complete in 1995.

- **504BB (3), Solids Processing Improvements, El Portal Waste Water Treatment Plan:** 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 70% complete in 1995.
- **504BA (4B), 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 25% complete, including the demolition of the Mess Hall and the SAR Cache in Yosemite Valley, in 1995.

Utilities Branch:

Electric Operations

- National Electrical Code training for all personnel.
- Relocated transformer and rehabilitated secondary electric at Parson's Lodge, Tuolumne Meadows.
- Repaired primary cable at Lower Pines Campground river crossing (flood).
- Installed programmable message sign in Wawona Tunnel.
- Repaired flooding and drainage problem at Crane Flat generator building.
- Repaired electrical cable fault on one of the Valley feeders.

Backcountry Utilities

- Remodeled interior of Vernal Fall comfort station (historic structure).
- Rehabilitated photovoltaic electrical system at Emerald Pool composting toilet facility (now meets NEC).
- Pumped 4,000 gallons septic by helicopter from Merced Lake High Sierra Camp.
- Installed solar pumping system at Merced Lake.
- Installed new water treatment system at May Lake High Sierra Camp.

El Portal Utilities

- Installed NaOH pumps, SO₂ controller, air conditioner, backflow preventer, 3" valves on HRW line, 3" valve for digester boiler, and valves for sludge hauling at wastewater treatment facility.

- Rebuilt pH controller, junction structure, tertiary pump controls, altitude valves, vacuum pumps, digested sludge pump controls, instrument air compressor, and Muffin Monster at the headworks at wastewater treatment facility.
- Overhauled lift stations and 3 air operated valves at the wastewater treatment facility.
- Installed sampling stations, water meters and pressure reducer at Post Office, meter at well #3, water lines at the Motor Inn cabins, and hydrants for water system.
- Rebuilt motor control panel at well #4 for water system.
- Replaced well #4 for water system.
- Removed and relocated the water line to the fiscal building.
- Rebuilt Muffin Monster at Tuolumne Meadows wastewater plant.
- Replaced sump pumps at Hodgdon Meadow wastewater plant.

Wawona Utilities

- Performed major repair of 5,000 gallon septic tank at Glacier Point.
- Constructed polymer feed system at Wawona wastewater plant.
- Installed Muffin Monster at Wawona wastewater plant.
- Replaced pumps, motors and electrical control panel at Union Point.
- Installed manholes and sewage collection system for Wawona School.
- Installed fire hydrant and meter for Wawona School.
- Repaired extensive storm damage to utility lines, golf course, easements, water and wastewater operations.

Valley Utilities

- Aquatrol upgrade.
- Overhauled hydrants in Yosemite Valley.

- Installed manhole, Lower Pines Campground.
- Overhauled well #2 motor and shaft replacement.
- Installed backflow preventers at clinic.
- Sealed manholes from infiltration (flood).
- Removed grease-clogged air release valves from forced main.
- Rebuilt lift pumps.

Branch of Roads and Trails

- The biggest winter since 1983 caused over \$1.3 million of damage to Park roads.
- A major rock slide took out 70 feet of road which caused 27 days of closure on Highway 140. Road crews and trail crews worked together to build retaining walls and new road surface.
- A slide covered Highway 41 with mud, rock and trees causing a 9-day closure. Road and trail crews cleaned up debris and constructed a stone buttress 100 feet wide by 12 feet high.
- Forestry limbed and brushed Highway 140 from Arch Rock to Cascades. This had not been done in over 20 years.
- El Portal Roads brushed and rebuilt Davis Cutoff Road with new drainage and water bars, and improved drainage and access roads in Foresta housing.
- Tioga Pass opened on June 30.
- The Valley Roads and Trails Office was damaged extensively by fire and could no longer be used. The staff was relocated to Bldg#524 in the Valley.

Branch of Building and Grounds

- Took occupancy of the new warehouse/office facility in El Portal in April.
- Valley buildings #533 and #577 were demolished.
- Completely rehabilitated six housing units: #37, #49, #62, #716, #4178, and #6116.

- Converted former restaurant/maintenance shop #764 into an office for Special Park Uses and El Portal rangers.
- Converted former fire dormitory #786 into the Park's Personnel Office.
- Converted former Act Activity Center #1005 into Wilderness Center.
- Relocated Roads and Trails General Supervisor to remodeled building #524 after former office #559 was destroyed by fire.
- Remodeled Administration Building for occupancy by Division Chiefs.
- Reroofed 25 structures including two comfort stations, nine houses/garages/three offices, and the El Portal Market.
- Constructed vault toilets at Tenaya Lake/Murphy Creek Trailhead, Mariposa Grove/Grizzly Giant and Old Lodge site, Tuolumne/Mono Pass Trailhead, Mirror Lake Trail, Swinging Bridge Picnic Area and Sentinel Dome parking lot.
- Completed the conversion of canvas tents into hard sided cabins at White Wolf.
- Retrofitted almost all the Park's solid waste cans to the flipback style to save on back injuries.
- Restored the historic Foresta Barn, #6407, which included repairing/replacing timber framing, siding, floor joists and flooring, and a new roof.
- Repainted 4 historic structures including the Valley Chapel, the Ranger Club, and the Valley District and Administration buildings.
- Replaced the fire suppression system in the Valley Chapel.
- Changed the El Portal/Valley District boundary to El Capitan Crossover, which enabled the relocation of two custodial employees from the Valley to El Portal.
- Re-established the Mather District as a separate unit and relocated the Painter Supervisor position to the District Supervisor position.
- Abolished the Project Shop through the reassignment of employees to district maintenance shops.

DIVISION OF VISITOR PROTECTION

Protection/Law Enforcement

Law enforcement incidents remained relatively close to the 1994 statistics in 1995. There was a total of 1,313 criminal incidents (non-citation). These included 325 Part I offenses with a 40% successful closure rate, and 988 Part II offenses with a 83% successful closure rate. This occurred with 87 commissioned rangers as compared to 103 in FY1994.

Drug and alcohol-related incidents increased again this year. There were 639 drug or alcohol (strictly) related incidents in 1994, and this year that number increased to 654. These figures do not include, fights, assaults or domestics that involved drugs or alcohol.

With fewer rangers, several major accomplishments were achieved; the suspect who kidnapped a park ranger was apprehended after an extensive man-hunt, and two major burglars were captured. The two burglars accounted for approximately 100 thefts in Yosemite between the two of them.

The Criminal Investigations Unit provided support to other parks and agencies, by assisting with an international drug smuggling surveillance in Texas, an internal investigation on another agency in Nevada, an undercover operation in Southern California, and through routine support to other parks in daily investigations and serial crimes.

A new "Desk Officer" Program began in the summer, using ex-police officers working as volunteers. They were available to those wanting to file reports of minor accidents or other incidents, and to take routine requests for reports. This service released park rangers to spend shift time for other duties, and enabled the Park to better respond to requests for reports for insurance purposes.

Eleven incidents of restricted access into the Park, a record number, were instituted by park rangers in the weeks preceding the July 4 weekend. This was due to traffic congestion in Yosemite Valley and limited access to the rest of the Park. For the first time, Park access was limited even after the opening of the Tioga Road, due to record snow amounts in Tuolumne.

Fire Management

Park staff were involved in a total of 85 wildland fire-related incidents, 19 of which were mutual aid responses to the Stanislaus, Sierra, CDF, and support actions to agencies outside the mutual threat zone. A total of 1,385 acres were burned in 1995, 1,215 acres of the total being Prescribed Fire. The most significant Prescribed Natural Fire (PNF)

was the South Turner PNF located east of Turner Meadow. This was authorized a PNF on June 15, 1995 and was officially declared out on December 10, 1995. The PNF burned 615 acres.

There were 238 structure alarms recorded in 1995, one more than 1994, 75 of which were directly related to helicopter use, such as medical evacuation flights, searches and rescues, and administrative flights. There were 27 fires and 51 false alarms.

Fire Management purchased a new Type 1 structure engine that will be located in Yosemite Valley, thus, moving the "old" Engine 5 to Hodgdon Meadow to upgrade the capabilities and area response there.

Fire management filled the previously vacant Prescribed Fire Manager position with L. Dean Clark.

As of February 7, 1996, Yosemite National Park and the Stanislaus National Forest were moved to South Zone of Region 5, California. All wildland fire-related information and resource status will now be reported to the Geographic Coordination Center in Riverside. This prompted the Branch to purchase the necessary radio equipment for the South Zone dispatch net to be installed in the dispatch center consoles.

Search and Rescue (SAR)/Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The year 1995 will be remembered as the year of change. The SAR Office, with a staff of two full-time employees, coordinated approximately 188 SAR-incidents. This was a decrease from the previous year which recorded approximately 240 SAR-incidents. Nevertheless, the search and rescue season had its highlights. Heavy snowfall during the winter provided spectacular run-off. Increase water flows resulted in a number of swiftwater rescues and body recoveries. The climbing season further kept park rangers occupied. Several noteworthy incidents include a rescue of four climbers off the "nose" of El Capitan, the recovery of two "swimmers" from the base of Nevada Fall, and the recovery of a climber from the east ledges of El Capitan. In July, a hiker was reported overdue which resulted in an intensive eight day search near Badger Pass. Her was eventually found in the Bridalveil drainage in October.

In September, the Search and Rescue Office was moved to its current location within the old Procurement building. The effort to organize and construct a new SAR cache is continuing into FY1996.

The Search and Rescue/Emergency Medical Service Manager position was filled in November. This position had been vacant for approximately four years.

Beginning January 1, 1996, Doctor's Medical Center was awarded the contract for the Yosemite Medical Clinic. A provision of this new contract includes the operation of a ground ambulance service staffed by paramedics. They will serve Yosemite Valley

proper, 24 hours per day, 365 days a year. In addition, they will respond, per request, to EMS calls in adjacent districts.

Resource Protection Program

A parkwide Draft Vegetation Management Plan was completed and circulated for in-park review. The final draft is expected to be complete in April 1996. This plan is a precursor for the revision of the Fire Management Plan and coincides with the revision of the Wilderness Management Plan.

Initiation of the development of a Resource Protection Plan began with scoping and field reviews with protection rangers to identify resource protection issues. Development of this plan will begin in 1996.

Wilderness Unit

The Wilderness Unit participated in several campsite monitoring and site restoration programs this past season. Locations included Rancheria Creek, Laurel, Vernon, Buena Vista, Royal Arch and Chain Lakes. Campsite monitoring included Wilma and Otter lakes.

Park Superintendent B.J. Griffin, Assistant Superintendent Hal Grovert and members of the various park Wilderness units made a five day wilderness inspection trip to Vernon and Wilma Lakes via Jack Main Canyon. Trail maintenance efforts, campsite restoration projects and wilderness patrol activities were observed and comments provided.

The Park's wilderness permit reservation system began on June 1, 1995. The program was done in a cooperative effort with the Yosemite Association. A \$3 fee per person per registration is now charged. For 1995, 4,094 reservations were issued out of 18,951 permits. This equals a 37% increase over 1994 figures. The total number of people on reserved permits equaled 40% of the total overnight use. The system seems to be very popular with the Park's wilderness users and is reducing congestion at the permit issuing stations.

Superintendent B.J. Griffin dedicated the Park's new Wilderness Center in early May. Well known wilderness advocate David Brower made some informal comments at the ceremony. Thanks to the efforts of the Park management team and The Yosemite Fund, a \$40,000 donation has been made for exhibits for the new center. Additionally, in an interagency effort with five National Forests, Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park and the California Region of the Bureau of Land Management, a jointly funded wilderness education specialist has been assigned to the Wilderness Center staff.

Volunteers in the Park contributed 9,330 hours to Wilderness Unit programs including the Wilderness Center, the park issuing stations and backcountry ranger stations, including Little Yosemite Valley.

DIVISION OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Physical Restoration and Management Program

River and Riparian Area Restoration: Sections of stream bank along the Merced River (Yosemite Valley) at Housekeeping Camp, between Yosemite Lodge and Swinging Bridge, and Group Camp were restored. Photo documentation and river cross sectional surveys were completed; boulder riprap removed, banks recontoured, followed by replanting with thousands of willow and cottonwood cuttings and seeds from native grasses and forbs. Project sites included the construction of 2,500 feet of protective fence line. Maintenance and monitoring occurred at past river restoration project sites.

Wilderness Impacts Mitigation and Management: Wilderness restoration work occurred at Rancheria Fall, Vernon and Laurel Lakes, Beehive, Chilnualna Fall and Chilnualna Lake, Ostrander, Hart, Chain, Royal Arch, and Buena Vista Lakes, Sunrise High Sierra Camp and the Budd Lake use trail; and Wilderness impacts monitoring was completed at Royal Arch, Minnow, Laurel, Vernon, Waterhorse, Mahan, Wilma and Otter Lakes, and at Beehive. The majority of the restoration work consisted of campsite mitigation actions (either obliteration or reduction/improvement), with over 200 campsites (fire rings) being obliterated and the areas restored. All projects were completed with NPS restoration staff supervising a NPS wage grade crew, and volunteer groups from the Sierra Club and Yosemite Association, and two Student Conservation Association High School Work Groups.

Natural Environment Restoration: Restoration work was implemented at several areas within the Natural Environment sub-zone in Yosemite Valley. Work included resource protection fence construction at the Lower Yosemite Falls parking lot and along the bike path adjacent to Sentinel Meadow. A multi-year Mirror Lake Restoration Project began in 1995 with the removal of the old upper parking lot including site restoration, and rehabilitation/maintenance work along the Mirror Lake Loop Trail. An environmental assessment is nearing completion for the entire project which will include a universally accessible interpretive trail, rehabilitation of the original carriage road as the primary trail into the region, removal of abandoned overlapping road systems, and relocation of vault toilets and accessible vehicle parking. The Mirror Lake project is supported by the Yosemite Fund and Chevron Corporation with employee volunteer weekends.

Abandoned Roads Inventory and Restoration: Merced Grove Road restoration project was delayed until FY96.

Fire line Restoration: The Horizon Fire was a lightning ignited fire in 1994, about one and a half miles south of Glacier Point Road, east of Horizon Ridge in the Illillouette Basin within Yosemite's Wilderness. The Prescribed Natural Fire was converted to a wildfire when it escaped containment. Over 450 personnel were assigned to the fire (including 19 hand crews, three air tankers, and five helicopters). The fire was contained with 3,750 acres within the containment lines and 2,860 acres burned. Nearly eight miles

of hand-built fire line was constructed at an average width of 3-4 feet. Of the total fire perimeter, 60 percent had fire line construction and 40 percent included natural barriers (rock and streams). Six heli-spots were constructed. All fire line and heli-spot impacts were obliterated and restored using hand crews, and trail and logging needs associated with the fire were mitigated.

Vegetation Management Program

Federal Highways Administration Projects

- **Tioga Road:** The revegetation work completed in 1994 was evaluated in 1995. Cut and fill road slopes were revegetated with additional salvaged plants and seeds collected from previous years.
- **Wawona South Fork Bridge:** Plant materials (seeds) were collected, and final contract and design specifications were developed. A wetlands classification was completed for the proposed disturbance area. Construction is scheduled to begin in FY96.
- **Wawona Chilnualna Creek Bridge:** Plant materials (seeds) were collected, and plants were salvaged within the route of disturbance. Contract and design specifications were developed with project construction scheduled for FY96.

Construction and Revegetation Projects

- **Tuolumne Sewer Line Replacement:** Revegetation was completed on 80 percent of the campground loop (phase 1) sewerline. Design and sewer line route changes were assessed based on plant community health and revegetation needs. Some plant salvage was completed for the FY96 construction year, and plants were stored at Gaylor Pit for replanting following construction completion in FY96 or FY97.
- **Glacier Point CIF/GIA:** Coordinated plant material collection (seeds and cuttings) needs with the revegetation subcontractor, nursery subcontractor, and Yosemite Fund volunteer groups.

Yosemite Valley Projects

- **Oak Woodland Restoration:** Black oak seedling growth and mortality data in the school yard oak woodland was analyzed, with a 34 percent survival rate after 8 years. Based on this analysis, all open plastic mesh tree shelters with solid double-layer plastic tree shelters in oak restoration areas, and tree shelters were installed on oak seedlings in all other valley restoration sites. A progress report was written for the Yosemite Fund, and a paper will be published in the Pacific Southwest General Technical Report series in FY96.
- **Meadow Mapping:** Hydrologic and geomorphic features of the meadows were identified and mapped, and a meadow management plan draft was completed.

Other Projects

- Exotic Plant Management: Aggressive exotic plants were removed from all Yosemite Valley restoration sites. Additional eradication work was accomplished in the Mariposa Grove, Wawona, Foresta, El Portal/Hwy140 corridor, Crane Flat, and Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station areas using volunteers, NPS staff from all divisions, and concession employees. An experiment to assess the effectiveness of two biological control insects on yellow star-thistle continued in El Portal in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Mirror Lake Project

A cultural landscape inventory was prepared in support of planning for the Mirror Lake project, the purpose of which is to restore impacted areas and to improve visitor facilities. Staff were also involved with identifying the range of alternatives and issues evaluated. A Section 106 compliance package was completed and routed to the California SHPO. (The park has since gained concurrence with the package).

Yosemite Valley Housing Plan

The draft 1991 Housing Plan Supplemental EIS was revised with additional cultural resource information regarding Wawona and El Portal. A scope of work was prepared for archeological and ethnographic work at a cultural property in El Portal that may be a pivotal issue for SHPO and American Indian consultations under the park's preferred alternative.

Valley Implementation Plan (VIP)

A great deal of work was put into the VIP this year, including initiation of public involvement activities. A Public Involvement Plan was prepared, and a series of briefings were conducted for environmental groups and local governments.

Work sessions were conducted with park staff, and three development concepts were prepared for the east end of Yosemite Valley. Work continues on these alternatives, in preparation for a scheduled release of a draft EIS in late calendar year 1996.

A work group was established to evaluate the effects of three bridges upon fluvial processes in Yosemite Valley. Their significance and history were also evaluated, and a range of options was developed. A draft report was prepared.

The final Cultural Landscape Report was received from the contractor. Geographic Information System map layers for cultural resources (cultural landscapes, historic structures, historic districts, archeological sites, traditional cultural properties, burial areas) were digitized into resource sensitivity maps. Preliminary consultations were held with local American Indian tribes and groups affiliated with Yosemite Valley.

DSC Projects

Work was completed in support of:

- Phases IV Housing in El Portal (YOSE 504DD) -- compliance package and construction monitoring; report of monitoring for Phases III and IV in progress;
- Phase eight and nine Electric (YOSE 473H and I) -- final American Indian consultation and compliance package completed for phase nine, preliminary construction monitoring for Phase Eight (majority of work delayed until fall of 1996);
- South Fork Creek Bridge (YOSE 565A) -- report writing in progress, partial draft complete;
- Reconstruction of Tioga Road (YOSE 146A) -- draft report preparation nearly complete; draft of monitoring report complete;
- Final reporting completed (under contract) for nine back logged archeological projects conducted in support of Yosemite Valley Water and Electrical System Improvements;
- Wawona Road Improvements (YOSE 565) -- draft report of archeological survey completed under contract

Tuolumne Meadows Sewer Project

Final report received from Dames & Moore for fieldwork (testing and data recovery excavations) at five sites in Tuolumne Meadows (in support of the City of San Francisco's sewer line rehabilitation project). Preliminary test excavations were conducted by NPS staff at a single site in Tuolumne Meadows as part of the same project. Final compliance package is in process.

Park Archeological Project Support

Several small-scale archeological/cultural resource inventories were completed in support of other Park programs and projects. Park staff conducted an archeological inventory of selected backcountry use areas in support of ecological restoration projects. Fire impact areas were surveyed as part of a wilderness Prescribed Natural Fire; a very old historic fence line was recorded and evaluated for National Register eligibility. Cultural resources associated with the Old

Coulterville Road were located, in support of proposed ecological restoration activities. Other miscellaneous projects included historical archeology cataloging in support of the Meter Barn restoration and historic sidewalk recording in support of proposed bikeway improvements.

El Portal and Yosemite Valley Schools

Planning and compliance packages were completed for projects at these two schools, for work to be completed prior to transfer of the properties from the U.S. Department of Education to the Mariposa County Unified School District. Major points:

- The alternative high school in Yosemite Valley will be moved to El Portal.
- A two-story classroom/library building will be constructed in El Portal to accommodate an expected increase in enrollment, due to new housing construction and planning.
- The multi-purpose room at the El Portal school will be expanded.
- At the Yosemite Valley Elementary School, bathrooms will be expanded to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and a teacher prep room/special education classroom will be added.
- Both schools and their teacherages will be rehabilitated.

Archeological Synthesis/Revised Research Design

Work is nearly complete on the Archeological Synthesis, encompassing over 13 years' of archeological research. Preliminary results indicate that the period of human occupation spans most of the Holocene (circa 10,000 years) rather than only the past 3,000-4,000 years as previously thought. Second component of the contract, for preparation of a revised research design and management guide to direct the next 10-15 years' work, was awarded. In addition, a modification was issued to synthesis existing data and chart research direction regarding historic-era Native American archeological and archival resources.

Native American Consultations

The Park's consultation committee has developed a draft agreement between the NPS and the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. for traditional uses in Yosemite. This agreement calls for creation of a cultural center, Native American interpretation, the annual Indian Day's celebration, and traditional uses, including gathering. The committee has also conducted work required by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA); additional discussion of NAGPRA activity is listed under Interpretation/Collections. The

park has also conducted consultations with other groups regarding the Yosemite Valley Housing Plan, the Valley Implementation Plan, and various other NPS undertakings.

Four-Park Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement (PMOA)

Working with the staff in the Pacific/Great Basin System Support Office, a programmatic memorandum of agreement (PMOA) was prepared for Yosemite, Sequoia, Death Valley and Devil's Post Pile. This agreement, between the NPS and the California State Historic Preservation Officer, will cover historic preservation activities, and includes several more exclusions than in the national PMOA.

NPS Restructuring/(NHPA) Section 106 Compliance

Park Staff participated in the WASO-coordinated process of re-engineering the Section 106 compliance process and revising the system-wide PMOA. These changes were needed to assure compatibility with recent delegation under the reorganization. Support and review will continue to be assured.

Cultural Component of Resource Management Assessment Program (CRMAPP)

Park staff served on the working group that prepared and tested the CRMAPP allocation tables (working with a subset of parks), and then participated in the service-wide process.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The park's GIS Specialist position was filled by Joe Meter, of the Midwest Regional Office. This program has concentrated on completing GIS work for the Valley Implementation Plan, the Housing Plan, fire management, wild and scenic rivers classification and other needs. Staff have also provided GIS technical and administrative support to other parks.

PHYSICAL RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

River and Riparian Area Restoration

Sections of stream bank along the Merced River (Yosemite Valley) at Housekeeping Camp, between Yosemite Lodge and Swinging Bridge, and Group Camp were restored. Photo documentation and river cross sectional surveys were completed; then boulder riprap was removed, banks were re-contoured, followed by replanting with thousands of willow and cottonwood cuttings and seeds from native grasses and forbs. Project sites included the construction of 2,500 feet of protective fence line. Maintenance and monitoring occurred at past river restoration project sites.

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Wildlife Management

Black Bear Management

One hundred and twenty bear-proof food storage lockers were installed by YCC crews in Yosemite Valley campsites that previously had no lockers, or contained only small, old-style lockers. The new lockers have a capacity approximately 2.5 times larger than older lockers, providing protection for larger amounts of food.

Eighteen larger food storage lockers were installed in the Tuolumne Meadows Campground, replacing small, dilapidated lockers. Work planned for 1996 will complete replacement of lockers in all campsites in this large campground.

Seventy-eight larger food storage lockers were installed in White Wolf Campground, replacing small and dilapidated lockers.

A new program, installing bear-proof food lockers at trailheads, was begun in 1995 with the installation of 34 lockers at Tuolumne Meadows (Wilderness Permit and Yosemite Lodge), and another 25 lockers installed at wilderness parking in Yosemite Valley. These lockers will enable backpackers to protect their food and vehicles. Signs were constructed to warn visitors to leave no food in their vehicles while they were parked in these lots.

Wildlife Management personnel worked closely with Concessions Management and Yosemite Concession Services to plan food storage facilities for Curry Village that will be funded through the Capital Improvement Fund. This project was assisted by a visitor survey conducted by a Student Conservation Association intern through Wildlife Management to determine the proportion of visitors staying at Curry Village who need food storage facilities and the amount of food they bring.

Wildlife Management worked with the Interpretation Division to develop literature, displays, and programs emphasizing human/bear problems in Yosemite.

Large, walk-in storage containers were installed at Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows campgrounds for use as food impound lockers. The container at Tuolumne Meadows will also be used for secure storage of winter food caches.

A total of 645 reported human/bear incidents resulted in \$253,360 in property damage in 1995. Over 90% of this damage was inflicted on vehicles. Two minor human injuries from bears were reported.

Three bears were killed after they became extraordinarily aggressive or destructive from exposure to human food.

Mountain Lions

A total of 43 lion sightings were reported in 1995; a decrease of 51% from 1994. All but 15 of these sightings were in Yosemite Valley, and none involved threatening or aggressive mountain lion behavior.

Signs and literature were developed and distributed, warning visitors of the presence of lions and advising them of proper behavior if they did encounter a lion.

Bighorn Sheep

Census efforts located a total of 42 sheep, a decrease of at least 42% from the previous year. This drastic decline is thought to be the result of severe winter and spring conditions with heavy snow pack. Only five lambs were found, suggesting that many had died before the census was conducted.

The decline of this herd, coupled with similar declines in other Sierra Nevada herds, is a serious setback for conservation of California bighorn sheep, a State Threatened and Federal Category 2 listed species.

In October, 22 domestic sheep were found on the west flank of Mount Dana, and perilously close to the range of bighorn sheep. Bacteria carried by nearly all domestic sheep is lethal to bighorns. Wildlife Management personnel assisted a local rancher in rounding up the sheep, which were identified as his. The park, through its membership in the Sierra Bighorn Interagency Advisory Group, is working with Inyo National Forest to prevent further incursions by domestic sheep.

Peregrine Falcons

Four nest sites were located and monitored in 1995. A total of eight young were fledged from the four sites. Peregrine falcons are both State and Federally designated as an endangered species.

Northern Goshawks

The first full season of a study to determine the density of northern goshawks in Yosemite was conducted in 1995. Northern goshawks are a Federal Category 2 listed species. A total of 20 active nest sites were located; a relatively high number for the area covered. These data, when combined with a second year of surveys in 1996, will provide comparisons of goshawks densities in Yosemite's relatively intact habitats with that on more impacted habitats outside of park boundaries. Indeed, the nesting habitat selected by goshawks in the park were in stands of very large, mature trees; a habitat in short supply outside of the park.

Bats

For the third year, researchers Elizabeth Pierson and William Rainey conducted surveys in Yosemite. The results of their surveys are still pending, but two Federal Category 2 species, the spotted bat and the mastiff bat, were found.

Disease Vector Monitoring

Collections of ticks, dead squirrels, and bear blood were continued to monitor infection rates. None of the collections from squirrels or bears was found to be positive for bubonic plague.

A suspected case of bubonic plague was investigated in the Wawona area, but tests of the patient and fleas collected from rodent burrows in the area were negative for the disease.

California Department of Health Services surveyed for Hanta Virus in Yosemite Valley and caught 59 rodents of three species, seven (11.9%) of which tested positive for the virus. Warnings continued to be issued to employees about the risk of the disease from contact with rodent feces.

Vegetation Management Program Accomplishments

Federal Highways Administration Projects

- Tioga Road: The revegetation work completed in 1994 was evaluated in 1995. Cut and fill road slopes were revegetated with additional salvaged plants and seeds collected from previous years.
- Wawona South Fork Bridge: Plant materials (seeds) were collected, and final contract and design specifications were developed. A wetlands classification was completed for the proposed disturbance area. Construction is scheduled to begin in FY96.
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- Glacier Point CIF/GIA: Coordinated plant material collection (seeds and cuttings) needs with the revegetation subcontractor, nursery subcontractor, and Yosemite Fund volunteer groups.

Yosemite Valley Projects

- Oak Woodland Restoration: Black oak seedling growth and mortality data in the school yard oak woodland was analyzed, with a 34 percent survival rate after eight years. Based on this analysis, all open plastic mesh tree shelters with solid double-layer plastic tree shelters in oak restoration areas, and tree shelters were installed on oak seedlings in all other valley restoration sites. A progress report was written for the Yosemite Fund, and a paper will be published in the Pacific Southwest General Technical Report series in FY96.
- Meadow Mapping: Hydrologic and geomorphic features of the meadows were identified and mapped, and a meadow management plan draft was completed.

Other Projects

- Exotic Plant Management: Aggressive exotic plants were removed from all Yosemite Valley restoration sites. Additional eradication work was accomplished in the Mariposa Grove, Wawona, Foresta, El Portal Road /140 corridor, Crane Flat, and Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station areas using volunteers, NPS staff from all divisions, and concession employees. An experiment to assess the effectiveness of two biological control insects on yellow star-thistle continued in El Portal in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

OFFICE OF SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Equipment/Supplies

- Purchased a 114-channel mobile radio for the Valley Fire Management Office for use in emergency vehicles.
- Supplied 110 Hazardous Materials Pocket Response Guides to Park units for use by first responders.
- Supplied 127 Emergency Response Guidebooks to Park units for use by first responders.
- Purchased gas-powered ventilator for Backcounty Utilities.

Hazardous Materials and Waste

Costs were no longer funded by the Pacific Field Area Office for routine hazardous waste removal. Funds were only provided for training and major hazard remediation.

Hazardous waste removal was conducted by Safety Kleen, MSE Environmental and Greenfield Environmental. The Park disposed of 24.369 tons of hazardous waste in CY 1995, which is a decrease from 49.259 tons in CY 1994. The removal cost for hazardous waste has diminished to almost 50% due to better control of the various storage lockers and to a conscious effort on the part of generators to consolidate waste(s).

Coordinated hazardous waste disposal of transformers (PCBs) and ballasts from the Mariposa County Landfill. The Pacific Field Area Office paid for the removal costs.

Yosemite paid a federal hazardous waste disposal fee of \$1,344.73 as required by RCRA and Federal Facilities Compliance Act of 1992.

Yosemite was required to pay the hazardous waste generator fee and waste reporting surcharge fee for CY 1992, which had been underpaid by \$2,723.00.

Purchased various storage locker supplies, 100 55- and 30- gallon drums for general distribution, and two flammable storage lockers to meet OSHA requirements for Valley Utilities.

Industrial Hygiene

Due to the vacancy of the Industrial Hygienist position, there was no sampling data collected during the reporting period.

Inspections

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

The filtration system for the Curry Village Pool was remediated in order to open for the season. A second filter system for recirculating water at the shallow end was installed, temporarily solving the circulation problem. A total review and evaluation was conducted on all the Park pools by a professional pool designer.

A new handrail was installed at the Ahwahnee pool to meet California Swimming Pool Regulations.

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

High country inspections were not conducted, except at White Wolf and Tuolumne, because the High Sierra camps remained closed for the season.

Loss Control Program

The Accident/Incident Report Form (DI-134) was no longer required. An accident form was generated that was more “user-friendly” than the previous form.

Visitor fatalities for CY 1995 numbered 15. The incident rate per 100,000 visitors is 0.367. The five year average incident rate is 0.475. Male deaths consistently outnumbered female deaths. This year, deaths occurred in all age groups (17-89) approximately equally. All fatalities occurred during the months of May through October. The most common cause of death this year was split between hiking/climbing falls and heart attacks. During the last five years, with the exception of 1994, falls and heart attacks were the leading causes of death among visitors.

Medical Surveillance Program

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

Established Internet link with Public Health Service (PHS). This decreased response time to employee inquiries and enhanced the overall customer service of the medical surveillance program.

Two medical surveillance clinics were held and 120 people were examined.

Met with Public Health Service/Federal Occupational Health representatives to review the 1995 medical surveillance goals and plan the direction for 1996.

Notable Events

Mather Roads Foreman Barry Hance was killed in an avalanche while plowing on Tioga Road. A Board of Review was conducted and findings were presented in an official report. OSHA citations were issued.

Ostrander Ski Hut was opened after installation of a new leach line to handle disposal of the kitchen waste water. It was agreed that the YCS "Ammo Can" will be used to collect human waste until an agreeable waste disposable system can be instituted.

A Board of Review was conducted in the death of a visitor on the road to Badger Pass. Recommendations addressing plowing are being considered.

The Safety Manager from the Tennessee Valley Authority made a site visit to discuss safety issues with maintenance employees for a benchmark study.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

The jail improvements/abatement measures were given final approval by Federal OSHA inspector Tom Thompson.

Public Health

Director of the Public Health Service (PHS), Jerry Johnson, Greg Gurri-Glass of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Vector Control Consultant Gerry Hoddenbach conducted a rodent-proofing study in Hodgdon Meadow. CDC gave Yosemite \$10,000 to conduct a rodent-proofing of test residences in Hodgdon Meadow and Tuolumne Meadows at Road Camp and Ranger Camp. The results were a definite exclusion of rodents during winter shutdown of temporary housing using rodent-proofing methods recommended by the consultant. A Yosemite employee was trained in rodent-proofing procedures to train maintenance counterparts Park-wide.

WASO PHS Officer John Hanley made a site visit to better understand the unique problems of Yosemite from a public health viewpoint.

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 the 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 2% Lyme disease infection rate of the Ixodes Pacifica tick population.

California DHS trapped mice and took blood samples to test for Hantavirus. The report indicated that an infected mouse was found at Residence One and infected mice were located around the Ahwahnee bungalows. No other infected mice have been reported.

SSO PHS Officer Robert Baldwin conducted the annual Public Health audit and site visit in October.

The Yosemite Elementary School and the Yosemite Child Care Center experienced a comprehensive outbreak of lice. Complete dismissal and treatment of all children at the time of evidenced outbreaks expedited control of the problem.

Supplied excess Hepatitis B vaccines to various National Park Service units.

Five vector borne illness complaints were investigated and dismissed or remedied as warranted.

Twenty-five food borne illness complaints were received. In September five possible cases were related to the Ahi Tuna served at the Ahwahnee Hotel. Testing of the tuna retrieved from the supply being served found the histamine level for Scombroid (Histamine poisoning) was below threshold level. This would indicate the illness suffered was caused by some other agent or those eating the tuna were extremely sensitive. Investigation and laboratory testing concluded that none of the other complaints were valid or warranted.

There were five reported dog bites.

The Park Sanitarian conducted food establishment inspections two different times during the summer season in Lassen National Park, and at Whiskeytown Dam for the Public Health Service Officer.

Training

Provided "Safety for First Line Supervisors" training for 25 supervisors locally. The class was conducted by PWFA Safety Officer Bill Cecil and Sequoia National Park Safety Officer Gary Bornholdt.

The Safety Officer position remained vacant during the reporting period.

The Park Sanitarian attended the following training:

- Investigating Food-borne Illness Reporting
- Annual Public Health Meeting and introduction to the new Food Code
- Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases
- FEMA Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Workshop

The Safety Secretary attended the following training:

- Introduction to Industrial Hygiene; Industrial Safety; Health & Safety Program Development and Administration Training; Health & Safety for Workers: Laws and Regulations
- Attended Federal Safety Council meetings in Fresno

The Safety Office video library currently contains 67 videos available for general safety training. Access to OSHA and Department of Veteran's Affairs video libraries is also available.