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# SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK  
FISCAL YEAR 1999 - DRAFT

*Superintendent's Annual Report  
Produced by the Public Information Office  
Yosemite National Park*

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## FOREWORD

The *Superintendent's Annual Report* is produced through submissions from each division of Yosemite National Park and includes summary information compiled during the federal fiscal year. The organization of each division is based on the nature of the work performed by that group, and each submission varies accordingly. Yosemite National Park is made up of the Superintendent's Office, six divisions, and the Office of Project Management (formerly the Office of Flood Recovery). In addition, Yosemite supports a United States Geological Survey Research office and a Special Assistant to the Director of the National Park Service, Resources Initiatives office. They are represented in no particular order.

Yosemite has an annual ONPS budget of approximately \$19.6 million. There are approximately 420 National Park Service permanent employees and 300 seasonal employees. Yosemite's visitation for CY99 was 3,648,384, which is down 4% from the CY98 visitation of 3,792,745 and marks the lowest visitation since 1991.

## FISCAL YEAR 1999 HIGHLIGHTS

-- 1998 --	
October 1	The National Park Service announced that it seeks an individual, partnership, or corporation interested in operating the El Portal Service Station. A concession Prospectus was reissued September 25th, 1998 authorizing continued operation of this year-round, full-service station. The new contract expires December 31, 2006.
October 12	White Wolf and Crane Flat Campgrounds closed for the season.
October 14	The Half Dome cables were removed for the season.
October 16	A 2,500 acre fire was ignited by fire managers this week in Aspen Valley. Two lightning-started fires burned in the Kibbie Ridge and Long Gulch areas of the park.
October 16	The Finding of No Significant Impact for the Cook's Meadow Restoration Project was signed by Superintendent Stan Albright. The Environmental Assessment was released for public review and comment on August 12, 1998.
October 18	The Cook's Meadow Restoration Project began in Yosemite Valley. The project involves removal of hundreds of cubic yards of road bed which support the abandoned road, filling in a network of man-made ditches, and replacing portions of asphalt foot trails with boardwalks. The project was funded by the Yosemite Fund and supported by the extensive commitment of volunteers from the Chevron Corporation.
October ?	Weekend storms brought winter conditions to Yosemite National Park. Up to 5 inches of snow fell at Tioga Pass, temporarily closing the Tioga Road early Saturday afternoon.
October 27	The Tioga Road reopened from Crane Flat to Tioga Pass from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily due to icy conditions.
October 28	The park announced that bear-human conflicts reached record levels for the 1998 summer. Property damage caused by black bears exceeded \$595,000 this calendar year with over 1025 vehicles broken into by bears. In 1997, approximately 900 cars were damaged by bears.

November 6	The Tioga Road and Glacier Point Road, from Badger Pass to Glacier Point, temporarily closed due to snow and ice.
November 9	Rangers found an overdue hiker, Roudolf Schulz, 37, near Tenaya Lake. Schulz, a German national, was scheduled to begin a wilderness trip on Monday, November 2 to Sunrise Lakes and to return Thursday, November 5. Co-workers in Germany reported him missing Sunday, November 8, when he failed to return to work. A team of 85 searchers was assembled on October ? Monday morning.
November 12	The Tioga Road and Glacier Point Road, from Badger Pass to Glacier Point, closed for the season. Both roads remained temporarily closed since Friday, November 6 due to snow and ice.
November 16	A rockslide occurred from the Glacier Point Apron at 5:05 p.m. Rangers immediately searched and evacuated approximately 500 visitors and employees from the Curry Village area. No injuries were reported and all persons in the area were accounted for.
November 17	Rangers reopened safe sections of Curry Village, which was closed after the rockslide on November 16. A small employee housing area, the Terrace, remained closed until technical advisors determine the area to be safe.
November 23	Daniel Eugene Osman, a 35 year old climber from Reno, Nevada, died after falling from the "Leaning Tower". Osman fell approximately 1200 feet while attempting a controlled free fall.
December 7	Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt announced that the National Park Service will be consolidating its current planning activities for the future of Yosemite National Park into one comprehensive draft plan. The new comprehensive draft plan will integrate the <i>draft Valley Implementation Plan, the draft Housing Plan</i> , the Yosemite Lodge project and the Lower Yosemite Falls project. The plan will thoroughly analyze a range of options that will ultimately provide a vision for the future of the Yosemite Valley and Yosemite National Park. The draft comprehensive plan is scheduled to be completed in May 1999. A final decision is expected to be made next fall.
December 18	In an effort to maintain gasoline and automotive repair services in El Portal, Yosemite National Park managers approved the installation of a temporary, double walled, above-ground tank to sit adjacent to the existing service station. In compliance with the Clean Water Act, state regulations require the closure of the existing tanks on December 22, 1998.

December 18	<p>Scoping commenced on a comprehensive <i>Draft Yosemite Valley Plan</i>. This plan will be accompanied by a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) which will be an amendment to the 1980 General Management Plan. The scoping period will be open through January 15, 1999.</p> <p>The plan will coordinate planning for the entire Yosemite Valley and integrate alternatives, elements and environmental analysis from the <i>Draft Yosemite Valley Housing Plan/EIS</i>, the <i>Draft Yosemite Valley Implementation Plan/EIS</i>, the <i>Yosemite Lodge Development Concept Plan/EA</i>, and the Yosemite Falls Facilities Design Project. The plan is anticipated to be finalized in late 1999.</p>
<b>- 1999 --</b>	
January 5	For the first time ever, camping reservations at 26 National Park Service (NPS) sites, including Yosemite National Park, became available through a secure Internet site.
January 4	Kevin Cann was selected as the new Deputy Superintendent for Yosemite National Park.
January 8	Yosemite Fire Managers announced that several prescribed burns are scheduled for the early winter and spring of 1999. An extended period of stable, dry winter air has resulted in ideal prescribed fire conditions in Yosemite National Park. These fires include Aspen Valley (500 wilderness acres), Turner Ridge (2,900 wilderness acres), Mariposa Grove #4, (125 acres), North Mountain (1,500 wilderness acres), Crane Flat Ridge (100 acres), the South Fork of the Tuolumne River (800 wilderness acres).
January 15	Yosemite National Park announced the extension of the scoping period on the <i>Draft Yosemite Valley Plan</i> until February 1, 1999.
February 1	The scoping period for the <i>Draft Yosemite Valley Plan</i> closed.
February 17	Sam Livermore, Chairman of the Yosemite Fund, presented to Park Superintendent Stan Albright a rare scrapbook compiled from 1849 to 1855 by James Mason Hutchings. The scrapbook was purchased by The Yosemite Fund and donated to Yosemite National Park. The scrapbook became part of the Yosemite Museum.
March 1	Yosemite National Park announced that it has almost completed a major materials recycling project at Yosemite Lodge. This innovative project recycled materials during the removal of flooded buildings and was a major unprecedented deconstruction project for

	<p>Yosemite National Park. Deconstruction of buildings at Yosemite Lodge began in 1998 and was completed in the spring of 1999. These buildings, including guest cabins and employee dormitories, were severely damaged in the flood of January 1997.</p>
March 24	<p>The scoping period began for the park's Fire Management Plan and continued through April 30, 1999. Last updated in 1990, the plan is undergoing a revision as part of a national initiative to make ecosystems healthier and more resilient. The goal of the plan is to return these ecosystems to a more natural state.</p>
March 29	<p>Yosemite National Park announced that a number of flood recovery projects have been completed. The flood damaged most trails below 7000 feet throughout the park. Erosional effects on the hiking trail system included damage to 34 front- and backcountry foot bridges, numerous retaining walls, water bars and many miles of trail surface. In 1997 and 1998, trail crews replaced or repaired 24 bridges and 30 miles of trail park-wide.</p>
March 30	<p>In a report recently released by the United States General Accounting Office (GAO), Yosemite National Park received high marks for their flood recovery efforts. The GAO report examined flood recovery projects to ensure that these funds are spent properly and are consistent with park plans. The report was prompted by the large amount of money allocated by Congress. GAO concluded that these projects are consistent with current planning efforts and the associated costs are reasonable.</p>
April 19	<p>Yosemite Concession Services began construction of temporary employee housing in the Lost Arrow parking lot and the Huff House area of Curry Village. The flood of 1997 destroyed housing for 460 YCS employees. Forty temporary cabins without baths will be constructed at the Lost Arrow site and an additional 52 cabins will be constructed near Huff House, to total 184 beds. It is expected that the temporary housing placed at Lost Arrow and Huff House will remain in place until new employee housing is constructed.</p>
April 28	<p>Yosemite initiated an aggressive visitor education campaign to reduce the amount of human food available to bears. U.S. Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) was instrumental in securing a \$500,000 congressional appropriation for Yosemite to implement an aggressive information and education campaign aimed at park visitors.</p> <p>This new program included an aggressive education campaign, including flyers and brochures distributed to all park visitors;</p>

	<p>ranger-led walks daily to inform visitors about the importance of proper food storage; increased removal of trash from park dumpsters, picnic areas, and trash cans; installation of food storage lockers at trailheads and parking lots which do not already have them; replacement of signs and dumpster clips throughout the park; increased black bear observation time by wildlife biologists; and increased use of aversive tactics to chase bears out of parking lots, campgrounds, housing areas (noise, sling shots, rubber slugs, bear dog).</p> <p>In 1998, property damage caused by bears reached an all-time high of \$650,000 and three aggressive bears had to be killed.</p>
May 13 or May 1?????	<p>Officials for the University of California, Merced, and Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which created a partnership for research and education that will provide a foundation for programs that will benefit people well into the 21st century. Approximately 100 people representing the National Park Service, the University Of California, and state and federal legislators gathered atop one of the scenic vista points at the UC Merced campus site to sign the agreement.</p>
May 5	<p>Yosemite National Park announced that the <i>Draft Yosemite Valley Plan</i> will be released for public review and comment in early winter. Originally slated to be released in the summer of 1999, the date was extended for park staff to adequately assess the cumulative impacts of all aspects of the plan.</p>
May 19	<p>Yosemite National Park announced that the park will prepare a comprehensive management plan (CMP) for the Merced River. The plan complies with the requirements of the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The U.S. Congress designated the Merced River as a Wild and Scenic River in 1987.</p>
May 20	<p>Yosemite National Park announced that several prescribed burns are scheduled for the summer and fall of 1999. The planned burns include Studhorse Units, Wawona Basin; Foresta; Wawona Meadow Restoration Project; El Capitan Meadow; El Portal; Merced Grove; Bridalveil Moraine; Elevenmile (PW #17); Chapel Straight; Hodgdon; Mariposa Grove; Big Creek, Wawona Basin; Lost Valley; Turner Ridge wilderness area; Northside Drive, Yosemite Valley.</p>
May ?	<p>The Half Dome Cables were installed for the season.</p>
May 28	<p>The Tioga Pass and Glacier Point Roads opened for the season. Road, the portion of Highway 41 inside the park. There is no</p>

	projected opening date for the Bridalveil Creek campground.
May 27	Yosemite National Park Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Kim Slininger received the national White House Closing The Circle Award. This highly competitive award is given annually by The White House for outstanding efforts to implement Executive Order 13101 which lays a foundation for "Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention and Recycling".
June 2	The Yosemite National Park mule and horse patrol teams took high honors during this Memorial Day weekend's annual Mule Days event in Bishop, California. The Yosemite teams won seven plaques, seven blue ribbons, and the President's Sweepstakes Award for best overall parade entry.
June 3	The scoping period for the Merced Wild and Scenic River Management Plan opened through July 14.
June 11	Yosemite National Park rangers began a search for a man missing after performing an illegal BASE jump from the top of El Capitan on the morning of June 9.
June 13	A rockslide occurred at 7:35 p.m., after a piece of rock of unknown size fell from the Glacier Point Apron. Rangers immediately searched and evacuated 1,363 guests and employees in the Curry Village area. Some employee cabins will remain closed. There were four confirmed injuries.
June 14	The victim who died in the Yosemite rockslide on June 13 was identified as Peter J. Terbush, 22, of Gunnison, Colorado. Terbush was a student at Western State College and was in the park climbing with two friends.
June 15	A small rockslide occurred in the east end of Yosemite Valley at 10:20 p.m. No injuries or property damage were reported. Guests staying at Curry Village were not evacuated.
June 22	A scoping meeting for the Merced Wild and Scenic River Management Plan was held in San Francisco at Upper Fort Mason.
June 23	A scoping meeting for the Merced Wild and Scenic River Management Plan was held in Modesto at the Mallard Inn.
June 24	A scoping meeting for the Merced Wild and Scenic River Management Plan was held in Mariposa at the Best Western Yosemite Way Station.

June 25	Jim Tucker, Yosemite Valley District Ranger, was awarded the Barry Hance Award.
June 28	A scoping meeting for the Merced Wild and Scenic River plan was held in Yosemite Valley at the East Auditorium.
June 28	Yosemite National Park announced that the 1999 summer season is the 20th season services for the deaf and hard-of-hearing have been available in the park.
July 7	A scoping meeting for the Merced Wild and Scenic River Management Plan was held in Wawona at the Wawona Community Center.
July 12	A scoping meeting for the Merced Wild and Scenic River Management Plan was held in El Portal at the El Portal Community Hall.
July 12 on Saturday ???	Siddiq Parekh, 31, of Diamond Bar, California, died when he was accidentally swept over Nevada Fall on the John Muir Trail. Rangers using a helicopter were able to recover Parekh's body a few hours later.
July 13	Yosemite National Park announced that the scoping period for the Draft Merced Wild & Scenic River Management Plan was extended until July 30, 1999.
July 21	Yosemite National Park announced that a field-based high school science seminar in environmental biology is underway this July in Yosemite and on several University of California campuses. This class is one of the first programs to be instituted following the May 1999 signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Yosemite National Park and the University of California.
July 21	Joie Ruth Armstrong, a naturalist for Yosemite Institute, was slain in Foresta, Yosemite National Park.
July 30	The scoping period for the Draft Comprehensive Management Plan for the Merced Wild and Scenic River (CMP) closed.
August 3	Sergio "Sachi" Marcovich, 13, from Mexico City, Mexico died after disappearing in the Merced River in Yosemite National Park. Sergio was swimming with family members at "Table Rock," approximately a half-mile below the Pohono Bridge in Western Yosemite Valley. Rangers recovered his body around 6 p.m. by

	<p>building a temporary plywood dam to divert the water. After the recovery effort, rescue workers were unable to resuscitate Sergio. Drowning was the apparent cause of death.</p>
August 4	<p>Yosemite National Institutes (YNI) announced the establishment of a fund in memory of Joie Ruth Armstrong. The Joie Armstrong Memorial Fund will be used for teaching children about special places like Yosemite and the Marin Headlands so that students and teachers will have the opportunity to participate in the programs that Joie loved to teach and in the places Joie loved to live and learn.</p>
August 17	<p>Yosemite National Park and the California Conservation Corps (CCC) celebrated twenty years as partners in protecting Yosemite's wilderness. This partnership has resulted in nearly 500,000 hours of work by CCC members to benefit the park's natural resources and to provide safe and enjoyable visits.</p>
August 23	<p>Yosemite rockfall experts partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the US Geological Survey to establish a network of seismic instruments to study rockfall in the east end of Yosemite Valley. Five instruments were installed above and below the area of recent rockfall activity on the Glacier Point Apron. These devices are a part of an experiment to test the feasibility of monitoring rockfall with tools and methods typically used to study seismic activity.</p>
August 25	<p>Yosemite National Park celebrated the National Park Service's 83rd birthday with a "free fee" day.</p>
August 30	<p>Yosemite Fire Managers announced that lightning has ignited several wildland fires within the wilderness of Yosemite National Park within the past month and a half. Eleven lightning-caused, managed fires were active at Lost Bear Fire, Chil Fire, Dark Fire, Lukens Fire, Wolf Fire, Pate Fire, Eleanor, Mercur, LeConte, Morrison, and Vernon Fire.</p>
September 7	<p>Road construction along a 7.2-mile section of the Hetch Hetchy Road began. The road will be closed at the Camp Mather gate during the week. The construction project is expected to be completed by Memorial Day, 2000.</p> <p>The National Park Service released an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Hetch Hetchy Road Drainage Improvements project for public review in September 1998. A Finding of No Significant Impact, or FONSI, for the project was approved by the Pacific West Regional Director on October 23, 1998.</p>

September 14	<p>Visitors and employees launched the 2nd annual picking of non-native apples in the historic Lamon's and Curry Village Orchards in Yosemite Valley. By removing the apples, it is anticipated that bears will return to natural food sources found throughout the park. Additionally, a book signing occurred with Phil Frank, creator of the comic strip, "Farley," which appears in the San Francisco Chronicle.</p> <p>Yosemite's comprehensive public awareness campaign designed to return bears to the wild resulted in a reduction of bear incidents by approximately 70% from 1998. In 1998, U.S. Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) sponsored a \$500,000 congressional appropriation for the implementation of Yosemite's 1999 bear program.</p>
September 15	<p>National Park Service Director Robert Stanton presided over the dedication of two new historically significant features in Yosemite. Replicas of the historic Tioga gates that welcome visitors to Yosemite's east entrance were opened in an 11 a.m. ceremony and new interpretive exhibits tracing the Tuolumne area history were unveiled by Stanton in a subsequent ceremony at Parson's Lodge. Both projects were made possible through a partnership with the non-profit Yosemite Fund.</p>
September 21	<p>The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) awarded Yosemite National Park a Centennial Medallion, a once-in-a-century honor received by a select few of America's "places of the heart" -- landscapes that improve the quality of life in our nation. Greg Hauser, ASLA Sierra Chapter President, presented the Centennial Medallion to Stanley Albright, Superintendent of Yosemite National Park, today in the park.</p>

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

### **MISSION**

To preserve and protect Yosemite National Park while providing for visitor use and enjoyment and accomplish this in compliance with all relevant laws, regulations and policies.

### **BUDGET**

ONPS = \$19,604,950

□

ONPS Year end Balance = \$10,498

□

Fee Enhancement = \$466,083

□

Fee Enhancement Year end Balance = -\$5,734

□

Cost of Collection = \$2,153,754

□

Cost of Collection Year end Balance = \$157,507

Quarters = \$1,338,480

Quarters Year end Balance = \$150,751

### **STAFF**

1 Superintendent, Stanley Albright, SES

## **OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING**

### **STAFF**

1 Office Manager: Chip Jenkins, GS-13

1 Public Affairs Officer, Lisa Dapprich, GS-12

1 Transportation Policy Analyst, Hennrietta Degroot, GS-13 (detailed from the Office of the Secretary, US DOT)

1 Management Assistant, Peter Keller, GS-12

1 Administrative Assistant, Amy Dirksen, GS-7

1 Visual Information Specialist, Margie Steigerwald, GS-11

1 Public Involvement Specialist, Gary Colliver, GS-11

1 Masters of Business Administration Intern, Carrie Kolinossk (summer only)

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Henrietta continued her two year detail focusing on transportation analysis and Yosemite Valley Plan alternatives development, a peak season traffic management program and providing technical advice on the YARTS process. Peter Keller, was detailed from Redwoods NP to work on planning

communications and began the Merced River Management Plan process in May. Amy Dirksen was detailed from Fire Management and provided administrative and logistical support for the transportation and Vehicle Management System program development.

General highlights include:

- ❖ Worked with DOI/DOJ solicitors on Sierra Club lawsuit on Yosemite Lodge Plan: coordinated YNP staff interaction with solicitors; assisted with assembling and organizing the Administrative Record; assisted in preparing the government's briefs and response to plaintiffs briefs.
- ❖ Coordinated scoping comment period for the Yosemite Valley Plan: produced analysis report Scoping Comments Analysis Report for staff use and public release.
- ❖ Negotiated an Interagency Agreement with USFS Content Analysis Enterprise Team for analysis of public comments for Yosemite Valley Plan, Merced River Plan and for a comprehensive re-analysis of public comments on Draft Yosemite Housing Plan, Draft Valley Implementation Plan, Yosemite Lodge Plan.
- ❖ Initiated the Merced River Plan. Coordinated the scoping period; held public meetings in 7 towns and analyzed over 300 comment letters.
- ❖ Planned, wrote, designed, coordinated printing contract and mailed Planning Update #13 to 8000 people.
- ❖ Represented the superintendent on Yosemite Area Regional Transportation Strategy (YARTS) Management Board and Citizens Technical Advisory. Presented a monthly "NPS Planning Update".
- ❖ Worked with Merced, Mariposa and Merced counties to re-design the YARTS Demonstration Project Plan. This new demonstration plan was adopted by YARTS and is being implemented.
- ❖ Worked with interagency group to develop a Joint Powers Authority and Cooperative Agreement creating YARTS as a legal entity under California state law.
- ❖ Coordinated a series of workshops (Visitor Experience Zoning, Trails Circulation, several parking/circulation, etc.) to serve as input into the alternatives for the Yosemite Valley Plan.
- ❖ Planned and implemented one of the largest visitor experience surveys ever conducted in a national park.
- ❖ Conducted a Transportation Peer Review of Yosemite Valley Plan alternatives.
- ❖ Created the conceptual design for a summertime traffic management test
- ❖ Developed a strategy and negotiated a contract for the planning process to create a Vehicle Management System.
- ❖ Developed a draft framework for the creation of a five-year strategic plan.
- ❖ Facilitated discussion between the Pacific West Region Lands Office, DOI Solicitor's Office and Jerry Fisher, regarding a proposed land exchange in El Portal.
- ❖ Served as the liaison between the park and the Office of the Secretary.
- ❖ Coordinated visitors to the park by DOI Chief of Staff Anne Shields, Councilor to the Secretary Bob Anderson, and Congressional Affairs representative Laura Daniel-Davis.
- ❖ Developed and implemented an involvement plan for the Yosemite Valley Plan and Merced River Plan that included ongoing media, congressional contacts, community presentations, meetings with special interests, and staff training on the YVP.
- ❖ Served as liaison with congressional representatives and dignitaries including Secretary Babbitt, Director Bob Stanton, Congressman George Miller, Minority Staff David Watkins, Board of Trustees of the National Park ;and Conservation Association, Ted Turner and Jane Fonda, etc.

- ❖ Coordinated a “State of the Park” meeting with invitees from surrounding Boards of Supervisors, Visitor Bureaus, Chambers of Commerce and congressional delegation and delegation to discuss park issues, park programs and ongoing planning efforts.
- ❖ Implemented a communication plan for the summer Traffic Management test.
- ❖ Provided assistance to YARTS with the media including helping to coordinate a special event for JPA signing.
- ❖ Assisted UC Merced with the media including the event to celebrate the establishment of the UC/NPS Sierra Nevada Research Institute.
- ❖ Gave presentations at National Parks Transportation Alternatives and Advanced Technology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century seminars around the country.
- ❖ Wrote and finalized 21 briefing statements on a variety of issues.
- ❖ Handled 20 Freedom of Information requests for the year.
- ❖ Attended over two dozen Yosemite Fund events to provide information about the park.
- ❖ Worked with the Yosemite Fund executive director to explore non-traditional methods of project management. As a result the Yosemite Fund re-organized and created a new executive position responsible for project management.
- ❖ Worked with the Yosemite Fund to create a dedication event for the restored entrance gate at Tioga Pass and new interpretive exhibits at Parson’s Lodge. Director Bob Stanton and Regional Director John Reynolds attended.
- ❖ Worked with California Conservation Corps to celebrate their 20-year anniversary.

## **OFFICE OF SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**

No Report.

### **STAFF**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

## **OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

### **STAFF**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

## **DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT**

### **MISSION**

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

## **BUDGET**

ONPS funds allocated to the Administrative Division: \$2,387,000

Cost recovery funds received by the Office of Special Park Uses: \$\$233,757

80% Fee Collection (SPU): \$85,000

Construction money for LAN/WAN projects: \$166,730

Utility Income: \$35,000

## **STAFF**

Chief of Administration, Deborah Brower, GS-14

1 Budget Analyst, GS-9

Total employees of division are as follows:

50 Permanent employees

7 Term employees

2 Seasonal employees

3 Lapsed employees

4 Resignations

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

Sally Stansberry, Chief of Procurement, served as interim Administrative Officer from October 1, 1998 through February 27, 1999.

Deborah S. Brower, Assistant Regional Director, Midwest Regional Office, was selected for the Chief of Administration position effective February 28, 1999.

## **BUDGET/FISCAL OFFICE**

### **STAFF**

Branch Chief, Maggie Martin, GS-12

1 Budget Analyst, GS-9

1 Term Budget Analyst, GS-9

1 Budget Technician, GS-7

1 Transportation Assistant, GS-5

2 Fiscal Technician, GS-5

2 Voucher Examiner, GS-5

1 Term Voucher Examiner, GS-5

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ A vacant Voucher Examiner position was converted to a Fiscal Technician position. The position was recruited and filled with a permanent employee, Pat Wildt. The part-time Fiscal Technician position was abolished when Wilma Rasmussen retired.
- ❖ The Term Voucher Examiner position, funded by the Recovery Division, was terminated on September 30.
- ❖ A Fiscal Technician position was converted to a Budget Technician for the purpose of performing fee collection audits. The employee assisted the Pacific West Regional Fee

Collection Manager with the fee collection audits of Sequoia National Park, Olympic National Park and Lassen Volcanic National Park.

- ❖ Annual Base Increase Requests (10-237's) were converted from a DOS format to an Internet Program. Each park division was able to view the requests electronically and make necessary adjustments and/or enter new requests. Park management reviewed and prioritized the requests. The Park's submission for FY01 was successfully completed.

## **CONTRACTING/PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & GENERAL SERVICES**

### **STAFF**

Branch Chief, Supervisory Contract Specialist, Sally Stansberry, GS-13

1 Contracting Officer, GS-12 (Performed as Acting Branch Chief through February 27, 1999)

1 Contract Specialist, GS-9

1 Purchasing Agent, GS-7

1 Procurement Technician, GS-5

1 Term Procurement Technician, GS-5 funded by Recovery -Resigned

1 General Supply Specialist, GS-11

1 Property Management Specialist, GS-9

1 Property Management Technician, GS-7

1 Property Management Clerk, GS-5

1 Supply Clerk, GS-5

1 Mail and File Clerk, GS-4

1 Mail and File Clerk, GS-5

2 Materials Handler, Wg-5

1 Term Materials Handler , WG-5 funded by Recovery - Resigned

1 Motor Vehicle Operator, WG-8

1 Term Motor Vehicle Operator, WG-8 funded by Recovery

- ❖ Hired two seasonal employees.
- ❖ Selected a Contract Specialist.
- ❖ The Term Procurement Technician resigned in the middle of the year.
- ❖ The Term Materials Handler resigned and took a position with the Presidio Trust.
- ❖ The Property Management Specialist was detailed to the Volunteer Program.
- ❖ The Supply Technician was reassigned to a Voucher Examiner position.
- ❖ A Materials Handler accepted a position with the Maintenance Division.
- ❖ The Term Motor Vehicle Operator WG-8 position was abolished at the end of the year.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ The Branch Chief, Contracting Officer and Purchasing Agent attended training for the mandated computer program (IDEAS) which will be used for Contracting and Small Purchases throughout the Department of the Interior. Upon their return to the park, they installed the new IDEAS program on procurement and contracting computers for the test period. The program has been successfully utilized within the Branch.
- ❖ Awarded contract actions for a total of \$5,854,259. This includes formal contracts, modifications and construction projects awarded under the Simplified Acquisition Procedures.

- ❖ Agreements processed totaled 37. A dollar figure is not listed for these agreements since all agreements do not require funding.
- ❖ Small Purchases totaled \$4,522,020. This dollar figure is considerably more than last year's total due to using the local RTS program rather than the SF-281 report. Our local RTS program captures credit card orders and TPD orders in addition to the actions normally reported on the SF-281 report. Credit card orders listed on RTS reflect only the orders made by the Procurement staff.
- ❖ Initiated 30 Reports of Survey, 8 Certificates of Unserviceable Property, and 3 Reports of Excess Property.
- ❖ Issued 635 new property numbers.
- ❖ Issued 208 wood permits sales.
- ❖ Continued assisting the Pacific West Regional Office and other regional parks with the conversion to the FAS property system
- ❖ The Lost and Found operation returned 373 lost items to the rightful owners.
- ❖ In-park copy jobs completed by Mail and File Clerks totaled 72.
- ❖ Sale transactions processed from warehouse stock totaled \$748,517.

## **HOUSING MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

### **STAFF**

Acting Housing Manager, Cindy Baker, GS-9  
 Housing Management Assistant, GS-5

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ The Housing staff attended the QMIS/California Survey Training for FY00.
- ❖ Lead-base paint disclosures were mailed to all occupants of government quarters.
- ❖ The Housing staff participated on the Lead Management Team.
- ❖ Reports and misc. information were provided to the US Bureau of Census.
- ❖ Information for the Yosemite Housing Needs Assessment was provided to the Pacific West Regional Office.
- ❖ The Roles, Duties and Responsibilities for the Ranger Club Monitor were completed.
- ❖ Two housing units located in Mariposa were returned to USFS.
- ❖ The QMIS Windows version was tested by the Housing staff at WASO's request.
- ❖ The housing rents charged to accounts for FY99 totaled \$50,877.

## **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

Branch Chief, Supervisory Computer Specialist, Daniel Sohn, GS-13  
 2 Computer Specialist, GS-12  
 2 Computer Specialist, GS-11  
 1 Term Computer Specialist, GS-9 funded by Recovery  
 2 Computer Assistant, GS-5

Dan Sohn was selected for the Chief of Information Management Branch. Dan transferred to Yosemite from Harpers Ferry Center. Rita McMurdy and Ron Watson were selected for the Computer Assistant positions. GS-12 Computer Specialist John Bailey retired from his position.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ The Microsoft NT LAN was developed in parallel to obsolete Novell LAN. A migration strategy was designed and tested.
- ❖ The migration of user desktop environment from Win9X to Win NT was initiated.
- ❖ The acquisition and implementation of a new, larger, adequate block of TCP/IP addresses for Yosemite use allowing DOInet/Internet access for every user was completed.
- ❖ The Fiber LAN Cabling contract for the warehouse complex was completed.
- ❖ Documented Help Desk Service Request Orders totaled 1689. The requests included resolution of 179 virus-related incidents, and 101 new PC installations with configuration and user data migration provided.
- ❖ Undocumented Help Desk requests totaled 425.
- ❖ LAN/Email Administrative service requests totaled 1200.
- ❖ The first comprehensive inventory of the park's computers was completed. The park has 582 computers in use. More than 100 obsolete PC's were identified and surveyed in addition to the Y2K upgrade process.
- ❖ The acquisition and configuration of \$300,000 of new computing equipment paid by Regional Y2K funds was completed.
- ❖ IM staff technology training totaling 25 weeks (in hours) was completed.
- ❖ Park employees were selected for a divisional liaison group to assist in establishing Park IM Policy and Procedures.
- ❖ The IM staff participated in the NPS Lotus Notes Pilot program.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

Branch Chief, Personnel Officer, GS-13  
1 Classification Specialist, GS-12  
1 Employee Relations Specialist, GS-12  
2 Personnel Staffing Specialists, GS-11 and GS-9  
1 Workers Comp Specialist, GS-9  
1 Personnel Assistant (Employee Benefits), GS-7  
1 Supervisory Personnel Assistant, GS-7  
1 Personnel Assistant, GS-6  
1 Workforce Support Clerk (OA), GS-4  
1 Personnel Clerk, GS-5, TERM funded by Recovery

- ❖ Personnel Officer Michael Clayton transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder City, Nevada at the end of the fiscal year.
- ❖ Jean Marie Gott was selected for the Position Classification Specialist position. Jean Marie transferred from the Department of Defense.

- ❖ Paul Sheehan was selected as a Personnel Assistant. Paul transferred from Mesa Verde National Park.
- ❖ Lynette Mangus was selected for the Workforce Support Clerk position.
- ❖ Connie Waldron transferred to the Maintenance Division.  
Clarisa Flores transferred to the Protection Division.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ Mailed over 6,000 applications for seasonal employment. Received and processed 2100 seasonal applications.
- ❖ Issued 184 vacancy announcements; 97 of which were for permanent positions. Received and processed over 1100 applications for these announcements.
- ❖ Appointed 65 permanents, 15 TERM and 443 temporary positions.
- ❖ Processed 139 Worker's Compensation cases.
- ❖ Processed 150 background investigations.
- ❖ Processed 9 retirements and provided retirement counseling to 200 employees.
- ❖ Administered 116 pre-employment drug tests to applicants for covered positions.
- ❖ Administered 40 RM57 medical examinations for park rangers.
- ❖ Processed 5,000 personnel actions.
- ❖ Delegated to the field payroll corrections and payroll release effective 6/20.
- ❖ Classified 75 positions.
- ❖ Administered 22 adverse actions ranging from letters of reprimand through removal, including one reduction in grade and pay.
- ❖ Settled one MSPB appeal and won one appeal before the full MSPB board.
- ❖ Handled 9 agency grievances; 3 of which went "formal" to the Region Office.
- ❖ Advised on 4 informal EEO complaints and 4 other potential complaints.
- ❖ Provided labor relations information and advice to management regarding an election which failed in their attempt to establish the Laborers' International Union of North America as the exclusive representative of a park-wide bargaining unit.
- ❖ Coordinated and/or conducted 17 training events in areas ranging from COMPASS II (Orientation to National Park Service), EEO, and Supervisory Excellence to Performance Management.

## **OFFICE OF SPECIAL PARK USES**

### **STAFF**

- 1 Branch Chief, Supervisory Park Ranger, Robert Johnson, GS-13
- 1 Lands Program Manager, GS-12
- 1 City Program Manager, GS-12
- 1 Supervisory Park Ranger, GS-11
- 1 Volunteer Program Manager, GS-9
- 1 Park Ranger (LE), GS-9
- 1 Park Ranger (Interpretation), GS-9
- 1 Maintenance Worker Leader, WL-5 (detailed from Maintenance)
- 1 Unclassified Duties, GS-9 (detailed from Property)
- 1 Admin Support Assistant, GS-5
- 1 Student Conservation Corp Intern

- ❖ Recruited for the Lands Program Manager position. Karla Norris, Concessions Management Specialist, from Lake Mead NRA was selected for the position.
- ❖ Recruited for the City Program Manager position. Heather Whitman, Administrative Officer, from Amistad NRA was selected for the position.
- ❖ This position will be the park's liaison for the Hetch Hetchy accounts funded by the City and County of San Francisco.

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

### Lands Program

- ❖ The El Portal Land Lease Guidelines received the Field Solicitor's approval. The office is working with the Field Solicitor and WASO to publish the Guidelines in the Federal register. The long-term lease document for El Portal has been drafted and submitted to the Field Solicitor for review.
- ❖ The office worked in conjunction with the Bass Lake School District to close out a permit and resume NPS responsibility for the "teacherage house." NPS is assuming responsibility for the "old flat-top school building" and working with the Wawona community to establish a permit to use the building as a community center.
- ❖ The transient rental operations in Wawona were addressed with Mariposa County. The staff is working with the County in ensuring that all transient rental operations have valid permits and that each is inspected periodically by the County.
- ❖ The office was involved in 3 land exchange proposals: Fischer/Parkline is "on hold" pending the outcome of the Merced River Wild and Scenic River Plan, the Seventh Day Adventist Church Camp land exchange in Wawona is on-going, and the Blakeley land exchange in Wawona was denied.
- ❖ Other lands issues included an ARPA case and an eviction process.
- ❖ The branch worked in conjunction with the Field Solicitor's Office in dealing with 5 major land issues and permits. These issues are ongoing pending clarification from the Field Solicitor's Office.

### Filming and Wedding Permits

- ❖ Sue Clark managed both the Wedding Permits and the Filming Program. 283 Wedding Permits were issued. 122 film requests were received of which 49 permits (40% increase over FY98) were issued. In addition, a \$500 donation was received from Sticks and Stones Film Company. In addition to her regular duties, Sue served as the Park's Board of Survey Chairperson.

### Commercial Tours

- ❖ 458 Commercial bus applications were received. 283 permits were issued. The park continued the bus inspection program. The California Highway Patrol and the state of California Public Utilities Commission worked in conjunction with intra-park staff in inspecting 95 buses. The inspections resulted in 10 buses being placed out-of-service and in 60 citations being issued. In addition to managing the Commercial Tours program, Ruth Middlecamp served as the El Portal DARE instructor. Ruth coordinated the DARE National Red Ribbon Week/Anti Drug Slogan Contest and the DARE Fun Run.

### Educational Fee Waiver Program

- ❖ 427 Fee Waiver applications were processed
- ❖ (329 groups/16,000 students). Park management decided to abolish the Educational Fee Waiver permit fee starting with FY00.

## Volunteer Program

- ❖ 118,974 volunteer hours (159 groups, 331 individuals) were contributed equating to 55.93 FTE = \$1,669,410. The office established a pilot Volunteer Resource Team comprised of volunteers from all discipline levels. This team, which has been primarily used in Yosemite Valley, is the only one of its kind anywhere in NPS.
- ❖ A prescribed fire project (small conifer removal from the 4 Mile Trail to the Yosemite Chapel) was performed by 500 Boy Scouts.
- ❖ The park divisions solicited grants from the Public Land Corps (PLC) program for positions/projects to be used throughout the park. PLC grants to the park totaled \$22,361.
- ❖ More than 100 volunteers worked on the construction of the Tuolumne Wilderness Center. Construction funding was provided by the City and County of San Francisco Hetch Hetchy accounts.
- ❖ The staff assisted the Protection Division in 60 EMS responses and in 25 SARS.

## **OFFICE OF FLOOD RECOVERY (OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT)**

### **MISSION**

The Flood Recovery Office was established as a term organization during Yosemite's 1997 flood emergency. Its mission is to assure responsible repair and rehabilitation of Yosemite's flood-damaged facilities. Objectives included: assessing flood damage; restoring visitor access and services; estimating repair and/or replacement cost of damaged facilities; requesting, obtaining, and tracking approximately \$197 million in funding for these repairs; providing project managers who are responsible for projects from beginning to end; phasing the work based on compliance issues, size and complexity of projects, location, type of work, and amount of design needed to implement the repairs; providing regular status reports on all projects; and ensuring that park staff is adequately involved with the facility reconstruction process.

The role of the Flood Recovery Office was expanded during fiscal year 1999 to include management of the park's Recreational Fee Demonstration Program and assistance in park planning efforts. The Fee Demonstration Program, with expected proceeds of approximately \$51 million, will be managed in the same manner that flood recovery projects are being handled. Flood Recovery expanded their planning and compliance efforts as a result of legal proceedings on two flood recovery projects. Approximately \$86.4 million in flood recovery construction is delayed until comprehensive planning documents for the Merced River and Yosemite Valley are completed.

### **BUDGET**

#### Flood Recovery Budget

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act (Public Law 105-18):

Emergency: \$176,053,000

Non-emergency transportation: \$10,000,000

Future NPS/Federal Lands Highways Program funding commitment: \$11,100,000

Total Flood Recovery Budget: \$197,153,000 (no-year, non-ONPS funds, available until expended)

#### Fee Demonstration Program Budget

Funds collected through FY 99: \$28,411,000

Anticipated collections FY00-01: \$22,589,000

Anticipated Total Fee Demonstration Program Budget): \$51,000,000 (available for expenditure through 2004)

## **STAFF**

Acting Flood Recovery Manager: Bill Delaney

Acting Deputy Flood Recovery Manager: Mary Hazell

5 Project Managers

1 Compliance Coordinator with staff of 5

1 Budget Analyst

1 Secretary

1 Management Assistant

1 Public Information Coordinator

Total FTE: 18

Total FTE of lapsed positions: 1.75 (term positions)

Total new hires: 3

Total transfers: 1

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ Received the Presidential *Closing The Circle Award*, in conjunction with Yosemite Valley Building and Grounds staff, for outstanding efforts in “Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention and Recycling” for deconstructing and salvaging reusable materials from flooded structures at Yosemite Lodge.
- ❖ Prepared four quarterly reports for Congress regarding fiscal year 99 flood recovery progress and spending (obligated \$6,554,358 in FY 99; total obligations of \$66,941,524 from 1/97 through 9/99)
- ❖ Received results from a Government Accounting Office audit indicating that “Yosemite’s rebuilding efforts appear to be reasonably priced and consistent with long-term park plans.”
- ❖ Provided assistance to the NPS Solicitor and Justice Department for legal proceeding on 3 flood recovery projects.
- ❖ Completed approximately 50% of the 7.5 mile El Portal Road Reconstruction Project, including repair of 4 miles of sewer line, initial seeding of 10 acres of disturbed hill slopes and the propagation of over 40,000 native plants for secondary revegetation,
- ❖ Assisted the City of San Francisco on the Hetch Hetchy Road Repair and Drainage Improvements Project.
- ❖ Initiated reconstruction of three backcountry trail projects and continued repair work on two others.
- ❖ Began trail repair, relocation, and drainage improvements on the 3- mile Mirror Lake Loop Trail; accomplished 25% of the needed repairs.
- ❖ Removed or reconstructed three trail bridges parkwide.
- ❖ Completed plans and specifications for the Happy Isles Bridge Demolition Project
- ❖ Completed asbestos containment in employee quarters at Arch Rock.
- ❖ Prepared compliance documents for 23 flood recovery projects parkwide (20 categorical exclusions and three “triple x” forms completed; preliminary work for one environmental assessment accomplished) and associated surveying and monitoring as needed.

- ❖ Initiated a comprehensive cleaning and inspection program for Valley sewage force main and gravity collection system.
- ❖ Completed design for repair of four Yosemite Valley lift stations and three water wells; completed 50% of the repairs.
- ❖ Replaced the main sewer line for Yosemite Lodge.
- ❖ Completed construction documents for Yosemite Lodge reconstruction.
- ❖ Completed drainage improvements at the Crane Flat and Wawona Campgrounds, and the Yosemite Valley Medical Clinic.
- ❖ Completed repairs to Yosemite Valley Chapel, making the facility handicapped accessible.
- ❖ Finished design of \$1.5 million Resource Management Building, including National Park Service Development Advisory Board approval. Cancelled bid solicitation due to compliance issues.
- ❖ Removed 350 truckloads of debris from Yosemite Valley, including over 5500 cubic yards of recyclable materials.
- ❖ Initiated efforts to reduce traffic congestion in Yosemite Valley by starting Vehicle Management System concept development, establishing a temporary day-use parking area by redesigning Camp 6.
- ❖ Negotiated a contract for bus procurement support for shuttle bus replacement.
- ❖ Fee Demonstration Program Highlights
- ❖ Expended \$5,733,833, primarily on cost of collection and sewer line repair; completed approximately 80% of the repairs on the sewer line from Yosemite Valley to the waste water treatment plant in El Portal.
- ❖ Submitted and prioritized 45 new projects for NPS Regional, Washington and Congressional review and approval.
- ❖ Developed a flow-chart and accounting procedures to assist NPS managers in their Fee Demo project submissions.

## **DIVISION OF CONCESSIONS MANAGEMENT**

### **MISSION**

Division Mission: The mission of the Division of Concessions Management is to assure the existence of a contractual framework that provides that quality commercial services are available to the public at reasonable rates.

### **BUDGET**

ONPS budget (FY 1999) = \$432,200

### **STAFF**

Division Chief, GS-14 - Martin L. Nielson

Civil Engineer, GS-12 - William Rust

Financial Analyst, GS-12 - Marvin Mann

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

Construction Representative, GS-12, Mary Hazell (Detailed to Flood Recovery)

Construction Analyst, Michael Wichmann, GS-12, (Detailed to Flood Recovery)  
Concessions Assistant, GS-6, Mary Coelho (transferred to Protection Division 8/1/99)  
Total FTE for the Division: 8.88

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Yosemite Concession Services Corp. (YCS)

- ❖ Full contractual compliance was sustained in FY 1999 despite continued operational difficulties emanating from the January 1997 flood which resulted in a loss of visitor accommodations and employee housing.
- ❖ 1998 marked the first opportunity, as provided in the concessions contract, for reconsideration of contract fees, i.e., returns to the government. The result was Contract Amendment No. 2, which was executed December 16, 1998. Among other things, the amendment provides an adjustment to the YCS contribution to the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) based on the levels of gross receipts recorded each fiscal year. The contribution rate for the CIF ranges from a minimum of one percent of gross receipts below \$90 million to a maximum of six percent of gross receipts exceeding \$110 million. The previous contribution rate was 4.5 percent of gross receipts regardless of amount.
- ❖ Deposits to the Government Improvement Account (GIA) totaled \$222,756 in accordance with the contract.
- ❖ A total of \$282,044 was expended on CIF/GIA projects during fiscal year 1999. Five projects were completed and closed out during the year. At year's end, seven active projects remained. Of these, six were pending completion and closeout and one was pending deactivation, leaving seven active projects under either a level of facility assessment or construction. Reduced contributions to the CIF resulted in the deactivation of lower priority projects. A total of twenty-five corporately funded projects were active during fiscal year 1999.
- ❖ YCS continued to perform in a satisfactory manner during the year Revenues for calendar year 1999 reportedly are slightly ahead of those recorded for CY 1998 and will likely top \$90 million, compared to \$88 million last year.
- ❖ YCS continued to perform soil and groundwater remediation during this operating period using internal corporate funds.
- ❖ Available housing for employees continued to be limited. YCS received authorization to construct 120 temporary cabins without bath to be used for employee housing. Each unit houses two employees, returning year round accommodations for additional 240 employees. The Terrace housing area, which opened in May, was closed throughout the balance of the year due to significant rockfall activity in June. The strong employment market continued to have a negative impact on YCS employee recruitment and retention. Parkwide employment peaked at 1,700 in July 1999, up from 1,491 in 1998.
- ❖ YCS continued efforts to improve guest service by initiating a Legendary Service training program.
- ❖ Cindy Bower became Executive Vice President during this operating period, assuming direct responsibility for all YCS operations.
- ❖ All five backcountry High Sierra Camps were open this summer.
- ❖ YCS converted existing fuel pumps at the Wawona and Crane Flat stations to twenty-four hour gasoline sales by use of a credit/debit card.
- ❖ Park staff, along with DOI and NPS staff in Washington, continued to interface with representatives of Delaware North Companies and the insurance carriers who were insuring

them at the time of the January 1997 flood. In November 1998 a partial settlement for flood damage to real property was negotiated and later ratified by all parties. The partial settlement for theoretical repairs was settled at \$6.5 million. The remaining portion of the property claim, which relates to code compliance, has not yet been settled.

#### Ansel Adams Gallery

- ❖ A new five-year concession contract was executed on October 1, 1998 and includes a franchise fee of 6.5% of gross receipts. Like the previous contract, there is no Capital Account, and the Government Improvement Account remains the same with an annual \$20,000 payment.

#### Yosemite Medical Clinic

- ❖ Doctors Medical Center (DMC) received an "unsatisfactory" Annual Overall rating for the 1998 operating period, marking the third consecutive unsatisfactory annual rating for this operator. DMC had not finalized a subconcession agreement with American Medical Response and/or First Medical as of the end of FY 1999.
- ❖ Operational improvements with regard to medical services at the Clinic were evident as were renovations to the facility (remodeled emergency room, examining rooms, and the nurses' dorm). The nurses' dorm project was completed in the spring of 1999 and is recognized as being a very significant improvement to the quarters inventory of Clinic staff. However, concerns regarding patient billing and the timely submission of the Annual Financial Report continued throughout the year.

#### El Portal Chevron

- ❖ 1998 was a very uncertain and difficult year for the El Portal Chevron operation. The El Portal Chevron concession permit ended on December 31, 1989. Since then the concessioner has operated under interim letters of authorization.
- ❖ During 1998 the NPS issued a prospectus for gas services in El Portal; however no responsive offers were received. The concessioner was notified that effective December 31, 1998 they would no longer be able to operate under their existing permit. The prospectus was then revised and reissued. The passage of Public Law 105-391 in October 1998 changed a number of elements within the NPS Concession Program and put concession contract actions on hold until new regulations and contract language could be developed. As a result, the prospectus for gas services in El Portal was withdrawn and the existing permit extended until December 31, 1999.
- ❖ During 1998 the station also faced federal law and state regulations to close all underground storage tanks (USTs) by the end of 1998. This also raised the question of whether gas service would be available in El Portal after that date. Because of the need for gas service in the El Portal area, the National Park Service decided to provide government improvements for the concessioner's use, e.g. a 4,000 gallon tank placed aboveground on a cement slab, a single hose dispenser, and electricity to the dispenser site. The concessioner closed the underground storage tanks and previous dispenser system by the December 22nd deadline. The small aboveground tank and one hose dispenser have allowed limited gas service to be provided in El Portal. The possible need for cleanup of the service station site, as well as replacement of the current tanks and distribution system, are issues which remain to be addressed and resolved.
- ❖ The concessioner was in compliance with all required contractual elements except for payment of the franchise fee to NPS. This resulted in an unsatisfactory permit compliance rating. Their operational evaluations and loss control evaluation were satisfactory, resulting in a satisfactory operational performance rating. Generally, the annual overall rating is no higher than the lowest rating received. However, special circumstances needed to be examined before

determining their annual overall rating for 1998. Although clearly not in compliance with the franchise fee requirements during 1998, this concessioner overpaid its franchise fees in previous periods and carried over a credit balance every year since 1994. This factor, in addition to the extraordinary nature of the 1998 operating year, resulted in the determination of an annual overall rating of "marginal" for the 1998 operating year.

#### El Portal Market

- ❖ The concessioner continues to do a very good job of serving the local community and park visitors under less than ideal operating conditions. The business has been impacted by the restricted access on Highway 140. Although revenues have improved, they have not yet reached pre flood levels.

## **DIVISION OF INTERPRETATION**

### **MISSION**

### **BUDGET**

### **STAFF**

## **BRANCH OF INTERPRETIVE SERVICES**

### **STAFF**

James Corless, Chief, GS-025-12, Supervisory Park Ranger

2 Permanent Positions

2 Term Positions

7 Volunteers

1 Detailed employee (from Field staff - 8 weeks)

2 Employees, branch chief and partner liaison, detailed (75% to each team) to Yosemite Valley Plan (9/98 - 9/99) and Merced River Plan (7/99 - 9/99) teams

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ Working draft of Long-range Interpretive Plan reviewed, but progress delayed to park-wide planning involvement
- ❖ Produced 4 issues of the "Yosemite Guide," adding color for the first time
- ❖ Selected producer and treatment for new Yosemite orientation film: Greystone Productions; filming initiated
- ❖ Completed installation of new exhibits, electrical service, new furnishings, and lighting at Parsons Lodge
- ❖ Replaced exhibit labels and selected images at Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center
- ❖ Installed 14 exhibits on Soda Springs trail
- ❖ Prepared text and graphic design for a "Foresta Barns" wayside
- ❖ Installed "Fire" Wayside exhibit at turnout on "Hwy 120" overlooking Foresta
- ❖ Developed a new Tuolumne Meadows shuttle bus map
- ❖ Completed "Mobile Bear Exhibit" for Wildlife Branch

- ❖ Planned and coordinated the 16-session summer Resource Seminar Series for park staff and visitors on topics ranging from poetry and painting to fire and mountain lion research
- ❖ Seasonal training and coaching of permanent, seasonal and intern staff accomplished by master interpreter; training sessions held for Yosemite Transportation Services interpreters
- ❖ Combined vacant Electronics Technician and Park Ranger (trainer) positions to create and advertise a media specialist, GS-025-7/9 position
- ❖ Produced an 8-minute introductory video on Yosemite Valley planning efforts. This is being shown in the visitor's center, in the Yosemite Lodge lobby, and to special interests groups.
- ❖ Completed all pre-production (research, scripting, casting, etc) and production (shooting footage) for an employee training video about how to live in bear habitat. Wildlife management is directing this production
- ❖ Finished scripting, interviewing, and shooting for a "state-of-flood recovery" piece. (This piece was never edited because the state flood recovery was changing faster than we could rewrite and re-interview.)
- ❖ Provided stock video footage to more than 30 production groups this year, including CBS, Dateline, 20/20, Oprah Winfrey, VH1, Earth Island Institute, and companies from Britain, Germany, Japan and Canada
- ❖ Partner Liaison presented paper on partnerships at National Association for Interpretation Workshop
- ❖ Worked with YCS to develop Yosemite Theater program and to install theater lighting at Yosemite Lodge
- ❖ Developed interpretive training curriculum for Protection Division staff
- ❖ Recruited and "hired" an "understudy" for volunteer exhibit specialist who will be working with VIP Jack Phinney each spring and fall
- ❖ Coordinated completion of propane tank installation at Nature Center
- ❖ Completed park-wide inventory and assessment of interpretive exhibits and media

## **BRANCH OF CURATORIAL SERVICES**

### **STAFF**

Branch Chief Dave Forgang GS 1015-12

Total permanent employees, 6 1 vacant position

Total detailed employees, 1, approximately .5 FTE

Total seasonal employees, 2, .5 FTE each, non-ONPS

Total number of volunteers, 40 Y.A. volunteers

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### Museum Collections Management

- ❖ Accepted, inventoried and began processing a large backlog of archeological collections from the past twelve years, representing over 50 accessions and including thousands of artifacts and extensive documentation. Continued arrangement and inventory of museum collections in the El Portal Storage Building.
- ❖ Continued with acquisition of storage equipment in the El Portal storage building. This fiscal year, \$30,000 from MCPPP was spent on space saver components, map cabinets, and modification of the HVAC system.

#### Museum Records System

- ❖ Converted main museum databases to the new ANCS+ Windows-platform software involving over 55,000 records. Completed over 2300 new museum records for the National Catalog, documenting over 28,000 items in the collection.
- ❖ \$25,000 was committed to hiring two seasonal museum technicians to work with the catalog backlog in Yosemite. 7,323 objects were catalogued and documented on 682 catalog records. Archeology and archives were the major elements of this year's program.

#### Museum Acquisitions

- ❖ The Yosemite Fund purchased and donated to the collection, a scrapbook assembled by J.M. Hutchings which contains the earliest printed description of Yosemite from the first non-Indian tourist party to Yosemite in 1855.

#### Museums, assistance and Loans

- ❖ Two exhibits were displayed in the Museum Gallery in FY99, an Historic Landscape Painting Exhibit and the Yosemite Renaissance Art Exhibit. The summer show reached approximately 700 people a day.
- ❖ 283 original historic and ethnographic objects were exhibited in park facilities.
- ❖ Assisted the Mariposa History Center with grant writing for collections management and storage. Provided assistance to the Northern Mariposa History Center in Coulterville with information on collections storage, exhibit maintenance, scope of collections, and made a presentation to their Board of Directors.
- ❖ Assisted BLM and Nevada State Museum with investigation of a violation of the 1906 Antiquities Act. Planned training session for NFS, Stanislaus National Forest.
- ❖ Provided historical information for Native American tribes and groups, including California Indian Lands, California Indian Legal Services, American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Mechoopda Tribe.
- ❖ Provided historical data, site visits and consultation to archaeological staff in preparing research for archaeological site work and reports.
- ❖ Planned, organized and implemented intensive three-day training program for Indian Cultural Program staff. Worked with Fire Management office to coordinate burning in El Portal with Native American gathering practices.
- ❖ Loaned 20 historic Watkins photographs to exhibit touring San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum, and the National Gallery.
- ❖ Loaned 11 historic photographs and drawings to exhibit touring Stanford Art Museum, San Diego Museum of Art, and the Joslyn Museum.
- ❖ Loaned an additional 11,455 items out for various exhibit, conservation and research needs.

#### Cyclic Maintenance Program

- ❖ \$45,000 was received for this program in FY99. Approximately \$20,000 was committed for cellulose nitrate negative duplication and preservation. The remainder of the funding was spent on conservation, curatorial storage supplies, and additional spacesaver components and museum cabinets for the El Portal storage building.

#### Public Contact

- ❖ Assisted 78 researchers from various institutions, assisted more than 75 private researchers. Answered more than 100 requests for information.
- ❖ Invited to present paper in opening session of the annual Society for California Archaeology.
- ❖ Museum staff assisted 193 non-National Park Service visitors and researchers on tours of museum collections storage.
- ❖ 29 National Park Service staff members worked in the museum.

## NAGPRA

- ❖ Requests for information regarding NAGPRA cases at other institutions were received; among them were Peabody Museum, Harvard University
- ❖ Prepared scope of work for NAGPRA Discovery Plan contract for FY 2000.
- ❖ Began research for background research document to be provided to contractor for NAGPRA Discovery Plan. Consulted with local Native American groups to discuss NAGPRA issues.

## Projects

- ❖ Received grant from Yosemite Fund for Yosemite Museum Lobby rehabilitation.
- ❖ Worked with contractor in continuing research for preparation of a Wawona Cultural Affiliation Study. Worked with contractor in providing research materials for Yosemite Lodge archaeological survey and excavation project.

## Research Library

- ❖ The Research Library handled 253 information requests, of which 16% were photo related.
- ❖ Public contact averaged 90 – 100 users per week, 60% NPS and 40% other, and 30 – 40 phone calls, 50% NPS.
- ❖ Tours of the Research Library were offered for seasonals, new employees and Park Partners.
- ❖ An open house was held during the Yosemite Association's Spring Forum, with attendance of 50 members.
- ❖ The Research Library purchased 76 books, 37 subscriptions and had 138 volumes of periodicals bound. Four antiquarian books were purchased using the Jon Kinney Memorial Funds. New additions to the Research Library included 166 books accessioned and 452 items cataloged.
- ❖ A video monitor was added to the Research Library.
- ❖ The Library loaned 322 duplicate photographic prints and checked out 341 negatives for the printing of 66 orders.

## Slide Archive

- ❖ The Slide Archive reopened in El Portal. The number of requests processed in the new location was 77, as compared to 174 in the previous year.
- ❖ 1935 slides were produced.
- ❖ Staff concentrated on restoring user aids for the selection of images, and developing the use of electronic media to deliver images.

## **BRANCH OF INFORMATION SERVICES**

### **STAFF**

- 1 Branch Chief, Scott Gediman
- 2 GS-09-025 Supervisory Park Rangers
- 5 GS-05-303 (STF) Public Information Clerks
- 1 GS-05-303 (part-time) Public Information Clerk
- 1 GS-04-303 (STF) Public Information Clerk
- 4 College Interns (summer)

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

### **VISITOR CENTERS**

### **BRANCH OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF**

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **BRANCH OF FIELD OPERATIONS**

### **STAFF**

Branch Chief – Mary Kline GS-12

Permanent Employees – 11

Detailed employees over FY – 3

Seasonal employees – 28

Interns – 8

Volunteers – 18

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ Provided the interdisciplinary Bear Team two rangers to rove campgrounds and parking lots every evening from Mid April through Sept. in Yosemite Valley and one per district at White Wolf and Tuolumne Meadows from June through Sept.
- ❖ Presented community and special interest group programs on the Yosemite Valley Plan from December through September.
- ❖ One employee received a lifetime achievement award for inteterpretation from WASO. (Sequoia Award went to Julia Parker)
- ❖ Two employees received and completed Albright Scholarships. One for a joint conference on research and interpretation with Sequoia NP and one for research and creation of a special program on the Ninth Cavalry in Yosemite. The Ninth Cavalry research led to the creation of a theater presentation and living history presentations for the Public and the Yosemite Fund.

## **DIVISION OF MAINTENANCE**

### **MISSION**

Maintain all park facilities to meet all compliance as mandated by all regulatory agencies. Assure safe access for all park visitors and employees, and protect the natural resources and our capitol investment.

## **BUDGET**

ONPS	\$ 9,040,000
Cultural Cyclic Maintenance	124,500
Regular Cyclic Maintenance	520,800
Repair/Rehab	815,000
Equipment Replacement	481,069
Construction	341,989
YCS-Trails/Snow Removal	164,340
Hetch Hetchy	626,126
Utility Income	3,738,125
Donation - Yosemite Fund	169,713
Quarters	1,233,119
USDE/PG&E Retrofit	73,621
Mess Income	74,482

## **STAFF**

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

FTE for the Maintenance Division: 242.39  
New Hires: 10  
Transfers: 4  
Retirements: 8

## **ROADS & TRAILS BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

1 Facility Manager, Roads & Trails, E. Dean Glenn GS-12  
61 Permanents  
18 STF  
12 Details  
19 Terms  
86 Seasonals  
3 Volunteers

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Park-wide Roads

- ❖ The park was given \$151,200 to restripe 661 of the 1002 lane miles.  
Completed 76 miles of ditching and shoulder maintenance  
Bladed 7 miles of dirt roads in the districts
- ❖ Crack-sealed 5,000 ft. on Rancheria Road and Barium Mine road in El Portal
- ❖ Ditched and graded housing roads in Foresta Housing area, and Old Coulterville Road to Park boundary

#### Solid Waste

- ❖ Collected and transported to Mariposa Landfill 1,350 tons of solid waste
- ❖ Refurbished 5 trash bins and performed minor repairs on 31 others
- ❖ Crack sealed 8.5 miles of South Side Drive and east Valley
- ❖ Cut out patching of 8,000 sq.ft. in Valley
- ❖ Overlay .65 miles in Valley

#### Sign Shop

- ❖ Fabricated 400 Regulatory/warning signs
- ❖ Replaced 250 signs
- ❖ Fabricated 325 signs per park request
- ❖ Upgrade and replace temporary signage at Happy Isles
- ❖ Support the 1999 park striping contract with a COTR
- ❖ Replaced 16 non-compliant chain control standards and signs park-wide
- ❖ Supported Recovery Division with signs for in-park and out-of-park concerns
- ❖ Supported Safety Office with OSHA related signage issues

#### Machine Shop

Processed 1,900 GSA and Interior work orders

Maintains 310 GSA vehicles parkwide

#### Corrals Operation

- ❖ The park was given \$15,000 to repair corral fencing in Yosemite Valley
- ❖ Provided support for; Trail Crews (24 camps), wilderness Rangers, Resource Management, Restoration operation, Yosemite Assoc., & CCC Director's trip
- ❖ Logged 98% of 863 miles of park trails
- ❖ Packed a total of 330,000 pounds of equipment and supplies

#### Trails

- ❖ The park was given \$80,000, to rehabilitate 150 feet of the Mist Trail.
- ❖ Logged 98% of 863 miles of park trails
- ❖ Complete reconstruction of the Lower Vernal Fall Mist Trail (phase 5)
- ❖ Reconstructed and re-graded "spring" section and "rock slide" sections of Vernal Fall Foot Trail
- ❖ Completed 90% reconstruction of Chilnualna Lakes Trail to Buena Vista Lake
- ❖ Completed 90% of Flood Recovery work on Harden Lake/Pate Valley Trail
- ❖ Brushed and limbed Pate Valley/Rogers Junction Trail
- ❖ Complete reconstruction of Pacific Crest Trail in Kerrick Canyon
- ❖ Complete Bridal Veil Creek Bridge abutment repair, removed old stringers, and installed new bridge
- ❖ Supervised 4 independent trail crews and backcountry camps

#### El Portal Forestry

- ❖ Assisted Prescribed Fire in El Portal
- ❖ Removed hazardous trees in El Portal (12 trees)
- ❖ Removed hazardous trees along all major Park highways
- ❖ Total # of trees snags removed 3
- ❖ Trimmed and removed hazard trees in Valley government housing area
- ❖ Bridal Veil campground hazard tree removal

□

### Mather Forestry

□

- ❖ Assisted Prescribed Fire in Aspen Valley/on Tioga Rd
- 
- ❖ Removed 25 hazardous trees on Tioga Corridor
- 
- ❖ Removed hazardous trees along all major Park highways
- 
- ❖ Removed 80 hazard trees in campgrounds at Crane Flat, Tamarack Flat, White Wolf, Porcupine Flat, Yosemite Creek, and Tuolumne
- ❖ Tree hazard removed at High Sierra campsites, Sunrise, Glen Aulin, May Lake, and Lake Eleanor
- ❖ Roadside brushing, chipping, and snagging along Yosemite Creek, White Wolf, and Tamarack R

### YCC

The Youth Conservation Corp Program in Yosemite National Park can boast as being the largest residential programs in the National Park Service. This year we reduced the number of enrollees from 44 to 36 and reduced our number of staff to 12. Even with the reduced number of participants in the program, the park receives 15,380 hours of work. The program operates on a very tight budget of \$195,500, of which \$50,000 is allocated by the PWR. Since the program only receives \$50,000 from the Regional Office, it is dependent on many different funding sources e.g.;

Flood Recovery: Nurses Dorm, Crane Flat Campground drainage and trail maintenance \$30,000  
 Yosemite Fund: Bear box installation \$17,000 Bear Management: bear warning signs and bear box installation \$47,500  
 Maintenance operations: trail maintenance, B&G waterline installation, Wawona Wastewater Treatment facility, Historic Preservation, and roads and Trails \$58,000

## **BUILDING & GROUNDS BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

Facility Manager, Bldgs & Grnds, Terry Gamble GS-11

54 Permanents

21 STF

5 Details

3 Terms

59 Seasonals

1 Volunteer

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ The park was given \$150,000 to replace roofing on eight structures totaling 163.5 squares or 16,350 square feet.

### El Portal District



- ❖ Replace four electric HVAC units to propane in the El Portal housing area
- 
- ❖ Installed safety rails in 12 housing units to address code, safety and ADA requirements
- 
- ❖ Move heaters and air compressor outside of the machine shop to address safety and noise level issues
- ❖ Rehab residences 711 and 713
- ❖ Replace 9 porches and steps in the housing areas (safety and code requirements)
- ❖ Replaced 4 residential decks
- ❖ Replaced gutters in residential area
- ❖ Constructed brick walls at Rancheria housing area for erosion control
- ❖ Accomplished lead abatement and repainted in Motor Inn cabins
- ❖ Replaced 3 in 1 units at Motor Inn cabins

### Mather District

- ❖ The park was given \$120,000 to hardside and bear proof employee tent cabins in Tuolumne Meadows.
- ❖ Installed modular shower house at Bug Camp
- ❖ Installed modular restrooms at White Wolf
- ❖ Upgrade faulty services and deterioration at Hodgdon building 6123 (shops and fire buildings)
- ❖ Upgrade Hodgdon Meadows campground restrooms 6124 and 6125
- 
- ❖ Convert Bug Camp tents 3052 and 3053 to hardtops (bear proofing)
- ❖ Replaced Shasta toilets with concrete CXT's at Porcupine and Yosemite Creek Campgrounds

### Valley District

- ❖ Deconstructed Pine Lodge and 3/4 of Cedar Lodge
- ❖ Assisted the wiring of fiber optics through most of Fort Building
- ❖ Remodeled housing units 36 and 42
- ❖ Rehabed residence 72 and 73
- ❖ Installed and inspected new fire sprinkler system in Ranger Club (Unit 56)
- ❖ Installed two vault toilets at Yellow Pines
- ❖ Built Camp 6 parking area, installed post and rope, plumbed water, sewer and power for temporary restroom.
- ❖ Upgraded 16 additional bear proof can lids
- ❖ Installed gas line and new propane tank at Happy Isles

### Wawona District

- ❖ Rehabed residence 4000
- ❖ Replaced 28 fire rings-Bridalveil Creek Campground
- ❖ Replaced 4 housing decks
- ❖ Refinished 12 housing decks
-

- ❖ Installed energy efficient windows in 9 houses
  -
- ❖ Replaces furnaces/heaters in 6 houses
  -
- ❖ Painted exterior of 6 buildings
  -
- ❖ Installed recycled plastic leach rock containment boxes at all hose bibbs in Wawona Campground

#### Historic Preservation

- ❖ Cultural Cyclic Program:
- ❖ The park was given \$26,500 for the preservation work needed to stabilize the Hill Studio.
- ❖ The park was given \$10,000 to perform the cyclic maintenance needed to repair deteriorated log work at several locations around the structure.
- ❖ The Park was given \$50,400 to paint seven historic residences in Yosemite Valley.
- ❖ Pkg. 339, Stabilized 80% of Historic Railroad Structure; The park was given \$25,000 to stabilize the railroad caboos.
- ❖ Replaced deteriorated decking and timbers on the Wawona covered bridge
- ❖ Repair stone foundation and deteriorated logs at Hodgdon cabin
- ❖ Repair/replace logs, windows, and RC chinking at the Jorgensen cabin
- ❖ ADA entry improvements at the Ranger Club
- Exterior preservation and maintenance at Hills Studio
- ❖ Replaced north spandrel log at Indian Village/Valley District building
- ❖ Repair/replace pylons, granite and log gates at Tioga Pass entrance station

## **UTILITIES BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

1 Facility Manager, Utilities Branch, Richard Adams GS-13  
 48 Permanents  
 14 STF  
 3 Details  
 5 Terms  
 18 Seasonals

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ The park was given \$90,000 to replace lift station components parkwide
  -
- ❖ The Park was given \$250,000 to rehab the Chinquapin, Glen Aulin and Crane Flat water systems. Since the Glen Aulin system required an Environmental Assessment, the park concentrated on the other two systems.

#### Utilities Management

- ❖ Awarded the National Parks Service first SuperESPC detailed energy ECM's.
- ❖ Value analysis on three fee demo projects, and two projects approved by the DAB
- ❖ Assisted the Flood Recovery Division project contract "Sewer Slipline Phase" with major discharge problems.

- ❖ Reduced the lost time accident rate for the Branch by 40% through proactive safety and occupational health inspections and hazard mitigation.

#### Backcountry Utilities

- ❖ Major rehab of backcountry composting systems.
- ❖ Performed major backcountry sewage removal operations.
- ❖ Replaced PV (solar) equipment on backcountry composting systems.
- ❖ Performed preventive maintenance operations on all front country water systems.

#### Electric Shop

- ❖ Completed reconstruction of the Glacier Point overhead power line.
- ❖ Completed contract with PG&E, replacement of 70kV tower #29.
- ❖ Completed vegetation control of .75 mile of 70kV transmission line and 4 miles of overhead distribution line.
- ❖ Completed reconstruction of Big Oak Flat underground power line.
- ❖ Successfully responded to several emergencies due to Kiewit Pacific, Hwy 140 contractor, damaging NPS underground power lines.
- ❖ Responded to 54 Underground Service Alert (USA) utility locates.
- ❖ Assisted with park's Energy Conservation Measures with Bentley/Enron.
- ❖ Assisted with design of Yosemite Lodge reconstruction.
- ❖ Assisted with reconstruction of Yosemite Creek Lift Station.
- ❖ Updated database of electric kilowatt hour meters.
- ❖ Rebuilt Arch Rock 70kV transformer.
- ❖ Constructed roof over fuel tank, Crane Flat Generator Plant. Labor saving measure, cut snow removal by 75%.

#### Electronic Shop

- ❖ The park was given \$49,600 to replace defective alarm devices for 51 parkwide intrusion and fire detection devices.

#### El Portal Utilities

- ❖ Installed new air dryer on instrument air system.
- ❖ Installed new de-ionized water system for lab.
- ❖ Backflow prevention testing program, removed 20 critical units.
- ❖ Provided technical support for SuperESPC ECM's.

#### Valley Utilities

- ❖ Major rehab on the Yosemite Valley wastewater lift station.
- ❖ Major design and construction on the Crane Flat water system.
- ❖ Installed new TESCO SCADA system for Yosemite Valley.
- ❖ Hosted cross connection training to Yosemite National Park and Regional personnel.

#### Wawona Utilities

- ❖ Upgrade Glacier Point wastewater system.
- ❖ Designed Chinquapin water system.
- ❖ Performed all wastewater operations within State permit.
- ❖ Upgrade Badger Pass wastewater system.

## **DESIGN AND ENGINEERING BRANCH**

### **STAFF**

1 Branch Chief, Design & Eng., Don Fox GS-13,

5 Permanents  
1 Volunteers

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

The design and Engineering Branch has participated in preliminary design and project development on numerous projects including Fee Demonstration: Tuolumne Grove Trail Head Parking, Wawona Campground, Tioga corridor campground packages, Tuolumne Meadow water and wastewater, Hodgdon Meadows water and wastewater, A.D.A. Improvements, Lembert Dome and Skier's Hut Restrooms, Upgrade Shuttle Bus Stops, Construct Bikeways in Yosemite Valley, and Replace Valley Force Main

- ❖ South Entrance Realignment
- ❖ Federal Lands Highway Program
- ❖ Replace the South Fork Bridge
- ❖ Rehab Mariposa Grove Road
- 
- ❖ Developed cost estimates for current submittal, approximating 15,000,000, Crane Flat Water System, Wawona Water Tank Replacement, Chinquapin Water System,
- ❖ Bear damage impound yard in Yosemite Valley
- ❖ Yosemite Sign Plan
- ❖ Security at entrance stations
- ❖ Alternate or by-pass route for Tioga Road
- ❖ Yosemite Institute wastewater system
- Crane Creek Bridge
- ❖ Yosemite Creek Lift station Rehab
- ❖ Yosemite Valley and El Portal Sewer Main

## **DIVISION OF VISITOR PROTECTION**

### **MISSION**

### **BUDGET**

### **STAFF**

### **BRANCH OF SEARCH AND RESCUE**

#### **STAFF**

Evan Jones-Toscano, SAR/EMS Manager, GS 11

John Dill, SAR Asst. Mgr.- 1 (also permanent)

Debby Schweizer, Seasonal Administrative Support Assistant.- 1

Summer Interns- 2

Volunteers-in-Park - 2

AD hires (SAR-site) - approximately 20. Respond via pager to emergencies in Valley and Tuolumne Districts.

Various community members (usually employed by YCS) who can also respond through pager system.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ 158 SARs as of 11/15/99, varying from walk-outs for ankle injuries or dehydration at minimal costs to multi-day, extensive SARs, such as the Sund/ Peloso, Gambalie or Randall searches. The estimated costs this fiscal year are \$471,357.00 against the Major SAR account.
- ❖ It was also a year with numerous Rockfalls, also varying in degree. The Curry Rockfall of June was a three day SAR event. After the SAR, although no longer a SAR function, the slide was monitored for potential safety issues and further slides activity.
- ❖ SAR staff assisted in other non-SAR events in logistical, operations and finance functions. SAR staff were involved with GAPZ, the Sund/Peloso investigation, the Armstrong investigation, and the BASE Jump protests.
- ❖ In EMS, we have had about 700 calls for 1999, with reports coming in from all districts.

### **BRANCH OF OPERATIONS**

#### **STAFF**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **BRANCH OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

#### **STAFF**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **BRANCH OF OPERATIONS**

#### **STAFF**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

### **BRANCH OF FEE COLLECTION**

#### **STAFF**

Branch Chief, Mike Osborne, GS-9  
Permanent Employees: 18  
Term Employees: 1  
Seasonal Employees: 57  
Volunteers: (camphosts) 56  
Volunteer Hours Donated: 14,822

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Significant staff involvement with the Valley Plan process, especially those components dealing with traffic management and campgrounds.
- ❖ March 15<sup>th</sup> marked the beginning of the second year of the new contract with Biospherics for the National Park Reservation System (NPRS). The change over to the new system and contractor involved many new and unique problems in the first year of the contract. This year, we have made good progress in improving the campsite reservation system through negotiation and cross training with the Biospherics staff, and by working closely with the program COTR in WASO. Data transmission from all four campground offices was improved by installation of main frame relays.
- ❖ During the daytime construction on the El Portal Road, fee collection operations were moved from the Arch Rock Entrance Station to the Valley Visitor Center. While only modestly successful from a fee collection perspective, this was the best alternative available to us. Fee collection personnel provided invaluable assistance to the Interpretation Division in operating the Visitor Center from September through the end of May.
- ❖ A new position description placing the program manager in the GS-1101 (Business and Revenue Management) series at the GS-12 level has been completed and the position advertised.
- ❖ Established a parkwide GS-9 campgrounds supervisor position.
- ❖ Two term VUA positions were converted to permanent subject-to-furlough. This has given campgrounds additional personnel to handle winter operations.

## **BRANCH OF FIRE, AVIATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

### **STAFF**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **WILDLAND FIRE**

#### **STRUCTURE FIRE ALARM RESPONSES**

#### **PRESCRIBED FIRE OPERATIONS**

#### **STRUCTURE FIRE OPERATIONS**

#### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS**

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT**

### **STAFF**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

## **BRANCH OF RESOURCE PROTECTION**

### **STAFF**

- 1 Branch Chief, Jeri Hall GS- 401-12
- 1 permanent employee (Waldow)
- 1 detailed employee (Ramsey)
- 1 seasonal employee (Biscombe)

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ Developed and Coordinated 40 hour Region-wide Resource Stewardship for Protection Rangers Training Course to be held for 35 participants in Nov. 1999.
- ❖ Finalized conditions assessments on eight campgrounds and prioritized needed work based on resource impacts.
- ❖ Developed rehabilitation proposals for eight out-of-valley campgrounds. Five campground rehabilitation projects, totaling approximately \$5 million, will be accomplished under the Fee Demo Program.
- ❖ Finalized report findings from survey of visitors on Lower Pines Prototype universal campsites. Paper to be presented at the NorthEast Recreation Research conference in April, 2000.
- ❖ Produced the parkwide 1998 annual Tuolumne Watershed Protection Report for the City of San Francisco

- ❖ Branch Chief was selected for participation in the first PWR Supervisory Leadership Training Program.

## **BRANCH OF WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT**

### **STAFF**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ❖ In FY99 the wilderness staff issued 15,777 permits to 45,146 people for a total of 86,995 use nights.
  -
- ❖ Over the course of the summer, twenty-eight volunteer and paid staff contacted more than 8,800 visitors in the field, and patrolled over 3,927 miles of wilderness. During the summer 468 fire-rings were destroyed or reduced, and over 560 pounds of trash was removed from Yosemite's wilderness.
- ❖ The wilderness patrol and permit staff were augmented by 11 volunteers in FY99. Together they contributed over 4,200 hours of their time to help make this year's operation a success.
- ❖ This year for the first time the Climbing program had two seasonal rangers dedicated half-time each to the program. Hundreds of climbers were contacted by the Climbing Mgmt. staff this season. They were also able to do a complete re-inventory of impacts.
- ❖ Completed our fourth year of the Wilderness Education Project. Nearly 1200 youth group leaders have been trained in Leave No Trace. FY99 also saw the establishment of WildLink, a WEB based outreach program targeting culturally diverse high school classrooms in California.
- ❖ Continued participation in the National Sign Prototype project.
- ❖ Neared completion of the new Tuolumne Wilderness Center. The center was built with 103 volunteers who contributed over 1121 hours of labor

# **DIVISION OF RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

**MISSION**

**BUDGET**

**STAFF**

## **WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**STAFF**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**HUMAN/BEAR MANAGEMENT**

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

**INTERAGENCY COOPERATION**

**NON-NATIVE SPECIES**

## **PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PROGRAM**

**STAFF**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION RCRA PROGRAM**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION CERCLA PROGRAM**

**AIR QUALITY PROGRAM**

**GASEOUS AIR QUALITY PROGRAM**

**VISIBILITY AIR QUALITY PROGRAM**

**WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM**

**NEPA PROGRAM**

**SOILS PROGRAM**

**ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT  
PROGRAM**

**STAFF**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**EXOTIC SPECIES**

**THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES**

**DISTURBED LANDS**

**GENERAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

**SOUTH ENTRANCE/MARIPOSA GROVE**

**COMPLIANCE**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**GIS PROGRAM**

**STAFF**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**STAFF**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**PUBLISHED REPORTS**

**DRAFT REPORTS**

**AMERICAN INDIAN CONSULTATION**

**NAGPRA INCIDENTS**

**PUBLIC CONTACTS**

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

**CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

**ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECTS**

**LARGE-SCALE AND NOTABLE ARCHEOLOGICAL PROJECTS**

## Accomplishments - Division of Interpretation - FY1999

### Park planning efforts:

Presented hundreds of programs to park staff on planning efforts.

Martha Lee and Jim Corless worked almost full time on MRP and YVP. 50% of Mary Kline, Jeffery Trust, Rick Smith, and Dave Siegenthaler's time was spent on planning support. 20% of Ginger Burley, Dave Forgang, Chris Edison's time was spent on planning support.

### Operations:

In spite of above, interp continued to meet its responsibility for educating the public. We presented 2400 programs for 174,390 visitors. We answered 26,000 phone calls and served 1,978,910 visitors in the Visitor Centers. We presented 20 curriculum based programs for 1000 school children and 1100 children participated in junior rangers. Media affairs made 4000 contacts with newspapers, television and radio and staged 6 major news conferences.

Interp produced a number of videos in support of park operations and issues.

### Bear Program:

Interp contributed greatly to the success of the Bear program with two press conferences, positive national, regional and local press coverage, 55,000 visitors contacted on bear roves, 2200 visitors on special bear programs, created Save-a-Bear hotline, completed a mobile bear exhibit and a bear video.

### UC Merced:

Interp played a key role in the development of the agreement and implementation of UC Merced activities. 30 minority high school students already have participated in education/career programs.

### Partnerships:

Partnership activities slowed somewhat due to the partner liaison assignment to planning: Interp worked with YA to find alternative funding for the Yosemite Guide.

Interp worked with YI to solve sewer problems at Crane Flat and continue "YI Futures".

Interp worked with YCS to develop a number of new programs, including the Curry Village Centennial celebration.

Field operations worked closely with YI, YCS, Sierra Club(Le Conte), YA and Ansel Adams Gallery to increase the variety and number of interpretive programs by partners.

Interp worked with the protection division in developing resource education skills for rangers.

### Museum:

Interp lessened the back log on museum objects by cataloging 28,000 items. 11,000 items were loaned for research, exhibit and conservation.

Interp provided a historic car and other support to the media event for the new gates at Tioga Road Entrance.

### Park/Regional/National Support:

The Division Chief served as chair for the regional interp advisory committee and member of the national advisory committee.

The park's master interpreter and other trainers provided interp training to 3 other parks.

The Division Chief represented the park on the "Messaging Project" and as management liaison with the park's awards committee.

Date: 2/15/00 9:21 AM  
Sender: Kathy Dimont  
To: Kendell Thompson  
Priority: Normal  
Subject: Re: Supts Report

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Now I'm really crabby. I know that I not only sent it, but that Rick replied that it was too long & he'd have to cut it. I wrote it right on cc:Mail, so it's long gone.

Hmph.

To start over:

The education branch worked with the UC Merced and Merced Union High School District to develop and implement an outreach program that includes strong science ties to Yosemite. Culturally diverse students were selected to visit the park repeatedly over 4 weeks. Park scientists instructed the students in fire ecology, plant ecology, air quality, water quality, and other disciplines. An expanded course will be offered in 2000. The same students will return for an advanced class and a new group will begin the introductory course. The students are being channeled into a college prep track in the hope that they will apply to UCM after high school.

The Environmental Living Program was held in the spring, serving about 400 students from schools throughout California. I held the teacher workshop for the program and engaged the teachers in a discussion about how the program could continue with minimal NPS involvement. Teachers will be assuming more and more responsibility, freeing up park staff.

I distributed the geology traveling trunks to 8 school district media specialists. I recruited interns. I worked with YF, Sequoia, and Lassen on the development of the mobile interpretive classroom.

OK? Want more?

K

Date: 11/26/99 9:11 AM  
Sender: Bob Andrew  
To: Kendell Thompson  
Priority: Normal  
Subject: Fwd:LEO submission for Supt's report

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Bob,

My understanding of what Kendall wants is just the "highlights" in bullet form.

Total arrest sar far this year. 274  
Total prisoner "in custody days" 608  
Court cases 290  
Trial 25

Major cases Sund/Peloso  
Armstrong homicide/ Major involvement on going with FBI and local agencies  
Investigators assisted 6 other parks in cluster on criminal and internal investigations  
Began park wide fee courier program.

Community mental health program instituted with Maripos mental health.  
Numerous community debriefings accomplished pursuant to Armstrong homicide and other streeors such as, rockfall, base incidents.