

Visitor and Resource Protection (VRP)

It has been a busy year for the VRP Division. Rangers dealt with over 600 case incidents including several major technical rescue operations and searches.

Some of the smaller projects we completed this year include installing a new radio system for contact with Marin County, replacing our old all terrain vehicle, and refurbishing one of our patrol boats with a new console and engine.

Besides our usual land and marine patrols, we concentrated on two initiatives this year.

The first was a program to prevent elk antler poaching in the Tule Elk Preserve. Rangers concentrated on surveillance activities to deter antler poaching and detect violators. The program was a success and will be continued in the future.

In the late summer and fall, we were faced with a large marijuana growing problem. Five different fields were found within the park, and seven more were found on the boundaries. Working with the Marin County Sheriff's Office and other agencies, NPS staff eradicated over 43,000 marijuana plants and discovered significant evidence tying the field to Mexican drug trafficking organizations.

Special Park Uses

The Special Park Uses Branch issued over 165 permits and coordinated the issuing of a new contract for the Drakes Beach Café. Preliminary work was done on a new contract for the Stewart Horse Camp, and inspections were performed on all of the existing concession operations.

Morgan Horse Ranch

The Ranch staff continued to provide high quality care and training for the park's Morgan horses. Training efforts concentrated on preparing horses to operate successfully in the elk range.



Marijuana grow sites left behind significant amounts of litter as well as serious scarring of the landscape.

