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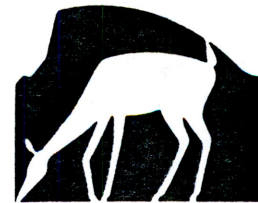
United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 577

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, CALIFORNIA 95389

MAR 16 1990



YOSEMITE
NATIONAL PARK
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

A2621 (WR-RH)

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region
From: Superintendent, Yosemite
Subject: Superintendent's Annual Report
Enclosed is Yosemite's Annual Report for 1989.

M.V. Finley
Michael V. Finley

Enclosure

Superintendent's Annual Report
1989
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Superintendent's Annual Report
Yosemite National Park
1989

1989 Highlights

January

*Jim Laney died January 10. He was Assistant Superintendent of Yosemite from March, 1985, to March, 1987.

*Alston Chase visited the park January 23-25.

February

*The removal of three photographs on February 14 depicting nudity from the Yosemite Museum became an issue that generated significant press.

*A rockslide closed the Big Oak Flat Road on February 14.

*Eleven YP&CCo. employees were arrested on drug charges along with three arrests outside the park February 22.

*A \$300,000 check was presented to the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors February 28 for use of the solid waste disposal facility.

March

*SEIU threatened to strike YP&CCo. March 14. An agreement was reached on March 21.

*Five cases of hepatitis were discovered in the park March 23.

*A rockslide occurred on the Four Mile Trail March 29. Lemoore NAS did an aerial search and found no casualties.

April

*An English climber died in a fall from Half Dome April 7.

*The personal effects of missing hiker Don Buchanan were found on the back side of Half Dome April 12.

May

*Supt. Jack Morehead accepted the position of Associate Director, Operations, in WASO May 10.

*Administrative Officer Butch Abell transferred to SWRO in May.

*Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan visited the park May 17-18.

*The Tioga Road was opened for the season May 12.

*The Glacier Point Road was opened for the season May 18.

*The cables went up on Half Dome May 25.

*The traffic management plan was implemented for a half hour on Memorial Day weekend May 28.

*Congressman Tony Coelho announced his resignation from the House of Representatives May 28.

June

*A halt on firewood gathering in Yosemite Valley went into effect June 1.

*Peregrine Falcons were observed on the face of Half Dome, and climbing routes near the nesting site were closed June 1. No nest activity occurred on El Capitan, but it was later determined that these birds apparently nested somewhere near Bridalveil Fall.

*YP&CCo. received the national "Take Pride in America" award June 23.

*Governor John Ashcroft of Missouri visited the park June 27-28.

*The new Hetch Hetchy entrance station was opened June 30.

July

*The annual park cleanup day was July 12.

*Mark Wellman and Mike Corbett climbed El Capitan July 19-26, which generated significant press.

*A minor rockslide on Middle Brother closed Northside Drive for 18 hours July 25.

*Wendell Blakeney died from a fall between North Dome and Washington Column July 30.

*Regional Director Stan Albright and Deputy Director Herb Cables visited the park July 31-August 2.

August

*Congressman Richard Lehman introduced legislation August 4

recognizing Yosemite's centennial and authorizing development of 750,000 commemorative coins with sales proceeds to be earmarked for park natural resource projects.

*Eighteen lightning-caused fires were discovered in the park August 8.

*Mike Finley was announced as the new park superintendent August 11.

*John Ofner was swept over Yosemite Falls August 13.

*A 300-gallon sewage overflow upstream from Stoneman Bridge closed the river to the public August 13.

*A cloud-seeding proposal that would affect more than half the park was announced by the Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts August 24.

*The General Management Plan Examination Report was released for public comment August 29.

September

*English hiker John Hebden was found September 8 after 14 days in the backcountry with a broken leg.

*A marked increase in the number of yellow jackets and stings occurred throughout the Sierra, and visitors were alerted September 8.

*The Tioga Road was intermittently closed due to snow September 17-18.

October

*On October 4 Secretary of the Interior Lujan announced a ban on non-biodegradable products in Interior facilities and cited Yosemite as an example.

November

*A GMP walk-through was held for conservation/environmental organizations November 8.

December

*YP&CCo. launched a mass mailing on the GMP Examination Report (93,000 letters) in December.

RESEARCH

The Research Office was involved with eight Service-funded projects this year as well as coordinating some 50-plus independent investigations.

Bighorn Sheep Study

*Work continued on this project including the establishment of 50 forage site plots and 50 random plots for comparison. Population and distribution data were gathered during the entire 12-month period. The total number of sheep increased to 41 with nine new lambs, two of which were subsequently presumed dead.

Indian Use of Fire in Sequoia Groves

*Interviews were conducted with 24 individuals, and historic data sources were checked in 16 libraries. Interviews with female Native Americans (a source previous male ethnographers had ignored) indicate that burning for basket materials was probably the most prevalent fire management activity.

Great Gray Owl Study

*Monitoring of owls with radio transmitters continued all year. Surveys of potential owl habitat during the summer doubled the number of known owls in the park. During winter storms, owls were found using meadow systems well outside the park.

Geographical Information System

*Field work continued with the establishment of 100 additional vegetation plots. Computer-generated maps were used to select and find sample plots. Verification and updating of maps on the system continued.

Sequoia Fire History Study

*Samples were taken from the Mariposa Grove and Nelder Grove from 24 stumps and/or logs for analysis in the tree-ring lab. Work is proceeding for preparing those samples for dendrochronological studies.

Exotic Thistle Study

*Three removal treatments were tested on bull thistle. Five study plots were burned under spring and fall conditions, as well as mechanical removal treatments in three meadows in Yosemite Valley. Pre- and post-treatment data were collected and analysis begun.

Paleoecology Study

*Additional cores were taken in meadows below the Mariposa Grove. Very good pollen stratigraphy was present, and charcoal preservation appears good.

Fire Dynamics Study

*The second year of data collection continued for the 112 field plots. Fuel collected from those plots was dried and weighed in the lab. Fire modeling work progressed with the development of a new fire-spread model and a new succession model.

OFFICE OF THE PARK ARCHEOLOGIST

During calendar year 1989, the Archeology Office at Yosemite National Park continued an extensive program of cultural resources management and research for the central and southern Sierra Nevada, including Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon National Parks.

*The staff of the Archeology Office provided for its function as Co-Director of the Yosemite Research Center for Cultural and Natural Sciences. Additionally, the Park Archeologist and staff performed various consultation activities with local Native American groups and individuals regarding resource issues and Native American concerns.

*In October, 1989, the Yosemite Archeology Office joined the newly reorganized Division of Resources Management and Planning.

*During 1989, the Yosemite Archeology Office conducted numerous projects in Yosemite, including 92 archeological clearance surveys, data review, and consultations completed for park projects, 74 archeological clearance survey reports, 89 categorical exclusions (NEPA), and three environmental assessments provided with CRM consultations. Major investigation projects conducted in Yosemite included one archeological monitoring project in support of large-scale construction projects, one archeological survey project, three archeological testing projects, and one archeological data recovery project.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretive Operations

*Interpretive operations were significantly curtailed in 1989. Budget erosion necessitated a 50% reduction in seasonal

interpretive staffing; four positions were partially restored with Yosemite Fund and Yosemite Association donations. The wilderness interpretation program, roving information van, and Indian Village demonstrations were discontinued, and Parsons Lodge and the Junior Ranger Program were scaled down. The deaf services program (in the year of its tenth anniversary), off-site information stations, and telephone information services in the PIO were resumed part-time when donated funds became available. Happy Isles Nature Center was operated entirely by the Yosemite Association. Some of the cuts generated many visitor complaints.

- *Interpretive contacts through all media in FY'89 totaled 8.5 million. Personal services accounted for 3,068,524 contacts.
- *The Interpretive Division purchased four horses and employed a driver for the stagecoach operation at the Pioneer Yosemite History Center. In previous years the operation had been contracted. The new arrangement was cost effective and self-sustained by revenues from ride fees.
- *About 900 students, a record number, participated in the Environmental Living Program.
- *Mariposa Grove summer visitation was exceedingly heavy, requiring interpreters to perform traffic control in the parking area during peak hours on an average of four days per week. Shuttle bus service from Wawona to the Grove became a full-time operation.
- *Winter interpretive walks and ski tours at Badger Pass did not begin in late fall as scheduled. No snow!
- *Special interpretive programs highlighting the 125th anniversary of the Yosemite Grant were presented in Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove on the anniversary date June 30.

Interpretive Facilities and Media

- *The Indian Cultural Exhibit was redeveloped over several months early in 1989. The room was remodeled, a new entrance was opened, new display cases were installed, and the interpretive presentation was restructured. An accidental discharge of Halon, a fire suppressant, shortly before the project was completed, destroyed one new case and damaged a large basket that is part of the Schwabacher collection. The facility was reopened in June for the season, then closed again late in the year for additional work (new carpeting, labels, and additional cases).
- *The Wells Fargo Foundation presented a \$50,000 grant to the Yosemite Fund in July to rehabilitate the Pioneer Yosemite

History Center, site of the historic Wells Fargo Transportation Office.

- *The Yosemite Museum lobby was reopened, then carpeted late in the year. New exhibits and fixtures are yet to be installed.
- *The outdoor deck of the Mariposa Grove Museum was rebuilt, and one outdated exhibit panel in the museum was replaced.
- *Most of the remaining phase I wayside exhibits were installed. The phase II waysides arrived in the park in April; only a handful were installed--by members of the interpretive staff. The park received \$11,700 in FY'90 exhibit cyclic maintenance funds to permit completion this year.
- *A new information desk and sales cabinets were installed in the Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center. The overhead banners on the exhibits there were replaced, and a new interpretive sign commemorating the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Yosemite was installed in front of the visitor center, a CCC-built structure.
- *Constant problems with worn-out electrical and audiovisual systems in the Valley Visitor Center auditoriums strained both staff capabilities to keep them functioning and professional credibility with the public. Upgrades are desperately needed.
- *The balance of the substandard park folders received from GPO late in 1988 were replaced in the spring. A penalty adjustment of 25% was added to the printing run to augment the quantity of replacement brochures.
- *A division VIP produced signs publicizing the ban on firewood collecting in Yosemite Valley and distributed them throughout the park.
- *A taped slide program about the Joseph Rutherford Walker 1833 expedition across the Sierra was produced by two researchers who had essentially replicated his party's trek in 1988. A copy of the show was used during the summer as part of the interpretive program.
- *Desktop publishing was implemented; the Yosemite Guide was put on the system early in the year.
- *Six fine arts exhibits, including Yosemite Renaissance IV, were displayed in the Valley Visitor Center, and three shows were presented in the fine arts gallery of the Yosemite Museum.

Museum Services

- *New accessions totaled 19,520 items in 107 transactions. Fifty-one items were deaccessioned.
- *A total of 326,176 items were registered and cataloged on 9,332 forms. Twenty-nine items were recataloged. The remaining backlog of uncataloged items is 139,170.
- *Significant additions to the museum included several basket collections and half of a large private collection of stereographs, the singlemost important acquisition.
- *Research Library hours of operation were reduced early in the year to offset the budget shortfall, then reinstated early in FY'90 in recognition of the workload pressures and demands for library services.

Cooperative Activities and Special Projects

- *Several staff members participated extensively in interorganizational planning of special events and projects to celebrate the Yosemite centennial in 1990.
- *The curatorial staff and Chief Park Interpreter continued the park's collaboration with the California Academy of Sciences to develop a park centennial exhibit to be shown at the academy for six months late in 1990.
- *The Happy Isles Restoration Project, adopted as a fundraising target by the East Bay Chapter of the Yosemite Fund, was launched in 1989. By the end of the year the chapter had raised more than \$85,000 toward its goal of \$336,000.
- *A fence was constructed and some site rehabilitation done in the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. In the fall two hydrologists in the Division of Water Resources visited the Grove to assess the potential hydrological impacts of several alternative proposals for road and trail alterations.
- *Archivist/historian Jim Snyder completed the second season of the Wilderness Historic Resources Survey.
- *Chief Interpreter Len McKenzie met several times with Mariposa County and other agency representatives to develop plans for an interagency information station in Mariposa.
- *Several staff members collaborated with the Sierra Club to develop plans for rehabilitation and new exhibits for LeConte Memorial Lodge.
- *The interpretive staff participated in the interdisciplinary

effort to formulate a questionnaire for a park exit survey proposed for the summer of 1990, pending availability of funding.

- *The second summer of the teacher intern program, funded by the Yosemite Association and involving teachers in the Los Angeles USD, was successful.

Interpretive Administration

- *The method of reimbursement to VIPs was streamlined.
- *Acting assignments abounded in 1989. Chief Interpreter Len McKenzie was detailed as acting Chief of Resources Management from May 15 through January 28. District Interpreter Cherry Payne was assigned as acting Chief Park Interpreter during that same period. Ginger Burley was acting Mather District Interpreter for the summer. Valley Visitor Center supervisor Sue Beatty was detailed to a wildlife technician position in Resources Management, and Althea Roberson pinch hit in the Valley Visitor Center.
- *Ginger Burley began a five-month assignment with the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service in Australia in December. Since Yosemite's participation in the International Parks Program is still unfunded, she is participating at her own expense.
- *Roy Irving transferred from ORPI as Assistant Valley District Interpreter.
- *Mark Wellman was selected as Yosemite's access coordinator early in the year. His historic climb of El Capitan in July generated a lot of goodwill for the park and the accessibility program.
- *A VIP was employed during the summer to monitor Great Gray Owl activity at Crane Flat and to protect the nesting site (which failed in 1989) and the meadow from visitor encroachment. The experiment failed as well.
- *Permanent GS-5 field interpreters were upgraded to GS-7 in the spring after a thorough review of the new 025 classification standards.
- *Interpreter Dean Shenk worked on horseback one day per week during the summer to augment the horse patrol operation and to foster better teamwork.
- *Valley District Interpreter Bruce Fincham was selected to help plan the 1991 Third Global Congress of Heritage Interpretation International.

*Following an OPM training course, the format for a number of the division's performance standards was simplified to conform more closely to OPM criteria and recommendations.

Public Affairs and the Park Information Center

Public Affairs

- *Sixty press releases, public service announcements, and feature articles were written and distributed to local and national media on park activities.
- *Approximately 6,000 radio, television, and newspaper interviews were conducted by the Public Affairs Officer and staff with special emphasis on creating a positive image for Yosemite and the National Park Service.
- *The Public Affairs Officer and staff coordinated all aspects of press coverage for the Wellman/Corbett climb of El Capitan including major network coverage, local, national, and international coverage, with over 600 press calls, radio and television interviews, White House, Sec. of Interior's office, and Senator Robert Dole's office coordination.
- *The PAO coordinated all logistics, itineraries, press, VIP packets, and briefing statements for Sec. of Interior Lujan's visit in May.
- *The PAO was advisor to WASO and WRO on GMP Re-examination Report release and press.
- *The PAO researched and developed comprehensive list of GMP deviations and accomplishments for the Superintendent.
- *A statement was prepared for the Regional Director to use regarding the GMP.
- *Weekly press briefings with Sec. of Interior's press secretary Steve Goldstein were conducted from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Public Information Office

- *The PIO answered 29,000 information calls, responded to 8,000 written routine/non-routine information requests.
- *PIO researched and produced 28,800 Daily Reports, 3,380 Weekly Updates, 39,000 Community Newsletters, and 1.2 million Yosemite Guides.
- *The Daily Report was placed on the Local Area Network to make distribution more timely.

DIVISION OF CONCESSIONS MANAGEMENT

*The new year brought a number of personnel changes to our small work unit: Napoleon Lopez, Concessions Management Analyst, retired from the Service in October; Annette Catamec was promoted to the position of Concessions Specialist; Karen Warren transferred to the position of Secretary to the Park's Administrative Officer; we welcomed Concessions Specialist Mary Risser who transferred from Grand Teton National Park in December.

*The subject of concessions management was a frequent topic in the media throughout the year. Particular focus was directed toward the development of and revenues generated by the Yosemite Park and Curry Co.

The following projects highlighted our year:

*The dental contract prospectus was submitted to the Western Regional Office.

*Many construction projects were undertaken by concessioners, particularly the Yosemite Park and Curry Co., that were monitored for compliance by our staff.

*Curry Village offered wintertime food service at the Hamburger Stand.

*Yosemite Park and Curry Co. received permission to expand the Badger Pass parking lot.

*Commercial Use Licenses were issued to tow service operators bordering the park on Highway 120 (east and west sides).

*The Yosemite Park and Curry Co. installed ten interpretive plaques at Curry Village and The Ahwahnee Hotel.

*Mini-bars and snack services were installed in all rooms at The Ahwahnee Hotel.

*The Division of Concessions Management initiated an alcoholic beverage violation reporting system to improve communication with the Division of Visitor Protection.

*Preliminary tasks were initiated to support the development of a new contract to replace the contract currently held by the Yosemite Park and Curry Co.

*The Concessions Management staff assisted representatives of the Denver Service Center in developing and implementing a housing study mandated by the GMP to determine the number of park employees whose jobs were essential for Valley housing.

- *Members of the Concessions Management staff issued approximately 36 commercial filming permits.
- *Approximately 21 official foreign visitors were hosted by representatives of the Concessions Management Division.
- *Routine tasks such as facility inspections and requests for rate increases were conducted throughout the year by all members of the staff.

MAINTENANCE DIVISION

Utility and Engineering Branch

Construction:

- *The phase II electrical distribution project was completed, which included the new Valley Electrical Distribution Station.
- *Phase III and phase IV are underway.
- *Designs are proceeding on phases V and VI.
- *Water systems were improved at Hodgdon, White Wolf, and Badger. Improvements include new tanks, wells, and controls.

Operations:

- *All septic tank waste was treated in park treatment plants instead of out of the park, which saved money.
- *Widespread failure of leach fields resulted in excessive pumping of septic tanks to keep areas open. If major work is not completed, pumping costs may exceed \$50,000.
- *Water rates were adjusted to recover actual NPS cost of service.

Buildings and Grounds Branch

Buildings:

- *A new entrance station was constructed at Camp Mather.
- *A new stable was constructed at Hetch Hetchy.
- *Major improvements were completed on twelve public rest room facilities including structural repairs, heating systems, flooring partitions, handicapped accessibility, and plumbing rehabilitation.
- *Staff re-roofed 13 buildings, applied new roof coating on 28

trailers, and repainted the exterior of 33 structures using cyclic funds.

*Deteriorated asbestos was removed from four buildings using DSC contract funding.

*The heating systems in seven buildings were rehabilitated or replaced.

Housing:

*A total of 40 units were rehabilitated for new occupancy.

*Deteriorated asbestos from nine housing units was removed using funding provided by WASO.

*The ceiling insulation was improved to R-38 in 20 houses.

Grounds:

*Two handicapped campsites were constructed.

*Campsite furnishings in 300 sites were replaced.

Roads, Trails & Signs Branch

Roads:

*A major rock slide occurred on the Big Oak Flat Road.

*The Hetchy Entrance Station road was widened.

*Shoulder improvement was made on the Glacier Point Road.

*Shoulder improvement was made on the Tioga Pass Road.

Trails:

*Seven new bridge spans were installed.

*Donahue Pass reconstruction was 30% completed.

*Reconstruction of the Mist Trail continued.

*No ONPS funds were available. All work was funded through other means.

Signs:

*Sign inventory was 60% completed.

*Shuttle bus sign project was 80% completed.

Construction:

*Phase II of the Big Oak Flat rehabilitation was completed.

Maintenance Management System (MMS)

*Maintenance Management System implementation was completed for the entire division.

*Quarterly MMS reports were sent to WRO.

*MMS Zone Training was started.

*Cyclic requests were initiated using MMS in lieu of 10-577.

*Quarters Program was started using MMS Location Reports to replace 10-273 Housing Reports required by WASO.

Maintenance Management Office

*Chief of Maintenance & Engineering Terry Gess transferred to Rocky Mountain Region.

*Financial management was changed from TAP sheets to AFS.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Warehouse

*A new automated supply system was implemented which maintains a perpetual inventory of stock and has an automated ordering component.

Property

*Two timber sales were conducted with proceeds of \$102,000. Proceeds from exchange/sale authority equalled \$95,559.

Procurement

*Three new computer systems were implemented: Multi-Use File for Interagency News (Muffin), Pre-Printed Forms System (PPFS), and Procurement Action Lead Time (PALT).

Contracting

*Thirteen contracts totalling \$711,268 were administered, and 71% were awarded to small or small, disadvantaged firms. Also issued were six interagency agreements, eight memorandums of

understanding, seven memorandums of agreement, and two cooperative agreements.

Information Management

*A Local Area Network was installed connecting a total of 24 users.

Housing

*The Housing Management Office processed more than 950 changes in occupancy of government housing parkwide. Of this number, 33% were in units that are used only during the summer season at Tuolumne, White Wolf, Glacier Point, and the Hetch Hetchy corridor. Total income for the rental of permanent, year-around units was \$603,699 including the 1988 carry-over funds; total income for the rental of seasonal, summer-use-only units was \$34,036 including carry-over funds. The Yosemite II case was found in favor of the government, and an appeal was filed by the Yosemite Tenants Association with the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. A settlement offer was under consideration at the end of the year.

Budget

*The Administrative Finance System (AFS), a budget planning and tracking computer program, was implemented throughout the park for FY'89 and FY'90.

*Parkwide funding for FY'89 was as follows:

	<u>ONPS</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>FTE'S</u>
Superintendent's Office	\$ 341,430	\$ 35,620	11.4
Safety Office	139,000		1.7
Archaeology	84,000		2.0
Concessions	169,000		4.8
Protection	2,767,480	347,600	125.5
Administration	1,253,655		39.8
Resources	656,925	159,500	23.5
Interpretation	912,000	175,800	37.2
Maintenance	5,370,800	827,274	195.6
Totals	\$11,694,290	1,545,794	440.5

Total permanent positions = 248

Total permanent-less-than-full-time positions = 43

Total seasonal positions = 358

Total positions = 649

Personnel

- *A total of 3,482 personnel actions were processed for 375 permanent and 380 seasonal positions.
- *Eighty-one permanent positions were filled: 16 from delegated examining authority from the Office of Personnel Management.
- *The seasonal positions filled by division were: Resources Management, 30; Ranger Division, 122; Administration, nine; Interpretation, 39; and Maintenance, 110.
- *The 414 volunteers-in-park contributed to the work force at a total of 53,380 hours, for a cost of \$19,982.73.
- *Seventy-eight performance awards, 18 non-performance awards, and four suggestions were processed.
- *A total of 187 employees received off-site training.
- *On-site training courses held were:
 - Increasing Human Effectiveness Techniques, four sessions
 - Orientation to NPS Operations
 - Cross Connection Control
 - Employee Assistance for Employees
 - Sexual Harassment
 - Safety
 - Defensive Driving
 - Personnel/Timekeeping for Supervisors and Admin Clerks
 - Orientation for Seasonal Employees
 - Watt-Hour Meter Maintenance
- *A total of 122 classification actions were processed. Classification assistance was provided to Western Region, Lava Beds, and Golden Gate NRA.
- *Four positions were filled through the Maintenance Affirmative Action Program. Three more permanent positions were filled as a result of the 1988 Texas recruitment trip.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Black Bear Management

- *Work continued toward mitigation of human/bear conflicts. This included 43 captures of bears, 40 of which were translocated from developed areas of the park. No bears were killed in management actions. The number of reported incidents and amount of property damage declined 42% and 37%, respectively, from extraordinarily high 1988 levels. These declines are thought to

be largely due to improved natural food conditions, but these most recent data, when integrated into long-term analyses, indicate no continuing decline in incidents or damage. Further reductions will require further removal of human food from availability to bears. In 1989, this was pursued by working toward completion of the installation of bear-proof food lockers in frontcountry campgrounds and the manufacture of a food canister for use by backpackers. These efforts, however, were defeated by lack of funding. Thus, a majority of campsites in Yosemite Valley have no food lockers, and backcountry incidents continue at a high level as backpackers have no satisfactory method of food storage. As a result, the bear population continued to deviate from a natural situation in 1989.

*The privately funded analysis of accumulated data collected from captured bears since 1974 was largely completed, yielding valuable information on the population dynamics of black bears in Yosemite. Completion of this project will be accomplished in 1990, with the publishing of scientific papers and the integration of these findings into management practices.

Peregrine Falcon Management

*1989 was the last year of a three-year, NRPP-funded project protecting and augmenting reproduction of Peregrines in Yosemite. Last year, as in previous years, this included intensive monitoring and observation of nest sites. The site on El Capitan with a 12-year history of occupation, however, was not used. Observations indicated this pair successfully reproduced in the area of Leaning Tower, as two immature Peregrines were sighted there in late summer. Another pair nested successfully at Hetch Hetchy, fledgling two young. Climbers collected eggshells remaining at this site for analysis of pesticide-induced thinning. Results are still pending and will determine if removal of eggs and placement of captive-hatched young ("augmenting") will need to be attempted this year. A third active nest site was discovered on the north face of Half Dome. This nest appeared to be unsuccessful as no young were ever seen there. Climbers completed an extremely difficult climb spanning several weeks, reaching the nest to collect eggshells and possibly determine the cause of the failure. After collecting the shell remains, the climbers continued to the top of Half Dome, setting climbing hardware to the rim. This will facilitate reaching the nest site from the top of the rock for augmentation that is planned this year, given the lack of success in 1989. Three of six Peregrine chicks were successfully fledged from the hack site at Lake Eleanor.

Fisheries Management

*Management of aquatic resources remained a largely neglected project in 1989 because of no funding. Continuing a program of

limited fish planting, the Park Service allowed California Department of Fish and Game to plant rainbow trout fingerlings in seven lakes near Tioga Road. Negotiations continued, however, toward suspending all future planting operations as introduction of non-native species violates the Park Service mandate to perpetuate natural ecosystems. Steps were taken toward extending the closure of Frog Creek, a tributary to Lake Eleanor, from April 15 to June 15 to protect spawning trout from overfishing. Mather District protection personnel initiated actions to remove the ruins of the egg-collecting station on Frog Creek to help restore natural stream conditions.

Tuolumne Sequoia Grove Restoration Project

*Paramount Pictures sponsored a project in 1988 to restore areas of the Tuolumne Grove damaged by human impacts. In the summer, a YCC crew erected a split rail fence and installed interpretive signs along the roadside through the Grove; replaced a sign at entrance to Tuolumne Grove nature trail; installed erosion controls; scarified compacted bare ground; and spread natural duff and litter. In the fall, a Park Service revegetation crew did additional scarification and mulching, and obliterated numerous social trails through the Grove.

Wilderness Restoration Project

*The 1989 Wilderness Restoration Project was implemented on a shoestring budget of \$17,000 in carry over funds from a 1988 donation by the Yosemite Fund. Two Park Service Biological Technicians supervised a YCC crew donated by the Maintenance Division. One-and-a-third miles of closed trails through Tuolumne Meadows were backfilled and replanted with native plants. One hundred illegal campfires in subalpine lake basins near Tuolumne Meadows were dismantled and replanted with native transplants. Nine thousand native propagules were planted in these areas. Study plots for watering and trampling studies were sampled and photographed.

*The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) provided the project with 15,000 native plants through an interagency agreement with the Park, and NPS provided the SCS with 6,000 additional plants to propagate for the 1990 program.

Black Oak Woodland Restoration

*Resources Management staff followed up on restoration work implemented in 1988 in the school yard oak woodland. Non-native plants were removed by hand using volunteer labor. Study plots were sampled in the spring and fall. In late fall, Paramount Pictures sponsored a project to plant 500 black oak seedlings in the woodland. This was accomplished by a Park Service revegetation crew aided by Yosemite Elementary School students.

Big Oak Flat Road Slope Stabilization and Restoration

*In the fall of 1989, the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) sponsored a project to control slope erosion and re-establish native vegetation on newly graded road slopes along Big Oak Flat Road. A Park Service crew installed or reworked erosion control measures; transplanted 6,982 native plants and cuttings onto the slopes; collected and broadcast seeds of three native species; collected and spread native mulch onto the slopes; and collected seeds and plant materials to propagate for further FHWA-sponsored restoration projects. Propagation will be accomplished through interagency agreements with the SCS, the Forest Service, and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks; and possibly through contracts with commercial nurseries as well.

Rare and Sensitive Plant Management

*The Resource Management Division continued to review all projects with a potential for affecting sensitive plant species. A number of projects were modified due to concerns about sensitive plants.

Non-native Plant Control

*Non-native plants were removed from the school yard oak woodland in the fall as part of an overall restoration project, paid for by the Yosemite Fund.

Wilderness Impacts Inventory Data Analysis

*Analysis of the Wilderness Impacts Inventory, conducted between 1983 and 1986, was analyzed by a researcher with the University of Davis Cooperative Parks program. More than 5540 campsites and almost 1050 miles of trail were analyzed, providing information on size, condition, location, vegetative type, and relative impacts. Due to programming "bugs," data is currently incomplete.

Federal Highways Road Project Slope Restoration

*A GS-7 Biological Technician was hired and planning and coordination of impacts mitigation and restoration got underway for the Big Oak Flat Road project, phase I and II, and the Glacier Point Road project, phase I.

Hazardous Tree Removals

*Forestry crews removed 1,675 hazardous trees, pruned 284 trees of 7,200 hazardous limbs, flushed or ground out 1500 stumps, and hauled over 2,500 loads of slash from developed sites. Five man-days were spent climbing and removing 19 trees and pruning three trees from the USS Arizona National Memorial Visitor Center area

in Hawaii. Two timber sales were completed: one in March for 80.00 MBF at a value of \$10,000. A second timber sale for 484.6 MBF valued at \$80,000 was completed in January from trees removed in 1989. Twenty-five cords of wood were delivered to seasonal quarters and interpretive programs while about 1100 cords of wood were placed in woodyards for sale. Three prescribed fires were successfully directed and completed by forestry personnel. In addition, Forestry personnel were called on two project fires in Washington and Idaho, and several local wildfires.

Prescribed and Prescribed Natural Fire

*The park prescribed fire staff spent much of the year revising the Fire Management Plan in order to meet the new requirements for prescribed natural fire. This process is in the final stages. The program should be on line for the 1990 season.

*Fifty-eight lightning fires were reported in 1989, burning a total of 56 acres. The largest of these was 11 acres in the southern region of the park (vicinity of Crescent Lake).

*This was the first year in several that any significant amount of prescribed burning took place. Eleven fires were ignited for a total of 1,306 acres. The largest of these was 1120 acres along the Tioga Road between Crane Flat and the South Fork of the Tuolumne River. The weather stopped this burn short of the targeted 5,876 acres. Completion is scheduled for 1990. There were two burns in the Mariposa Grove totaling 180 acres, five meadow burns in Yosemite Valley totaling 20 acres, as part of a thistle study, and three minor burns for structure protection totaling 5.5 acres.

DIVISION OF VISITOR PROTECTION

Search and Rescue

*There were 135 SAR incidents in 1989, a 20% decrease from the preceding year for the second time. Those figures include six fatalities and 122 injured victims, with 66 visitors classified as "saves." A total of \$301,210 was spent or volunteered in FY'89.

*On the two-day weekend of August 12-13, 1989, there were seven rescues, including six major, one fatality, and four saves.

*The Division, through SAR, is working with the American Alpine Club on a climbing regulations/ethics brochure and also sponsored a Half Dome cleanup day.

Emergency Medical Services

*A total of 956 EMS incidents occurred, including:

- 784 basic life-support cases
- 172 advanced life support cases
- 13 fatalities
- 40 Park helicopter EMS flights
- 56 commercial medivacs

Fire Management

*Drought conditions prevailed for the third consecutive year. There were a total of 109 wildfires which cost in excess of \$231,415 to suppress. A total of 1,306 acres were treated with prescribed fire; however, there was no prescribed natural fire program while the Park revised its plan and completed required NEPA compliance. Revisions to the plan were completed and an environmental assessment released in December.

*There were 224 structural fire alarms.

*Don Cross retired in the spring, and Stephen Underwood was selected for the position. Reorganization of fire management places the Fire Management Officer under joint supervision of the Chief Ranger and the Chief of Resources Management in order to more effectively coordinate the management of prescribe fire efforts with wildland fire.

Helicopters

*The Protection Division had significant success in reducing or redirecting helicopter flights in Yosemite, especially away from the Valley, in an effort to correlate park values with a more sensitive use policy for helicopters. Helicopter use for fire totaled 152.5 hours (down 1.52% from 1988), while helicopter use for SARs totaled 54.1 hours (down 47% from 1988).

Wilderness

*The 1989 data showed that overnight use of Yosemite wilderness was 69,698 visitors with a total of 117,532 visitor use nights. The Yosemite High Sierra Camps and contiguous USFS areas add a combined 41% of the total Yosemite wilderness use. Wilderness rangers patrolled 6,204 trail miles, contacting 14,688 of our overnight backcountry campers. Wilderness permit compliance remains high with over 96% of backcountry users in possession of a wilderness permit when contacted by ranger personnel.

Also, 112 groups (231 people) started the John Muir Trail here in Yosemite.

Valley District

*Valley personnel participated in the Exxon-Valdez cleanup by furnishing three rangers for details. Of those, Frank Dean spent 12 weeks in the Anchorage office assisting with legal aspects. Diminished funding levels resulted in the cancellation of the mounted horse school and the Valley horse patrol and overall staff reduction.

Wawona District

*Bear incidents were drastically reduced as a result of near-100% compliance with use of the food containers. A review of the hang gliding program was begun, with possible development of alternative launch sites.

Mather District

*The Hetch Hetchy kiosk was put in place for its first season. The Ticketron reservation system was utilized for the Tuolumne Meadows and Crane Flat campgrounds for the second consecutive year, and Hodgdon Meadows and district group campgrounds for the third consecutive year.

Law Enforcement Office

*Lee Shackelton spent a number of weeks in Alaska directing the investigation/documentation of oil spill in the Exxon-Valdez incident for the Alaska Regional Office.

	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>
*Part I Offenses	438	270
Part II Offenses	987	651
Citations/non-traffic	680	500
Traffic Citations	3,420	3,400
Arrests	583	238
Motor Vehicle Accidents	687	578
w/property damage	604	497
w/personal injury	83	79