COME WINTER, COME WATER, COME...

LANDSLIDE!!!!!!

by Christopher Crockett
Senior Park Ranger
County of Santa Clara

In many California parks, Summer has left the ground burned and bare. As Winter approaches there comes the sure threat of rain and snow. The combination of these two factors greatly increases the possibility of landslides which could threaten park facilities and visitor safety. Many think landslides are unpredictable, but to informed park professionals there are consistent warning signs which might help prevent disaster.

These indicators include evidence of previous landslides such as: 1) Tilted poles and fences; 2) Bowed or toppled trees; 3) Bare vertical cliffs; 4) Collapsed structures; 5) Streams with diverted flow patterns; 6) Irregular land contours like slumps and spoon-shaped excavations; and 7) Proximity to old mining areas.

Signs of recent activity which increase the likelihood of slides include: 1) Altered slopes left without vegetation; 2) Undermining of slopes by streams or winter run-off; 3) Areas disturbed by construction; 4) Burned-over areas; 5) Doors that stick or jam for the first time in buildings; 6) Fresh cracks in foundations and walls; 7) Slowly widening cracks in sidewalks or pavement; and 8) leaking water/severed utility lines.

If you suspect a landslide condition which might threaten your park, all corrective action should be directed at one culprit-water. Improving slope stability usually requires the aid of a geologist and/or soils engineer.

Park staff can minimize slide hazards by: 1) cutting drainage ditches to divert water away from affected slopes; 2) keep-
ELECTION ALERT!!

Keep your eyes on your mailbox for your PRAC Election Ballot. It should be reaching you sometime this Winter. But, in the meantime the Association needs to fill the following positions on the Executive Board- President, Vice President, and Valley Representative. If you would like to take on a productive challenge, or you know a PRAC member who would, contact Executive Manager, Doug Bryce, and express your interest. Doug can be contacted at: P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828-0366. You can also telephone Doug at (916) 383-2530. Look for detailed information on the responsibilities, roles, and benefits of each officer position in the next issue of The Signpost.

WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING FOR RANGERS COMING IN APRIL OF 1990

PRAC Coastal Representative, Glen Kinney, is working with John Nicholas, of the West Valley College Park Management Program, to conduct a 16-hour Wildland Fire Training Workshop for Rangers. The activity is tentatively scheduled for April 4th and 5th in Saratoga, CA.

The preliminary course curriculum includes sessions on fire physics, fuels, weather/topographical factors, fire behavior, hazard situations, essential safety orders, the Interagency Command System, prevention/education, mobile attack, and aircraft safety.

The workshop will also include practical exercises relating to hose laying, handline construction, fireline construction, and other field simulation exercises.

Workshop fees will range from $40.00-50.00 per person. For more information on this exciting PRAC education event contact Glen Kinney, Livermore Area Recreation & Park District, (415) 449-0491.

THE PRAC AGENCY DIRECTORY: Results of the Survey

PRAC Executive Manager, Doug Bryce, conducted two sets of survey mailings to nearly 480 park agencies throughout California. To date, 261 agencies have responded. Seventy-seven agencies claimed to have "ranger personnel". The survey questionnaire asked questions pertaining to staff statistics, training, hiring qualifications, and related data. After information is compiled, it will comprise a comprehensive agency directory. This directory will be available to PRAC members, as a new service, sometime in 1990. Watch for further information in future editions of The Signpost.
NOMINATION FOR PRAC
"HONORARY MEMBER" SOUGHT

PRAC is currently soliciting nominations from its members for Honorary Member for 1990. In its third year, this program has recognized individuals who have been pioneers and innovators in the "Park Ranger Movement" in California. Tom Smith from West Valley College, and Jerry Lawrence from the City of Palo Alto have been the recipients of this honor.

If you wish to nominate a deserving individual, submit a justification statement to: Christopher Crockett, PRAC Awards Committee, Coyote River Parkway-Hellyer Unit, 985 Hellyer Avenue, San Jose, CA., 95111, (408) 225-0225. The statement should include the nominee’s: (1) name, (2) address/phone, (3) current and past agency affiliations, (4) and information which substantiates the nominee’s role as an innovator in the Park Ranger profession. Nominees need not be current or past members of PRAC. Deadline for nominations is January 1, 1990.

THE RANGER GAMES OF '89

by Judy Morris
PRAC Coastal Representative

With poetic license by the Editor

For those who made it, it was a joyous time...
Challenging volleyball in grit and in grime.
BBQ’d burgers grilled by Pat Hayes...
Making new friends made the evening O’ so gay.

Some rangers they came from far, and from wide...
Places like Yosemite, Sacramento, and the Tulare countryside.
The rest of the sixteen resided not far away...
In parts named Fremont, Palo Alto, and San Jose.

And when came the end of this festive occasion...
(Coordinator Morris of the City of Fremont could be heard chanting...)
Same time next year, but how ‘bout a new location?

PRAC would like to formalize its involvement in the 1990 "Ranger Games" by creating a committee. If you are interested contact: Judy Morris, PRAC Coastal Representative at (415) 791-4340.

The Signpost
COMING ATTRACTIONS!

PRAC - CSPRA - League
1990 Joint Conference

Speakers - Panels - Group Discussions - Professional Papers

Golf - Tennis - Banquet - Dance - Tours

Holiday Inn, Chico

Look for more information in the mail, and in future issues of The Signpost

If you are interested in helping to plan the Conference, volunteers are still needed!
Contact Tom Hof sommer/Dave Lydick at (916) 366-2072

PRAC FALL WORKSHOP
"Field Interpretation and the New Park Visitor"

LAST CHANCE DRIVE

A few spots for this exciting educational event remain, but you must register now!

Workshop sessions include: Changing demographics in California parks beyond the Year 2000, Discussion on providing visitor services to special populations, Cross-cultural land ethics, Communication with urban and multi-cultures, Urban park work programs, Hands-on regional park interpretation.

The keynote speakers will be William Penn Mott, former director of the U.S. National Park Service; and Ron Russo of the East Bay Regional Park District.

Workshop fees are: (Before 10/20/89) $30 each for PRAC/CSPRA member, $40 each for non-members. (After 10/20/89) $35 each for PRAC/CSPRA members, $45 each for non-members.

Send your checks to: PRAC-Fall Workshop '89, P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828-0366.

Call Doug Bryce for more information at (916) 383-2530.
A.B. 805
POST-MORTEM

The Peace Bill, (Assembly Bill 805), has passed both houses of the Legislature, and is now on its way to Governor George Deukmejian's desk for signature into law. Though it may seem passage of this bill is virtually guaranteed, there is one more thing PRAC members opposing A.B. 805 can do. Write to: Governor Deukmejian, The State Capitol, Sacramento, CA., 94248. Express your opposition to the bill before the Governor makes it a public law. Help protect the right of park and recreation agencies in California to designate "park ranger" job series in the future, without having to classify their personnel as full-fledged peace officers. Rangers are more than just law enforcement officers—they're naturalists, resource managers, maintenance specialists, firefighters, first aid specialists. They're RANGERS!!!!

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PRAC would like to thank Tom Hofsommer and Dave Lydick from the Sacramento County Parks & Recreation Department, and Doug Bryce for their outstanding efforts in opposing A.B. 805. They are great advocates of the PRAC philosophy, and are ambassadors of the park ranger profession to countless individuals throughout the State of California.

MR. HENDRICKS GOES TO WASHINGTON

The Following Is A Reprint Of A Letter To PRAC President, Bill Hendricks

August 9, 1989

Dear Mr. Hendricks:

Many thanks for your letter letting me know of your support for the Land & Water Conservation Fund appropriations to acquire a number of privately owned lands in California. I'm glad to know we share a commitment to preserving our spectacular lands and open spaces for public enjoyment.

In the past I have worked hard to secure Land & Water Conservation Fund monies for important projects in California, such as the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, California Desert Tortoise habitat, Sacramento River and San Francisco Bay national wildlife refuges, as well as lands in the Kern Plateau, the Hope Valley, and the Lake Tahoe Basin.

I'll continue to support these projects as I seek funds this year for these and other worthy acquisitions, including parcels in Carson Pass, Castle Peak, and Carson-Iceberg Wilderness.

I am pleased to note that President Bush has amended the Fiscal Year 1990 budget to include $206 million for the Land & Water Conservation Fund. President Reagan's original FY 1990 budget included only $24 million. I'll do my best to see that some of that money goes toward the acquisition of the lands I have mentioned. It's good to know of your support.

With best wishes...

Alan Cranston
U.S. Senator
PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

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The Signpost is published by the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC). The Association mailing address is P.O. Box 28366, Sacramento, CA., 95828. The Signpost Editor is Christopher Crockett. Articles of 1,000 words, or less, are welcome. All submissions become the property of PRAC, and may be edited without notice. Submissions should be mailed to Christopher Crockett, Coyote River Parkway-Helleyer Unit, 985 Helleyer Avenue, San Jose, CA., 95111. Information can also be submitted by telephone at (408) 225-0225. Submission deadlines are the last day of January, March, May, July, September, and November.