

Summer Pear Lake End of Season Report 96

Bears at Pear Lake? Virtually unheard of until now. June was the first official sighting of bears at Pear Lake this year. The bear walked right by the Pear Lake Hut. The bears' favorite place was Emerald Lake at approximately 1800 hours each evening in July and Aug. Snow melted by the end of June this year and the WatchTower was opened by this time. There were two snow storms that occurred this summer and about ten days of rainfall. It seemed to be an unusually wet summer. The season started slow this year as far as visitation went, however it gradually increased to become an average visitation year. The Pear Lake Ranger this year was Jane Weisenberger.

Pear Lake Cabin

This year there are numerous problems with the cabin. The exterior woodbeams are rotting and need to be replaced, there is a hole underneath the eaves of the roof that is an access to the upstairs of the cabin. Marmots and critters get in and it can be quite disturbing to the cabin and its human occupants. The outside basement door needs to be replaced with a metal door so the marmots can't get in there. The Pellet stove is working great even though the heat indicator doesn't work. You have to wait until the fire in the firepot is burning freely and then turn the dial on. Once on the stove immediately starts feeding pellets into the pot. 100 pellet bags are stored upstairs for the winter as well as approximately 12 of each type of firestarter fuel to get the stove going. All the additional firestarter is upstairs in a garbage storage.

The cabin has been maintained in a very clean state all summer and has been thoroughly cleaned to start the winter. The emergency radio is working properly and there are 8 extra batteries. There are two windows that have minor cracks in them and probably need replacing next summer. Only one window was replaced this summer. A full inventory of the cabin and gear has been completed and new signs were made for the winter: Solar Lighting Operations and Daily cabin clean-up signs.

Trails

Very little maintenance was needed on the trail at the beginning of the season. Snow melted from the trail by the end of June. This year I spent a great deal of time cleaning the trail and the campsites of trash. In return I received more compliments than ever before about how clean the area was.

Campgrounds

The new system for designated sites was put into effect this year. This system ensures that no more visitors camp at Pear or Emerald than there is room for, as per the Superintendents compendium.

Pear Lake has 11 sites. 4 of the sites are for one tent only, or three people, and 7 of the sites accommodate two tents, or six people per site; allowing 54 people a night. Emerald Lake has 8 sites. Three of these site are for one tent only and five of the sites are for two tent, allowing about 39 people a night. The trailhead office has a tally sheet binder to keep track of the visitors. This system seems to be working very well and the visitors don't seem to think it's too difficult. In past year Emerald has gotten more visitation than Pear, but with this new designated system the areas are being impacted much more equally.

As far as violations went this last year, there were fewer than last year. I spent more time in the campgrounds so maybe the show of presence prevented some violations. I was extremely happy with the lack of new firepits built at Heather Lake. And although I gave 3 ticket for dogs, I saw much fewer dog tracks than last year.

Stats on Tickets given:

Type of contact	number of tickets given for the summer
1. Food storage	1
2. Weapon	1
3. Dogs	3
4. O.B. camping	2

There were 3 minor medicals this year and no medivacs. July 4th there was a fatality flown out of the tableland. This 48 year old male had died 2 days earlier in his sleep. His death was related to the altitude and diabetes.

Maintenance

Emerald Toilets-

Work orders have been written for the following problems:

1. Solar Panel is off- Toilet smells
2. Plastic channel that funnels air into waste storage bins has been chewed up by animals.
3. Can't open the cleaning supply room- door is jammed
4. The railing and some shingles are busted from the snow
5. Storage bins need to be emptied the are full.

Pear Lake Toilets:

1. Waste containers need to be emptied- unable to turn the bottom tines, they are so full - These need to be emptied yearly

Moose Lake needs to be hauled out as Trash - There is approximately 700 lbs. of toilet trash to be flown out.

Visitation

There were more visitors this year and more visitor nights than last year. However, there were less permits given out. Meaning that the groups were a lot bigger this year and they stayed an average of 7 nights each. Last year each visitor stayed an average of 2 nights so the impact in and around the campground has increased drastically.

Stats :

Trail permits for the Lakes Trail - 376

Visitor nights for the Lakes Trail - 7873

Backpackers on the Lakes Trail - 1164

Total contacts for the season - 894

Total fishing license contacts - 34

Total permits checked - 356

This year I spent more time on the trail and in the campground making contacts than in years past. I've noticed a large improvement of the cleanliness around the campgrounds and trails. I have recieved many compliments about how amazingly nice and clean the area is.

Fire Scars and Pits

Alta Meadow will always have some hidden fire pits, but this year, after rehabbing 13 pits, the place appears much cleaner than last year. Eventually we will be ahead of the firebuilders if we continue to get the right information out and clean the pits as they happen.

Panther Gap: This area has very little fuel to be seen anywhere. I think it would be to the resources benefit if we shut this place to fires until the fuel loads come back.

Mehrten Meadow: This year there were 3 legal fire pits and only a few illegal pits that have been cleaned up. I rehabbed pits at the begining and end of the season. The area is amazingly clean now. Be sure to keep an eye on the wood supply. When it starts going down significantly it would be a good idea to write up a 343 to get it closed to fires.

Stock Use

Refer to the Stock regs sheet and 36 CFR. There was approximately five times the usage this year as last. With only 20 or so stock visits, there has been a significant amount of damage to the trail. Among the worst of the problems were: 1. Waterbars being ripped out
2. Cutting the trails

Emerald Lake basin saw the most damage with the trail on either side of it having many rock waterbars completely ripped out leaving loose rock strewn along the trail. Just north of Panther Gap, there is an area that I have rehabbed over and over and it continually was cut by stock. They would just go around the rehabbed area. The first half mile of the Lakes trail was also impossible to maintain. Stock cut the area up so much it was difficult to tell where the real trail was.

There are 20 stock allowed in one group at a time. All regulations apply to the concessionaires as well as private parties. The guided trips are only allowed a maximum of 18 visitors while needing 1 guide for every 10 people.

Trailhead

It is important to get with the trailhead Rangers and let them know what you need help with. While they are on patrol, they should be contacting every person they encounter. If the visitor is dayhiking, the Ranger should ask where the person is going, if they have any questions about the area, and that there has been a lot of problems with people littering so please remind them to pick up all their trash. When TH ranger encounters a backpacker, the Ranger should look at the visitors permit and tell them about the important regulations in the area, like the fact that there are no fires.

You may want to make a list of information that you want TH to tell all the visitor that come to the Pear Lake area. Important information that I sent out this year was:

1. Close Toilet Floors and Seat
2. Bring your own TP
3. When Large groups come tell them that they will need to use multiple sites
4. Visitors must use the BB day and night and no hanging food where their are BB's in the area.
5. Marmots eat everything especially during the first two months of the season so visitor should hang their packs
6. Do not prop open the toilet door

Supervisor

This year Scott Wanek was my supervisor. It was quite a pleasure working for Scott. He is amazingly supportive. He was very interested and open to ideas and changes that I had during the year. The campground designated sights were the first big change of the season and he and Bud helped with creating a way to keep track of the visitors in the designated sites. Scott also made very clear what he expected of me and what the goals for the year were. He allowed me to be on a Sar this year that took me out of the area for a week. He also informed me of the important training that was occurring in the frontcountry and permitted me time to attend. I greatly appreciate all his expertise and help for the season and look forward to working with him in the future.

INVENTORY

Books:

Discovering Sierra Mammals
Sierra Nevada Natural History
S.C. Naturalist Guide
CFR 91
Med. for Mountaineering
Giant Sequoias of S.N.
Birds of N.A.
Challenge of the Big Trees
Starr's Guide

1 Black
2 Gallon Lacquer
Wire Pulling Lubricant
3 1/2 Gallon Thinner
2 Qt Glazing Compound

Resource Needs

Laminated Signs:

2 Laminated cougar Signs
1 Emerald and Pear Regs
1 giardia
2 Fishing Regs
2 Food storage and Bears

Maps: Clarence King

Mt. Brewer
2 Triple divide
Giant Forest

White Paint

1/4" Paint brush
Glow stickers for winter markers
Yellow Paint for markers
total of 4 Propane cylinders
30' webbing
BB screen
100' P-cord
2 prusics
10mm rope
fire gloves
winter sheets
Woodchips for Clivus

Rags

2 pads paper

Glass for propane lanterns: Mdl. 2 mantle CDF 0520

Katadyne filters Mdl. 1070 (3)

Long Thick rubber gloves 2 pr.

Books: Trees, birds, Flowers, Mushrooms, and Mammals

Latex gloves

finger bandages

Mop and handle

Lg strike anywhere matches

10 mouse traps

Lg nails

Lg screws

Copy of Superintendents compendium

pg 7-whatever of the Location Codes

Make winter Signs for cabin clean-up

Make 50 copies of daily reports

Completed Projects

1. Revise Manual
2. Daily Reports

3. Revise Campground Maps
4. Revise Designated Camp Tally Sheet
5. Send winter needs to SNHA
6. Make resource list of winter items for NPS
7. send work order for Emerald Lake Toilet:
 - a. fan
 - b. storage door
 - c. railings
 - d. storage tanks need to be emptied
8. Make Summer Project List
9. Completed corrals investigation and report
10. Made Project list for Outward bound when they need a project
11. Studied for ICS test
12. have trailcrew blast new hole at Heather and built new fence
13. Paint Bear Boxes at Pear Lake
14. Clean Pellet stove out
15. Maintain monthly checklist for all gear
16. Write and complete winter SNHA manual
17. Inventory
18. Line campground paths with rocks
19. Clean Toilets and Turn tine weekly
20. Keep Cabin clean at all times

Projects still to complete

- Reports on Toilet maintenance, Moose toilet, Stock and Panther Gap Fires
- Rehab illegal campsites at Pear and Emerald and Heather
- Put up Winter markers on Lakes trail
- Make sure door on Emerald Toilet Cleaning Rm is Open - Check with maintenance
- Replace Laminated Signs in BB's at Pear Lake: all the signs are at the cabin
- Repair cut switchbacks all along the trail
- Replace Signs as needed in the Toilets-- They were replaced at the end of Last Summer so they probably don't need to be replaced
- The Toilet signs include: 1. Close Door and Lid
2. Bear Facts
- Write up any needed work orders in the area at the beginning of the year

Contents' to be Laminated for the Pear Binders

Table of Contents

- CH. 1 - NPS 9
- CH. 2 - NPS Superintendent Compendium