

Backcountry Problems In Mineral King

1. **Boyscout groups of 20+ size. Groups will get 2 or 3 permits breaking the group size up, but were seen hiking all together on the trail, as well as camping all together.**
 - **This was done after a discussion/minimum impact statement was given at the station.**
 - **LE rangers contacted boyscout groups on at least 6 occasions this past 97' season. O.T was submitted for extra hiking patrols to deal with the problems.**
 - **The person obtaining the permit would say they were splitting up, but would not follow through.**
2. **Large family reunions of 20 + individuals obtaining backcountry permits, breaking their group up but hiking and camping all together. ie, observed at Spring lake.**
 - **Groups come in seperately, "not attached", giving the appearance to trailhead rangers that it is a small group of 5 or 6.**
 - **Cabin owners seem to be the biggest offenders.**
3. **Pack Station Concession**
 - **Due to being unfamiliar and new to the area, often times spot trips packing in supplies had an after dark arrival. *SAFETY ISSUE**
 - **One particular spot trip to Forrester Lake did not arrive on time, which developed into a medical/sar situation for the individual staying back waiting on the packer. (Holt Sar)**
 - **Not familiar with distances, times, and grazing areas**
 - **Lack of day rides and several people in station asking for that service.**
 - **Groups going out on trips with pack concession and not getting minimum impact statements at the ranger station**
 - **Packers not relaying groups going out, dates, or numbers, locations, destinations to MK station or SDR.**
 - **Need for packers and all riders associated with pack trips much more familiar with backcountry minimum impact, rules, regs., special circumstances.**
 - **Grazing in meadows, dates changing, grazing in proper locations, not getting consistent information**
4. **Private Stock Groups**
 - **Taking dogs into backcountry for 4 and 5 days.**
 - **Private stock groups not always checking in the station for minimum impact statements, and sometimes no permit.**
5. **Hunters**
 - **This season there were groups and individual hunters in violation of the following:**
 - **no weapons permits**
 - **arriving and not realizing they had a 3+ hour hike up to 10,000+ele., to be able to legally hunt**
 - **driving and hiking through the park with weapons not broken down and completely in view. Complaints received by backpackers and day hikers.**
 - **driving through the park with weapons loaded in the vehicle. (citations issued)**
 - **hunters not stopping in the station and getting backcountry permits or not getting minimum impact statements.**
 - **poaching on the NPS boundary. (case documented in 96)**
 - **poached deer out of Atwell campground. (case pending, confession obtained)**
 - **observed bow hunter walking the NPS line at Farewell**
 - **lack of available staff and funding to adequately patrol all shifts am/pm during hunting season**