

Cottonwood Pack Station

Correspondence

File Code: 2720
Route To:

Date: August 22, 2011

Subject: July Tally Report for Cottonwood Pack Station

To: Files

This memo is to acknowledge the late submittal Cottonwood Pack Station's July tally information. Mr. Dennis Winchester hand delivered the use report to this office on August 16, 2011, one day past the court ordered due date. Administrative action was not taken as Mr. Winchester provided sufficient information to demonstrate he had the work completed but was physically unable to submit the reports.

Cottonwood Pack Station sits in a remote site in the southern Sierra. There is no electricity or telephone service at the site, including cellular telephone service. In early July, the generator and pumping equipment that provides well water to the entire Horseshoe Meadows recreation complex, including the pack station, failed. Repairs were made, but there was a subsequent failure around the 1st of August when the equipment was thought to have been struck by lightning. Replacement of the equipment was not complete until mid August. With the well pump out, Mr. Winchester had to spend several hours a day pumping water from Cottonwood Creek to keep his stock watered. In addition to this, Mr. Winchester's lead packer was unavailable due to injury which left Mr. Winchester alone to fulfill his packing commitments. The use reports were completed and ready to submit, but with no help available at the pack station, he was unable to get down to town to mail or hand deliver the reports until August 16th.

With the inordinate amount of time the well pump was down, at no fault of his, Mr. Winchester was required to remain on site to ensure the wellbeing of his stock and to attend to his packing commitments. For these reasons, administrative action was not taken for late submission of monthly use reports. To date, Mr. Winchester has submitted every required use report on or before the required due date.


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Deputy District Ranger

