3.5 - Other

- **Natural Resource Inventory** - No Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) plots were sampled during 1997 because no plots were burned during 1996. A few plots may be sampled during 1998 that were burned during 1997 in the Redwood Segment (segment #4). The NRI project has been carried out by staff of the Biological Resources Division of the USGS (formerly NBS). Their objectives have been to establish or revisit permanent inventory plots within the East Fork drainage. The general purpose of the NRI plots is to provide a systematic, plot-based inventory for detecting and describing the distribution of vascular plants, vertebrate animals, and soils throughout the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Within the East Fork, the plots document the preburn floristic composition and structure of vegetation. Since 1995, 18 plots have been established as part of the MKRRP (**Fig. 3.13-1**). These supplement 32 plots that already existed in the watershed. Plots that burned during 1995 have been revisited during 1996 (seven of nine were relocated) to assess burn impacts and first year postburn vegetation responses. An effort was made to also sample locations falling within the little known, dense chaparral vegetation of the East Fork.

- **Bark-Foraging Bird Species** - Todd Dennis (graduate student University of Virginia) conducted research that focused on understanding possible mechanisms that may limit bird species distributions (his emphasis is on the bark-foraging guild - some 14 species of woodpeckers, nuthatches, etc. inhabit the west slope of the Sierra Nevada). Over 600 foraging behavior plots were sampled along with some 450 descriptive vegetation plots during 1996 and 1997. Much of his field sampling was undertaken within the East Fork watershed and has included the examination of species within a number of recent burns in the drainage. He found a number of bark-foraging species to prefer these recent burned areas: northern flicker, white-headed woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, Williamson's sapsucker, and black-backed woodpecker. The latter species was only observed in recent burns which appear to be critical habitat for its presence. His data suggests that fire creates more habitat diversity, allowing better foraging opportunities and nesting locations. Sampling through 1997 is described in the 1997 MKRRP Annual Report (Caprio 1997). No further updates on the work carried out in 1997/1998 are available.