



NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Responsible Recreational Use of America's Public Lands and Waters

NEWS RELEASE

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'2010 Ranger of the Year' Award

WOODLAKE, CA – The National Forest Recreation Association (NFRA) is proud to announce there are two winners of the 2010 'Ranger of the Year' Award. NFRA President, Warren Meyer, stated that 'this year, there were two nominees who were particularly outstanding due to their efforts to work closely with their recreation partners, their willingness to work through problems together, and their excellent communication skills.' Meyer said he was pleased to award the honors to Ronda Bishop, from the Crescent Ranger District, Deschutes National Forest and to Kathleen Moore, from the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest.

Ronda Bishop was nominated by Chuck Shepard of Hoodoo Recreation. Shepard stated that "Ronda is not afraid of work. She is willing to give her all, not only for her specific assignment, but also in general for the Forest Service." Ronda works with campground concessionaires as well as resort owners and she is recognized for saying to her permittees "Let me see what I can do to help you." Other resort owners on the Forest concurred that Ronda had helped to get past roadblocks and she would go the extra mile for whatever was needed. Shepard said, "She always seems to be willing to meet even during times when she was busy in the Crescent community doing service to others. I have found that others in the community look up to her and feel fortunate to have her there."

Kathleen Moore was nominated by Wade Heuett of Recreation Resource Management of America, Inc. Heuett stated that Moore has been his permit administrator for the last 15 years on two different forests. He stated that "The working relationship we have with Kathy is instrumental to our continued success in providing excellent customer service to recreation users in our campgrounds. Her vast knowledge on special use permits helps us and the Forest Service to obtain the goals of better serving the public and maintaining these campgrounds." Heuett praised Kathy's communication skills and her ability to listen to all sides. He also appreciates her knowledge and understanding of the business environment. "Over the years, we have learned a lot from her regarding the USFS and concessionaire partnership concepts.

Her dedication to the concessionaire program is essential to its success. As situations surface, Kathy quickly begins communications to initiate corrective solutions expeditiously. This close working relationship is crucial in dealing with the challenges that can arise during a busy summer season.”

“It is a true pleasure that we recognize Ronda Bishop and Kathleen Moore,” stated Meyer. These individuals exemplify and put into practice what it takes to be a true ‘Partner in Recreation Services.’ It is important to NFRA to recognize dedicated recreation professionals who are truly committed to creating and maintaining a positive working relationship to better serve the public together.

Ronda and Kathleen will be honored at the National Forest Recreation Association’s 62nd Annual Conference, November 4, 2010, in Scottsdale, Arizona. Jim Pena, Associate Deputy Chief of the Forest Service, will help present the Award in partnership with NFRA President Warren Meyer, and NFRA Members Chuck Shepard and Wade Heuett.

NFRA’s ‘Ranger of the Year’ Award has been presented annually since 1982 to individuals who show personal dedication in the realm of recreation management, and exhibit a true sense of partnership with recreation service providers. “This is our opportunity to show our appreciation of outstanding individuals who work ‘above and beyond’ to provide better recreation service to our visitors,” stated Meyer. NFRA is comprised of businesses that provide camping, lodging, skiing, horseback riding, marinas, youth camps, rafting and other services and facilities to the public on National Forest lands.