



NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Responsible Recreational Use of America's Public Lands and Waters

NEWS RELEASE

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Don Lane and Dave McKee Honored at Awards Ceremony

WOODLAKE, CA – The National Forest Recreation Association (NFRA) is very proud to announce that Don Lane and Dave McKee have been selected as the 2015 ‘Rangers of the Year.’ NFRA President Jennifer Roeser stated she is pleased to be able to recognize these outstanding individuals for their outstanding work with their permittee partners in providing top quality recreation on their national forests.

Don Lane

Supervisory Recreation Forester

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit - California



Eric Mart, with California Land Management, nominated Don for this award. “I have worked with Don for over 30 years, and he is challenging, but always fair. He is one of the most knowledgeable individuals about outdoor recreation that I have met in the Forest Service, and he is very deserving of this award.” stated Mart.

Don has spent more than 40 years with the Forest Service and is the ‘go-to’ guy for historic Forest Service facts and policies. Fellow employee Bob Becker says that there is always an endless stream of employees who visit his office to ask him relevant questions related to their projects. “Don is an employee’s boss,” stated Becker. “His knowledge of outdoor recreation management is profound.” Don has been a spokesman for the Forest Service for over 20 years – as Ranger Don Lane – on the local radio station. He has broadcast over 3000 radio feature stories telling tales about historic events, pioneers, and simple but memorable people who are part of Lake Tahoe’s rich history. Don is also a popular author, and he gives history presentations as a keynote speaker to local community groups. He also teaches outdoor recreation, forestry, and natural history courses at the Lake Tahoe Community College.

Congratulations, Don on this well-deserved award!

Dave McKee
Recreation, Lands, Heritage, & Wilderness Staff Officer
Bighorn National Forest, Wyoming



Dave McKee was nominated for ‘Ranger of the Year’ honors by Esther Fishbaugh of Gallatin Canyon Campgrounds. Esther stated that “Dave has overseen our concession operations in a way that is neither burdensome nor invasive yet he is very committed to certifying that all the details of the permit are addressed.” Esther further states “He inspires us to be more adept at customer service and recordkeeping, yet understanding of the issues and constraints that we work within. Dave has done an outstanding job in leadership of his seasonal employees to help them interact with my personnel on the mountains.” Above all, Esther appreciates that Dave is their personal champion on the Forest to bring her pressing needs to the attention of and inclusion in the budgeting / spending plans of the Bighorn. “Of all the things Dave does well, by far the best of his accomplishments is his commitment to communication. We are included early in the process for campground rehabilitation projects to give our comments and insight to make the campgrounds more workable and maintainable. Everyone appreciates being included!”

Esther emphasizes that she has appreciated Dave’s experience, expertise and commitment to recreation. “I feel he has made our concession program stronger and has helped us become better at our job as well. He is truly enjoyable to work with and highly deserving of this award.”

Don and Dave will be honored at the National Forest Recreation Association’s 66th Annual Conference, on October 27, in Reno, Nevada. ‘We are truly pleased to be honoring Don and Dave. They have each received high accolades from their Recreation Service Partners for their excellence in working cooperatively to provide outstanding recreation opportunities for the public. It is a privilege to recognize these individuals who work understand the benefits and values of working so well with their permittees’ stated NFRA President Roeser. ‘They deserve this special honor.’

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. NFRA is comprised of businesses that provide camping, lodging, skiing, horseback riding, marinas, youth camps, shuttles, rafting and other recreation services and facilities to the public on National Forest lands.