



# **NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

Responsible Recreational Use of America's Public Lands and Waters

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Deborah McDougald Honored as 'Ranger of the Year'**

WOODLAKE, CA – The National Forest Recreation Association (NFRA) is very proud to announce that Deborah McDougald has been selected as the 2016 'Ranger of the Year.' Deb is the Wilderness Special Uses Permit Administrator and the Forest Stock Manager on the Sierra National Forest. NFRA President Steve Werner stated he is pleased to be able to recognize Deborah for her outstanding work with her permittee partners in providing unique and memorable recreation experiences on the National Forests.



Larry Knapp, owner of Yosemite Trails Saddle and Sleigh Company, nominated Deborah for this award. "It is a pleasure working with Debbie on our permit operations. Her knowledge of stock related issues and needs really helps with our communication. She has such a positive attitude, and knows how to get things done" stated Knapp.

Cindy Topping, from the Minarets Pack Station, said "Debbie is truly a woman with her roots and heart in the outdoors and she is especially dedicated to the Sierra

Nevada's, where she works and lives. It is always a pleasure to work with someone that shares the understanding of the high country and all it has to offer. She is honest, dependable and devoted to her job and we support her nomination as NFRA's Ranger of the Year." In her free time, Deborah works with the local Future Farmer of America groups teaching them how to pack and how to use Leave No Trace camping methods. She is also an active member of the Backcountry Horsemen of California and volunteers her time to participate in many of their education seminars and events. She rode with the Forest Service entry in the 2016 Rose Parade.

Deborah will be honored at the National Forest Recreation Association's 67th Annual Conference, on October 25, in Reno, Nevada. "It will be an honor to recognize Deborah at our Annual Conference for her outstanding work with our members," stated Werner. "She is very deserving of this award."

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.