The National Forest Recreation Association (NFRA) originated its annual ‘Ranger of the Year’ Award in 1982. The award is conducted with the cooperation and approval of the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to generate nationwide recognition of outstanding professional and community service by federal recreation managers at the local level.

Candidates for ‘Ranger of the Year’ may be nominated by any private citizen using public lands for recreational purposes.

Final selection is made by NFRA’s Board of Judges chaired by NFRA’s President. The Award is based on the following:

1. Dedication to duties and cooperation with private parties and permit holders using America’s public lands for recreational purposes.
2. Specific accomplishments relating to service to the public.
3. Participation in local community affairs.

**Ranger of the Year Award Winners:**

1983  Raymond O. “Slim” Wright  USDA Forest Service  
Animal Packer  
Wapiti Ranger District  
Shoshone National Forest - Wyoming

1984  Virgil Anderson  USDA Forest Service  
Recreation Specialist  
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit – California

1985  Dale Bittle  USDA Forest Service  
Supervisory Forest Technician  
Grand Mesa-Gunnison-Uncompahgre National Forest – Colorado

1986  Robert N. Boyle  USDA Forest Service  
Forestry Technician  
Wapiti Ranger District  
Shoshone National Forest – Wyoming

1987  Norman Anderson  USDA Forest Service  
Wenatchee National Forest – Washington
1988  Alexander “Skip” Shoutis  USDA Forest Service
      Forestry Technician
      Lander Ranger District
      Shoshone National Forest – Wyoming
      Darrell Sall  Bureau of Land Management
      Manager
      Garnet Resource Area – Montana

1989  Robert Addison  USDA Forest Service
      District Ranger
      Cannell Meadow Ranger District
      Sequoia National Forest – California
      LuVerne Grussing  Bureau of Land Management
      Recreation Planner
      Cottonwood Resource Area – Idaho

1990  N. Jane Oden  USDA Forest Service
      Special Uses Permit Administrator
      Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit – California
      Wesley Girard  USDA Forest Service
      Prescott National Forest – Arizona

1991  John Hojnowski  USDA Forest Service
      Special Uses Administrator
      Diamond Lake Ranger District
      Umpqua National Forest – Oregon

1992  Christine Nota  USDA Forest Service
      District Ranger
      Minarets Ranger District
      Sierra National Forest – California
      Mark Buckbee  Bureau of Land Management
      Recreation Operations Manager
      Roseburg – Oregon

1993  Jack Horner  USDA Forest Service
      Landscape Architect
      Plumas National Forest – California
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Bob Wetzel</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Recreation &amp; Wilderness Manager</td>
<td>Calaveras Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest – California</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Marily Reese</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Assistant Recreation Officer</td>
<td>Sequoia National Forest – California</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Teri Drivas</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Acting District Ranger</td>
<td>Mariposa Ranger District, Sierra National Forest – California</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Vicki Ramming</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Permit Administrator</td>
<td>Bend and Fort Rock Ranger Districts, Deschutes National Forest - Oregon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ken Anderson</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td></td>
<td>Coconino National Forest</td>
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<td>1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>John Knorr</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Recreation Special Uses Program Manager</td>
<td>Intermountain Region – Utah</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Mary Allison</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Recreation Officer</td>
<td>Hume Lake Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest - California</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Steven Nelson</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Recreation Planner</td>
<td>Gifford Pinchot National Forest- Washington</td>
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</table>

NFRA Ranger of the Year Awards
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Forest Service</th>
<th>District/Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Connie Lane</td>
<td>Recreation Officer</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Globe Ranger District, Tonto National Forest - Arizona</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Scott Layton</td>
<td>Developed Recreation Manager</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Ogden Ranger District, Wasatch-Cache National Forest - Utah</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Jim Thorsen</td>
<td>District Ranger</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Seminole Ranger District, Ocala National Forest - Florida</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Tom Burns</td>
<td>Resource Officer</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Tule River Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest - California</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Barbara Croonquist</td>
<td>Special Uses Permit Administrator</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>San Gabriel River Ranger District, Angeles National Forest - California</td>
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*Distinguished Service Awards:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Forest Service</th>
<th>District/Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Arthur Wirtz</td>
<td>District Ranger</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Mesa Ranger District, Tonto National Forest - Arizona</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dave Carey</td>
<td>Outdoor Recreation Planner</td>
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<td>Bozeman Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest - Montana</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Arthur Wirtz</td>
<td>District Ranger</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Mesa Ranger District, Tonto National Forest - Arizona</td>
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</table>
2009  John Campbell  USDA Forest Service
       Recreation Staff Officer
       Heber-Kamas Ranger District
       Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest – Utah

2010  Ronda Bishop  USDA Forest Service
       Recreation Specialist
       Crescent Ranger District
       Deschutes National Forest – Oregon

       Kathleen Moore  USDA Forest Service
       Recreation Special Uses and Wilderness Program Manager
       Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre & Gunnison National Forest – Colorado

2011  John Cameron  USDA Forest Service
       Forest Service Technical Representative
       National Recreation Reservation Service & Rec.gov

2012  Hern Crane  USDA Forest Service
       South Zone Recreation Manager
       Inyo National Forest - California

2013  No Annual Conference

2014  Karen Finlayson  USDA Forest Service
       NRRS Region 5 Coordinator
       Recreation Solutions Enterprise Unit

       Molly Fuller  USDA Forest Service
       District Ranger
       Summit Ranger District
       Stanislaus National Forest – California

2015  Don Lane  USDA Forest Service
       Supervisory Recreation Forester
       Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit - California

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

2016  Deborah McDougald  USDA Forest Service
       Wilderness Special Uses Permit Administrator and Forest Stock Manager
       Sierra National Forest – California
<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Organization</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Mike Kenealy</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Special Uses</td>
<td>White River National Forest - Colorado</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Brian Poturlashi</td>
<td>USDA Forest Service</td>
<td>Recreation Program Manager</td>
<td>Coconino National Forest - Arizona</td>
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