



# **NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

Responsible Recreational Use of America's Public Lands and Waters

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Tricia Maki Honored as 'Ranger of the Year'**

WOODLAKE, CA – The National Forest Recreation Association (NFRA) is very proud to announce that Tricia Maki has been selected as the 2019 'Ranger of the Year.' Tricia is the District Recreation Staff officer on the Kern River Ranger District on the Sequoia National Forest.

Eric Mart, President of California Land Management, the campground concessionaire on the Sequoia, nominated Tricia for the award. "I am always impressed with her ability to step right up when it comes to problems that may occur or a specific direction that is needed. Having visitors enjoy a positive experience when they visit the area is first and foremost on her list. The operation of all the campgrounds on the Kern River and Lake Isabella is a job that requires a partnership and strong relationship in order to maintain the quality of visitor engagement. Tricia is always more than willing to walk the extra mile to make sure our visitors enjoy their stay. She is an asset to the district and its operations and a pleasure to work with."

Luther Stephens, from Whitewater Voyages, a rafting company on the Kern River, highly recommended Tricia for the award. "She has been an absolute pleasure to work with and has helped improve the program here on the Kern immensely. She is always available if we have questions or concerns, and her input and willingness to work on the nuances of the program has facilitated the smoothest running operation I can recall in my 30 years of running trips on the Kern."

Barbara Hinkey, Executive Director of Keepers of the Kern, also had high praise for Tricia. "We have found that Tricia has gone above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to supporting our projects. Were it not for her guidance, we would not have the success that has come to be. Her dedication to the US Forest Service and her position has made it possible for our area to excel in public relations, education and community involvement."

District Ranger Alfred Watson also supported her nomination. "Her efforts in and around the Kern Valley have led to creation and strengthening of relationships and partners. Without Tricia's expertise, the local outdoor experience would not be what it is today. Tricia is a top notch public servant," stated Watson.

NFRA congratulates Tricia on her exemplary leadership in creating and strengthening relationships. Her passion and enthusiasm for collaboration with her recreation partners and the local community are truly appreciated. Tricia will be honored at an awards ceremony at NFRA's 2019 Conference and Trade Show, October 29<sup>th</sup> in Reno, Nevada.

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 members are recreation service providers providing camping, lodging, horseback riding, marinas, youth camps, shuttles, rafting and other recreation services and facilities on public lands.



**Tricia Maki – 2019 Ranger of the Year**