



NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Responsible Recreational Use of America's Public Lands and Waters

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Marily Reese, Executive Director

Robert Becker Honored as 'Ranger of the Year'

WOODLAKE, CA – The National Forest Recreation Association (NFRA) is very proud to announce that Robert (Bob) Becker has been selected as the 2022 'Ranger of the Year.' Bob was the Recreation Specialist for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit in California, from which he retired this past February.

Bob has over 35 years in public land management in both the public and private sectors. For 29 years/seasons he worked for the Forest Service on several national forests and for 6 years with Woodward Clyde Consultants, a private environmental consulting firm out of San Diego and Phoenix.

Raised in Sparks, Nevada, Bob's eight year college journey started by studying Outdoor Recreation Management at the University of Nevada Reno, and finished up with a degree in Geography from Chico State University. His first season with the Forest Service in 1974 was a Fleischmann Work Scholarship on the Toiyabe National Forest which was sponsored through the University of Nevada. He was awarded the scholarship after interviewing and competing against other nominated students. The work scholarship introduced him to many facets of the Forest Service including recreation management, wildlife surveys, timber cruising, and firefighting.

After his scholarship work Bob was hooked on the Forest Service and used seasonal forest work to finance getting through college. He spent time on several National Forests and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department working on exciting and adventurous jobs such as:

- Engine crewman on the Hat Creek District of the Lassen National Forest.
- Hotshot crewman on the Happy Jack Hotshots on the Coconino National Forest.
- Hotshot Crew Boss on Santa Barbara County Fire Department "Crew One".
- Helitack Squad Boss on Helitack 25 on the Inyo National Forest in Lone Pine, California.
- Wilderness Ranger on the Mt. Whitney District of the Inyo National Forest.
- He finally finished up funding college by spending two hard seasons cutting and delivering firewood in Reno Nevada.

It was in San Diego in 1989 that Bob got back to land management planning by working with *Woodward-Clyde Consultants*, an international hydrogeology and environmental consulting firm. It was working with this firm that he developed his skills in resource planning. Many times their clients were government entities including the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM. Bob was a Senior Staff Scientist and worked on many environment projects including many for the mining industry helping them identify and minimize environment impacts from their operations. Most notable was working with the BLM to sustainably reopen the Robinson Open Pit Copper Mine in Ely, Nevada.

Bob got back to the Forest Service in 1997 when he took on seasonal work for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. As a Front Country Ranger he helped manage the new Fee Demo program in Desolation Wilderness, one of the most heavily visited wilderness areas in the nation.

Five years and one bicycle trip around the world later, Bob picked up fulltime work with the FS by writing a prospectus for the newly purchased Dreyfus estate just north of Zephyr Cove Resort. After that effort Bob worked with Don Lane (2015 'Ranger of the Year') in helping to manage Desolation Wilderness, the Dispersed Recreation program and most importantly serving as the Permit Administrator for California Land Management, the long standing Camping and Recreation site concessionaire at the time. More recently his responsibilities had expanded and Bob took on the permit administration for several large resorts including Zephyr Cove, Camp Richardson, Meeks Bay, and the Heavenly Ski Area.

Through the years Bob was able to increase his knowledge of recreation management by pursuing work details on other National Forests. He had been a Recreation Staff Officer on the Pacific and Placerville Ranger Districts of the Eldorado National Forest, and on the Mammoth Ranger District on the Inyo National Forest. In 2019 he detailed into the Recreation and Wilderness Staff officer position for the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Bob worked on many planning projects throughout the years, including writing the recreation portion of the Revised Forest Plan, and other camping and resort prospectus's, but he reports that the most rewarding work of his career has been working closely with concessionaires in providing sustainable high quality recreation opportunities to the public.

Eric Mart, President of California Land Management (the concessionaire on the LTBMU for many years), said that Bob "was always committed to making the Lake Tahoe permit a success and wanted it to set an example for other Forests. As such - he led the special uses team towards that end. He was always interested in our point of view (as the private partner) and was sensitive to our problems. Bob was always a good listener and was always timely and fair in resolving issues of conflict."

"On behalf of the National Forest Recreation Association, I want to thank Bob for his years of service, and his dedication to working with his recreation partners in a truly professional manner. He has made a difference in helping to provide outstanding recreation experiences for visitors to the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit" stated NFRA President, Warren Meyer. "He will be missed, but we wish him well in his retirement."

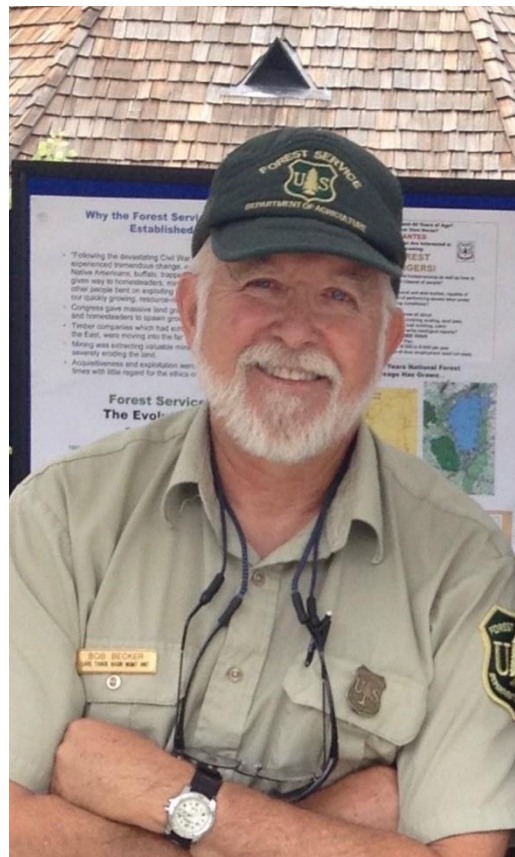
Bob will be honored at an awards ceremony during NFRA's Virtual Conference, March 9, 2022.

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.



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