



NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Responsible Recreational Use of America's Public Lands and Waters



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rick DeLappe Honored as 'Ranger of the Year'

WOODLAKE, CA – The National Forest Recreation Association (NFRA) is very proud to announce that Rick DeLappe has been selected as the 2024 'Ranger of the Year.' Rick was the Recreation One Stop Program Manager for the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service. He showed great leadership of a highly complex program working with contractors as well as concessionaire partners and agency employees on the [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) visitor reservation service and data management.

Rick oversaw all operations for the interagency Recreation One Stop program. From day to day operations and financial management to strategic planning, acquisition, and contract management, Rick provided management coordination for this national platform which includes the Recreation.gov website and Recreation Information Database.

Rick grew up in California and graduated from Humboldt State University in 1986 with a degree in Botany. He began working for the National Park Service in 1989 as a fee collector in Rocky Mountain National Park. Passionate about the great outdoors, Rick worked as a ranger across the country in Rocky Mountain, Haleakala, Jean Lafitte, Yellowstone and Zion National Parks. Rick began working with the Recreation One Stop program in 2003 and recently retired in December, 2023.

Rick was always committed to participating in the Annual NFRA Conference to conduct training sessions, program updates, and discussions regarding a myriad of issues. Many improvements were implemented during Rick's tenure, to the benefit of each of the parties involved with the contract. Rick always enabled his team to also participate in the conferences, which provided a great sense of continuity and rapport. Those positive relationships have been critical to working collaboratively to solve problems.

NFRA's President, Warren Meyer, congratulates Rick on his exemplary leadership. "His commitment to the many NFRA members is greatly appreciated and it is an honor to recognize him for his dedication and outstanding service," stated Meyer. Rick will be honored at NFRA's Annual Conference, February 27, 2024.

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.