



Highest natural resource honors bestowed

The National Park Service recently presented five individuals with its 1998 Director's Awards for Natural Resource Stewardship. The honors recognize outstanding achievements in the protection of ecosystem health in parks. The awards were given during September at the Society of Ecological Restoration's annual meeting, held at the Presidio in San Francisco. This year's winners have fought to prevent exotic plants from destroying native vegetation, developed programs to inventory and monitor park plants and animals, and applied science to help managers make sound decisions.

Kathy M. Davis, Chief of Resource Management with the Southern Arizona Office (Phoenix) is the recipient of the Director's Award for Natural Resource Management. She is recognized for her leadership in the development and implementation of the NPS Resources Careers Initiative. Under Kathy's leadership, the Resources Careers task force conceived, developed, and completed professional, career-ladder position descriptions and classification evaluation statements in natural and cultural resource series and in interdisciplinary series. Her efforts affect every resource manager in the National Park Service by creating a framework for professionalization and success. Additionally, Kathy serves as an effective resource manager for 10 small parks in southern Arizona.

William Halvorson is the Co-operative Park Studies Unit Leader at the University of Arizona-USGS Biological Resources Division. Halvorson is a champion of research applicabil-

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ity in park management. His continual, professional support of park staffs and commitment to quality research and resource management in national park areas in southern Arizona has enabled these units to overcome significant challenges. One of his trademarks is communication of research results through such means as a forum he helped found for the discussion and evaluation of natural and cultural resource programs. Additionally, he published *Bajada* (a research newsletter) for several years and coauthored an important chapter entitled "A lesson learned from a century of applying research to management of national parks" for the 1996 book, *Science in Ecosystem Management in the National Parks*.

Karen Wade is the winner of the Director's Award for Superintendent of the Year for Natural Resource Stewardship. As Superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina and Tennessee, Karen encouraged her staff to initiate the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory, an ambitious effort to identify all species living within the park. Under her direction, the park developed a strategy to complete the inventory without significant federal funding. Additionally, Karen is widely regarded as a creative thinker and believes strongly that partnerships among a broad cross-section of constituents are key to solving problems related to park issues. She has recently become Intermountain Regional Director of the National Park Service.

Richard R. Potts II is the Natural Resource Program Manager at Kalaupapa National Historical Park, Hawaii, and recipient of the Trish Patterson-Student Conservation Association Award for Natural Resource Management

in a Small Park. In just over three years, Rick has transformed natural resource management at the park from virtual nonexistence into an energetic program that addresses a wide range of issues from an ecosystem perspective. He has identified threats within designated, high priority "special ecological areas" within the park, and obtained funding to equip a vegetation management specialist. Under Rick's leadership, several thousand acres of native Hawaiian ecosystems are being protected from alien ungulates by fencing, administrative hunting by local hunters, and aerial shooting. Also, he has also instituted monitoring programs for key native Hawaiian species, developed population estimates of axis deer and pigs, and helped protect marine and freshwater resources in Kalaupapa. As a result of the award, the Student Conservation Association will underwrite a seasonal SCA Resource Assistant position for the park.

Joseph Dunstan is the Sustainability Coordinator for the Pacific West Region and recipient of the Director's Award for Excellence in Natural Resource Stewardship through Maintenance. Joe is a leader in promoting sustainable practices and opportunity planning in parks. He has been able to increase the role of sustainability in the parks by conducting team evaluations of such park operations as maintenance, concessions and visitor services, handling of waste, and energy uses. The team identifies resources flowing into a park, describes how the activities of staff and visitors alter those resources, and explores ways parks can incorporate additional sustainable practices into daily routines.

Park Science congratulates these winners and encourages readers to be thinking of nominees for the 1999 awards. Nominations will be solicited in the near future on

the NPS Natural Resources Bulletin Board on cc:Mail.