



California State Park Rangers Association

Promoting Professionalism in California State Parks since 1964

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To: Kathleen Amann Acting Dep. Dir., Park Operations
Christopher Conlin Dep. Dir., OHMVR
Operation Division Chiefs

From: California State Park Rangers Association (CSpra)

Date: July 15, 2015

Subject: **Ranger150**



2016 will mark the historic event that occurred on May 21, 1866, when the first state park commission appointed the first ranger, Galen Clark. Clark's appointment as the first state park ranger (titled Guardian at the time) also represents the very first paid state park employee. Recognition of this momentous event will offer an opportunity to reflect, highlight, and honor the history and contribution of state park staff over the last 150 years. This milestone is being titled *Ranger150* to differentiate it from the recent 150th anniversary of the department in 2014. This request seeks primarily department recognition of the Ranger150. This would be a commemoration more like some of the previous anniversaries in the department, including the Lifeguard 50th, OHMVR Division and firearms program anniversaries.

It was on May 21, 1866, the state "Commissioners to Manage the Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove" appointed Galen Clark as "Guardian" of Yosemite, under state legislation approved and signed by Governor Frederick Low on April 2, 1866. One of the provisions of this legislation was that the commission "shall have the power to appoint a Guardian, either of their number or not, of said premises, removable at their pleasure, to perform such duties as they may prescribe, and to receive such compensation as they may fix, not to exceed five hundred dollars per annum". Two years earlier, on September 28, 1864, California Governor Frederick Low had issued a proclamation accepting the federal grant of Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove marking the beginning of California State Parks.

With 2016 almost here, the California State Park Rangers Association (CSpra) and the private non-profit group California State Parks Anniversary Committee (CSPAC) are approaching the Operations and OHMVR Divisions to provide information, initiate recognition, and explore possible joint planning for the Ranger150. For the Ranger 125th anniversary in 1991, the department, the P&R Commission, the OHMVR Commission, the legislature and the Governor, all recognized the historic and current role of rangers in the department. CSpra has presented the Director with information on the Ranger150, requested a resolution regarding the Ranger150 at the next State Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and will make a similar request to the OHMVR Commission.

CSPRA and CSPAC have committed to taking the lead on the Ranger150 effort, including funding for a variety of modest projects. A Ranger150 logo has been developed in conjunction with Interpretation and Education Division, as pictured above.

CSPRA and CSPAC are proposing a small *Ranger150* committee to be comprised of organizational and department representatives possibly as follows:

- Mike Lynch, Chair, retired ranger/superintendent, CSPRA & CSPAC
- Jeff Price, retired chief ranger, CSPRA
- Scott Liske, Supervising Ranger, Auburn SRA, CSPAC
- Brian Robertson, Sector Superintendent, Big Sur Sector
- Brian Cahill, Acting Division Chief for Interpretation and Education
- Others TBA

CSPRA and CSPRA are developing a basic plan that will outline modest goals and projects for the Ranger150. Typically, all projects will be self-funded. Annual special events and other ongoing activities occurring in the department will be encouraged to adopt the *Ranger150* as a theme. Committee members and other involved volunteers and staff will be making presentations at various employee forums (such as superintendent meetings, interpretive training sessions, and district/division staff meetings) as well as meetings of outside organizations. The goal will be to generate interest in the anniversary and encourage others to participate with their own events and projects.

Other potential partners and sponsors could include the California State Parks Foundation, the California League of Park Associations, the Save the Redwoods League, and other dignitaries or groups with a longstanding association with California State Parks.

The Ranger150 is an historic occasion that can be used to enhance the image of the department and department staff throughout the state, strengthen relationships with partners and highlight one of the important parts of the department. All relevant state parks staff, (primarily in the field, but including headquarters), will have the opportunity participate in this aspect of the department's history. The goal is to be as inclusive as possible and to use this anniversary as a means of reinvigorating the commitment to our mission. This anniversary allows us to reflect on, learn from and share the tremendous contribution of state park staff over 150 years with all Californians. We should not waste this unique opportunity.

CSPRA and CSPAC are not seeking any budget support from California State Parks to plan or carry out this anniversary. The Ranger150 effort will primarily use outside donated funds and volunteers. Many of the possible anniversary related activities are things that staff already does as a part of their regular duties, so only a minimal amount of staff time and resources will be used.

Yours,



Mike Lynch, Chair, Ranger150 Committee
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