



STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 17, 2022

STAFF REPORT: Golden Bear Awards

STAFF: Subcommittee on the Golden Bear Awards, Commissioner Ginsburg

SUBJECT: Proposal to move forward with the Golden Bear Awards

Summary

In 2019, the State Park and Recreation Commission relaunched the Golden Bear Award. Nominations were received, however, due to extenuating circumstances, the awards were never presented by the Commission. In February 2022 a subcommittee was created to address the 2019 awards and to move the award program forward in 2022.

Discussion

The Golden Bear Award recognizes and celebrates the outstanding contributions of employees or retirees from the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and external organizations and individuals who have made positive impacts to the state park system. The intention was for two awards (one for each region, although now there are four regions) be presented by the Commission and DPR annually during the fall Commission meeting. Recipients of the awards receive a certificate commemorating their contributions.

Nominees must:

- Be a DPR employee or retiree in good standing, an external organization, or an individual.
- Be knowledgeable about a state park unit or the state park system.
- Have made significant contribution to a state park unit or the state park system.
- Have enhanced the quality, activities, or visitation to a state park unit.
- Have been involved in a community program or event to bring awareness to state park(s) within the past five years.

Nominations must:

- Clearly articulate the candidate's outstanding contributions to the state parks system.

In 2019, 13 nominations were received, but no recipients were selected due to Commission membership changes and then the pandemic. A call for nominations did not go out during 2020 and 2021. The 2019 Awards need to be completed and process for moving forward with the award program identified.

Recommendation

The Subcommittee on the Golden Bear Award recommends moving forward with awarding the 2019 Golden Bear Awards at the next State Park and Recreation Commission meeting in October, 2022. As there are four regions, it is suggested to give an award for each region (Central, Coastal, Desert, and Northern Field Divisions) instead of two (Northern and Southern Divisions) for 2019 and moving forward. It is also the recommendation of the Subcommittee to announce the call for nominations for the 2022 awards. The 2022 awards will be given at the first Commission meeting of 2023. Starting in 2023, the call for nominations will happen, as intended, in the summer so that the awards can be given at the fall Commission meeting. The call for nominations will be promoted through a designated webpage, social media and the Department's Weekly Digest.

Commission Action

For discussion and action