

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 28, 2008

CONTACT:

Sheryl Watson, Information Officer
(916) 654-7538

October is National Accessibility Month

Presented Today

Engineer Earns State Park's First Universal Access Award

RED BLUFF, CA – Demonstrating commitment to serving people in a variety of abilities, State Parks Director Ruth Coleman presented the department's first Universal Access Award, today.

"We are committed to having even more facilities where visitors and employees of varying abilities can enjoy the natural and cultural wonders in California State Parks," said Coleman. "I am proud to recognize extraordinary effort that gets us closer to that vision."

The award was presented to Matt Teague, Associate Civil Engineer of the Northern Buttes District. During his 7 ½ years with the department, the Chico resident has designed and managed numerous projects that increased accessibility in state parks within the 10-county district. He was selected by the California State Parks' Disabled Advisory Committee for substantially increasing accessibility to visitors with disabilities as they utilize restrooms, parking lots, a bus stop, two camp sites, and beaches.

His most notable accomplishment was a \$300,000 project that he designed and managed at Clear Lake State Park in Lake County. He turned a gravel parking area into an asphalt parking lot abutting several accessible amenities. It now offers a perimeter pavement sidewalk with paved trails that lead in several directions, providing visitors in wheelchairs with a choice of easily accessing features within the park. The paths lead to the beach, new shaded picnic tables overlooking the lake, ADA accessible restrooms and a bridge that connects to other improved areas of the park. Photos are available upon request.

Other projects Teague completed include designing two accessible camp sites at Castle Crags State Park in Shasta County. This included covering the dirt surfaces in the campground with level asphalt, thick enough that someone in a wheelchair could comfortably eat at the picnic table. The table was also altered. He designed the table top to be longer at one end, replacing the old table top with longer reclaimed redwood slats, in keeping with the rustic feel of the site. A shorter metal barbecue was also installed, to be used by campers instead of the historic stone structure that was too tall for use in a seated position. Everything was made to proper ADA height, with adequate space to move around and between them.

(more)

For energy efficient recreation –
California State Parks on the Internet: <<http://www.parks.ca.gov>>



He also designed several paved paths that now provide people with disabilities access to restrooms from day use parking lots. These can be found at William B. Ide Adobe State Park in Tehama County, McArthur Burney Falls Memorial State Park in Shasta County and Castle Crags State Park, also in Shasta County. The trail at Castle Crags was complicated in that it had several switchbacks to navigate a steep slope.

Also at William B. Ide, he designed a paved path to the bus drop off, which required re-routing traffic patterns, as well as parking lot entrances and exits for safety.

Teague began his State Park career in the Northern Buttes District in March 2001. He previously worked three years at Caltrans as a resident engineer in the field. He also served as a civil engineer at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in Portland, OR and with small firms. He earned his Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering at California State University, Chico and Colorado State.

The award was developed by the Department's Disabled Advisory Committee to recognize individuals or groups of employees for their outstanding achievement in the area of improving universal access in our State Parks System.

#