



The CSPRA

# Wave

Volume 21, Number 2

Newsletter of the CALIFORNIA STATE PARK RANGERS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2021

*"State Park experts and professionals advocating for State Parks since 1964."*

## President's Message



Since January, CSPRA has expressed formal opposition to a proposed pipeline

through Anza-Borrego SP, and to an Aerial Tramway intended to cross through Los Angeles SHP. We have offered our help in the reimagining of Big Basin SP as it recovers from 2020 fires, and in identifying consistent funding alternatives for the Department. CSPRA's officers, directors, and committees are very active, with an emphasis this year on documenting the challenges park staff faced due to the pandemic and wildfires. You can contribute to that effort via WAVE articles and by presenting at our September annual meeting/rendezvous. Also, we will need to replace our Treasurer and Legislative Director positions by December. Can you help?

What's in a name? The positive image associated with the "Ranger" title is so valuable. That word appears

in parenthesis, now, when applied to the State Park Peace Office (Ranger) position. So, I was intrigued by a March 29th recruitment announcement which used "ranger" throughout, for example describing how the training academy prepares cadets *"to enter the workforce as a ranger or lifeguard."* It seems that *"ranger" remains the optimal descriptor for attracting applicants.*

National Park entrance station staffers (our "park aides") are "seasonal rangers." NPS interpretive rangers and enforcement rangers work well together. Theirs is a successful approach that optimizes the public's positive perception of "the ranger."

The International Ranger Federation recently finalized a "Ranger Code of Conduct," which involved defining the term "ranger." They gathered more than 100 working titles, globally, that fit the professional ranger concept, including: Curator; Eco-Monitor; Enforcement Ranger; Native Ranger; Natural Environment Agent; Nature

Ambassador; Nature Guardian; Park Interpreter; Park Naturalist; Wildlife Conservationist; Wildlife Researcher.

Such diversity illustrates why CSPRA membership is open to all park professionals -- our many "rangers" with a small "r." Yet, according to Public Resources Code section 4022, "The titles of ranger, park ranger, and forest ranger, and derivations thereof, may only be used by persons who are peace officer employees" of CALFIRE and DPR. Field contact interpreters (who today wear the Stetson hat), have been warned not to violate this statute. I suppose the concern is for public safety confusion issues. Yet, we know that anyone in a park uniform, badged or not, is perceived and addressed as "ranger" by the public. Could this PRC section be amended to include other uniformed employees performing visitor contacts? Your opinions, please.



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# Retirees Recognized

*Bob Pavlik represented CSPRA in SLO and presented Jeff Sears with a commemorative CSPRA retirement plaque. Bob wrote, "Thank you for the opportunity to share this important event with a lovely family."*



*Past CSPRA Officer Donna Pozzi presented a retirement plaque to Robin Davis honoring 30 years of service to State Parks. Robin retired from State Capitol Museum where she was a Guide.*



*Past CSPRA President Denzil Verardo presented a retirement plaque and other gifts to Kim Snyder. Not only did Denzil, Kim, and Jennie Verardo enjoy the moment, but also an outdoor lunch at one of Elk Grove's Mexican restaurants.*



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# Climate Change Webinar for all State Park Employees

*By Erin Gates,  
CSPRA Board Member, &  
Interpreter for North Coast  
Redwoods District*

On March 15th, all California State Park employees were given an opportunity to hear from the Secretary of Natural Resources Agency, **Wade Crowfoot**, California State Parks Director **Armando Quintero**, Natural Division Chief **Jay Chamberlin** and Interpretation and Education Division Chief **Stacey Yankee** about Climate Change and what our Agency and Department are doing to address this critical issue.

This webinar, viewed by over 200 park employees, was a part of an inaugural training put on by the Training Section and the Interpretation and Education Division, Interpreting Climate Change. The opportunity for all park employees, regardless of their classification, to connect with and hear from our Department and Agency's Leaders is critical

to ensuring that Climate Change messaging is presented both internally, and to the public, in an accurate way that is representative of the mandates that require our Department to address Climate Change. This very successful and informative webinar was the first day of the 7 day Interpreting Climate Change Training, attended by over 56 State Park Interpreters from Districts across the state

Climate Change effects all park employees. Campsites at our coastal campgrounds are being lost due to sea-level rise. Devastating wild fires are becoming more and more prevalent, and are wreaking havoc on the cultural, natural and historical resources that our Department is charged with protecting.

Look no further than the tragic fire that burned most of Big Basin State Park last year as a glaring example of this. As all park employees better understand the effects of Climate Change

within parks, and both the mitigation and adaptation strategies that parks is undertaking, the better we will all be able to prepare for, and address this very real threat. Our visitors see anyone wearing a park uniform as a voice for parks. When they are witnessing the loss of their favorite campsite, or the burning of a park that they have visited for generations, they will seek out anyone in uniform (Maintenance, Law Enforcement, Visitor Services, Interpretation, etc) for answers. We are all "rangers" in the public's eye and we all have an opportunity to seize the moment when they do come to us to discuss this loss, to speak to the science of Climate Change, how it is effecting parks, what we are doing about it, and what the public can do about it in their own lives.

If you are an active state parks employee, and would like to view this webinar to learn more about what parks is doing to address Climate Change, and the mandates that exist that require California State Parks to educate the public about Climate Change, please send an email to [erin.gates@parks.ca.gov](mailto:erin.gates@parks.ca.gov).



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# Out of This World Exploration and the Mono Lake Tufa SNR

*By Catherine Jones, State Park Interpreter I, Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve*

“I feel like I am on another planet,” visitors often remark during visits to Mono Lake. Maybe these visitors are onto something. It turns out that Mono Lake’s unique environment on Earth is analogous to the environment on Mars and can help scientists in developing tools to discover signs of life outside of Earth. NASA scientists have been coming to Mono Lake over the past few decades, testing instruments for use in space exploration. In 1995 scientist brought an underwater remotely operated vehicle to the lake and in 2010 a Mars rover. Plans are in the works to bring a life-detecting



*In 1995, staff accompanied a team of scientists on Mono Lake, aboard a houseboat to test a Telepresence Controlled Remotely Operated Vehicle (TROV). State Park photos.*

instrument to Mono Lake for testing and sample collection, in 2021.

One of many things that makes Mono Lake so unique are the calcium carbonate, tufa spires that have become exposed due to lake level fluctuations, caused by water diversions to the city of Los Angeles. As calcium carbonate precipitates out of water to form tufa, it often traps microbes, evidence of life present when the rock formed. This process may also have occurred on Mars and it is what NASA is seeking. Mono Lake’s terrain, mineral make-up, and saline waters provide ideal testing grounds for these instruments and scenarios that may be encountered by NASA’s technologies on Mars and other planets.

In 1995, Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve staff accompanied a team of scientists on Mono Lake, aboard a houseboat to test a Telepresence Controlled Remotely Operated Vehicle (TROV). The TROV was equipped with a 1,000 ft





*Ranger Dave Carle aboard the houseboat, back in the day.*

cable, a sample grabbing device, cameras, and sonar system. The houseboat was outfitted as an on the water lab where scientist were able to control the device as it was sent down deep beneath Mono Lake's surface. Tufa samples were collected from the base of submerged tufa towers for analysis and presence of microbes.

NASA returned to Mono Lake in 2010 with a Mars rover, named Pluto. Pluto was much heavier than the rovers that would later be sent to Mars, like Perseverance in 2021. The goal of this visit to Mono Lake was to test methods to collect and cache rock samples, as well as cleaning methods to avoid contaminating samples from Mars with contaminants from Earth.

Perseverance, the Mars rover that touched down on the Red Planet successfully this year, is using this technology. Using it's drill and mechanical arms, the rover will gather samples of



*NASA returned to Mono Lake in 2010 with a Mars rover, named Pluto. Photo above and below by Deb Main.*



Martian rocks and soils that have the most promising biomarkers. The sample cores will then be left in well-marked locations on the surface of Mars, to be collected on future missions and brought back to Earth for analysis.

NASA is planning another research trip to Mono Lake for the fall of 2021 where they will test an Ocean Worlds Life Surveyor (OWLS) life-detecting instrument. This research will help to refine an instrument to be used on future exploratory missions to Europa, a moon of Jupiter, Enceladus, a moon of Saturn, or another planet.

So, the next time I hear a visitor say "I feel like I am on another planet" I can think of all the interesting research that has taken place at Mono Lake. We, who are fortunate enough to work at Mono Lake and call this place home are proud to know our lake is helping support research of all kinds, especially space exploration.

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# Protect the Redwoods

*By Allan Wiegman,  
Retired Ranger*

Towards the end of August I was asked if I would be able to go to Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve (part of the LNU Complex fire) to be a Resource Advisor (READ). Being a retired annuitant, State Park Ranger, I had the time and freedom to help. To prepare for the commitment I talked to **Brendan O'Neil**, Senior Environmental Scientist for Sonoma/Mendocino Coast District. Since the last fifteen years of my career were spent in the North Coast Redwoods District and part of it was putting out redwood tree fires, I asked if I should bring some of the equipment that I use. He was appreciative of the offer and took me up on the suggestion.

Upon arriving at the park the first couple of days were spent working with other READs surveying archaeological sites and locating artifacts. We also worked on clearing around historic buildings and installed a portable water tank to provide water to the engine that was providing structure protection.

The fire was now starting to burn down into the valley and my priority had changed. I was now directed to protect the redwoods in the valley. To prevent the fire from getting to the redwoods I started



clearing around the base of the trees. This didn't last long as the fire was now starting to move slowly down the easterly side of the park.

Working with the park staff and fire engines, the fight to extinguish the redwoods on fire now became urgent. I learned a new technique for putting out fires in the tree canopy, using monitors (truck mounted water cannons) on the structure engines. With the monitors we were able to reach about 200 feet up into the tree canopy, but this would only last about a minute before the engine was out of water. Not only was I impressed, the engine crews had never used a monitor on a tree fire and really got into it.

That was the easy and fun part, now came the stubborn goose pens, or basal hollows for those that have not been around redwoods. The crazy ranger

system of sprinklers and pipes that I brought with me to put out this type of fire required a lot more convincing of the fire crews that it would work. Fortunately for me, Brendan was on my side.

The first and conclusive test was a goose pen that was continuing to burn even after two days and thousands of gallons of water being dumped on it. One morning I was shown a tree with a well-established fire in the goose pen which had burned through the trunk of the tree about 75 feet up. I was given the challenge of putting it out (See photo next page). With a portable water tank, pump, piping, sprinkler head and a commitment to keep the tank full, I went to work. I set up the sprinkler system and walked away to work on other trees.

That afternoon the goose pen fire was out, using less





than 500 gallons of water. From that moment on, any goose pen fire was directed my way. On the busiest day I had five systems going at one time. This continued for 3 weeks, 10 to 12 hour days. By the end of my stay, most of my time was spent putting out root fires. When I left I counted fifteen goose pen fires that had been extinguished, numerous canopy fires drenched and only one redwood, which I had worked on, had fallen in the valley.

A personal highlight for me was when I was able to meet my older son, **Kyle** who works for Rohnert Park Public Safety, at the LNU morning briefing in Santa Rosa. He told me that their engine was assigned to the east side of a ridge that is on the east boarder of the park. As it turned out, I was also working on the same ridge but on the west side. What a small world.

This is a brief summary of my three week stay at Armstrong Redwoods State

Natural Reserve. None of this could have been accomplished without the support of the park staff and especially Brendan. He embraced this retired ranger with his wacky water system and believed in me, thank you. Each morning at the parks briefing he would give me one and only one task, protect the redwoods in the valley. I was told, by one of the Division Chiefs, that not only had I converted him but had been given a nick name, Wiegman Water Works.

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# Book Review

*J.D. Ho, My first Day as a Junior Park Ranger.*  
Alameda CA:  
JrParkRangerBooks.com,  
2021, ebook: \$8.99,  
softcover: \$12.99,  
hardcover: \$15.99

This first of a new kid's book series offers a fun look at the many different park careers and what each of these important "rangers" do to care for the ecosystem and to educate and entertain the parks' visitors. The Junior Park Ranger Adventure Books are science-based, with a focus on exploration and knowledge acquisition. With inclusive language and diverse animated characters, they provide engaging personalities and stories children can identify with.

CSPRA President **Dave Carle** notes "With delightfully colorful illustrations, *My First Day as a Junior Ranger* introduces a variety of park jobs, as *Kyler* (a prairie dog), in his new uniform and ranger hat, meets up with the park's wildlife biologist (owl), ecologist (wolf), interpreter (sea lion), lifeguard (vaquita) and archaeologist (tortoise)."

Children's Interpretation specialist **Cara O'Brien** says "It is a unique and intriguing take on junior rangers. Definitely a different perspective than classic junior ranger stories as the junior park staff are



definitely not children, but accomplished adults. I think kids will also become engaged in the story and enjoy that the main character that they are supposed to identify with is earning his confidence in a new park environment and making friends. I like the light JEDI messaging (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion)."

The books hope to inspire kids to protect parks, nature, and the environment. These compelling stories make learning about the natural world fun and exciting. Each book takes kids on a fun-filled journey of discovery, exploration, and adventure to a variety of local, state, and national parks across the United States. Each story is accompanied by Junior Park Rangers, charismatic animal characters who are dedicated to telling entertaining and educational stories about the parks.

It's Junior Park Ranger *Kyler's* first day on the job. He's a prairie dog who has spent his whole life in Prairie Dog Town, and now he's in a new place where he doesn't know anyone. Will he make friends? Will he do a good job as representative of the Junior Park Rangers?

The Junior Park Ranger Adventure Book Series brings the magic of nature and the love for parks to kids and their families, enabling them to connect with these special places.

One dollar from each book sold in the series will be donated to a nonprofit that protects and stewards one of the featured parks in our adventures. The nonprofit that will receive donations from *My first day as a Junior Park Ranger* will be Parks California. Available now on Amazon as an e-book with hardcover books available this fall.



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# Wave Goodbye

## Bob Grace

Robert C. Grace passed away in March. Bob's life-long love of nature and music rooted his friendships and family.



He spent time with his family hiking, caving, birdwatching, and camping throughout Northern California. Like his parents and grandparents, he was an avid gardener.

During his 30 year career as a ranger for California State Parks, he pioneered programs to make nature and history more accessible and more engaging to the public. As a ranger in Sonoma County, he co-created an environmental music program, Parson Jones, that traveled statewide.

During his 25 years at Ide Adobe State Historic Park in Red Bluff, he brought the 1850s to life through interpretive programs that allowed the community to experience the sights, sounds, tastes and joys of pioneer life. These programs included Ide Adobe Day, the Pioneer Christmas celebration, a community barn-raising, living history programs for elementary students, and the high school docent program. Bob also served several years on the board of Red Bluff High School.

## Gregory Roland Dunnivant

DPR's long-time medical director, Dr. Greg Dunnivant passed away in January. Greg was a friend and mentor to many. He LOVED the Parks family and was greatly loved in return.

Greg was our medical director for approximately 18 years and he contributed greatly to Parks. Greg was an excellent Instructor. Sometimes quirky and outspoken, his humor, caring and generosity were unfailing as an ER doctor. He was earnest about the professionalism and caliber of our Lifeguards and Rangers in the performance of medical and trauma skills to the public. He would mention occasionally how he might have been a Ranger if he were starting his career all over. It is going to be very difficult to replace the commitment, skills and passion Greg provided to our a parks, park family and the public.

He became a widely respected physician, working in the emergency room as a member of the Trauma Center Staff of the LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City, and the Intermountain West Medical Center in Murray, Utah. He also enjoyed teaching emergency

medicine and served as the Medical Director of several city fire departments in the Salt Lake City area, Medical Director of the California State Highway Patrol, and Medical Director for the State of California Parks and Recreation – a role that required him to divide his work schedule between Utah and California. He was a graduate of the Utah Police Officer's Training Academy where he often served as an emergency medicine and/or firearms instructor for police cadets. He also worked as Medical Director for SkyWest Airlines.



Greg had a knack for taking something complex and distilling it down to something efficient and effective. He is credited with being paramount in developing training programs and systems used to train police, lifeguards, and medical teams that have literally saved many lives. He was also a natural teacher, and was beloved for his humble, down-to-earth wit and patience while he taught.

# Mixed Metaphors & Malaprops

by Jeff Price, seriously retired

Mixed Metaphor: A combination of thoughts that when strung together produce a ridiculously funny effect of melded clichés. Send us along any overheard slips of the tongue - malaprops@cspira.com

**Side funny:** A mixed metaphor walks into a bar, seeing the handwriting on the wall but hoping to nip it in the bud.

**Awaiting bovine return?**

*We could stand here and talk until the cows turn blue.*

**Plume surprised?**

*You could have knocked me over with a fender.*

**I'd cry fowl - ornithological surveillance.**

*He was watching me like I was a hawk.*

**Crooked crosier malefactor!**

*I'll get it by hook or ladder.*

**The devil you say!**

*They're diabolically opposed.*

**Dead on legal point!**

*He had received a de-cease and desist order before.*

**Some of these I never exactly figure out . . .**

*I wouldn't eat that with a ten-foot pole.*

*She got the wind shot out of her saddle.*

**Definite oxymoron by a moron.**

*Why don't you just take a flying hike.*

**Wins by a neck!**

*But he's not the one with his ass in a noose.*



CSPRA is affiliated with several other non-profit organizations that share our goals.

**The Park Rangers Association of California** is a professional organization for park Rangers and other employees of municipal, county, special district, state and federal agencies.



**The International Ranger Federation** supporting the critical work that the world's park rangers do in conserving our natural and cultural heritage.



**Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs** Promotion of the Proper Use, Enjoyment and Protection of America's Scenic Wilderness and Outdoor Resources.



**Association of National Park Rangers** communicating for, about and with National Park Service employees of all disciplines and providing a forum for professional enrichment



**California Park Hospitality Association** representing companies and individuals who provide hospitality services under contract with the California State Parks.



**California League of Park Associations** supporting the Non-profits that are partners with State Parks.



## State Parks Rendezvous

CSPRA and State Park Retirees Conference

Donner Memorial SP, Truckee

September 13-16, 2021

Details still being finalized as Covid restrictions are lifted. See CSPRA.com for latest details.







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Please let us know.  
Betsy@CSPRA.com



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Just send your email address (no State emails please) to [webmaster@cspra.com](mailto:webmaster@cspra.com) with the subject line "add me to CSPRAnet"



## Retiring Soon?

If you or a co-worker will be retiring soon, please contact Membership Services Coordinator Betsy Anderson at (707) 884-3949.

[betsy@cspra.com](mailto:betsy@cspra.com).



## Already Retired?

Want to keep in touch after you leave DPR? Join Gray-Bears email ListServ - FREE and EASY

[graybears@cspra.com](mailto:graybears@cspra.com)

### Join CSPRA Or join us online at [cspra.com](http://cspra.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Job Classification: \_\_\_\_\_

District / Park: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ (req'd for payroll education)

Phone(W) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Type (Check one)

- Active \$10/month
- Active Retired \$60/year (\$5/mo.)
- Supporting \$36/year\*
- Organization \$50/year\*
- Benefactor \$1,000/life\*

\* Please include check for 1 year's dues for these membership levels.

I hereby authorize the State Controller to deduct from my salary and transmit as designated an amount for membership dues in the California State Park Rangers Association. This authorization will remain in effect until canceled by myself or by the organization. I certify I am a member of the above organization and understand that termination of my membership will cancel all deductions made under this organization.

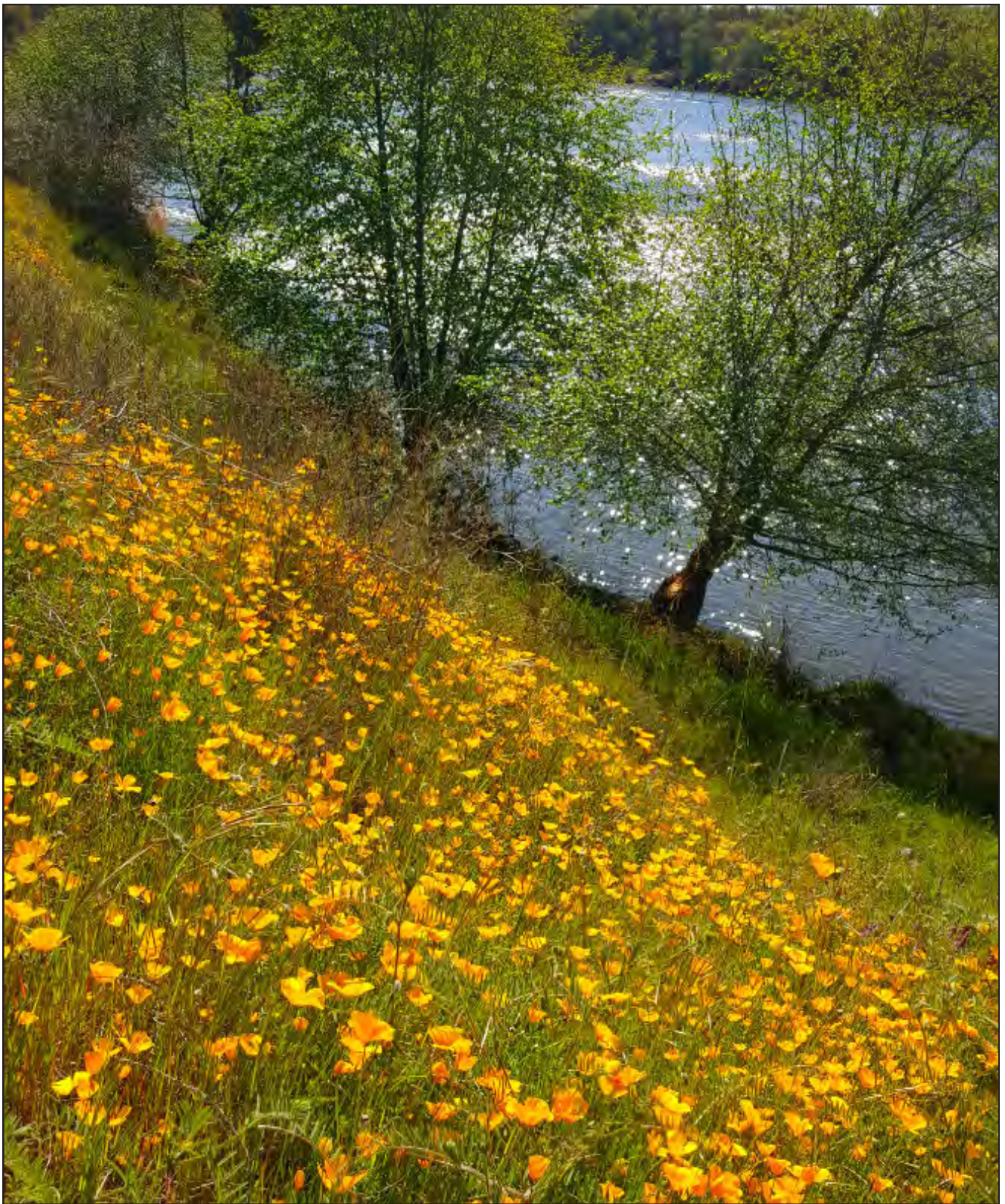
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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PO Box 618 Gualala, CA 95445





## California State Park Rangers Association

CSPRA is an organization of State Park professionals dedicated to advancement of the highest principles of public service, established to support and preserve California State Parks for present and future generations



*Founded 1964*