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NSPR 2001 Award Winners

By *NRPA Staff*

The following were recipients of the William Penn Mott, Jr Award for Excellence:

Individual Award Winners

As most of you know, Rodger Schmitt is a long time NSPR active member. He is a past president of this organization and has been a NSPR Board member since 1987. He was an active member of the President's Commission on American's Outdoors. He was also our NSPR delegate to the NRPA Board of Trustees. What you may not know about Rodger is that he has more than thirty years of professional natural resource management, park management and outdoor recreation experience. You are probably aware that he is the National Recreation Group Manager with the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, D.C. What you may not know is - as the director of the National Recreation Group - Rodger's team provides the national leadership for the Bureau's entire outdoor recreation programming on its 270 million acres of Federal public lands. Under his guidance, the National Recreation Group provides the nationwide programming and policy development for such diverse administrative areas as the support of tourism on Bureau lands; the development of business partnerships; the issuing of special recreation permits; environmental interpretation; resource management of cave and karsts, rivers, and trails; visual resource protection; outdoor ethics and stewardship; and accessibility programs for the disabled recreationist. In addition, his job responsibilities include the management of large tracts of public lands with multiple-use resource values; collaborating with diverse user groups to resolve resource use problems and reach consensus; and in preparing and presenting talks and multi-media presentations. Rodger is receiving this award this morning for his superior qualities of leadership in the natural resources field - both within NRPA, and more specifically the NSPR. Rodger exemplifies the NSPR Professional Creed and the qualities required for selection of the William Penn Mott, Jr. Award for Excellence.

Richard "Dick" Crysdale started his long career with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in the early seventies. In an agency long dominated by engineers, it was his responsibility to see that the Bureau's water and power projects were in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Dick was a leader in training bureau engineers on how adverse environmental impacts could be avoided. In the late seventies, Dick became the Bureau's first nationwide Outdoor Recreation Planner in the agency's Engineering and Research Center. Many additional job titles and increasing levels of responsibility followed through the years. It was in these subsequent positions that he has twice assisted in the development of the Bureau's Recreation, Fish, Wildlife and Cultural Resource Policy. Because of the outstanding work that he has done, he has received numerous awards and acknowledgments from the Bureau where he is



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known as Mr. Recreation. When Dick retired in 1997, the outdoor writer for the Denver Post stated that "Dick began as an environmental specialist and finished as an outdoor recreation planner in a dam building agency which is akin to Galileo telling the Vatican that the earth revolves around the sun." Dick has served two terms on the NSPR Board of Directors, one term on the NRPA National Certification Board and one term as the NSPR Representative on the NRPA Midwest Regional Council. He still serves as a Faculty Affiliate at Colorado State University. Dick exemplifies the NSPR Professional Creed and the qualities required for selection of the William Penn Mott, Jr. Award for Excellence.

Agency Award

The Natural Resources Management Gateway Team
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Natural Resources Management mission is to manage and conserve those natural resources, consistent with ecosystem management principles, while providing quality public outdoor recreation experiences, and serving the needs of present and future generations. To aid in meeting its mission, the Corps of Engineers launched the NRM Gateway web site in April 2001. While the information on its web site is intended for the Corps' Natural Resources Management community, much of the information on the web site is also available to the general public. The NRM Gateway takes Corps of Engineers staff into the world of the Corps' recreation, environmental stewardship and environmental compliance programs. This web site improves communication within the NRM community and preserves the organization's institutional knowledge. This site integrates the people, policies, and practices of the NRM community, providing information the way managers manage. Dr. Bonnie Bryson, Park Ranger, Louisville District, and Ms. Kathleen Perales, Research Biologist, ERDC, led the effort to launch this site. They developed the "look and feel" of the site, determined the initial list of Subject Matter Experts, helped gather data, and created links to other related web sites. In essence, they were the coaches of the NRM Gateway Team. The NRM Gateway is an excellent example of how a public agency or professional organization's web site should be developed. This web site reflects well on the professionalism of the Team, and on the vision of the Corps leadership in recognizing the need for such a site.

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