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CONTACT: Laurie Ward, (206) 623-2063, [laurie@wnpf.org](mailto:laurie@wnpf.org)

## Recognition for outstanding national park employees

Seattle, WA - Each year, two awards are given to recognize excellence among national park employees: the Carolyn Dobbs Science Research Awards and Spirit Awards.

Funded in memory of former WNPf board member, the ***Carolyn Dobbs Science Research Award*** recognizes national park employees who conduct boots-on-the-ground research with a level of commitment reminiscent of Carolyn Dobbs herself. This year's winners are:

### **Mount Rainier National Park: Rebecca Lofgren**

Rebecca started her park career as a student intern nearly 15 years ago and is now the park's Aquatic Ecologist. Rebecca and the park's aquatic program have sponsored at least 30 Evergreen State University internships. Interns assist with mountain lakes monitoring, amphibian surveys, water quality monitoring, and air quality monitoring. Rebecca is an exceptional mentor, teaching valuable job skills and demonstrating a strong personal commitment to resource protection and preservation.

### **North Cascades National Park: Tanner Humphries**

Tanner graduated from Western Washington University (Huxley College) in 2013 and started working as a Biological Technician on the Cascades Butterfly Project that summer. Now a crew lead, he monitors butterflies and plant phenology, trains volunteers and young interns, organizes and enters data, and coordinates survey schedules. Tanner loves talking about Butterfly Project with visitors and is equally passionate about climate change and protecting our national parks. He plans to attend graduate school for a Ph.D. in wildlife. Over the last two winters, he has traveled extensively in Chile and Argentina working on a Waterbird Monitoring Program at the Kino Bay Center biological field station in Sonora, México.

### **Olympic National Park: Maia Murphy-Williams j**

Maia joined the fisher crew last year as a NPS Mosaics intern. The NPS Mosaics science internship program provides under-represented youth experience in natural resource science career fields with practical experience in NPS units. Maia quickly demonstrated a high level of interest in the project and overall scientific curiosity, and developed very strong field skills. She prepared an insightful, high-quality presentation on the fisher project that was shared with members and leaders in the Mosaics program, back in Washington DC. She was such an exemplary member of the team that she was kept on as an emergency hire at the end of the summer in 2015 to help finish out what developed into being a very challenging field season. This year, Maia was hired as a regular crew-member. She is already working beyond the normal capacity that one expects of a GS-05, and is functioning more like a team leader; she is working far beyond her experience level. She now serves as a peer mentor for the new 2016 intern, and is also taking the lead in planning for and implementing the WNPf-funded elk and deer pellet and browse surveys in the Elwha this fall.

**Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic Spirit Awards** honor the person who most personifies the values of his/her respective park. The core values of are:

- **Service** – We care for the park, our visitors, our coworkers and ourselves.
- **Stewardship** – We accept responsibility for the protection of the resources and values of the park we work in.
- **Workforce** – We value our workforce and believe it is our greatest strength.
- **Community** – We have a strong sense of community and maintain a spirit of collaboration and cooperation with each other and our partners.

**Mount Rainier National Park: Daniel Keebler**

Daniel supervises the Wilderness Information Center and is recognized for his seventeen years of exceptional customer service in helping hikers and campers to plan their trips and experience the backcountry magic of Mount Rainier. He does so with an ongoing wealth of patience while always keeping the park visitors' priorities in the forefront.

**North Cascades National Park: Dan Camiccia**

Dan, a Park Ranger, exemplifies the qualities that set original rangers apart from the norm and continue to set apart rangers today. Through his incredible attention to detail and hard work, Dan Camiccia has improved North Cascades National Park's law enforcement and employee safety programs significantly. Dan does an excellent job stepping up to leadership and is the "go to" person for many park issues and programs.

**Olympic National Park: Pat Crain**

Pat is an exceptional collaborator. He is an excellent problem solver and goes the extra mile to assist other park employees in completing excellent projects that are legally compliant, fish and resource friendly, and cost effective. Of particular note is Pat's recent work on the Sol Duc Group Campground Bridge and the Elwha storm damage project. Pat is professional, respectful, and fully focused on finding the best solution for both park visitors and fisheries resources.

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**ABOUT WASHINGTON'S NATIONAL PARK FUND**

Over the past seven years, more than \$3 million has been contributed to the parks through Washington's National Park Fund, the official fundraising partner for Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. Annually, superintendents of the three parks submit a list of priority projects that, except for charitable contributions, could not otherwise happen. 100% of donations to Washington's National Park Fund stay right here in Washington for the benefit of Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks.

Washington's National Park Fund, 1904 Third Avenue, Suite 400, Seattle, WA 98101  
206-623-2063 [www.wnnpf.org](http://www.wnnpf.org)