



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Sierra Club Staffer Wins Prestigious Award

New Employee Award Also Established in his Name

Salt Lake City – Sierra Club Deputy Field Director Larry Mehlhaff is the recipient of this year’s John Muir Award, one of the highest honors in the environmental movement. Named for the Scottish-born naturalist who founded the Sierra Club in 1892, the award was established to honor “a distinguished record of leadership in national or international conservation causes such as to continue John Muir’s work of preservation and establishment of parks and wilderness.”

“Larry has spent his life speaking for the prairies, mountains and wildlife with passion and good cheer. More importantly, he inspired others to join that work. There are rivers and lands that are protected for generations to come because Larry was there for them,” said Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope. “John Muir would be honored to have Larry Mehlhaff follow in his footsteps because Larry has helped so many ordinary citizens protect the wild places they love.”

Pope added that Mehlhaff worked to protect wild places such as the Pawnee National Grasslands in Colorado and the Soldier Creek Wilderness in Nebraska. Mehlhaff also lead efforts to block plans by former Interior Secretary James Watt to open established wilderness areas to oil and gas leasing, and he played a major role in shepherding through Congress Wild and Scenic River legislation for both the Clark’s Fork River in Wyoming and the Niobrara River Nebraska.

Pope traveled to Salt Lake City to personally present the award to Mehlhaff who is battling brain cancer.

Also attending the ceremony were several of Mehlhaff’s colleagues from the Sierra Club’s San Francisco headquarters, as well as Sierra Club Board member Joni Bosh of Phoenix, Arizona.

“Larry Mehlhaff represents the best of the Sierra Club tradition,” said Bosh. “Dedication to the environment, commitment to grassroots involvement and a great sense of humor to sustain us over the long haul.”

Also on hand for the event was Rob Smith, Regional Staff Director for the Sierra Club’s the Southwest. Smith noted Mehlhaff’s love of baseball.

“Larry’s other passion in life is baseball,” Smith noted. “Receiving the John Muir Award is like being inducted into the Sierra Club Hall of Fame for environmental champions.”

At the award ceremony Pope also announced the establishment of the new Larry Mehlhaff Award honoring employee excellence and special achievement.

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