

# Los Padres National Forest Ranger Roll Call and Forest Supervisors

## FOREST HISTORY

With the establishment of the forest reserves in southern California, this portion of the state was covered with areas reserved for protection of watersheds. Fire suppression as a component of watershed protection was the primary objective for management of the southern California forest reserves. In order to carry out this policy it was necessary to staff the reserves. Forest supervisors were placed in charge of the reserves under the direction of B. F. Allen, the first Forest Superintendent. Each forest supervisor hired rangers to work under him.

The chronology for the establishment of the Los Padres National Forest began in 1898 when President William McKinley established the Pine Mountain and Zaca Lake Forest Reserves. Other administrative actions that affected the establishment of the Los Padres National Forest included: In 1899 the San Ynez Forest Reserve was created; in 1906 the San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and the Pinnacles Forest Reserves was created; and in 1907 the San Benito Forest Reserve was created.

In 1907 Forest Reserves changed to "National Forests". The consolidation of the Monterey, Pinnacles, and the San Benito Forest Reserves became the Monterey National Forest. In 1908 the consolidation of the Pine Mountain, Zaca Lake, Santa Ynez, and the San Luis Obispo Forest Reserves became the San Luis Obispo National Forest (and was then renamed the San Luis National Forest). In that same year, the San Luis National Forest was renamed the Santa Barbara National Forest. The Monterey and Santa Barbara National Forests showed a total of approximately 25 districts each patrolled by one "ranger". With several administrative actions during this time period these Forests became eleven ranger districts for the two National Forests.

In 1919, the Monterey and Santa Barbara National Forests merged into the Santa Barbara National Forest. In an Executive Order signed by President Franklin Roosevelt on December 3, 1938 changed the name to Los Padres National Forest. It was named Los Padres National Forest because the Forest was situated near the area where the padres had performed their missionary work during the Hispanic Period.

## Forest Supervisors

### 1. SANTA BARBARA NATIONAL FOREST AND MONTEREY NATIONAL FOREST

Col Willard Slosson	1908 - 1914
Christopher E. Rochford	1914 - 1915
Jesse R. Hall	1915 - 1920
Thomas W. Sloan	1920 - 1922

### 2. SANTA BARBARA NATIONAL FOREST

William V. Mendenhall	1925 - 1929
Stephen A. Nash-Boulden	1929 - 1946

### 3. LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST

Stephen A Nash-Boulden	12-3-1938 to 2-31-1946
Andrew Brenneis	3-1-1946 to 7-4-1949
L. A. Rickel	2-1-1949 to 7-4-1954
Robert E. Jones	7-4-1954 to 6-9-1962
William A. Hansen	6-9-1962 to 4-1-1971
Robert G. Lancaster	7-11-1971 to 4-10-1976
Allen J. West	4-12-1976 - 6-18-1979
Frederik G. deHoll	6-79 to circa 1984
Arthur J. Carroll	1984 to circa 1988
David W Dahl	1988 to circa 1991
Larry Bembry	1991 to circa 1993
Jeanine A. Derby	1993 to circa 1996

Margaret (Peggy) Boland	1996 to circa 2000
Gloria Brown	2000 to circa 2004
Peggy Hernandez	2004 to circa 2008
Robert Baird	2008 to circa 2010
Kevin Elliott	2010 to circa 2018
Christofer Stubbs	2018 to present

## District Rangers

### **Santa Barbara National Forest and Monterey National Forest**

- 1905** During the period of General Land Office administration and the first two or three years following the transfer of the Forest Service to the Department of Agriculture, there was a good deal of shifting and sorting of ranger personnel. The first detailed written report on the personnel of the old Santa Barbara National Forest was made by Supervisor Slosson in 1907
- 1907** Rangers - John B Libeu, Stephen R Douglas, Win W Gray, Jacinto D Reyes, George A. Bald and Carl Stoddard;  
Deputy Rangers - Edgar B Ravison, R G H Forsyth, A D Martin, Robert H Miller, Gerald V. Reyes, and Henry W Mussall; and  
Assistant Rangers - John Riis, Robert W. Clark, Eugene L Slosson, Alfredo G. de la Riva, Harry F Hunt, Joseph J Libeu, H F Van Winkle, Z T Davison, William A Smith, Otto W Hoeger, Thomas W Dinmore, Dwight Murphy, and Walter F Emerick .
- 1923** There were ten full-time rangers on the Santa Barbara National Forest and Monterey National Forest. In 1925 over one-quarter million acres were transferred to the Angeles National Forest. At that time with additional administrative actions, seven ranger districts were established:
1. Monterey Ranger District, headquarters at King City
  2. San Luis Ranger District, headquarters at San Luis Obispo;
  3. Santa Maria Ranger District, headquarters at Santa Maria ;
  4. Santa Barbara Ranger District, headquarters at Los Prietos ;
  5. Cuyama Ranger District, headquarters at the Cuyama Ranger Station;
  6. Ojai, headquarters at Ojai;
  7. Mt Pinos, headquarters at Chuchupate Ranger Station, Frazier Park

#### **Monterey Ranger District**

Clarence A. Chamberlain	1923 – 1926
Virgil C. DeLapp	1928 – 1932
Ernest L. Baxter	1932 – 1938

#### **San Luis Ranger District**

D. D. Harkness	1923 - 1928
Fletcher H. Haywood	1928 – 1934
Edwin M. Lyda	1934 – 1936
Clarence A Morris	1936 – 1938 (Continued as DR listed below)

#### **Coast and Santa Ynez Ranger District**

Thomas T. Dinsmore	1905 – 1913
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Frank E. Dunne	1922 - 1926
Harry R. Valentine	1926 - 1930
Ray McCormick	1930 - 1939

**Santa Maria Ranger District (Added in 1934)**

Paul C. Case	1934 - 1936
Erwin M. Lyda	1936 – 1938 (Continued as DR listed below)

**Cuyama Ranger District**

Jacinto Reyes	1905 – 1932
Harold Ames	1932 – 1933
Luther B. Burkett	1933 – 1933
William Nelson	1933 – 1934
Robert Klopenburg	1934 - 1936
Anselmo Lewis	1936 – 1937
Walter J. Puhn	1937 – (Continued Below)

**Ojai Ranger District**

George Bald	1900 – 1917
Virgil DeLapp	1917 – 1922
Edward Hamilton	1922 - 1923
Nels E. Peterson	1923 – 1925
Harry Valentine	1925 – 1926
Curtis Ranson	1926 – 1928
Guerdin Ellis	1928 - 1929
Ray McCormick	1929 – 1930
Ernest L. Baxter	1930 – 1934
Robert E. Jones	1934 – 1935
Walter Rex Denny	1935 - 1936
Robert L. Kloppenburg	1936 – 1938 (Continued as DR below)

**Mt Pinos Ranger District (Tejon. Gorman)**

V. C. DeLapp	1923 – 1928
Edwin M. Lyda	1928 - 1934
Crawford R. Buell	1934 – 1935
Houghton Durbrow	1936 - 1938

**1938**

Los Padres National Forest Established  
formerly the Santa Barbara and Monterey National Forests

**Monterey Ranger District**

Paul C. Case	1936 – 1942
W. Anderson	1943 – 1944
Lloyd Rickel	1945 - 1949
H. E. Branagh	1950 – 1956
Alex R. Campbell	1957 – 1972
Chester D. Cannon	1970 – 1972

**San Luis Ranger District**

Clarence A. Morris	1936 - 1943
Robert L. Kloppenburg	1943 - 1948
Nolan O'Neal	1948 - 1952
William T. Dresser	1952 - 1961
George C. Mendel	1961 - 1966
Don L. Arundell	1966 - 1971
Rollin H. Whited	1971 - 1971

**Santa Maria Ranger District**

Paul C. Case	1934 - 1935
Erwin M. Lyda	1936 - 1939
Garth F. Flint	1939 - 1942
Clarence A. Morris	1943 - 1945
John S. Woolfolk	1945 - 1950
Edward J. Smithburg	1950 - 1970
Willard R. Griffin	1970 - 1972 (Continued as DR for District renamed The Santa Lucia Ranger District)

**Santa Barbara Ranger District**

RayMcCormick	1938 - 1939
Erwin Lyda	1939 - 1944
Jack Woolfolk	1945 - 1949
Erwin Lyda	1949 - 1952
Warren E. Barnes	1952 - 1969
Donald E. Vaughan	1969 - 1972 (Continued as DR in List below)

**Cuvama Ranger District, cont'd from above**

Walter Puhn	1930 - 1939
Robert Kloppenburg	1939 - 1941
Gordon Vance	1941 - 1942
Isaac Bays	1942 - 1950
Robert Flynn	1950 - 1951
William Beatty	1951 - 1957
Edward Morris	1957 - 1972

**Ojai Ranger District**

Robert L. Kloppenburg	1938 - 1941
Gordon B. Vance	1941 - 1944
Erwin M. Lyda	1944 - 1950
Paul C. Case	1950 - 1961
John A. Parkinson	1961 - 1966
Allan J. West	1966 - 1972

**Mt Pinos Ranger District**

Garth F. Flint	1939 - 1940
William C. Meyer	1941 - 1946
Aloysius J. Weisgerber	1947 - 1960
Henry J. Williams	1960 - 1963
Gary W. Plisco	1964 - 1967
Douglas W. Hayden	1967 - 1972

In 1972 a further reduction was carried out, with the combining of the San Luis and Santa Maria districts into the Santa Lucia Ranger District headquartered at Santa Maria, and the combining of the Cuyama District with the Mt Pinos District (retaining the latter name) headquartered at Frazier Park. These five ranger districts currently cover the area first administered with approximately 25 districts. Improved communications and transportation were the major reasons for the drastic reductions in numbers of ranger districts. The existing ranger districts today are as follows:

**Monterey Ranger District**

Donald D. McGuigan	1972 – 1973
Richard Harrell	1973 – 1975
Theodore G. Zrelak	1975 – 1977
Robert Breazeale	1977 – 1981
David Harmer	1981 – 1989
Kathleen Jordan	1990 – 1995
Bruce Emmens	1996 – 2000
William Metz	2000 - 2001
John Bradford	2002 – 2009
Sherrie June	2009 – 2011
Timothy Short	2011 - 2023

**Santa Lucia Ranger District**

Willard R. Griffin	1972 -1974
Bruce Van Zee	1974 -1978
Keith Guenther	1979 –1992
K.J. Silverman	1995 - 1999
Kathleen Phelps	2000 – 2014
Nathan L. Rezeau	2016 – 2018
Tony Martinez	2020 - 2023
Benjamin J. Gray	2023 - Present

**Santa Barbara Ranger District**

Donald E. Vaughan	1972 – 1974
Denton G. Bungarz	1975 - 1978
Tom Baxter	1979 – 1982
Laura Ferguson	1982 – 1984
Patrick Pontes	1985 – 1997
Gloria Silva	1997 – 2004
Maeton Freel	2004 – 2009
Doug Dodge	2009 – 2012
John “Poncho” Smith	2012 - 2022
Daryl Hodges	2022 to present

**Ojai Ranger District**

Arthur J. Carroll	1972 - 1975
Walter C. Schloer	1976 – 1980
Dick Ober	1981 – 1984
Dave Haney	1985 - 1988
Ronald E Bassett	1989 – 1994
Larry Mastic	1995 – 2003
John Bridgewater	1999 – 2010
Sue Exline	2010 – 2016
John Smith	2017 - 2000
Karina Medina	2000 - 2022
Timothy Short	2023 - Present

**Mt Pinos Ranger District**

Douglas Hayden	1972 – 1974
Dave Hammond	1974 - 1977
Dave Alexander	1977 – 1981
Don Osby	1981 – 1985
Trini Juarez	1985 – 1993
<i>(Vacant)</i>	1993 – 1996
Mark Bethke	1996 – 2001
Thomas Kuekes	2001 – 2009
Erik L. Van Walden	2009 - 2020
(Series of Acting DR's)	2020 - 2022
Karina Medina	2022 - Present