



Decals of California State Parks



Craig A. Mattson
Michael G. Lynch





1970's Boat Patrol

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About the Authors

Craig Mattson started his career with California State Parks in 1975 at Carpinteria State Beach. After 32 years of service he retired in 2007 as a Superintendent in the Bay Area.

Michael Lynch began his career with California State Parks in 1972. After 31 years of Service he retired in 2003. He is currently working as a retired annuitant serving as a Superintendent at Auburn State Recreation Area. Michael has also written books on the history of rangers, and Insignia of California State Parks.

Special Acknowledgement

A special thank you to Eric Mattson for helping with layout of this book. Eric also recreated the first Division of Parks Decal using old photographs.

Introduction

By Craig Mattson

I started collecting early in my career. My first decal was an old Department of Natural Resources decal found at Castle Crags State Park. Throughout my career I found many other older decals and soon had a collection that I displayed in my office. In 2006 Mike Lynch and I started exchanging information on decals. Through our discussions we agreed that it would be good to produce a book showing each of the decals of California State Parks.

This book is the result of our discussions. It is our hope that this book will generate even more information on decals and other insignia of California State Parks.

Decal History

California State Parks can trace its roots to Yosemite Valley becoming a state park in 1864 but it would not be until 1939 that our first California State Park decal would appear. The decal was a Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks, green and gold with a Redwood tree as the center image.

Since 1939 California State Parks has produced many different decals reflecting the many changes in the department. Decals are used on vehicles, signs, safety equipment or wherever an official department image is necessary. Today's decal consists of the California Grizzly Bear for the center image and California State Parks as the text. Since 2008 law enforcement vehicles have been identified with State Park Peace Officer badge decals.

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1940's Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks Decal

**Ranger Al Whittington shows off his patrol car, with its new State Park
decal, at Big Sur about 1940.**



1939-1945

Little is known about this decal. At the time California State Parks was known as the Division of Parks. No original examples of the decal are known to exist. The decal shown is a replica reproduced using a photograph.

1939

SUZY
(4)



BURNEY FALLS
N.Y.

From the Walter Saunders photograph album, McArthur Burney Falls Memorial State Park. Walter was an early Park Warden at the Park. In the collection it was noted that he (Walter) was very happy to finally have a decal on his vehicle. The girl on the photograph is Suzy Saunder's, 4 years old.



1945-1959

In 1945 the Division of Parks was renamed the Division of Beaches and Parks. Prior to the printing of this book this decal was regarded by many as being the first decal.





1959-1961

In 1959 the Division of Beaches and Parks adopted a new decal. This was the first time the California Grizzly Bear is used on the decal.



Department of Natural Resources, Division of Beaches and Parks decal - 1959-1961



1961

In 1961 the Department of Parks and Recreation was created and with this change a new decal was created. The only change from the previous decal was the Department name change.



An unidentified ranger driving pickup with the 1961 decal at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.



1961-1964

Used from 1961 to 1964 this was the last decal to use the note the Division of Beaches and Parks. During this time the Division of Beaches and Parks and the Department of Parks and Recreation were not officially in existence. The Division of Beaches and Parks later became the Operations Division in the Department of Parks and Recreation. For the first time the department is called the State Park System.



Patrol Boat at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area.



1964-2000

In 1964 the Division of Beaches and Parks was dropped for use and this new decal was produced. This was the longest used decal of California State Parks.



Ranger Michael Lynch in 1998 at Auburn State Recreation Area.



This design appeared in the 1990's and was used interchangeably with the decal to the left.



**FOR OFFICIAL
USE ONLY**



1960's-1970's

This generic decal of the California State Seal was used during the 1960's and 1970's for some of California State Parks vehicle fleet. It is unknown why some vehicles marked with this decal but as late as the late 1970's some vehicles still had this decal.

The photograph is of Ranger George Marley.



2001-Present

In 2001 California State Parks developed this decal. It replaced all previous decals on park equipment except for law enforcement vehicles which in 2008 changed to a new decal of the current State Park Peace Officer badge.



Staff from Auburn State Recreation Area. From left to right are Ranger Roger Hood, Equipment Operator Marc Johnston, Maintenance Worker Mark Kimberlin, and Senior Park Aid Richard Nevarez.

The pickup also has a Ranger decal below the standard California State Park Decal. The dozer has a current OHV Funds at Work decal.



2008-Present

In 2008 California State Parks authorized peace officer vehicles to be identified with a decal of the current State Park Peace Officer badge. This was the result of discussions that have occurred between State Park management and field staff for the past two decades.



Chief Deputy Director Ted Jackson, OHMVR Division Chief Phil Jenkins, and Public Safety Chief Lynn Rhodes with vehicle showing current State Park Peace Officer star decal. Also on the vehicle is a decal with the words California State Parks.



Other Decals



1980's to present Cooperating Associations decal.



1990's-Present

Decal is currently used by the
Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division.



Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division decal and current California State Parks decal in use at uniform store in Santa Cruz, California.

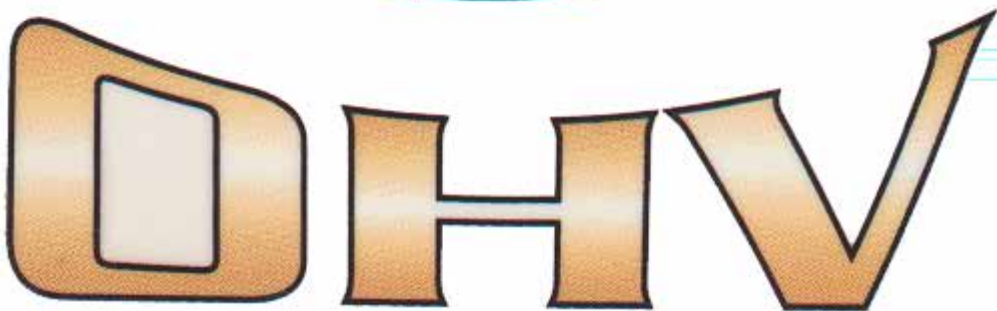


1980's-2001

This decal was used for identifying signs, equipment, etc. that were funded through the use of Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Funds.



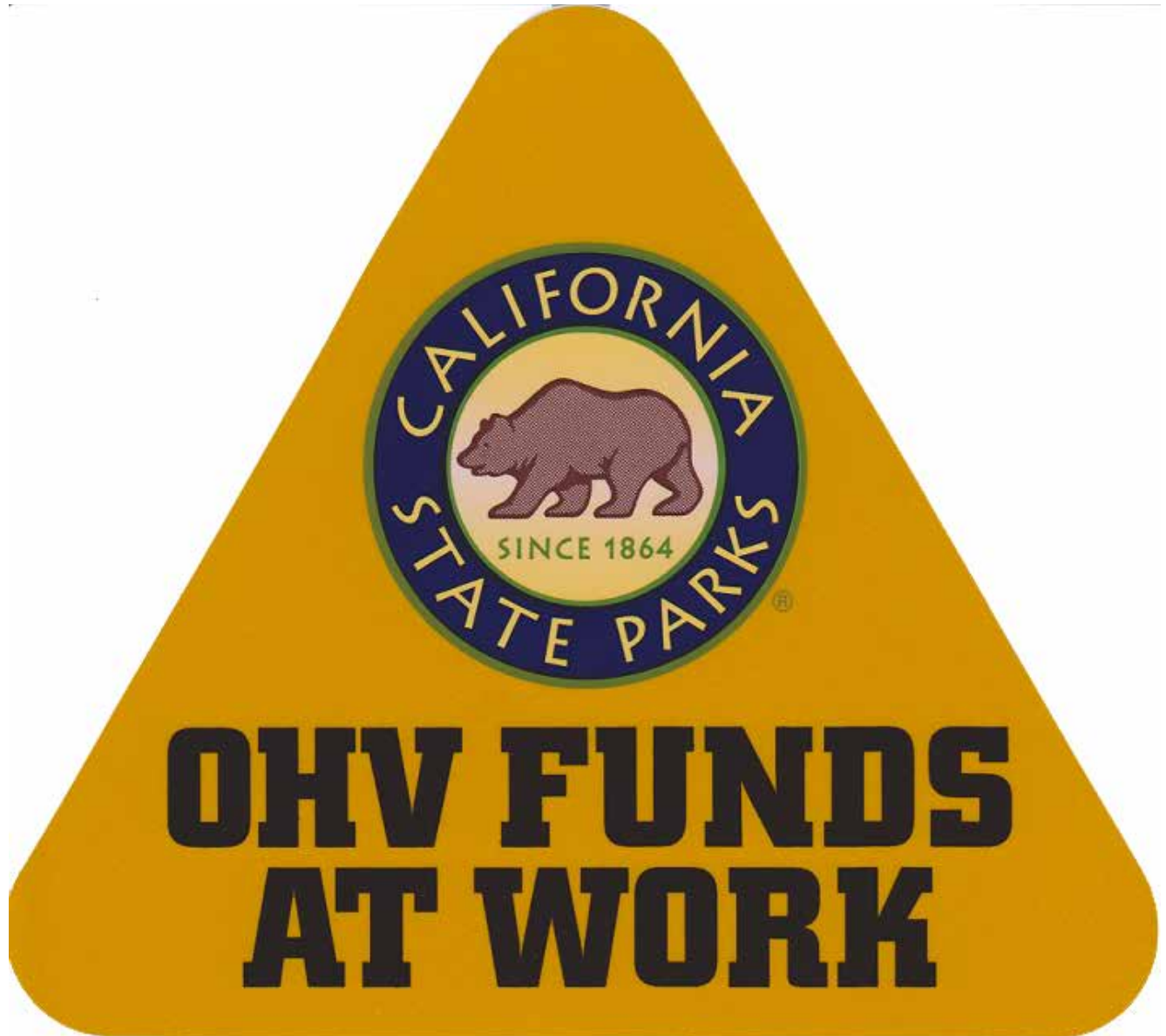
California OHV Funds at Work decal in use on Stanislaus National Forest sign at Lake Alpine- Ebbetts Pass, California.



**Current Off-Highway Motor Vehicle
Recreation Division decal.**



Current Decal in use on Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division trailer.



2001-Present

In 2001 the Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division changed to this new decal to identify equipment, etc. that have been funded by Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Funds.



Current OHV Funds at Work decal in use.



1980's-Present

This decal used by equestrian volunteers throughout California State Parks. This decal is currently still in use.



**Mounted Assistance Unit decal on horse trailer.
Also notice the Folsom Lake Mounted
Assistance decal on trailer.**



**Decal of State Park
Peace Officer Badge
from the early 1980's.**

**Decal of State Park
Peace Officer Badge
1985 - Present.**



**Color decal of State Park
Ranger Badge 2009 -
Present.**





**Badge Decal in use on off-highway
vehicle helmet.**



Decals used on fire vehicles at Hearst Castle from the 1990's to mid-2000's. Decals were replaced by current Department of Parks and Recreation decal.



**Decal currently in use by Fire Management
Teams in California State Parks.**



**Scale model
Gearbox 1:43**

**California
State Parks
Patrol Vehicle**



Limited Edition
Gearbox 1:43 Scale Precision Model



\$25 each

**Available in
Expedition, Ford PU or
Crown Vic**

Deadline April 25, 2009



Contact:
Scott Liske
rangerscott@att.net

Mike Lynch
lynch@psyber.com

Miscellaneous Decals and Stickers





This bumper sticker was issued in 1978 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the modern State Park System



These decals were used in combination with the standard California State Parks decals from the early 1990's until 2001. A version was also made for maintenance vehicles.



Examples of Junior Ranger, Junior Lifeguard, May is State Parks Month, and Litter Getter Stickers.



**Current California State Parks
Police Activities League decal.**



Current off-road Police Activities League decal.

Prototypes



2008

Prototye at Auburn SRA. Not approved.

Prototypes



1985

This vehicle stripe pattern was tested at Lake Oroville State Recreation Area. The pattern never received final approval and were removed.



This decal was created in 1990 as a prototype. It was placed on a limited number of vehicles. It was never formally adopted and was subsequently removed.



Ranger Mike Kania standing next to a vehicle equipped with the prototype logo.





1998-2000

This decal was produced in 1998 in 2 1/2 inch size. It was to be the beginning of a complete change of decals that never occurred. In a California State Park notice in 1994 it is mentioned that the department would eventually change to this decal. It was also noted in a notice in 1996 and again in 1998 when this decal was produced.

No other sizes are known to have been created and in 2000, the Department officially dropped this logo and the current logo was created.

Standard Configurations

PREFERRED - USE WHEREVER POSSIBLE



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVES



**CALIFORNIA
STATE PARKS**



Department Notice page.



2001-2005

In 2001 Folsom Lake State Recreation Area tested this State Park Peace Officer decal on law enforcement vehicles. It incorporated the official trademark of California State Parks in the center of decal. In 2005 the decal was discontinued and all vehicles were returned to the 2000 - Present decal.



Little is known about this blue with clear background version of the 1990's decal. It is eight inches in diameter and could have been created as a prototype for boat use.



In the late 1990's, this decal was proposed. It was never approved for use due to the date, 1902, the year Big Basin Redwoods became a California State Park.

The decal was later corrected to display "Since 1864", the year Yosemite was transferred to the State of California for use as a park.



In 2006 this decal was created using the commemorative badge worn by State Park Peace Officers to commemorate the 35 year anniversary of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division. It was never approved and subsequently removed.



Prototype door decal developed and proposed in the late 1990s, but ultimately rejected.

Tailgate Signs



Ranger Michael Lynch at George Hatfield State Recreation Area in 1976.



Above: Jim Hart at Anza Borrego Desert State Park



Right: Ranger Dick Edwards with patrol dog.





Sign commemorating 1928 - 1978 anniversary



Folsom Lake SRA



Ranger Mike Curry

Photo Gallery



Ranger Dick Van Natta at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area in 1961



Ranger Al Whittington at Big Sur about 1940



Mount Diablo State Park



**Mount Diablo
State Park**



**Star Prototype at Folsom Lake State
Recreation Area.**



Fire Crew at Richardson Grove State Park in 1961



**Folsom Lake State Recreation
Area in late 1950's**



Patrol trucks at Calaveras Big Trees State Park in 1947



Folsom Lake State Recreation Area 1950's



Lifeguard patrol boat.



Ranger Don Fuller



Lifeguard patrol boats.



Ranger Michael Lynch



**Above: Ranger Ed Williamson,
second State Park canine
handler, at Folsom Lake State
Recreation Area**



**Left: Ranger Kathleen Franklin at
Morro Bay State Park in 1986.**



Air Patrol Ranger Kelly McCague at Anza Borrego Desert State Park. Decals on the wings say Renger Patrol and on the tail is the current California State Parks decal.