



**For immediate release
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DCR SEEKS ARTISTS FOR “IRON RANGER” DONATION CONTAINERS IN THE PARKS

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is seeking artists to paint wildlife and landscape scenes on more than 100 Iron Rangers, the metal contribution containers located in state parks across the Commonwealth.

The 42-inch-high steel containers are designed to accept financial contributions from park users, which are used to benefit the state parks system through the Conservation Trust and Urban Parks Trust. The artist program, now in its sixth year, is open to the public.

Submissions are due by May 24, 2010, and will be juried by members of DCR’s Design Committee. Selected artists will be notified by May 27, 2010, and the work must be completed by Sept. 10, 2010. Submissions should be sent to Sharon Hoey, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Suite 600, 251 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02114.

Submissions must include a color design, a written description of the design, and the location of the Iron Ranger the artist wants to paint. Artists must also include their resume or name, address, and information on their art background, as well as a day-time phone number.

“This program is an important part of DCR’s larger effort to improve park service and enhance the visitors’ experience while promoting partnerships in the parks,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “By facilitating contributions to the Conservation Trust and Urban Parks Trust, the Iron Ranger program also highlights DCR’s message of ‘It’s Your Nature.’ ”

The 169 Iron Rangers in 98 properties across the state collect donations made by many of the more than 30 million people who visit the state parks, beaches, and forests in Massachusetts each year. These Iron Rangers generate approximately \$20,000 annually, which helps fund educational programs and conservation projects in the parks. When painted, the Iron Rangers attract further attention and patrons contribute more generously. In some cases, donations have more than doubled over the previous year after an Iron Ranger has been painted.

The Iron Ranger Painting Program provides an opportunity for artists to display their work in a DCR park while helping to enhance the look of the Iron Rangers, and the park itself. Although artists are not paid for their work, they are invited to sign the back of the Iron Ranger and leave

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business cards and brochures with the property supervisor or district manager to distribute upon request.

DCR will supply the paint, and paintings will be done on-site. The Iron Rangers will be cleaned by DCR staff members before the painting. The containers will need two primer coats, one base coat, and two finish coats.

The Conservation Trust and Urban Parks Trust, established by the Legislature, receive contributions that are used to advance the recreation and conservation interests of the Commonwealth. The Trusts provide a way for individuals, businesses, and foundations to contribute directly to the recreational and conservation interests of Massachusetts. The tax-deductible contributions can be designated for a particular park or parks, or for a program of the donor's choice.

For more information on the artists program, visit www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/trust/IronRangerCall.htm.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us