

	United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service	<h1>NEWS RELEASE</h1>	KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST 1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 841-6131 www.fs.usda.gov/klamath	
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Klamath National Forest Receives Two Regional Awards

In late November 2010, the Klamath National Forest received two significant Regional awards for its work in hazardous fuels reduction and emergency response.

Five Klamath National Forest employees - Thomas Shickle, Joe Boggs, Patrick Grimes, Nicholas Schwall and Virginia McDaniel – were recognized with the 2010 Regional Forester’s Honor Award for Emergency Response. On August 2, 2010, the five employees were working in the Salmon River drainage near Sawyers Bar when they were dispatched to assist the local Salmon River Volunteer Fire/Rescue squad in responding to a motor vehicle accident. At the scene, responders found an injured man in a partially submerged vehicle, 150 vertical feet below the roadway in the Salmon River. Forest Service employees including Patrick Grimes (an emergency medical technician) successfully transported the patient on a backboard without further injury across the river to an awaiting ambulance. Thomas Shickle assumed the role of the on-site incident commander which included implementing a complex system of ropes and swift water rescue techniques to move the patient safely across the river. At that point, the patient was loaded into the Salmon River ambulance and transported to a landing zone, where a medical helicopter flew him to an area hospital.

“We were lucky to have been working in the area that day and able to lend a hand. Everyone on the crew and the Salmon River folks did a great job. Receiving the award is quite an honor”, said Shickle.

Regional Forester Honor Awards are selected from nominations from the eighteen national forests throughout California and the Regional office in Vallejo.



Emergency Response Award Winners

Regional Forester, Randy Moore (left) and Chief of the USDA Forest Service, Tom Tidwell (right) present award to members of the Salmon/Scott River Fuels Team from the Klamath National Forest. Awardees included Thomas Shickle (with trophy), and Joe Boggs (middle right). Patrick Grimes, Nicholas Schwall and Virginia McDaniel were not present.

The second award presented to the Klamath National Forest in late November, recognized the Forest for completing the largest acreage of hazardous fuels reduction of all California National Forests in 2010. The objectives of the fuel reduction treatments were to improve community safety and reduce the amount of existing vegetation to improve ecosystem health and resilience to wildfire. The Klamath National Forest was funded and staffed to complete an assigned target of 9,640 acres in hazardous fuels reduction (prescribed burning, thinning, mowing and mastication) for the year. The final 2010 accomplishment for the Klamath NF was 31,500 acres treated.

“While it’s nice to receive this award, the accomplishment I am most proud of is what was actually done on the land with respect to changing hazardous fuels conditions,” noted Klamath National Forest Supervisor Patty Grantham. “This past year saw the culmination of years of planning and preparation from foresters, wildlife biologists, fire and fuels personnel, hydrologists – basically every Klamath NF employee helped make it happen, as well as support from local government, communities, individuals and organizations. There is a lot of competition for this award, and being in the top spot among the national forests in California is a great achievement.”