



# Biography

USDA Forest Service • Alaska Region • Tongass National Forest

## FORREST COLE FOREST SUPERVISOR



Forrest Cole has been the Forest Supervisor of the Tongass National Forest since 2003. In this capacity, he provides leadership and oversight to employees who work to balance multiple uses of the forest resources. At nearly 17 million acres, the Tongass is the largest national forest in the United States— about the size as the state of West Virginia.

Cole joined the Forest Service over 36 years ago. He began his career in various fire-related jobs in Arizona, and then moved to Alaska in 1979. While on the Tongass, he has served as the Presale Forester and Small Sales Forester on the Petersburg Ranger District; Timber Management Assistant on the Juneau/Yakutat Ranger Districts; Timber, Minerals, Special Uses Management Assistant on the Juneau Ranger District; Timber and Fire Management Staff Officer as well as Resources Staff Officer on the Stikine Administrative Area and Forest and Fire Management Staff Officer for the Tongass National Forest. Cole also served in the Regional Office as Director of Forest Management and as part of the planning team for the Tongass Land

Management Plan with responsibility for the timber, vegetation and subsistence program areas.

Cole has a Bachelor of Science in Forestry degree from Northern Arizona University. He was the recipient of the 2008 Regional Forester's Award for Meeting America's Needs based on his contributions and commitment to public land stewardship, community stability and public trust.

The Tongass National Forest stretches the 500-mile length of the Alaska Panhandle. The Tongass has healthy fish and wildlife populations, clean water, trees to support local industry, recreation opportunities unique to Alaska. The beauty and bounty of the Tongass draws attention from around the nation and the world.

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