



# Biography

USDA Forest Service • Alaska Region

## WAYNE OWEN

### DIRECTOR, WILDLIFE, FISHERS, ECOLOGY, WATERSHED AND SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT



Wayne Owen joined the Alaska Region in July 2010 as the Director of Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecology, Watersheds and Subsistence Management. As Director, he has the responsibility of providing for and integrating the management of the resources in his portfolio in collaboration with the Tongass and Chugach National Forests. He works closely with a wide range of stakeholders, partners and communities of interest to promote the sustainable management, conservation, restoration and stewardship of watersheds, fisheries, wildlife, botanical and subsistence resources. He also has a primary role in facilitating ecological data collection throughout the Alaska Region and leads several conservation and outdoor education initiatives.

Owen previously served for eight years in the agency's national headquarters in Washington, D.C., as the senior policy analyst for biodiversity issues for the National Forest System; National Botany Program Leader and liaison to the National Fish and

Wildlife Foundation. Prior to working in Washington, Owen was the Regional Ecologist for the Forest Service Southeastern Region in Atlanta, Georgia. He has worked on national forests in the South and Intermountain West and served as a technical specialist for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project. His first Forest Service job was doing radio-telemetry studies with the Pacific Southwest Research Station in central California.

Owen has been acknowledged for his contribution to several national planning efforts. He received national recognition from the Chief of the Forest Service and Director of the Bureau of Land Management in 2004 for his efforts on behalf of conservation education and partnership programs. He has won awards and recognition for endangered species conservation, Research Natural Area establishment and technology transfer.

Owen has a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California, Davis and a Bachelor's in Biology from Boise State University. He formerly served on the graduate faculty of Boise State and the University of Idaho. He has published a broad range of scientific, technical and popular papers, including several field guides and a history of the vegetation of the Southeast. The National Agriculture Library holds a collection of his conservation essays.

The Tongass and Chugach are the largest national forests in the nation. The Tongass National Forest stretches the 500-mile length of the Alaska panhandle. The Chugach National Forest makes the 210-mile arc around Prince William Sound. The beauty and bounty of these forests draw attention from around the nation and the world.