



Biography

USDA Forest Service • Alaska and Pacific Northwest Regions

KEN SNELL

DIRECTOR, FIRE, FUELS AND AVIATION MANAGEMENT



Ken Snell has been the Director of the Fire, Fuels and Aviation Management for the Alaska and Pacific Northwest Regions since November 2006. As Director, Snell oversees the management of the fire, fuels and aviation programs across 48 million acres in the states of Oregon, Washington and Alaska. As a member of the Pacific Northwest Wildland Fire Coordinating Group, Snell has overseen the management of more than 4,000 wildland fires, which annually burn an average of 470,000 acres.

Snell is part of a Service First organization with the Bureau of Land Management. In conjunction with his BLM partner, Snell works with 29 national forest and BLM districts. The fuels program annually treats 400,000 acres of hazardous fuels and the aviation program flies about 15,000 hours for both administrative and wildland fire missions.

Snell has been with the Forest Service for 42 years. His previous positions include trails and fire work on the Clearwater National Forest; TSI and fire on the Lolo National Forest; smoke jumping in Missoula, Mont.; and fuels quantification at both the Intermountain Research Station and Pacific Northwest Research Station. Snell held several positions at the Pacific Northwest Region including Fire Management Operations Analyst, Fire Management Planning, Program Manager for Plant Ecology, Program Manager for Air Quality, Program Manager for Forest Insects and Diseases and Deputy Director for Fire, Fuels and Aviation.

Through his career, Snell has been recognized with the National Prescribed Fire Award for increasing public understanding and acceptance of prescribed fire programs at the regional and national level. He was recognition by the state of Oregon for “Assuring Oregonians of a vibrant and response forestland fire program system.” He has provided outstanding contributions to the WESTAR wildland fire/air quality effort and the scientific assessment of the interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management project. Recently, Snell was recognition by the federal government for his contributions during an arbitration hearing with employees and management.

Snell has a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management degree from the University of Montana and a Masters in Forest Management degree from the University of Montana.