

NEWS RELEASE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION



Pacific Northwest Region

333 S.W. First Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204, www.fs.usda.gov/r6

Contact: Tom Knappenberger – 503-808-2241
Sarah Levy – 503.808.2816

Feb. 7, 2012

Forest Volunteers Receive National Honors

PORTLAND - Three U.S. Forest Service volunteers who serve in Oregon and Washington have received national awards for their public service.

Joel Starr, a resident of Philomath, OR, and 10-year volunteer with multiple National Forests, received the Individual Volunteer of the Year award. Bob and Karen Pauly, campground hosts for the Seal Rock Campground in the Hood Canal Ranger District of the Olympic National Forest, received the Campground Hosts of the Year Award.

“The contributions these volunteers have made are invaluable,” Regional Forester Kent Connaughton said. “Their commitment to excellence sets a high bar for the rest of us.”

In 2011, Starr worked on a variety of volunteer projects for the Willamette, Deschutes, Siuslaw and Mt. Hood National Forests. He currently serves as the Trail Boss for Mid-Valley Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET), and is a member of the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) and Back Country Horseman of Oregon (BCHO). OET Chapter members often comment on the inspirational role that Starr plays through his work ethic and by encouraging new volunteers to get involved.

During the 2010 and 2011 summer seasons, the Paulys served as hosts for the Seal Rock campground. The campground includes 41 sites, two interpretive trails, a day-use area, and receives an average of 4,000 visitors a year. Their excellent service has been reflected in a number of phone calls and notes directed to the District Ranger to praise their service.

Starr and the Paulys will be recognized for their service by Connaughton and representatives from Forest Service national headquarters. Photos are available by request.

- USFS -