

Regional Forester Honor Awards

Rocky Mountain Region

USDA Forest Service, April 4, 2012



Regional Forester Honor Awards Rocky Mountain Region

The Regional Forester Honor Awards are presented each year for outstanding achievement by Forest Service partners and employees. The Rocky Mountain Region reserves this award as its highest honor.

April 4, 2012

Denver Marriott West, Golden, Colorado

MORE ABOUT THE AWARDS ON THE BACK COVER

PARTNER OF THE YEAR



An individual, group, organization or governmental entity who's actions demonstrate a commitment to partnering and has demonstrated significant achievement in land stewardship and conservation activities to move the region forward in restoring healthy landscapes, providing clean and abundant water and enhancing recreation experiences for the visiting public.

South Dakota Army National Guard

For the past 27 years the South Dakota Army National Guard and the Black Hills National Forest have worked hand in hand to produce an extremely effective partnership that greatly benefits the training of today's military, provides for the care and maintenance of natural resources, and enhances the public's experience in the forest.

Group picture-left to right: Greg Bohls, National Guard Coordinator, Black Hills NF; Brigadier General Ted Johnson; Maribeth Gustafson, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mtn Region, USFS; Brian Ferebee, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mtn Region, USFS; Lieutenant Colonel James Peterson; Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Iverson; Craig Bobzien, Forest Supervisor, Black Hills NF; Dan Jirón, Regional Forester, Rocky Mtn Region, USFS.



REGIONAL LEADERSHIP



For demonstrated commitment, quality of relationships, inspirational attitude and actions, competency, consistency, credibility and trust.

Craig Cope

Craig has worked in Region 2 for 36 1/2 years, most of that time on the Bighorn National Forest, in Buffalo Wyoming. Craig has excelled in all of his roles throughout the years, his work ethic, persistence and "driving" style has led to many successful achievements in his recreation and wilderness roles. Craig has a knack for recognizing potential problems before they occur and doing something about it. He leads through actions...Craig's commitment to improving the conditions on the ground whether it is front-country or Wilderness, truly exemplify competency, credibility, and dedication worthy of recognition.

Group picture-left to right: Bernie Borgong, Acting Forest Supervisor, Bighorn NF; Brian Ferebee, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mtn Region, USFS; Craig Cope, District Recreation Forester, Bighorn NF; Maribeth Gustafson, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. Forest Service; Dan Jirón, Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region, USFS.



REGIONAL AGENT OF CHANGE



For demonstrated commitment and contributions toward resiliency in response to change, including Forest Service inclusiveness, mutual respect of employees and the public, safety culture and environmental sustainability in our operations and mission.

Jeremiah Martinez

Jeremiah is an employee on the Conejos Peak Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest. Jeremiah's position with the Forest Service as District Recreation Staff has allowed him the opportunity to express himself as an agent of positive change by being creative and bringing his understanding of the local area to benefit many people of the San Luis Valley. His focus on the youth within the San Luis Valley has brought many aspects of natural resource and public land management to a young audience providing them opportunity to learn and be involved in the management of public lands. These opportunities provide life skills and promote personal interest in their natural resources.

Group Picture-left to right: Dan Dallas, Forest Supervisor, Rio Grande NF, Brian Ferebee, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mtn Region, USFS, Maribeth Gustafson, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mtn Region, USFS; Jennifer Martinez, spouse of Jeremiah Martinez; Jeremiah Martinez, District Recreation Staff Officer, Conejos Peak Ranger District of the Rio Grande NF; Dan Jirón, Regional Forester, Rocky Mtn Region, USFS.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION - EXTERNAL

For demonstrated sustained superior effort or action.

Medicine Wheel Alliance

Through more than 20 years of consultation, the Medicine Wheel Alliance, Medicine Wheel Coalition, and Bighorn County Commissioners helped the Forest Service develop a plan for the Medicine Wheel/Medicine Mountain National Historic Landmark that balances respect for active spiritual use of the site, historic preservation, and on-site educational efforts. The outcome of their commitment to the Medicine Wheel/Medicine Mountain NHL is the preservation, use, and interpretation of one of the most complex and significant traditional cultural properties on the northwest plains for all our communities.

Group picture-left to right: Bernie Borgong, Acting Forest Supervisor, Bighorn NF; Dallas Ross, President of the Medicine Wheel Coalition; Maribeth Gustafson, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. Forest Service; Brian Ferebee, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. Forest Service; Dan Jirón, Regional Forester, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. Forest Service.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION - INTERNAL

For demonstrated sustained superior effort or action.

GMUG Abandoned Mines Lands Program

Over the last five years the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests (GMUG) have successfully obtained funding for Environmental Compliance and Protection (ECAP) and Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Programs. The Forest is recognized as highly effective, knowledgeable and accomplished in project work and has leveraged funding through partnerships and potentially responsible parties to have implemented a 5-year mine reclamation/restoration program of over \$8.4 million dollars. As a program leader in the Region, these accomplishments and the expertise afforded on the Forest are worthy of Regional Forester special recognition.

Group picture-left to right: Dan Jirón, Regional Forester, Rocky Mtn Region, USFS; Sherri Hazelhurst, Acting Forest Supervisor on the GMUG NFs; Maribeth Gustafson, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mtn Region, USFS; Brian Ferebee, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mtn Region.



For the District who demonstrates leadership, teamwork, community connection, responsiveness to challenges, innovation, creativity, workforce vitality and morale, and resource stewardship.

Medicine Wheel/Paintrock Ranger District

In 2011, the MWPR district employees brought their talents and skills in those areas to bear on weather-related disasters and a daunting workload while dealing with an unprecedented turnover in personnel. In spite of an 80% turnover in staff, the district accomplished significant milestones in 2011 in addition to their regular program of work. A late field season complicated by highway closures, road washouts, and flooding had the district playing catch-up with their regular program of work. Yet they were able to do even more – safely and efficiently overseeing the forest's first managed wildland fire, working with a newly formed county Resource Advisory Committee, and hosting dedication ceremonies for a National Historic Landmark.

Group picture-left to right: Bernie Borgong, Acting Forest Supervisor, Bighorn NF; Maribeth Gustafson, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mtn Region, USFS; Brian Ferebee, Deputy Regional Forester, Rocky Mtn Region, USFS; Dave Hogen, District Ranger of the Medicine Wheel/Paintrock Ranger District; Dan Jirón, Regional Forester, Rocky Mtn Region, USFS.

DISTRICT OF THE YEAR





Regional Forester's Award • 2012



The Group award recipients received a hand-crafted Leopold Bench by local craftsman, Corbin Clay. It symbolizes the ideas of Aldo Leopold: author, American naturalist and long-time Forest Service employee. These classic benches are made from bark beetle-killed wood and reflect Leopold's commitment to living simply and lightly on the land.

To spy a Leopold bench in someone's yard is to know something about the family who there resides.

Recipients of an individual award received a custom-made journal created by Nicole Aufderhar from North Branch, Minnesota. Each journal is made from specially-selected leather, filled with hand -torn paper and bound in the same manner used by artisans in centuries past. The care to detail and exquisite craftsmanship reflects the integrity and character of the artist as well as the high honor attributed to the awardee.