



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2023 Chief's Awards

March 13, 2024
2:00–4:00 p.m. ET



Order of the Awards Ceremony

Presentation of Colors **Forest Service Honor Guard**

Introduction
Jaelith Hall-Rivera
Chief of Staff

Welcome
Mary Pletcher Rice
Deputy Chief, Business Operations

Opening Remarks
Randy Moore
Chief

Chief's Innovation Award
Randy Moore
Chief

International Influencer Award
Angela Coleman
Associate Chief

**Delivering the Wildfire Crisis Strategy
Through Innovation**
Brian Ferebee
*Chief Executive, Intergovernmental Relations and
Wildfire Risk Reduction Infrastructure Team Lead*

**Delivering the Non-Wildfire Crisis Strategy
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law/ Inflation Reduction Act Program
with Ingenuity and Exceptional Customer Service and Connections**
Mary Pletcher Rice
Deputy Chief, Business Operations

**Reimagining Recreation by Engaging New and Diverse Audiences
to Expand Social and Economic Benefits for the Public**
Chris French
Deputy Chief, National Forest System

Developing Tribal and Equity-Centered Partnerships
John Crockett
Deputy Chief for State, Private, and Tribal Forestry

**Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
in Program and Service Delivery**
David Lytle
Deputy Chief, Research and Development

Fostering a Workplace in Which Employees Thrive
Katie O'Connor
Acting Chief Executive, Work Environment and Performance Office

**Protecting and Conserving Healthy and Resilient
Public Lands and Communities**
Robert Velasco
Chief Financial Officer

Closing Remarks
Angela Coleman
Associate Chief

Mary Pletcher Rice
Deputy Chief, Business Operations

Chief's Awards Recipients

For full information on award categories, awardees,
and project photos, scan the QR code or visit:

www.fs.usda.gov/inside-fs/recognition/chiefs-awards



Chief's Innovation Award

Manti-La Sal National Forest

Agency team members: Michael Scottorn, Justin Bradley, Stefan Longo, Orlando Norton, Danny Salas-Alcala, Johnny Collin, Darren Olsen, Matthew Meccariello, Ryan Nehl

Partner: Bureau of Land Management—Kyle Beagley

International Influencer Award

Women in Forest Carbon Initiative

Agency team members: Sasha Gottlieb, Moses Jackson, Jennifer Smith, Ashley Lehman, Ixía Avilés-Vázquez, Kerry Dooley, Sara Goeking, Summer Dunn, Kami Ellingson, Kristin Pelz

Partner: METI Inc.—René Siwe, Olivia Freeman, Marija Spirovska Kono

MegaFlorestais Core Planning Team

Agency team members: David Lytle, Daniel Cressy, Rita Mustatia, Xochilt Luna, Jay Lowe, Andrea Worrells, William Sanders, Larry Rabin, Dionne Uzes, Joe Stout, Scott Rogers, Erick Walker, Tara Karel, Brenda McCants

Partner: Rights and Resources International—Graziela Tanaka, Shuda Jarboe, Solange Bandiaky-Badji, Sally Collins, Herman Sundqvist, Leslie Weldon

Delivering the Wildfire Crisis Strategy Through Innovation

Small Business Equity Team Tribal Outreach

Agency team members: Alfort Belin, Ashley Thompson, Citlaliti Leon, Anise Arrington

Wildland Fire Tech Day Support Team

Agency team members: Laura Hill, Dre Bertani, Jason Stahl, Marc Barnes, Martha Barraza, Jack Greber, Patrick Murphy, Zahid Chaudry, Jamy Lomonto, Dirk Giles, Ashley Rutland, Justin Baxter, Cole Belongie, Robert Bailey, Erik Rodin

Stephen Nelson, Fire and Aviation Management

National-Level Keystone Partnerships Supporting the Wildfire Crisis Strategy

Agency team members: Joseph Smith, Sierra Talcott, Nicole Hutt, Amy Ricotta, Ricardo Martinez, Arben Kraja, Amanda Johnson, Keith O'Loughlin, Melissa Aulisio, Kristin Schmitt, Ginelle Heller, Clint Cross, Timothy Melchert, Adam Mendonca, Lindsay Buchanan, Michelle Tamez, Nicole Balloffet, Michael Spisak, Robert Barnhart, Brian Logan, Kimberly Conley, Nathaniel Gillespie, Kelle Reynolds, Myra Williamson, Jonathan Word, Gina Knudson, Marvin "Earl" Stewart, Brad Kinder, Leah Lord, Ian Fox, Andrea Bedell-Loucks, Jachea Westbrook, Jessica Baker, Alicia Maestas, Ron Pressley, John Hefner, Christopher Dahl, Michael Wheeler

Mountain City, Ruby Mountains, Jarbidge Ranger District

Agency team members: Josh Nicholes, Wendy Markham, Joseph Powell, Doug Nesbit, Stefan Goehring

21 Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscapes

Agency team members: Nicole Branton, Aaron Mayville, Robert Lever, Neil Bosworth, Eli Ilano, Jason Kuiken, Monte Williams, Diana Trujillo, Brant Petersen, Linda Jackson, Chad Benson, James Duran, Holly Jewkes, Kirk Flannigan, Kristin Bail, Kerwin Dewberry, Chris Carlton, Roman Torres, Scott Tangenberg, Chris Stubbs, Dannelle Harrison, Rachel Birkey, Ted McArthur, Cheryl Probert, Meta Loftsgaarden, Chris Christofferson, Rachel Smith, Erik J. Fey, Jon Stansfield, Kevin Wright, David Whittekiend, Josh White, Sarah Clawson, James Pitts



Chief's Awards Recipients

Delivering the Non-Wildfire Crisis Strategy Bipartisan Infrastructure Law/ Inflation Reduction Act Program with Ingenuity and Exceptional Customer Service and Connections

Cooperative Forestry BIL/IRA Rollout Team

Agency team members: Steven Koehn, Beattrix Wilson, Brian Brashaw, Alice Ewen, Sandra Burnett, Lynne Sholty, Anne Buckelew, Reed Robinson, James Fortner, Mary McCormick, Kevin Naranjo, Patrick Rappold, Caroline Kuebler, Scott Stewart, Claire Harper, Margaret Haines, Quintaniya Holifield, Nancy Stremple, David Sivyler, Regan Hopper

Mature and Old-Growth Classification Inventory Team

Agency team members: Thomas Schuler, Jamie Barbour, Christopher Swanston, David Lytle, Linda Heath, Susanne Tracy, Marin Palmer, Scott Barndt, Andrew Gray, Gregory Hayward, Christopher Hiemstra, Aaron Kamoske, Shanna Kleinsmith, Joseph Krueger, Kristen Pelz, Kari Tilton, Christopher Woodall

Partners: Overstory Strategies—Peter Nelson; Bureau of Land Management—Wade Salverson, Chris Schumacher

Deep Creek Watershed Restoration and Future Management Protocol

Agency team members: Thomas R. Scott, April Daniels, Jorge Guevara

Partners: The Conservation Fund—Lauren Day; Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission—Christopher Wynn

Climate Risk Viewer Team

Agency team members: Erik Johnson, Nathan Walker, Jennifer Ross, Sarah Anderson, John Rupe, Aaron Kamoske, Sarah Sawyer, Joan Carlson, David Lytle, Jamie Barbour, Linh Hoang, Susanne Tracy, Linda Heath, Christopher Carlson, Christopher Swanston

Partners: Overstory Strategies—Peter Nelson; Locana—Glenn Sullivan; NatureServe (formerly)—Healy Hamilton; ACES—Michael Cummings; Large Landscapes—Zack Wurtzbach

Re-imagining Recreation by Engaging New and Diverse Audiences To Expand Social and Economic Benefits for the Public

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache Developed Site Recreation Fee Proposal Team

Agency team members: David Whittekiend, Renee Flanagan, Todd Harbon, Joanna Wilson, Liza Honorio, Amanda Loye, Lori Price, Cheryl Butler, Charles Rosier, Loyal Clark, Kathy Jo Pollock, Zinnia Wilson, Steve Brown, Chelsea Phillippi, Lindsay Anderson, Darci Anderson, Zack McKown, Sarah Flinders, Suzi Tenhagen, Jacob Pipkin, Ray Bruini, Gary Gray, Kyle Nelson, George Fauci, Juan Barrientez

Great American Outdoors Act—Legacy Restoration Fund Implementation Team

Agency team members: Brenda Christensen, Robert Gillispie, Delilah Jaworski, Christopher Murphy, Samantha Reho, Eleanor Molina, Sherry Reaves, Jeffrey Vail, Delissa Padilla-Nieves, Betty Jewett, Sheree Oluwafemi

Wayne National Forest—Ironton Ranger District Center of Excellence

Agency team members: Mathias Wallace, Dustin Mills, Nick Mossbarger, Robert Napier, Robert Webb, James B. Wilson, Roger Boggs, Ashley Kuflewski, Glen Finley, Andrew Tremayne, Mike Buchanan, Taissae Sanchez-Medina, Coby Salmon, Elrand Denson



Chief's Awards Recipients

Developing Tribal and Equity-Centered Partnerships

Mark Twain National Forest/United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Paraprofessional Team

Agency team member: Lester Lakey

Partners: United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians—Acee Watte; Missouri Humanities Council—Erin Whitson

Tribal Forest Protection Act and Forest Service Co-Stewardship Projects and Accomplishments of Integrating Caring for the Land with Tribal Custodians and Indigenous Ecological Knowledge

Agency team members: Colleen O'Brien, Sandra Dingman, Nolan Colegrove, Jacob Winn, James Brammer, Reese Sewell, Cavan Fitzsimmons, Bridget "Brie" Darr, Paul Thompson, Eric Rebitzke, Rita Mills

Partners: Intertribal Timber Council—Cody Desautel; Western Klamath Restoration Partnership—Bill Tripp; Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians—Jason Robison; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians—Tommy Cabe; The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians—Austin Lowe; Bay Mills Indian Community—Whitney Gravelle; Southern Ute Indian Tribe—Melvin J. Baker; Shaan Seet Inc.—Ed Douville

Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources

Agency team members: Doug Stephens, Deirdre Remley, Troy Ferone, Molly Westby, Jori Clark, Ana Perez, Susan Glimcher, J. Gavin Hale, Andrew Tremayne, Margaret Hangan

Pacific Northwest Region, Office of Communications and Community Engagement Team

Agency team members: Sarah Callaghan, Rebecca Ciciretti, Leslie Garcia, Sarah Kassel, Rachel LaMedica, Heather Zissler, Nikola Smith

Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Program and Service Delivery

Recreation.gov/Recreation One Stop

Agency team members: Richard Delappe, Mark Salansky, Lisa Bourne-McCaslin, Janelle Smith, Paul Kennerly, Kristi Bray, Kathleen Day, Stephanie Lyons, Jason Smurthwaite, Debra Torres, Kevin Mularkey, Kenneth Barrett, Cassidy Bazley, Susan Valente, Griffin Schireman, Katherine Pasini, James Bailey

Forest Service Diversity and Inclusion Science Team

Agency team members: Sonya Sachdeva, Laura Kenefic, Dexter Locke, Cherie Fisher, Lynne Westphal

Partner: University of Minnesota—Michael Dockry

Weber Basin Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center and the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Agency team members: Jason Talbot, David Whittekiend

Senior Special Agent Brandon Robinson Use of SkillBridge

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Hiring Blitz Team

Agency team members: Julie Beall, Jason Steele, Kathy Holm, Melissa Kulack, Hillary Woods, Sergio Abila, Amanda Blankenship, Max Martinez, Erin Cooper

Johnny Grace, Southern Research Station



Chief's Awards Recipients

Fostering a Workplace in Which Employees Thrive

Fire Force–Workforce Management Tool

Agency team members: Kristen Allison, Aaron Bilyeu

National Fire Hiring Team

Agency team members: Katherine McEuen, Somsakul Birdsong, Shay King, Randall LeBlanc, Curtis Alderete, Jake Nuttal, Nathan Lancaster, Scott McDermid, Timothy Griffin, Lily Huskey, Tobe Haught, Matthew Nielson, Karen Kufta, Deidre “Dee Dee” Cherry, Jason Heinz, Brian Ebert, Russell Marchion, Brian Hicks, Dirk Huber, Lisa Renken

Improving Safety Through Forest Service Uniform Components

Agency team members: Paul Gauchay, David Whittekiend, Deb Oakeson, Randall Draeger, Anstienette Sharpe, Rosemarie Hillmon, Lisa Outka-Perkins, Dennis Davis, Brenda Yankoviak

The Enterprise Program

Agency team members: Chris Feutrier, Rhonda O Byrne, Valencia Morris, Tracy Bieler, Jacob Benes, Jacqueline Banks, Mary Blanchard, Christine Brown, Chris Frederick, Jessica Haas, Stan Helin, Jamie Nield, Nathan Rezeau, Andrew Tasler, Gregory Turner, Paul Weese, Jessica Rubado, Shannon Smith, Alison Kammer, Paula Randler

Emergency Medical Services Program

Agency team members: Michelle Curry, Robert Ehrlich, Stephanie McGovern, Roger Miller

Office of Civil Rights and the Forest Service Engagement Forum

Agency team members: Brandy Billie-Moore, Michole Wesley, Linda Glover

Work Environment and Performance Office and the New Employee Experience

Agency team members: Shoshona Britton, Justin Haug, Kelly Balcarczyk, Leslie Courtright, Erika Mascarenas, Patricia Dyken, Lorie Almazan, Nicole Ebberhart, Emma Beck, Victoria Rodríguez

Protecting and Conserving Healthy and Resilient Public Lands and Communities

Wildfire Risk Management Science Team

Agency team members: Dr. Christopher O'Connor, Dr. Matthew Thompson, Dr. David Calkin, Bradley Pietruszka, Jessica Haas, Richard Stratton, Dr. Benjamin Gannon, Glen Lewis, Michael Dardis, Dr. Michael Caggiano, Eric Zanotto, Richard Sinkovitz, Tonja Opperman, Jane Darnell

Partners: Oregon State University—Chris Dunn, Rebecca Weber; Colorado State University—Tyler Beeton, Scott Ritter; University of Montana—Joel Iverson

Camp Hale–Continental Divide National Monument Planning Team

Agency team members: Frank Beum, Steve Lohr, Scott Fitzwilliams, Adam Bianchi, Leanne Veldhius, Roger Poirer, Paula Peterson, Tom Fuller, Juan Dominguez

Chief Financial Office's Managing Financial Risk for Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements Team

Agency team members: Kandice Cotner, Priscilla Ration, Leslie Epps, John Dennis Rogers, Jennifer McGuire

Resources Planning Act (RPA) Assessment Team

Agency team members: Dr. Claire O'Dea, Dr. John Coulston, Dr. Jeffrey Prestemon, Dr. Travis Warziniack, Dr. Matthew Reeves, Dr. Eric White, Dr. Kurt Ritters, Dr. Rebecca Flitcroft, Dr. Jennifer Costanza, Dr. Linda Joyce, Dr. Christopher Mihlar, Dr. Karen Schleeweis, Sonja Oswalt, Dr. Brett Butler, Dr. Frank Koch, Dr. Mark Nelson, Dr. Miranda Mockrin, Dr. Kevin Potter

Partners: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University—Dr. Evan Brooks; Bank of Canada—Dr. Craig Johnston



Chief's Awards Acknowledgments

Special Thanks to the 2023 Chief's Awards Committees and Volunteers

**Business Operations Deputy Area, Host
Ericka Thomas, Lead**

Planning Team

Sandy Coleman, Debbie Cress, Renee Ernest, Sandra Lopez, Robin McDonald, Hector Ortiz,
Mike Vigil

Review Team

Stephanie Archuleta, Dre Bertani, Maureen Bookwalter, Renate Bush, Jesse Casterson, Susan
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Kenneth Titus, Keith Woeste

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Ashley Miller

Logistics Team

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Martin, Elsie Mersereau, Marie Mills, Lisha Robertson, Cindy Romani, Suellen Snell,
Rebecca Wallace