



United States Department of Agriculture



2019
**UNDER
SECRETARY'S
& CHIEF'S
AWARDS**

Jefferson Auditorium
U.S. Department of Agriculture
South Building
December 5, 2019



Forest Service

ORDER OF CEREMONY

WELCOME

Leslie Weldon, Ceremony Host

POSTING OF THE COLORS

The Joint Services Color Guard

SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Selma Talia Harris

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Leslie Weldon

OPENING REMARKS

Chief Vicki Christiansen

PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S AWARDS

INTRODUCTION OF UNDER SECRETARY'S AWARDS

Leslie Weldon

REMARKS

Under Secretary Jim Hubbard

PRESENTATION OF UNDER SECRETARY'S AWARDS

FINAL REMARKS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Leslie Weldon

PHOTOGRAPHS AND REFRESHMENTS

CHIEF'S AWARDS

SUSTAIN OUR NATION'S FORESTS & GRASSLANDS

Presented by **Chris French**
Deputy Chief

The Nation's vast forests and grasslands are essential to the ecological, physical, biological, economic, cultural, and social well-being of our country. Forested land alone comprises nearly one-third of the total land area of the United States—the single largest classification of land cover in the country. More than 56 percent of the total forested area is in private ownership. The Forest Service manages about one-fifth of the Nation's forested area and nearly 10 percent of the Nation's rangelands in a system of public lands called the national forests and grasslands. Through direct natural resource management, the pursuit and exchange of new knowledge, and partnerships with State and private landowners, the Forest Service has the capability to help support sustainable stewardship of much of America's forests and grasslands.

The relative stability of the Nation's forests and grasslands can obscure the environmental and land use changes that have occurred over time. Impacts from severe wildfires, insects and diseases, invasive species, human influences, climate change, extreme weather, and other visible disturbances have raised public awareness about the environment. These impacts, along with changing human demands, perpetually challenge our ability at the Forest

Service to ensure that ecosystems are healthy, resilient, and, thus, more adaptable to changing conditions or that they can be restored to a healthy state.

As forests and grasslands continue to change, so does our understanding at the Forest Service about complex ecological processes and the effects of our management actions on natural resources. We constantly collect new information and acquire new knowledge through scientific inquiry and through our experience in managing natural resources. When we apply this knowledge, our land management practices become more effective, helping to make ecosystems more resilient. Long-term conservation across land ownership boundaries, through collaborative partnerships, and via knowledge transfer can enhance the natural functions of the land, such as producing cleaner water. It can also contribute to sustainability—the ability of forests and grasslands to produce goods and services that people want and need, both now and in the future. Our commitment to long-term sustainability will help maintain healthy, resilient, and productive forests and grasslands for future generations.



AWARD RECIPIENTS

PRINCE OF WALES LANDSCAPE LEVEL ANALYSIS PROJECT AND PRINCE OF WALES LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT TEAMS

TEAM LEAD: Earl Stewart

TEAM MEMBERS: Jon Bolling, Millie Schoonover, Wayne Benner, Lucy Maldonado, Delilah Brigham

FOREST PRODUCTS MODERNIZATION TEAM

TEAM LEAD: John Crockett

TEAM MEMBERS: Carl Maass, J. Gary Church, Dave Wilson, Deborah McGlothlin, Dave Cawrse

NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS OF TEXAS OPERATIONS TEAM

TEAM LEAD: James Crooks

TEAM MEMBERS: Lanton Chumley, Kristi Keach, James Sowell, Dale Snyder

PRINCE OF WALES LANDSCAPE LEVEL ANALYSIS PROJECT AND PRINCE OF WALES LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT TEAMS

TEAM LEAD: Earl Stewart

TEAM MEMBERS: Jon Bolling, Millie Schoonover, Wayne Benner, Lucy Maldonado, Delilah Brigham
The Prince of Wales Landscape Assessment Team prepared a 15-year project across 1.8 million acres on the Tongass National Forest. Supported by diverse communities and interests across Prince of Wales Island, the project includes old- and young-growth timber harvest; precommercial thinning and wildlife habitat improvement; watershed improvement and restoration; and the maintenance, improvement, and development of recreational facilities and the associated infrastructure. Through an exemplary collaborative process and efficiencies gained under the National Environmental Policy Act by the Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis Project Team, the partners adopted new processes for conducting National Environmental Policy Act at the scale of 1.8 million acres.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Sustain Our Nation's Forests & Grasslands

USDA GOAL #1: Ensure USDA programs are delivered efficiently, effectively, and with integrity and a focus on customer service

FOREST PRODUCTS MODERNIZATION TEAM

TEAM LEAD: John Crockett

TEAM MEMBERS: Carl Maass, J. Gary Church, Dave Wilson, Deborah McGlothlin, Dave Cawrse
The Forest Products Modernization Team is undertaking a comprehensive modernization of the Forest Service's entire forest products delivery system. The team is identifying opportunities to use every authority, tool, and technology available to improve forest conditions, support rural economies, and deliver excellent customer service while managing workloads and caring for the health and safety of employees. With about 80 million acres in need of restoration treatments across the National Forest System, the Forest Service recognizes that systems that served us well in the past need to evolve to keep up with changing climate, technologies, and markets.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Sustain Our Nation's Forests & Grasslands

USDA GOAL #3: Promote American agricultural products and exports

NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS OF TEXAS OPERATIONS TEAM

TEAM LEAD: James Crooks

TEAM MEMBERS: Lanton Chumley, Kristi Keach, James Sowell, Dale Snyder
The National Forests and Grasslands of Texas were hit by multiple tornadoes in April 2019, affecting more than 3,000 acres and damaging endangered species habitat on two ranger districts. The National Forests and Grasslands of Texas Operations Team employed an unmanned aircraft system to search for victims, determine damage, and map proposed salvage timber sales using a unique wind-event environmental analysis document. The team prepared and completed several sales within 6 weeks (which normally takes 4 to 6 months).

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Sustain Our Nation's Forests & Grasslands

USDA GOAL #6: Foster productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System lands

DELIVER BENEFITS TO THE PUBLIC

Presented by John Phipps

Deputy Chief

Claudette Fernandez

Deputy Chief

America's forests and grasslands play pivotal roles in providing a wide range of benefits to the American people. Land management that is sustainable enables forests and grasslands to continue producing goods and services to meet multiple public demands, thereby contributing to human health, prosperity, and quality of life for local communities and for the Nation as a whole. Managing complex and potentially competing demands and land uses is a formidable challenge. People want many of the same benefits from forests and grasslands and working collaboratively can successfully meet any challenge.

Recognizing the importance of forest stewardship, our country set aside the national forest reserves in 1897 to "improve and protect the forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber." In 1960, the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act declared that the national forests should be managed "for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes." The Forest Service's research and development, technical assistance, technology

transfer, and other services support natural resource management on the national forests, national grasslands, and on other lands. At the Forest Service, we work with other Federal agencies, State agencies, American Indian tribes, communities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and private landowners to sustain forests and grasslands across ownerships nationwide.

The people we serve benefit from healthy, resilient forests and grasslands in various ways. These lands provide recreational settings and opportunities; cultural and heritage resources; scenery; resources such as clean air and water, minerals, fish, wildlife, livestock forage, and firewood; various sources of renewable and nonrenewable energy; corridors for communication and energy transmission; and many other ecosystem services and benefits. The benefits generate billions of dollars contributed to the national economy, underpinning local economies in many rural areas and enhancing the quality of life and sense of place for people in many communities.



AWARD RECIPIENTS

WOOD INNOVATIONS TEAM

TEAM LEAD: Steve Marshall

TEAM MEMBERS: Melissa Jenkins, Steve Koehn, Larry Swan, Jim Archuleta

ATLANTA FOOD FOREST PARTNERSHIP

TEAM LEAD: Kelly Balcarczyk

TEAM MEMBERS: City of Atlanta Office of Resilience, The Conservation Fund Urban Conservation Team-Parks with Purpose Program, Friends of the Food Forest, Trees Atlanta

WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND DECISION MAKING INNOVATION

TEAM LEAD: Scott Fitzwilliams

TEAM MEMBERS: Roger Poirier, Bill Jackson, Sam Massman, Justin Anderson, Elizabeth Roberts

LITTLE MISSOURI NATIONAL GRASSLAND, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STAFF

TEAM LEAD: Cale Bickerdyke

TEAM MEMBERS: Kim Grotte, Curt Decker, Arden Warm, Laurie Gawin

SHARED STEWARDSHIP TEAM

TEAM LEAD: Erin Connelly

TEAM MEMBERS: Alan Ager, Hutch Brown, Doug Crandall, John Phipps

SPECIAL USES MODERNIZATION TEAM

TEAM LEAD: Elrand Denson

TEAM MEMBERS: Ben Johnson, Steve Lammey, Joey Perry, Jonathan Cook-Fisher

WOOD INNOVATIONS TEAM

TEAM LEAD: Steve Marshall

TEAM MEMBERS: Melissa Jenkins, Steve Koehn, Larry Swan, Jim Archuleta

The Wood Innovations program is revolutionizing the United States building sector by helping to introduce mass timber products, such as cross-laminated timber. A strong mass timber market can help increase the pace and scale of hazardous fuel reductions in forests across America, including on the National Forest System.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Deliver Benefits to the Public

USDA GOAL #4: Facilitate rural prosperity and economic development

ATLANTA FOOD FOREST PARTNERSHIP

TEAM LEAD: Kelly Balcarczyk

TEAM MEMBERS: City of Atlanta Office of Resilience, The Conservation Fund Urban Conservation Team-Parks with Purpose Program, Friends of the Food Forest, Trees Atlanta

The Forest Service's Southern Region has joined in Atlanta's first Food Forest, an initiative involving partner organizations to give underserved communities in Atlanta access to safe green space, conservation education, and workforce development. The partner organizations are building one of the largest food forests in the country while simultaneously transforming an abandoned 7.1-acre property into a landscape rich in foods. The partners purchased the tract with support from a Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry grant.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Deliver Benefits to the Public

USDA GOAL #7: Provide all Americans access to a safe nutritious and secure food supply

WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND DECISION MAKING INNOVATION

TEAM LEAD: Scott Fitzwilliams

TEAM MEMBERS: Roger Poirier, Bill Jackson, Sam Massman, Justin Anderson, Elizabeth Roberts

The White River National Forest has developed an innovative suite of environmental analysis and planning tools that help make good decisions in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. These tools reflect the intent of Forest Service reforms to environmental analysis and decision making. The forest reduced document size and planning time-frames by over 80 percent (compared to the national average). The forest's Mountain Sports Team developed the tools to gain efficiencies in ski area planning. Through inclusion and trust building, the Forest Service has reproduced the results in more than a half dozen environmental analyses in various program areas, reflecting a cultural shift on the forest.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Deliver Benefits to the Public

USDA GOAL #1: Ensure USDA programs are delivered efficiently, effectively, and with integrity and a focus on customer service

LITTLE MISSOURI NATIONAL GRASSLAND, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STAFF

TEAM LEAD: Cale Bickerdyke

TEAM MEMBERS: Kim Grotte, Curt Decker, Arden Warm, Laurie Gawin

The Little Missouri National Grassland borders on the largest oilfield (in area) in the world. Fracking has greatly expanded oil production since 2009. A variety of environmental issues including roadless areas and endangered species (such as the Dakota skipper) add to the complexity of working in this area. In the last 10 years, the grassland has approved more than 250 applications for new wells and mineral extraction in addition to managing 650 existing oil and gas wells. The grassland has streamlined permitting and approval by working with producers to use new technologies that conserve grassland resources. All permitting is consistent with conservation of the grasslands.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Deliver Benefits to the Public

USDA GOAL #4: Facilitate rural prosperity and economic development

SHARED STEWARDSHIP TEAM

TEAM LEAD: Erin Connelly

TEAM MEMBERS: Alan Ager, Hutch Brown, Doug Crandall, John Phipps

Under Shared Stewardship, the Forest Service is working with States to bring stakeholders together across jurisdictions to share accountability for fire and other kinds of risk and manage the risk together across broad landscapes. The States will convene stakeholders across firesheds, for example, to agree upon shared goals for shared landscapes based on common values. The stakeholders will then decide on treatments in the right places at the right time and the right scale to achieve outcomes desired by all.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Deliver Benefits to the Public

USDA GOAL #6: Foster productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System lands

SPECIAL USES MODERNIZATION TEAM

TEAM LEAD: Elrand Denson

TEAM MEMBERS: Ben Johnson, Steve Lammey, Joey Perry, Jonathan Cook-Fisher

The Special Uses Modernization Team has reinvented the way the Forest Service interacts with customers who hold more than 70,000 special use permits across the Nation, making it easier for the American people to use and enjoy their national forests and grasslands. By improving processes, policies, information technology, and permitting infrastructure, the team has reduced the number of expired authorizations by half, increased annual permit revenue by \$15 million, lowered the regulatory burden for applicants, and provided direct online access to popular permit types. All this has improved customer service while making it easier to achieve such goals as expanded broadband access for the American people.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Deliver Benefits to the Public

USDA GOAL #1: Ensure USDA programs are delivered efficiently, effectively, and with integrity and a focus on customer service

APPLY KNOWLEDGE GLOBALLY

Presented by Alex Friend

Deputy Chief

Through intellectual inquiry and knowledge transfer, the Forest Service provides land managers and others with better information, applications, and tools for improved resource management and decision making. By advancing our fundamental understanding of forests and grasslands, we can make better informed decisions and better achieve our goals. To increase our understanding of forests and grasslands, we are constantly improving our knowledge of complex environmental processes, biological and physical conditions, resource uses, human and social dimensions, the economic value of the resources we manage, and the interconnections among all these elements. From on-the-ground natural resource management to long-term strategic policy development, all our efforts to sustain forests and grasslands far into the future depend on new knowledge, information, and applications.

The Forest Service has a long record of land management success, even though we work in complex and changing environments. We attribute our success in part to our world-class expertise in research and development; our capacity to develop new technologies; our innovation in forest products; our ability to conduct resource assessments; and our vast

collection of geospatial information, inventory data, and monitoring information. Today, knowledge from many disciplines and issues is interconnected, both within and outside the Forest Service. To continue our advancement, we foresee the need to improve knowledge-sharing globally across disciplines and jurisdictional boundaries.

The Forest Service is one of many forestry and natural resource organizations, interest groups, and knowledge centers across the United States and around the world. These entities include other government agencies, partners, collaborators, universities, the private sector, American Indian tribes, and international groups. To benefit from global knowledge, we continually interact—and share what we know—with partners worldwide. By exchanging scientific results, natural resource assessments, management trends, innovations, and best practices across natural resource management disciplines and jurisdictional boundaries, we will gain the information we need to sustain and improve the Nation's forests and grasslands. The transfer of knowledge, technology, and applications will help the global natural resource community make better management decisions in our collective effort to care for all lands and deliver sustainable benefits to people.



AWARD RECIPIENTS

DR. JUNYONG (J.Y.) ZHU

DR. XIPING WANG

FAMILY FOREST RESEARCH CENTER

TEAM LEAD: Dr. Brett Butler

TEAM MEMBERS: Jesse Caputo, Marla Markowski-Lindsay, Amanda Robillard, Paul Catanzaro

DR. JUNYONG (J.Y.) ZHU

Throughout his career, Dr. Zhu has dedicated himself to seeking technical solutions to problems facing forest products manufacturing facilities in rural America. Dr. Zhu developed a biomass fractionation process that can benefit small forest landowners and support rural economic development. His research contributes to economic, sustainable, and large-volume utilization of lignocellulosic biomass, including forest thinning and logging and agricultural residues. Dr. Zhu led a team of engineers and scientists to invent a way to produce iso-paraffinic kerosene from softwood forest residue. His research has also made multiple contributions in the area of cellulose nanomaterials.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Apply Knowledge Globally

USDA GOAL #4: Facilitate rural prosperity and economic development

DR. XIPING WANG

Dr. Wang has made outstanding contributions to conservation research, specifically with respect to: technologies for assessing standing timber and logs, urban hazard trees, and the condition of wood structures; and heat sterilization strategies and techniques for treating wood products to mitigate the spread of invasive species.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Apply Knowledge Globally

USDA GOAL #5: Strengthen the stewardship of private lands through technology and research

FAMILY FOREST RESEARCH CENTER

TEAM LEAD: Dr. Brett Butler

TEAM MEMBERS: Jesse Caputo, Marla Markowski-Lindsay, Amanda Robillard, Paul Catanzaro

The Family Forest Research Center (FFRC) conducts cutting-edge collaborative research with partners from government, nongovernmental organizations, and universities with expertise in forestry, human dimensions, geography, spatial analysis, land change science, economic, and policy analysis. Dr. Butler has developed sound survey methods for collecting national data from private forest landowners housed in a centralized database. This information helps policymakers foresee future trends in private forest land management, allowing them to make better decisions while protecting the privacy of private landowners.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Apply Knowledge Globally

USDA GOAL #5: Strengthen the stewardship of private lands through technology and research

UNDER SECRETARY'S AWARDS



EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE PROGRAM DELIVERY

Presented by **Tony Dixon**

Chief Financial Officer

The Department will modernize and consolidate Information Technology infrastructure and services, as well as strengthen management and oversight of procurement, property, and finances to ensure our resources are deployed as effectively and efficiently as possible. We will create a safe and modern space within which employees can work and feel empowered to find innovative solutions to serve our customers' needs and will promote accountability and professional development. USDA will leverage the strength and talent of our employees and reduce regulatory and administrative burdens to allow agencies to focus on our customers. Improved customer service and employee engagement will create a more effective and accessible USDA for all our stakeholders.



SPECIAL USES MODERNIZATION TEAM

TEAM MEMBERS: Elrand Denson, Ben Johnson, Steve Lammey, Joey Perry, Jonathan Cook-Fisher

The Special Uses Modernization Team has reinvented the way the Forest Service interacts with customers who hold more than 70,000 special use permits across the Nation, making it easier for the American people to use and enjoy their national forests and grasslands. By improving processes, policies, information technology, and permitting infrastructure, the team has reduced the number of expired authorizations by half, increased annual permit revenue by \$15 million, lowered the regulatory burden for applicants, and provided direct online access to popular permit types. All this has improved customer service while making it easier to achieve such goals as expanded broadband access for the American people.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Deliver Benefits to the Public

USDA GOAL #1: Ensure USDA programs are delivered efficiently, effectively, and with integrity and a focus on customer service

PROMOTE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Presented by **Tony Dixon**

Chief Financial Officer

Expanding international marketing opportunities for U.S. farmers and exporters is critical to business and income growth across rural America. It is essential for USDA to continue its efforts to promote American agricultural products and exports through promotion activities, development of international standards, removal of trade barriers by monitoring and enforcing existing trade agreements, and negotiation of new trade agreements that benefit the U.S. agricultural economy. USDA will also partner with developing countries to move them along the agricultural market continuum from developing economies to developed economies with promising demand potential. Ultimately, this work will build the foundations for future markets and create long-term international relationships that further advance U.S. agriculture's export.



FOREST PRODUCTS MODERNIZATION TEAM

TEAM MEMBERS: John Crockett, Carl Maass, J. Gary Church, Dave Wilson, Deborah McGlothlin, Dave Cawrse

The Forest Products Modernization Team is undertaking a comprehensive modernization of the Forest Service's entire forest products delivery system. The team is identifying opportunities to use every authority, tool, and technology available to improve forest conditions, support rural economies, and deliver excellent customer service while managing workloads and caring for the health and safety of employees. With about 80 million acres in need of restoration treatments across the National Forest System, the Forest Service recognizes that systems that served us well in the past need to evolve to keep up with changing climate, technologies, and markets.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Sustain Our Nation's Forests & Grasslands

USDA GOAL #3: Promote American agricultural products and exports

FACILITATE RURAL PROSPERITY

Presented by **Lenise Lago**

Associate Chief

USDA promotes rural prosperity and economic development by financing investments in rural utilities, housing, and businesses. When rural Americans share the same level of infrastructure services as the country's urban areas, rural communities can make even greater economic contributions with healthy businesses and families. Just as economic and social science research informs decision-makers regarding current trends in rural America and gaps in existing markets, USDA may then provide benefits to rural American businesses and citizens. USDA will leverage funds, stimulate private-public partnerships, and engage in collaboration to build rural infrastructure including: broadband, community facilities, safe and affordable housing, health services and facilities, and provide capacity building to help underserved communities become thriving communities.



DR. JUNYONG (J.Y.) ZHU

Throughout his career, Dr. Zhu has dedicated himself to seeking technical solutions to problems facing forest products manufacturing facilities in rural America. Dr. Zhu developed a biomass fractionation process that can benefit small forest landowners and support rural economic development. His research contributes to economic, sustainable, and large-volume utilization of lignocellulosic biomass, including forest thinning and logging and agricultural residues. Dr. Zhu led a team of engineers and scientists to invent a way to produce iso-paraffinic kerosene from softwood forest residue. His research has also made multiple contributions in the area of cellulose nanomaterials.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Apply Knowledge Globally

USDA GOAL #4: Facilitate rural prosperity and economic development

WOOD INNOVATIONS TEAM

TEAM MEMBERS: Steve Marshall, Melissa Jenkins, Steve Koehn, Larry Swan, Jim Archuleta

The Wood Innovations program is revolutionizing the United States building sector by helping to introduce mass timber products, such as cross-laminated timber. A strong mass timber market can help increase the pace and scale of hazardous fuel reductions in forests across America, including on the National Forest System.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Deliver Benefits to the Public

USDA GOAL #4: Facilitate rural prosperity and economic development

LITTLE MISSOURI NATIONAL GRASSLAND, MINERALS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STAFF

TEAM MEMBERS: Cale Bickerdyke, Kim Grotte, Curt Decker, Arden Warm, Laurie Gawin

The Little Missouri National Grassland borders on the largest oilfield (in area) in the world. Fracking has greatly expanded oil production since 2009. A variety of environmental issues including roadless areas and endangered species (such as the Dakota skipper) add to the complexity of working in this area. In the last 10 years, the grassland has approved more than 250 applications for new wells and mineral extraction in addition to managing 650 existing oil and gas wells. The grassland has streamlined permitting and approval by working with producers to use new technologies that conserve grassland resources. All permitting is consistent with conservation of the grasslands.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Deliver Benefits to the Public

USDA GOAL #4: Facilitate rural prosperity and economic development

SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS

Presented by **Lenise Lago**

Associate Chief

The world population is expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050. Feeding this population will require adoption of new science and technologies and the implementation of science-based conservation plans to sustainably increase agricultural production. To ensure U.S. private working lands and public agricultural landscapes are conserved, the Department will provide technical and financial assistance using the latest technology and research available. New and improved practices result from fundamental and applied research to understand the complex interactions between human systems and the environment, and transferring the resulting knowledge into the hands of producers and land managers through information, tools, and decision support.



NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS OF TEXAS OPERATIONS TEAM

TEAM MEMBERS: James Crooks, Lanton Chumley, Kristi Keach, James Sowell, Dale Snyder

The National Forests and Grasslands of Texas were hit by multiple tornadoes in April 2019, affecting more than 3,000 acres and damaging endangered species habitat on two ranger districts. The National Forests and Grasslands of Texas Operations Team employed an unmanned aircraft system to search for victims, determine damage, and map proposed salvage timber sales using a unique wind-event environmental analysis document. The team prepared and completed several sales within 6 weeks (which normally takes 4 to 6 months).

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Sustain Our Nation's Forests & Grasslands

USDA GOAL #6: Foster productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System lands

SHARED STEWARDSHIP TEAM

TEAM MEMBERS: Erin Connelly, Alan Ager, Hutch Brown, Doug Crandall, John Phipps

Under Shared Stewardship, the Forest Service is working with States to bring stakeholders together across jurisdictions to share accountability for fire and other kinds of risk and manage the risk together across broad landscapes. The States will convene stakeholders across firesheds, for example, to agree upon shared goals for shared landscapes based on common values. The stakeholders will then decide on treatments in the right places at the right time and the right scale to achieve outcomes desired by all.

FOREST SERVICE STRATEGIC GOAL: Deliver Benefits to the Public

USDA GOAL #6: Foster productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System lands

2019 UNDER SECRETARY'S AND CHIEF'S AWARD COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS

CEREMONY TEAM

Tina Terrell, National Forest System
Crystal Swazy-Wallace, National Forest System
Amber Watson, Chief Financial Office
Vickie Wilkins, National Forest System
Sandy Coleman, Chief Financial Office
Chandler Guy, Office of the Secretary
Elise Mersereau, Chief Financial Office
Joyce Davis, Legislative Affairs
Sonja Beavers, Office of Communication
Wilma Fant, Chief Financial Office
Darnice Wright, National Forest System
Chris Moyer, National Forest System

REVIEW TEAMS

Alicia King, Region 10, Chugach National Forest
Joanna Stancil, State and Private Forestry
Sheree Oluwafemi, Business Operations,
Chief Information Office
Anne Buckelew, State and Private Forestry
Jamie Edmunds, Business Operations,
Acquisition Management
Mila Alvarez Ibanez, Ph.D., Research and
Development, Forest Inventory and Analysis
Crystal Swazy-Wallace, National Forest System
Sharon Stanton, Pacific Northwest Research Station
Wilhelmina Bratton, State and Private Forestry
Christine Winston, National Forest System, Minerals
and Geology Management
Don Bragg, Ph.D., Southern Research Station
Martina Barnes, Chief's Office, Legislative Affairs

THE 2019 CHIEF'S AWARDS COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE SERVICES RENDERED BY

Selma Talia Harris
Deaf Access Solutions
Columbia Catering
Forest Products Laboratory (Joseph Balczewski,
Joseph Destree, Cynthia Hanson, Tony
Ferguson, and Lon Yeary)

The Joint Services Color Guard
USDA Conference Room Reservations Team
USDA Office of Safety, Security and Protection
Office of Communication (Dominic
Cumberland, Tanya Flores, and Katie Garas)