

## **2009 Forest Service *Engineers of the Year***

The Director of Engineering has made the final selection for the Forest Service Engineers of the Year awards for fiscal year 2009. The accomplishments and merits of the nominees were outstanding. The talent and dedication of engineering employees is impressive and key to delivering quality programs of work, completing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects, and supporting the mission of the Forest Service. We are proud to announce the winners:

**Terry Wong**—2009 Managerial Engineer of the Year

**Kathy Van Hecke**—2009 Technical Engineer of the Year

**George Goehl**—2009 Engineering Technician of the Year

**Ben (Bubba) Lindley**—2009 Engineering Technician of the Year

**Sean D. Harwood**—2009 Engineering Technology Applications Employee of the Year

**Carol Russell**—2009 Engineering Technology Applications Employee of the Year

Awards will be presented during a program sponsored by Washington Office Engineering on April 26, 2010, in Washington, DC. Family and friends are encouraged to attend this event.



### **Terry Wong—2009 Managerial Engineer of the Year**

Terry is the Rocky Mountain Region American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program manager with the responsibility to accomplish \$60 million of projects by October 1, 2010. He is coordinating the development, selection, and implementation of projects. Under his leadership, the region is meeting the goals and objectives established by the Washington Office (WO). His skills in project and program management, facilitation, and communication are keys to the success of the program.

Terry is a licensed professional engineer and registered architect in Colorado who has spent more than 20 years with the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. He began his Forest Service career in 1999 when he reestablished and managed the Rocky Mountain Region's Center for Design and Interpretation.

Terry has served as the acting regional facility manager and regional architect and as acting director of engineering for the Rocky Mountain Region. His work with the Forest Service and the National Park Service has taken him to all regions of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. Terry feels fortunate to be surrounded by committed, creative, professional, collaborative, and jovial employees and wants to share the honor of this award with his staff.

In 2007 and 2008, Terry served on the Forest Service national transformation team and the engineering transformation team. Through an intensive 3-month period, the national transformation team worked with a large interdisciplinary group to set the goals, objectives, and framework for each major staff area. Ideas developed by the engineering transformation team now being implemented nationally and regionally will improve the engineering organization and its effectiveness.

Terry enjoys time with his family. During his free time, Terry travels with his wife to visit their daughters, plays tennis, organizes the annual Asian-American tennis league, and tends to home improvement chores.



### **Kathy Van Hecke—2009 Technical Engineer of the Year**

Kathy Van Hecke is a structural engineer in the transportation structures group at Portland, OR, serving as the Pacific Northwest Region's bridge design and development engineer. Currently, she is also the acting regional bridge engineer serving Oregon and Washington and working collaboratively with the Alaska Region.

Kathy began her engineering career as a seasonal surveyor with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) in 1985.

After graduating from the University of Portland in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, she continued working with ODOT on project scoping and bridge planning and design.

In 1989 Kathy began her Forest Service career at the Pacific Northwest Regional Office. She has provided national assistance in development, testing, documentation, and training related to I-Web modules for transportation structures.

Kathy relishes challenges, including ERFO (Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads) work following record-breaking floods. In bridge operations and maintenance, she conducted special regional studies for seismic retrofits, scour analyses, specialized inspections, and evaluations. Kathy worked to implement processes to improve inspection quality and consistency in upward reporting, and overall program effectiveness, resulting in increased safety and better use of personnel and financial resources.

Kathy is a licensed professional engineer in Oregon. She has been a member of ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) since 1983, serving in leadership roles and being recognized for participation. Kathy is the mother of two and is active in her church, especially the church choir. Kathy shares her love of “all things bridges” with the public at schools and civic groups through her “BATS in the Bridges” presentations, which emphasize bridge materials and types of bridges (**beam, arch, truss, suspension**).



### **George Goehl—2009 Engineering Technician of the Year**

George was born and raised on a ranch near the town of Saguache in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado. He received a bachelor's degree in industrial arts and technology and a Colorado teaching certificate from Adams State College in Alamosa, CO, in 1982.

While in high school, George worked two summers and one fall as a recreation technician at the Saguache Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest. During June 1981, he began working for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, in Alamosa, CO, as a materials technician and engineering draftsman on the Closed Basin Project. In September 1992, he moved to the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project in Farmington, NM, as a materials technician and construction inspector. His work with the Bureau of Reclamation involved construction activities ranging from onsite investigations to design and completion of numerous water projects in Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona.

George's opportunity to return to Colorado and 'the land of his people' came in August 2000 when he joined the Forest Service as an engineering technician at the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests supervisor's office in Delta, CO. George has worked in the timber sale road design program and recently became the North Zone engineering liaison. He has

completed all exam categories (except Buildings) in the National Construction Certification Program. George is involved in all phases of project development and feels especially rewarded when he's able to work on a project from 'cradle to grave.'

George's wife, Ann, is a kindergarten teacher in Delta, CO. They have two daughters. The family enjoys camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, skiing, and snowmobiling.



### **Ben (Bubba) Lindley—2009 Engineering Technician of the Year**

Ben was born and raised in Seneca, OR, a small logging community in the middle of the Malheur National Forest. Ben's family and the Forest Service have been intertwined for generations as family members worked in these woods—usually for the Edward Hines Lumber Company, which was awarded the very first timber sale offered on the Malheur National Forest. Ben spent his early years in the woods helping his father, a timber faller.

After graduating from the local high school, Ben worked in private industry as a timber faller and an equipment operator during the heyday of road building on the national forest lands. He constructed many miles of roads in steep forested terrain, roads he is responsible for maintaining today!

In 1981 Ben moved from private industry to become an engineering equipment operator for the Malheur National Forest. He became fleet manager in 1996 and assumed the duties of road manager and road crew supervisor 4 years later. Last year, Ben became the assistant forest engineer responsible for road maintenance, fleet, and lands and minerals.

He now oversees more than 9,000 miles of roads, a fleet of 200 government vehicles, and management of lands and minerals on 1.7 million acres of national forest lands that he's enjoyed his entire life.

Ben has many special qualities that have been recognized as he moved up in the organization. His calm demeanor, good humor, practical knowledge, common sense, and passion for doing a job right are well known in the agency and in local communities. There is never any question that Ben knows both the government and business sides of a project, and that he'll be fair and firm.

Ben has three grown children: two daughters and a son. He has also been a Boy Scout leader, helped construct a community park, and mentored many engineering students who have come to the Malheur National Forest from urban areas. Ben took these students fishing and shared his love of the outdoors, helping them become comfortable working with natural resources and sparking their interest in engineering careers with the Forest Service. Of course, it's only natural that eager young employees would gravitate to a person as special as Ben (Bubba) Lindley.



**Sean D. Harwood—2009 Engineering Technology Applications Employee of the Year**

Sean works as supervisory cartographer for the Intermountain Region. In 1990 he began his Forest Service career at the Aerial Photography Field Office in Salt Lake City, UT. Sean spent 13 years working at the Geospatial Services and Technology Center. Since October 2009, he has been on a temporary detail as the travel management/trails/dispersed recreation coordinator for the Intermountain Region recreation staff.

Sean attended Bonneville High School in Ogden, UT, and received a bachelor's degree in geography with a minor in business management from Weber State University.

Sean resides in Clinton, UT, with his wife, Pamela, and two daughters. He spends his weekends on a 200-acre farm in southeast Idaho that was passed down through his family. His hobbies are tending to horses, biking, skiing, and hunting with his dog Edge.





### **Carol Russell—2009 Engineering Technology Applications Employee of the Year**

Carol began her Forest Service career in 1990 when she transferred from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, to become a computer specialist for the Northern Region engineering division in Missoula, MT. Carol was as an Oracle programmer responsible for designing and implementing the Northern Region roads database, a national Bridge and Major Culvert (BMC) database, and a variety of smaller databases.

When the Forest Service moved toward centralized databases, Carol joined the Infra project and served on design teams for roads, bridges, and trails databases. For many years she has been a member of a national training cadre. Carol has served on the road user board and has worked as help desk support for roads and bridges databases. She continues to work in a consulting role, assisting with database design for applications related to roads, bridges, and other engineering topics.

Carol is a fifth-generation Montanan and a graduate of the University of Montana in Missoula with degrees in mathematics, geography, and computer science. When she retires at the end of this year, she and her husband, John, plan to stay in Missoula, where they enjoy an abundance of

recreational activities and attending University of Montana Grizzly athletic games. They also are looking forward to spending time working with local nonprofit organizations and enjoying the company of friends and family.