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Route To:

Subject: The 2010 Rise to the Future, National Hydrology, and Soil Science Awards

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Directors

I am pleased to announce the 2010 recipients of the national awards for Fisheries, Hydrology, and Soils. We hope you will join us in recognizing the outstanding efforts and achievements of each of the award recipients. Our reviewers were faced with the challenging task of selecting from an abundance of outstanding nominations.

Aquatic Recreational Accomplishment

The **Willamette National Forest Recreation and Aquatic staff** is recognized for their significant accomplishment in promoting aquatic resource awareness and management through their expanded Respect the River program. Their outreach methods include multi-language (English, Spanish, and Russian) "Respect the River" brochure production, placemats in local diners, website information, newspaper and radio ads, public education, community partnerships, and restoration treatments.

The runner-up was the Chippewa NF for 20 years of accomplishment for "Take a Kid Fishing." Three coordinators: David Morley, Jeff Allison, and Eric Raitanen coordinated this year's event. In the 20 years that the Chippewa National Forest has been coordinating this event, over 6000 children have been introduced to angling.

Collaborative/Integrated Aquatic Stewardship

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Turner Enterprises, and the Gallatin National Forest Fish Team are recognized for restoring native Westslope cutthroat trout to nearly 70 miles of stream and 7 acres of lake habitat in the Cherry Creek watershed, a tributary to the Madison River near Bozeman. Historically the native trout occupied 1200 miles in the Madison basin and were down to 5 miles before this project. It is the most ambitious cutthroat trout restoration program in the state of Montana and in Region 1 of the Forest Service.

The runner-up is the Mt. Adams Ranger District of the Gifford-Pinchot NF for the Lower Trout Creek Restoration Partnership, which resulted in the removal of Hemlock Dam and collaborative restoration of 20 miles of steelhead habitat in the lower Columbia River Basin.



Friend of Fish/Watershed

Bruce Prudhomme, Hydrologist for the Kisatchie NF, is recognized for his successful efforts to incorporate Best Management Practices and erosion prevention compliance for three major highway projects near or within NFS lands. Bruce's efforts increased on-the-ground protections for the federally listed Louisiana pearlshell mussel, and he was a critical catalyst for facilitating cooperation among agencies (LDOT, Federal Highways Administration, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Army Corps of Engineers, FS Southern Research Station, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fish, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) for construction projects.

The runner-up is Joe Near, engineer for the Umatilla NF, for his leadership, dedication, and expertise in accomplishing fish and watershed restoration projects.

Line Officer

Allan Hahn of Lakeview/Bly Ranger District on the Fremont-Winema National Forest is recognized for his sustained and outstanding support of the district aquatic program. His ability to integrate programs has been described as "phenomenal." Allan's support for partnerships was key in removal of a fish barrier that will reconnect almost 100 miles of bull trout critical habitat in the Klamath Basin. Collaboration with external groups is also a key component of Allan's success as a line officer. He has built relationships with communities and partner groups that have resulted in improved aquatic habitat on lands in and around Lakeview and Bly Ranger Districts.

The runner-up is Renotta McNair, Forest Supervisor of the Idaho Panhandle NF, who is being recognized in a Special Category.

Partnership

Joe McGurrin and Rob Roberts of Trout Unlimited (TU) are jointly recognized for their outstanding contributions to increasing the effectiveness of the Forest Service Fisheries and Aquatics programs. These two Trout Unlimited employees use their expertise to bring together a wide variety of partners to accomplish work that the Forest Service could not accomplish without them. Joe McGurrin provides a key link between Forest Service fisheries biologists and external partners, including facilitating complicated grant programs. Rob Roberts is a leader in watershed restoration in abandoned mine land restoration.

The runner-up is Kevin O'Brien of the Illinois Valley Watershed Council for his leadership in restoring salmon and steelhead trout streams with the Rogue River-Siskiyou NF and adjacent private land partners.

Professional Excellence “Rise to the Future”

Fish Management

Ben Van Alen from the Juneau Ranger District of the Tongass National Forest is being recognized for his sustained high performance fostering technically sound management of the subsistence fisheries program in Alaska. His ability to work with people from “all walks of life” and to utilize data in fisheries management clearly demonstrates his contribution to guiding complex fisheries management in Alaska.

The tie for runner-up is between James Bramer of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF for monitoring and modeling of redd trampling and the Cascade Ranger District of the Boise NF for their implementation of large-scale habitat restoration with partnerships.

Public Awareness

The John G. Shedd Aquarium is recognized for significant contribution in communicating the aquatic resource management story. In 2005, the Eastern Region of the Forest Service entered into a 5-year partnership with the Shedd Aquarium to leverage the museum’s resources, expertise, and commitment to conservation. Out of this partnership came new exhibits to the “Local Waters” gallery including an interactive play space for young people called Camp Shedd and an invasive species exhibit for all ages. According to an evaluation by the Shedd staff over one million visitors increased their knowledge about invasive species prevention through the “Local Waters” gallery. The development of the exhibits included support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sea Grant, and Notre Dame University.

The runner-up is the South Santiam Watershed Council and the Sweet Home Ranger District Fisheries staff on the Willamette NF for “Students Engaged in Watershed and Resource Discovery Sessions” (STEWARDS) program.

Professional Excellence Research Achievement

Dan Isaak of the Rocky Mountain Research Station is recognized for his leadership and collaborative work in building understanding of how aquatic ecosystems are likely to respond to a changing climate. Dan exemplifies high performing, technically sound aquatic research with significant application to on-the-ground management. Dan has played a critical role within the Forest Service to move the agency climate change discussion from a strictly forest/carbon focus to an equal water/aquatic ecosystem focus.

The runner-ups are Dr. Kelly Burnett and Dr. Gordon Reeves of the Pacific Northwest Research Station for their distinguished record of research and application of science to management of fish habitat.

Special Category “Champion for Water Education of Agency Leaders”

Renotta McNair, Forest Supervisor on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest is recognized for her outstanding achievements as the primary motivational force for the “Water Resource Management for Line and Staff Officers” course held annually since 2003. Renotta has been instrumental in both annual planning of the course and in recruitment of Forest Supervisors’ participation. Renotta’s active support, involvement, and commitment to this course have made it a success. This recognition is well deserved.

Special Category “Lifetime Achievement Aquatic Technology Transfer”

Kerry Overton, Fisheries Biologist of Rocky Mountain Research Station is recognized for his outstanding accomplishment in technology transfer. Kerry has served almost his entire Forest Service career in aquatic technology transfer beginning in Region 5 and continuing today with numerous projects involving research and the National Forests of Regions 1, 4, and 6. Kerry has been instrumental in several tech transfer milestones in the fisheries program of the Forest Service including the series of publications titled *Fish Habitat Relationships Currents*, R1/R4 standard fish habitat inventory procedures, PACFISH/INFISH monitoring, and development of several tools to support land management planning. Kerry’s work has been visionary and has made the Forest Service a leading agency in bridging research and management.

“Wagon Wheel Gap” Hydrology

Jim Frazier of the Stanislaus NF in Region 5 and Dale Higgins of the Chequamegon-Nicolet of Region 9 tied for recognition of the highest level performing hydrologist engaged in watershed management on the Nation’s Forests and Grasslands. Dale is being recognized for “outstanding leadership and advocacy for watershed management” and Jim is being recognized for “commitment to integration of earth science with other resources,” including through manual and protocol development. Together these two hydrologists have provided over 70 years of dedicated service to educating employees and the public in protection of water resources on National Forests and Grasslands.

Field Soil Scientist of the Year

George Robertson and Steve Strenger from the Southwestern Region of the Forest Service are jointly recognized for their outstanding contribution toward the National and Regional Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory (TEUI) program, including numerous publications, presentations, and partnerships. Their partnerships have included the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation Society,

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Society for Range Management, University of Arizona, and New Mexico State University, along with Regional and National Forest and Grassland staffs. They have also mentored 50 permanent and seasonal soil scientists, including 13 interns.

Please join us in honoring our recipients and make plans to attend the annual awards ceremony in the evening of May 11, 2011, at the National Archives in Washington DC.

/s/ James M. Pena (for)

JOEL D. HOLTROP

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