
Working Together

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As promised, the biographical sketch of our new Deputy Director, Sam Morigeau, appears in this issue. Sam has assumed his new role as Deputy Director and is intimately involved in all of the day-to-day activities.

This issue also features an article about the Forest Service's premiere role in security arrangements for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games through its Remote Sensing Applications Center.

Also in this *Engineering Field Notes (EFN)*, read our tribute on how each of the 2001 Engineers of the Year has consistently worked together with fellow employees in the Forest Service to forge their unique contributions.

We continue to work toward reauthorization of the transportation bill. As a public road agency, it is critical that we sustain our system of roads to provide for user comfort, safety, and environmental protection. Engineering has a pivotal role in these efforts.

We have recently participated in six national seminars: "Innovative Approaches to Transportation." I hope many of you were able to participate. The seminars highlighted the opportunities offered by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) to improve our capacity for joint transportation planning efforts between Federal, State, and local agencies and to leverage funding. Attendees received a comprehensive document that outlines existing funding opportunities and interacted with local entities and key players of partnership agencies. Effectively working together and maximizing funding resources furthers our goal of operating a seamless transportation network with other Agency partners.

An updated version of "Facilities Planning," EM-7310-4, is now available on the Forest Service Intranet at http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/eng/eng_man.pubs.htm. The document defines the facilities planning process and explains how this interdisciplinary process relates to overall facilities management. This is a critical step in implementing the Working Capital Fund for facilities and in helping line officers manage their facilities.

Achieving a clean financial audit is and will remain a top priority for the Forest Service. Updating the Infra database with improvements made to our infrastructure and keeping good fiscal records is essential. How does this affect you? Make accurate fiscal records every day. Work together with your forest fiscal staff to develop a good working relationship so we can collect and document the required information once and only once. Readers can gain insights on how best to use the current version of Infra and what enhancements to expect in "Infra Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary" on page 4.

It is time to vote for your three favorite *EFN* articles for 2001 (see page 36). Reward those authors for sharing their insights with you. To refresh your memory, see the January-June and July-August 2001 issues on the Forest Service Engineering Intranet at <http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/eng/pubs/efn/efn-cont.htm>.

The summer field season is off and running. I want to continue to place special emphasis on working safely. **Safety is the number one priority for all of us.** Don't hesitate to stop a potentially unsafe action. We must work together to prevent accidents.

Thanks again for your efforts in working together. Keep up the hard work, but do it **safely**.