

## **2010 Forest Service *Engineer of the Year* Winners**

Congratulations to:

**Lynn Hicks**—Managerial engineer of the year

**Alan Yamada**—Technical engineer of the year

**Charles Warren**—Engineering technician of the year

**Shonni Hanks Nelson**—Engineering technology applications employee of the year

The winners will be traveling to Washington, DC on April 4, 2011 for the 2010 Forest Service *Engineer of the Year* awards ceremony. A summary of the winners' accomplishments follows:



### **Lynn Hicks—2010 Managerial Engineer of the Year**

Lynn is the engineering, heritage, and recreation staff officer for the National Forests in North Carolina. He is recognized for outstanding results in implementing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects, storm recovery projects, aquatic passage projects, and road maintenance. Some of his projects include \$13 million in ARRA funds for major trail rehabilitation; historic building and fire tower

rehabilitation; recreation facility deferred maintenance; and replacing campground wastewater systems, recreation area/campground restrooms, and road and trail bridges. Lynn also managed over \$40 million in storm recovery road, bridge, facility, and trail projects across the forest between 2004 and 2008. His skills in project and program management, facilitation, and communication help him foster a positive work environment of high productivity and innovation.

Lynn received a bachelor's degree in forest engineering from the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University. He is a licensed professional engineer in North Carolina and Michigan. He began his Forest Service career in 1978 at the Hiawatha National Forest where he helped to develop the initial land management plan. He moved to the Wayne-Hoosier National Forest in 1983 as a civil engineer. Lynn was promoted to assistant forest engineer for the Monongahela National Forest in 1990 and became forest engineer in 1995. He accepted his current position with the National Forests in North Carolina in 2001.

Lynn has been a Rotary Club member in Elkins, WV and in Asheville, NC. He served as president of the Elkins Rotary Club in 1999. He currently is a member of the Professional Engineers of North Carolina. He has been married for 20 years. Lynn enjoys exercise and fitness, sports cars, auto racing, brewing beer, home improvement, woodworking, and gardening.



### **Alan Yamada—2010 Technical Engineer of the Year**

Alan manages the engineering program at the San Dimas Technology and Development Center (SDTDC) in San Dimas, CA. He takes an active role in technology transfer, helping other Federal land management agencies, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), States, counties, and the international community. Alan is a national leader in finding cost-effective solutions to problems that affect all Forest Service units. Some of these solutions include:

- “Scenic Byways: A Design Guide for Roadside Improvements,” a report that assists scenic byway planners, developers, and managers by showing examples of improvements, outlining the planning process, and describing design principles.
- “Stabilization Selection Guide for Aggregate and Native-Surfaced Low Volume Roads,” a report that provides road managers, engineers, and technicians with information on low-cost options for reducing aggregate wear and loss, and road-surface maintenance.
- “Getting Across—Aquatic Organisms and Road-stream Crossings—General Overview” and “Getting Across—Aquatic Organisms and Road-stream Crossings—A Brief Introduction,” videos that illustrate the importance of providing aquatic organism passages at road-stream crossings.

- “Forest Roads and the Environment,” a set of videos that highlights how proper maintenance of low-volume roads will help maintain fish habitat and improve the health of watersheds.
- “Lifelines,” a video that shows how the partnership between the Forest Service, FHWA, State, and local communities provides continued stewardship of and access to our national forests.
- “Dangerous Travelers: Controlling Invasive Plants Along America’s Roadways,” a video that helps maintenance crews recognize and control noxious weeds along roadways.

Alan acquired his professional engineering license from Oregon in 1986. He earned his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Hawaii in 1981 before beginning his Forest Service career at the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. He worked on the Grand Mesa, Gunnison, and Uncompahgre National Forests and served as a zone engineer on the White River National Forest. Alan was a member of the construction team that built the Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center and the Johnston Ridge Observatory at the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument.

Alan also is a leader in finding software and interactive Web-based programs that were used to develop SDTDC training courses. More than 5,000 Forest Service employees have attended these courses.



### **Charles Warren—2010 Engineering Technician of the Year**

Charlie is an assistant regional development engineer and member of the Pacific Northwest Region transportation systems team. Since 2003, he has been a leader in developing and conducting public works contracting officer representative (COR) and timber sales engineering representative (ER) training. He mentors and coaches a group of subject matter experts to review and revise training materials. He also conducts road design classes and develops regional and national road construction specifications.

In 1973, Charlie received a bachelor's degree in construction management from California State University, Long Beach. After he and his wife spent 2 years in Iran as Peace Corps volunteers, he worked as a construction inspector for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Jamestown, CA.

Charlie worked for the Forest Service in 1970 and 1971 as a seasonal survey aid on the Plumas National Forest. He began his Forest Service career in 1979 at the Stanislaus National Forest as a civil engineering technician. In 1986, he transferred to the Jefferson National Forest where he worked on road design and

reconstruction projects to help repair the damage caused by a 144-year flood. He later returned to the West Coast as a supervisory civil engineering technician at the Siskiyou National Forest. From 1990 to 2000, Charlie served as the forest development engineer for the Siuslaw National Forest before moving to the Tahoe National Forest as a supervisory civil engineering technician.

Charlie has enjoyed teaching “Surviving in the Wilderness” and “The Wilderness Surviving You” courses to fifth-graders at the Forest Service Outdoor School in Corvallis, OR. He and his wife of 38 years enjoy skiing and choreographed ballroom dancing. Their two sons have engineering degrees.



**Shonni Hanks Nelson—2010 Engineering Technology Applications Employee of the Year**

Shonni is the fleet program manager for the Alaska and Pacific Northwest Regions. Before accepting her current position in 2009, she served as acting national fleet manager and team leader for the fleet business process reengineering (BPR) study. Shonni was instrumental in standardizing fire engine specifications and consolidating procurement orders into regional contracts, which improves safety, and saves time and

money. She developed a process to standardize and consolidate fleet access codes nationally, resulting in greater efficiency and accuracy in accounting and reporting.

In 1982, Shonni received an associate's degree in accounting from Central Oregon Community College. She began her Forest Service career in 1986 as a procurement assistant at the Fremont National Forest. In 1989, she began working in fleet management as a working capital fund (WCF) clerk. She served as the Service First team leader when the fleet management organizations of the Fremont-Winema National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management Lakeview District were combined. She is the only Forest Service fleet manager to receive the BLM Fleet Manager of the Year award.

Shonni enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, fast cars, hotrods, and working on her "bucket list," which includes traveling to tropical destinations with her husband.