

**File Code:** 6140**Date:** November 27, 2023**Route To:****Subject:** 2023 Pacific Northwest Regional Forester's Honor Award Recipients**To:** All Employees, Pacific Northwest Region 6

I am pleased to announce the recipients of the 2023 Regional Forester's Honor Awards. The outstanding achievements of these individuals are true reflections of the theme of this year's awards, Growing Towards the Future: Celebrating Success in a Changing World. Their accomplishments and significant contributions in the Pacific Northwest Region greatly further our agency mission. I am grateful to every recipient for their hard work and commitment and extend my sincere congratulations to each of them.

The Regional Forester's Honor Awards ceremony for all awardees will be on December 13, 2023 in Portland, Oregon. This event will celebrate their achievements and serve as an opportunity to reflect on the tremendous accomplishments made across the Region over the past year.

2023 Regional Forester Award Recipients:**Regional Forester's Priorities - Wildfire Crisis Strategy**

- Grants and Agreements Wildfire Crisis Strategy Support Team
- Judd Lehman, Jade Souza, Emerson Cogburn, Evan Wright, Dave Lilly, & Kyle Gomez, Chiloquin and Chemult Ranger Districts, Fremont-Winema National Forest
- Richard Lancaster and Whitney Olsker, Mt. Hood National Forest

Regional Forester's Priorities - Post-disaster Recovery

- South Coldwater Slide Response Team, Gifford Pinchot National Forest
- Double Creek Fire Recovery and TFPA Team, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
- Willamette National Forest Disaster Recovery Team, Willamette National Forest

Regional Forester's Priorities - Equity Action Plan

- Daniel Kipervaser, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
- Community Engagement Team, Office of Communications and Community Engagement
- Derogatory Names Update Team, Data Resource Management

Advancing Relationships with Public and Partners

- Tabatha Rood, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest

Cross-Boundary Stewardship, Watershed, and Forest Health

- Karen Ripley, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry

Organizational Transformation

- Angell Job Corps and Siuslaw National Forest Fire Zone



Stewardship of Special & Unique Places in R6

- Richard Sparks & the Multnomah Falls Enjoyment Team, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

Visitor Experiences and Public Access

- Gary Keating, Colville National Forest

Partnerships & Partners of the Year

- The Tulalip Tribes
- Dr. James Johnston, Oregon State University
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
- All Hands All Brands for Public Lands Partnership, Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland

Team of the Year

- Columbia Dispatch Team

Employee of the Year

- Jeremy Fields, Deschutes National Forest

Special Recognitions

- Christy Cheyne (posthumous), Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
- Lars Hovde, Siuslaw National Forest
- Fire and Aviation Risk Management and Casualty Assistance Program
- Tiller Fire and Roseburg Interagency Communications Center Organizations, Umpqua National Forest

I also wanted to recognize all the nominees for their meaningful contributions, as these accomplishments are noteworthy. The full list of all recipients and nominees can be viewed here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/jobs/?cid=fseprd1152255>.

Please join me in congratulating all our recipients and nominees. Their efforts embody the spirit of the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region and make a real difference in our region and beyond. I am proud to work alongside you.



ELIZABETH BERGER
Acting Regional Forester