



NATIONAL FIRE PLAN

Award Winners Fact Sheet

Nearly two years have passed since the 2000 wildland fire season prompted development of a comprehensive national plan to address the underlying causes and impacts of severe fire seasons. A tremendous amount of work has been accomplished in these two years – hazardous fuels have been reduced on hundreds of thousands of acres of land in and around communities, ecosystems damaged by fire have been repaired, additional firefighters have been hired and equipment purchased, and strategies have been developed to continue this work in the decades ahead.

Many land managers and community members alike have worked hard the past two years and continue to be committed to the goals of the National Fire Plan. A few have gone above and beyond the course of their duties, exceeding all expectations and hopes, and it is these individuals and groups that deserve special recognition.

Six new National Fire Plan awards recognize outstanding accomplishments related to the National Fire Plan implementation. Founded on the Plan's key points, these awards and the winners are:

Excellence in Implementing the National Fire Plan

Demonstrated results, innovation, collaboration and commitment to accomplish the National Fire Plan's goals through more effective wildland fire management; increased firefighter safety; reduced wildland fire risk to communities and natural resources; and restored health to forests and rangelands.

- Sami Gray, Fire Control Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex
- The Nature Conservancy's Fire Initiative, Restoring Fire Adapted Ecosystems, Florida

Excellence in Firefighter preparedness, Safety and Training

Develop procedures, training, guidelines, equipment, commitment to enhance firefighter training, increase safety, or improve preparedness by increasing the capability to prevent, detect, and /or provide suppression on wildfires.

- Training Unit and Instructional Media Unit, BLM, National Interagency Fire Center, Idaho
- Greg Power, Program Manager and Shirley Sutliff, Apprenticeship Program Coordinator, USDA Forest Service, California
- George Chesley (Forest Service/BLM) and Doug Ledgerwood, Matt Reidy and Jeff Pendleton USDA Forest Service, Oregon

Excellence in Rehabilitation and Restoration

Develop procedures, methods or other measures or mechanisms or demonstrated effort, results, innovation, collaboration or commitment that resulted in effective land treatment, valuable research, technology transfer, prevention of further damage to ecosystems and communities as a result of fire, or helped to improve land unlikely to recover naturally from fire.

- Mike Pellant, Ecologist, Idaho State Office, BLM, Idaho
- Hayman Fire Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) Team, Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands, USDA Forest Service, Colorado

Excellence in Hazardous Fuel Treatment

Develop procedures, methods or other measures or mechanisms, or demonstrated effort, results, innovation, collaboration or commitment that resulted in effective fuel treatment, valuable research, or technology transfer, to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities, forests and rangeland.

- Roger Boykin, Regional Fire Coordinator, Southeast Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Cedar City Field Office, BLM, Utah

Excellence in Community Assistance

Excels in wildland fire prevention, education and mitigation work, collaboration with local agencies, organizations or groups, or grant work, thus enhancing the protection capabilities of rural fire departments, helping the public understand wildland fire and the management challenges it presents, and reducing the risk and impacts of wildfire to communities.

- Ken Kaseforth, Contracting Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota
- Idaho/Nevada Student Conservation Association (SCA) Fire Education Corps, Jody Handy, Project Manager

Improving Accountability

Develop used or provided leadership, guidelines, direction, or other measures and mechanisms, or demonstrated effort, results, innovation, collaboration or commitment that improved accountability in preparedness, suppression, fuel treatment, rehabilitation or restoration.

- Wiley (Pete) Horsley, Office of Acquisition and Property Management, the Department Of Interior, Washington, D.C.
- National Wildfire Coordination Group Data Administration Working Group (DAWG)

Special Award Winners

The National Fire Plan also wishes to recognize several individuals and groups that have been instrumental in having the vision and leadership to develop the National Fire Plan and implement core components through partnerships and collaborative efforts.

Tim Hartzell, Michael Rains, and Jim Hubbard

- Provided leadership in coordinating and drafting the Secretaries' response to the request by the President for solutions to the wildland fire problem made evident by the 2000 fire season.
- Orchestrated a collaborative effort of a diverse group of stakeholders to address the serious threat of wildland fire to communities and the environment, bringing together the many stakeholders for a common good.
- Worked tirelessly in a very short amount of time to unify the various wildland fire interests and professionals to develop a concise and effective National Fire Plan.
- Seized the opportunity for the agencies, and state, tribal and local governments to work together to capitalize on Presidential and Congressional support to forward the goals of the wildland fire and natural resource communities.

National Firewise Team

- Launched and maintains a popular website called firewise.org. At this site, people can use a multi-media resource library, read a newsletter, and participate in a community forum to learn about reducing the risk of wildfire to their property and community.
- Created a series of workshops that have, to date, reached more than 3,000 people in 47 states, helping them to create more fire-friendly landscapes and structures on private ground.
- A wonderful example of collaboration and coordination, working with such partners as the American Planning Association, National Association of Home Builders, American Red Cross, Insurance Services Office, and the Environmental Systems Research Institute, and dozens of others.

Western Governors' Association

- Provided exemplary leadership in coordinating the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Orchestrated the successful works of a diverse group of stakeholders, overcoming many differences of opinion, pulling many divergent interests together for common good
- Great and fruitful efforts to engage the western governors, providing a strong voice for all Governors in formulating strategic policy to reduce the impacts of wildland fire on communities and the environment.

Brian Waidmann, Chief of Staff, Department of the Interior

- Provided consistent and dedicated leadership that contributed to the seamless implementation of the National Fire Plan among the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior.
- Distinguished himself through personal standards of excellence that resulted in numerous solutions, innovations and accomplishments. No was never an option. As a positive role model Mr. Waidmann brought out the best in peers and subordinates resulting in insurmountable obstacles becoming routine challenges.

- Mr. Waidmann had a clear vision that he channeled unbridled energy into: a vision of healthy forests, rangelands and wetlands and where fuels treatment is planned and implemented with the same passion, organization and commitment as wildfire suppression. Throughout it all he never lost sight of the most important factor in the wildland fire equation - our firefighters and their well-being.