



# NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

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## NEWS • RELEASE

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### Forest Service Engineer Garners National Award

ASHEVILLE – An engineer from the National Forests in North Carolina main office recently earned the U.S. Forest Service’s National Managerial Engineer of the Year award.

A Forest Service employee for 30 years, Tim Chesley garnered this prestigious award for his outstanding management of programs, projects and employees. ”His extraordinary response to the massive destruction that resulted from the remnants of three hurricanes in September of 2004 plus his long-standing leadership as the assistant forest engineer for the past 22 years merits this award,” wrote Forest engineer Lynn Hicks in the nomination letter.

Chesley was selected as the deputy planning chief and engineering liaison when an incident command team was formed after flooding from the hurricanes wrecked havoc on Forest Service lands over a two-week period sixteen months ago. Thanks to the efforts of U.S. Representative Charles Taylor, Congress allocated \$47 million in emergency relief funds to the National Forests of North Carolina to help repair the damage.

Working six days a week, Chesley coordinated the planning, design, reconstruction, and contract administration for the repair of hundreds of miles of National Forest roads and trails and for nearly 50 bridges as well as for campgrounds, fisheries, offices and other

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Forest Service facilities. In October, Chesley's Forest Service peers selected him to receive a Platinum Award in recognition of his extraordinary efforts during the past year.

Chesley continues to coordinate the administration of contracts that will exceed \$35 million, and in July he helped secure another \$5.5 million in Emergency Relief of Federally Owned Roads funding. He was also responsible for the recruitment, training and supervision of more than 150 engineering employees who have come to North Carolina from across the country on temporary assignment to assist with the storm recovery effort.

"While his participation on the incident command team is demanding and time-consuming, Tim continues to execute many of his responsibilities as assistant forest engineer, particularly with respect to planning and managing the annual budget and program of work," said Hicks, his supervisor.

As a manager for most of his career, Chesley has supervised more than 30 people, including trainees, technicians and professionals. He is currently supervising seven engineering trainees who were sent to North Carolina for one year in support of the hurricane damage recovery work. "One of my highest priorities is the help these trainees develop professionally and become excellent candidates for promotion opportunities," said Chesley.

A native of Conway, New Hampshire, Chesley received his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of New Hampshire, and his Master's Degree in Civil Engineering and Transportation Planning from the University of California at Berkeley.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Chesley has taken the lead on several major community projects, including raising funds and constructing playgrounds for Asheville's Kennilworth community and for Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School in Hendersonville. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Asheville Kiwanis Club where he has been a member for more than ten years.

“While I am deeply honored and pleased to receive this award, it is important to recognize that it represents the extraordinary effort of dozens of local and hundreds of national Forest Service employees,” said Chesley. Chesley will be presented the U.S. Forest Service's National Managerial Engineer of the Year award at a formal ceremony in Washington D.C. on April 3, 2006.

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