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Route To:

Subject: The 2006 Rise to the Future Awards

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Staff

This year's Rise to the Future Awards recipients have been announced. Our reviewers were challenged to select these worthy projects and individuals from a wealth of outstanding nominations.

Professional Excellence Management

Amy Unthank - Regional Fish Program Leader - Region 3

Amy's peers nominated her for excellent leadership and coordination within Region 3. Her invaluable contributions range from helping in fieldwork, to developing and carrying out District, Forest, and Regional projects, serving on Regional and national teams, and providing advocacy for fisheries within and outside the agency.

Professional Excellence Research

Bret Harvey – Research Fishery Biologist - Pacific Southwest Research Station

Bret has shown a remarkable ability to use field studies, experimentation, modeling, and knowledge synthesis to provide managers the information to protect and improve valuable fisheries. His work has furthered our understanding of the factors influencing fish-habitat relations, and he has developed models to predict cumulative effects on fish populations.

Recreational Fishery Resources Accomplishment

Middle Rogue Steelheaders TU Chapter – Rogue-Siskiyou NF - Region 6

The Middle Rogue Steelheaders have contributed significantly to restoration, monitoring, education, appreciation, and use of fishery resources on the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest. In 2006, it helped rebuild coldwater fisheries, organized family fishing days, provided funding and volunteers for habitat restoration, assisted with fishery monitoring, and improved boating access.

Mentor

Mark Hudy - Eastern Aquatic Ecologist - Washington Office

Mark was nominated by the many young professionals he has had an opportunity to mentor over the last six years in his role as National Aquatic Ecologist – East. His dedication to their professional development has earned their respect and admiration.



Public Awareness

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association – Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF –Region 6

Since 2005, the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association has partnered with the Mt. Baker RD of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF to achieve fisheries and river conservation through increasing public awareness in the Nooksack River Basin. Last summer, eight “River Stewards” reached more than 2,600 boaters, campers, anglers, and school children. River Stewards help forest visitors appreciate salmon life history and how to lessen recreational activity impacts to fish habitat.

Collaborative Aquatic Resource Stewardship

Eagle River Watershed Council and Holy Cross RD – White River NF – Region 2

The Eagle River Watershed Council and the Holy Cross RD of the White River NF have worked cooperatively to increase support and funding, and to empower diverse groups to work towards improving water quality and fisheries habitat. Their efforts have resulted in a variety of stream restoration projects, not to mention supporting public education, the annual Eagle River clean-up, and the purchase of important conservation easements.

Monitoring

Shawnee National Forest Resource Team - Region 9

The Shawnee National Forest Resources Team worked with many internal and external partners to develop a new approach to survey and monitor *least brook lamprey* populations. The program has created updated distribution maps which have been incorporated into project planning. The collaborative nature of the effort developed a strong partnership with other agencies, academia, and the public.

Line Officer

William T. Bass - Forest Supervisor - Bighorn NF – Region 2

For more than 15 years, under Bill Bass’ leadership, the Bighorn National Forest has sustained outstanding aquatic resource management, protection, restoration, and enhancement. Bill’s support of an integrated and innovative fisheries and aquatics program has positively impacted aquatic resources on the Bighorn NF. His dedication is illustrated through implementing progressive ideas, partnerships with research and State agencies, and support for his staff.

Friend of Fish

Barry Jones – Engineer – NF in North Carolina – Region 8

Barry is recognized for his efforts to include fisheries biologists and hydrologists while repairing the damaged transportation networks following hurricane flooding of 2004. His vision was to not merely replace damaged or missing structures, but to improve conditions for native aquatic species by focusing on improving fish passage.

Partner

Wallowa Resources - Wallowa-Whitman NF – Region 6

Wallowa Resources has been a major partner in planning and implementing the Upper Joseph Creek Collaborative Watershed Restoration Project. Its efforts have resulted in restoring 36 miles of stream habitat and installing 41 off-channel water sources to reduce livestock impacts to fish habitat.

Our recipients will be honored at the annual awards ceremony September 26, 2007, in Washington DC.

/s/ Joel D. Holtrop

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