

## **Northern Region Employees Earn Chief's Award For Sustainable Operations Accomplishments**

The Sustainable Operations Western Collective is the Recipient of the 2012 US Forest Service Chief's Award for Leading in the Business Environment. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell commends their accomplishments in implementing Sustainable Operations across multiple regions and research station significant, quantifiable cost, performance and resource efficiencies.

The award recognized the FY 12 Western Collective Board and Board Staff. This included Region 1 employees Jan Cottrell, Brian Ingalls, Joni Packard and Kevin Riordan.

The Sustainable Operations Western Collective facilitates overall coordination and collaboration of Sustainable Operations practices throughout several western region of the US Forest Service. Western Collective footprint focus areas include energy, water, green purchasing, fleet and transportation, waste prevention and recycling and sustainable leadership. Sustainable accomplishments across these footprint areas included:

- Utility bill clean-ups with a potential agency-wide annual savings of \$4 million
- Sustainable Operations Monthly Peer Learning Webinar Series
- Virtual National Sustainable Operations Summit
- A multitude of efforts to develop and share employee skills across agency lines, as well as provide tools and knowledge to develop and maintain partnerships

Western Collective for sustainable Operations Executive Director, Anna Jones-Crabtree will accept the award on the Western Collective's behalf during the Chief's Honor Awards Ceremony on Monday, December 3, 2012 in Washington D.C.

Visit <http://dvspdevpoc/sites/sys-ops/Pages/Default.aspx> for more information about sustainable operations within the Forest Service. You can also contact Anna Jones-Crabtree at (406) 495-3744 or Brian Ingalls (406) 329-3224 for details on getting involved with the Western Collective.