



2015 Fire Line Officer Team Award Nomination



****This nomination cover form is required for all 2015 LOT Award Nominations. All fields on the form must be completed for the nomination application to be considered.**

Nominations are due by March 24, 2015.

Award Category: Please check the box that corresponds to the award category for which this nomination is being submitted. Please check ONE box only; if you wish to nominate the individual/group for more than one category, a separate nomination packet must be submitted for each category.

- Excellence in Line Officer Commitment to Firefighter & Public Safety
- Excellence in Line Officer Commitment to Restoration of Fire Adapted Ecosystems
- Excellence in Line Officer Commitment to Partnership Efforts in Fire Management
- Excellence in Line Officer Commitment to Building a Workforce for the Future

Nominee Information: Please fill out the information below for the individual/group being nominated.

Type of nomination: Group Individual

Nominee Name/Group Name:

Line Officers of the Klamath National Forest Westside Fire Recovery Project – Patty Grantham, Forest Supervisor; Ted McArthur, District Ranger, Salmon/Scott RD; Andrew Skowlund, Deputy District Ranger, Salmon/Scott RD (former); Tom Mutz, District Ranger, Happy Camp/Oak Knoll RD (retired); Lance Noxon, Deputy District Ranger, Happy Camp/Oak Knoll RD (former)

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Nominee's Supervisor: Randy Moore Supervisor Phone: (707) 562-9000

Supervisor's Signature: Jeanne Wade Evans **Date:** 4/20/16

2015 Fire Line Officer Team Awards

Nominee: *Line Officers of the Klamath National Forest Westside Fire Recovery Project*– Patty Grantham, Forest Supervisor; Ted McArthur, District Ranger, Salmon/Scott RD; Andrew Skowlund, Deputy District Ranger (former), Salmon/Scott RD; Tom Mutz, District Ranger (retired), Happy Camp/Oak Knoll RD; Lance Noxon, Deputy District Ranger (former), Happy Camp/Oak Knoll RD

Category: *Excellence in Line Officer Commitment to Restoration of Fire Adapted Ecosystems*

The Line Officers of the Klamath National Forest Westside Fire Recovery Project led the largest post-fire recovery project ever undertaken on the Forest through 18 months of public engagement, science review, planning and decision following the record-breaking 2014 wildfire season. The Westside Project encompasses over 180,000 acres of National Forest System lands (all of which burned in 2014), important habitat for ESA-listed Northern Spotted Owls and Coho salmon, and 11 fire-affected local communities and numerous residential enclaves. The Record of Decision for the project was signed on February 29, 2016. Implementation will take approximately five years.

The cornerstone of the Westside Project includes the science-based design of a landscape-level treatment strategy that facilitates future prescribed fire and Wildland Fire Use in the fire-adapted ecosystem of the Klamath Province of northern California. This strategy is composed of the following actions working in concert: (1) roadside hazard tree treatments to remove fire-killed trees along access routes (including ingress/egress routes identified in community wildfire protection plans), (2) establishment of fuel breaks along important roadways, major ridgetops and watershed boundaries, and (3) salvage harvest of large, continuous blocks of dead trees to disrupt fuels continuity. Implementation of all project planned actions will:

- Reduce threats to private property and infrastructure, including areas within the wildland urban interface, in “checkerboard” timberland ownership, and along important public highways and utility corridors;
- Create opportunities to “compartmentalize” future wildfire to limit high severity fire effects from impacting multiple major watersheds in the same event (limiting undesirable cumulative effects to ESA-listed species) and facilitating Wildland Fire Use;
- Remove hazards along forest roadways that would otherwise severely limit access and use by the public, forest workers, and future wildland fire managers/monitors; and,
- Ensure appropriate site preparation and reforestation species mix/density in order to sustain newly established conifer plantations till they are mature forests.

The line officers associated with the Westside Fire Recovery Project led over 80 public events (presentations, open houses and field trips), starting with BAER and after-season community meetings and continuing to project scoping and DEIS/FEIS meetings. The line officers also led/co- led over 60 government-to-government meetings/events with local tribes. This unprecedented level of public and tribal engagement helped build the foundation for the final treatment strategy.

The outstanding commitment made by the Line Officers leading the Westside Fire Recovery Project has resulted in the creation of a landscape-level restoration strategy that improves public and firefighter safety; protects private property and infrastructure; re-establishes forest cover and habitat; and creates a network of large-scale fuels treatments to facilitate prescribed fire and future Wildland Fire Use in a fire-adapted ecosystem.