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NEWS

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Gunnison Forester Receives Partner of the Year Award

GUNNISON, Colo. – Dana Lambert, a supervisory ecologist for the USDA Forest Service’s Rocky Mountain Research Station in Gunnison, has been named 2014 “Partner of the Year” by the Colorado State Forest Service. The award is bestowed to only one CSFS partner, cooperator or individual each year for exceptional support of, or assistance to, the agency. Lambert received the award at the agency’s annual meeting and awards ceremony this week in Pueblo.

As a quality control specialist for the USDA Forest Service’s Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program, Lambert has worked closely with the CSFS – its forestry counterpart with state government – since the beginning of the cooperative program in 2002. The federally funded program is staffed by both USFS and CSFS foresters, and tracks changes in the state’s forests over time by gathering data on insects and disease, forest growth characteristics, wildfire danger and other factors.

“Dana’s support for the FIA program, its employees and the CSFS has been non-stop since 2002, and his extraordinary efforts in coordinating the USFS and CSFS in the program are beyond worthy of recognition,” said Claudia Stout, the CSFS FIA forester who nominated Lambert for the award.

Stout says Lambert was extremely involved in the training of each FIA crew leader over 12 years, accounting for approximately 25 CSFS employees as well as around 85 seasonal employees. The training involves two week-long sessions annually, as well as time spent with each of eight individual crews throughout the summer.

The award specifically recognized Lambert for professionalism and excellence in communication; enhancing the CSFS’s ability to accomplish its goals and strategic priorities; and significant contributions toward the agency’s mission to “to achieve stewardship of Colorado’s diverse forest environments for the benefit of present and future generations.”

“Dana is the consummate professional and always strives to support the CSFS in all facets of the FIA program,” wrote Scott Woods, assistant supervisor for the CSFS Forest Management Division, in the nomination form. “The CSFS has benefitted greatly from Dana’s willingness to build a bridge between state and federal cooperators.”

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