



USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region



Renewable Resources



Eastern Region USDA-Forest Service

Personnel Changes

Regional Forester – Charles (Chuck) Myers

Renewable Resources Director - Nancy Ross

Regional Wildlife Program Manager - Mary Maj

- Kent Connaughton (former Regional Forester) is the Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region in Portland, OR;
- Paul Momper (former Renewable Resources Director) retired in December 2010; and
- Bill Bartush, accepted a job with the US F&WS in LaFayette, LA as the Gulf Coast Prairie LCC Coordinator.

(Please see Appendix A&B for more detailed information)

Fish and Wildlife Landscape Scale Conservation Activities

Glades Conservation Assessment and Strategy

Limestone glades provide essential habitat for many plant and animal species of conservation concern. The Forest Service and the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture are spearheading an effort to bring federal, state, and non-governmental partners together to identify a restoration strategy for glade systems, of which many are considered imperiled. Completing a conservation assessment is the first step; this effort will identify the distribution of remnant and functioning glade systems, as well as restoration opportunities. Once completed, restoration guidance priorities will be identified, documented, and made available for interested agencies, organizations, and land owners. The geographic area under consideration includes the states of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

Contact: Becky Ewing, (414) 297-3612 or rewing@fs.fed.us.

Kirtland's Warbler Memorandum of Understanding

The Forest Service, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service signed an MOU in May 2011, which provides written assurances that these agencies will continue collaborative habitat management, brown-headed cowbird control, monitoring, research, and education as it relates to Kirtland's warbler and jack pine management. These assurances represent a critical step toward delisting the Kirtland's warbler. This species is now present in Michigan and Wisconsin, and is nesting on the Huron-Manistee, Hiawatha, Ottawa, and Chequamegon-Nicolet national forests. **Contact:** Becky Ewing, (414) 297-3612 or rewing@fs.fed.us.

Coordinated Bird Monitoring in BCR 12

The Forest Service has been cooperating with University of Minnesota (Natural Resources Research Institute) and University of Wisconsin-Green Bay for 20 years on the collection of breeding bird data from the Superior, Chippewa, and Chequamegon-Nicolet national forests. A 2011 agreement was recently signed between the partners for the purpose of summarizing the datasets (e.g., population trends, habitat trends). The final report is to be published by the Northern Research Station as a General Technical Report. **Contact:** Becky Ewing, (414) 297-3612 or rewing@fs.fed.us.

Regional Forester Sensitive Species List

The Eastern Region is in the process of updating its sensitive species list, a process undertaken about every five years. Forest Supervisors have worked closely with state wildlife agencies and heritage programs to include those species of greatest conservation concern in the update. The Forest Service incorporates proactive and protective measures for sensitive species in all land management projects. A total of 374 animals and 603 plants have been proposed for inclusion on the updated list. The Regional Forester is expected to approve the list in 2011. **Contact:** Becky Ewing, (414) 297-3612 or rewing@fs.fed.us.

Trust for Public Lands Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Forest Service and Trust for Public Lands in September of 2010. It provides a framework for collaborative efforts that help to carryout programs and activities of the National Forest System, Research and Development, and State and Private Forestry, including the development and implementation of forest plans; landscape, watershed, and other ecological assessments; regional, landscape, and local projects, and heritage programs which provide an interstate/international data network for conserving biological diversity and conserving and managing important habitats, wildlife and fish, and sensitive/rare plant resources. Focus is in the Northwoods of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. **Contact:** Nick Schmal, (414) 297-3431 nschmal@fs.fed.us.

National Fish Habitat Partnerships

There are nine nationally recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships that lie within or cross the Eastern Regional boundary. Several R9 units provided inventory data for fish and mussels through their partnerships for inclusion into the detailed assessments being conducted by Downstream Strategies. The Eastern Region coordinated filming of a spring fishing trip on the Chippewa NF with Pat Rivers, Midwest Glacial lakes FHP Coordinator and Steve Pennaz, from the North American Fishing Club. The show will highlight recreational fishing and the importance of lake shorelines, clean water and lake habitats for fish communities and how the partnership will work with lake associations and landowners to protect, enhance and restore Midwestern glacial lakes and watersheds. Anticipated airtime is in the spring of 2012. **Contact:** Nick Schmal, (414) 297-3431 nschmal@fs.fed.us.

Threat Campaign® with Wildlife Forever: National Invasive Species Outreach and Education

The threat Campaign is a unique multimedia educational effort targeted to anglers, boater, hunters and outdoor recreationists to stop the spread of invasive species. Outreach efforts include extensive television, print ads, billboards, airport dioramas, and Public Service Announcements. Partners value the diverse fields of expertise among members. Federal and State agencies serve as the scientific and messaging arm ensuring the Best Management Practices are based on findings of professionals. In five years, the campaign has expanded to 20 states and over 715,000,000 impressions have been reached. **Contact:** Nick Schmal, (414) 297-3431(nschmal@fs.fed.us) or Doug Grann, Wildlife Forever, (763) 253-0222.

Watershed Condition Framework and Priority Watersheds

The Watershed Condition Framework (WCF) is a comprehensive approach for proactively implementing integrated restoration on priority watersheds on national forests and grasslands. The WCF proposes to improve the way the Forest Service approaches watershed restoration by targeting the implementation of integrated suites of activities in those watersheds that have been identified as priorities for restoration. The WCF also establishes a nationally consistent reconnaissance-level approach for classifying watershed condition, using a comprehensive set of 12 indicators that are surrogate variables representing the underlying ecological, hydrological, and geomorphic functions and processes that affect watershed condition. Primary emphasis is on aquatic and terrestrial processes and conditions that Forest Service management activities can influence. The approach is designed to foster integrated ecosystem-based watershed assessments; target programs of work in watersheds that have been identified for restoration;

enhance communication and coordination with external agencies and partners; and improve national-scale reporting and monitoring of program accomplishments. The WCF provides the Forest Service with an outcome-based performance measure for documenting improvement to watershed condition at forest, regional, and national scales. Each forest will develop restoration plans for two priority watersheds by the end of September, 2011. **Contact:** Nick Schmal, (414) 297-3431 (nschmal@fs.fed.us) or Ted Geier, (414) 297-1347 (tgeier@fs.fed.us).

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

We obligated \$93 million of ARRA funds by the end of Fiscal Year 2010. The funds were invested in our 15 national forests and prairie, as well as experimental stations and research areas in 13 states. Projects restored forest and watershed health, reduced our backlog of deferred maintenance at administrative and recreation facilities, and improved our road and trail networks. The work will have long-standing benefits to the land and resources. **Contact:** Bonnie Ilhardt, (414) 297-3697 or bilhardt@fs.fed.us.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

The Forest Service received just over \$15 million in GLRI funds in FY 2010. The funds were allocated between the three branches of the FS-NFS, Eastern Region (\$8,100,000), Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry (\$6,500,000), and Northern Research Station (\$500,000). The Forest Service received \$4.16 million in FY 2011, and continues to implement projects on-the-ground. Specific accomplishments include:

- Messages about aquatic invasive species and prevention reached 93.2 million people, thanks to a multi-media outreach program;
- 3,450 acres of wetland associated uplands were protected, restored, or enhanced;
- 875,000 acres of threatened and endangered species habitat were monitored;
- 11 barriers to fish passage were removed;
- 300 acres of wetlands were inventoried and assessed;
- 155.6 miles of river were re-opened to fish passage; and
- 322 acres of wetlands were restored or enhanced.

Contact: Tony Erba (414) 297-1905 (aerba@fs.fed.us) or Nick Vrevich (414) 297-3350 (nvrevich@fs.fed.us).

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Climate Change Framework

Eastern Region representatives were actively involved in Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science activities on climate change, carbon and bio-energy. One highlight project of this partnership is the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest's (Wisconsin) climate change response framework. Launched in 2009, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest's climate change response framework project had some major achievements in 2010. These included: design to provide information and resources in order to adapt ecosystems to changing climate; mitigate carbon emissions; respond to climate change impacts across boundaries; and rapidly incorporate science and monitoring information into management activities. A Shared Landscape Initiative workshop was held February 2010, to discuss climate change affects on the landscape and the importance of a cooperative response from land-owners, the public, and Forest Service. A major outcome of the workshop was the formation of a shared landscape working group, representing diverse perspectives. **Contact:** Leslie Brandt (414) 297-3181 lbrandt@fs.fed.us.

National Changes in FY 12 Forest Service Budgets

Integrated Resource Restoration

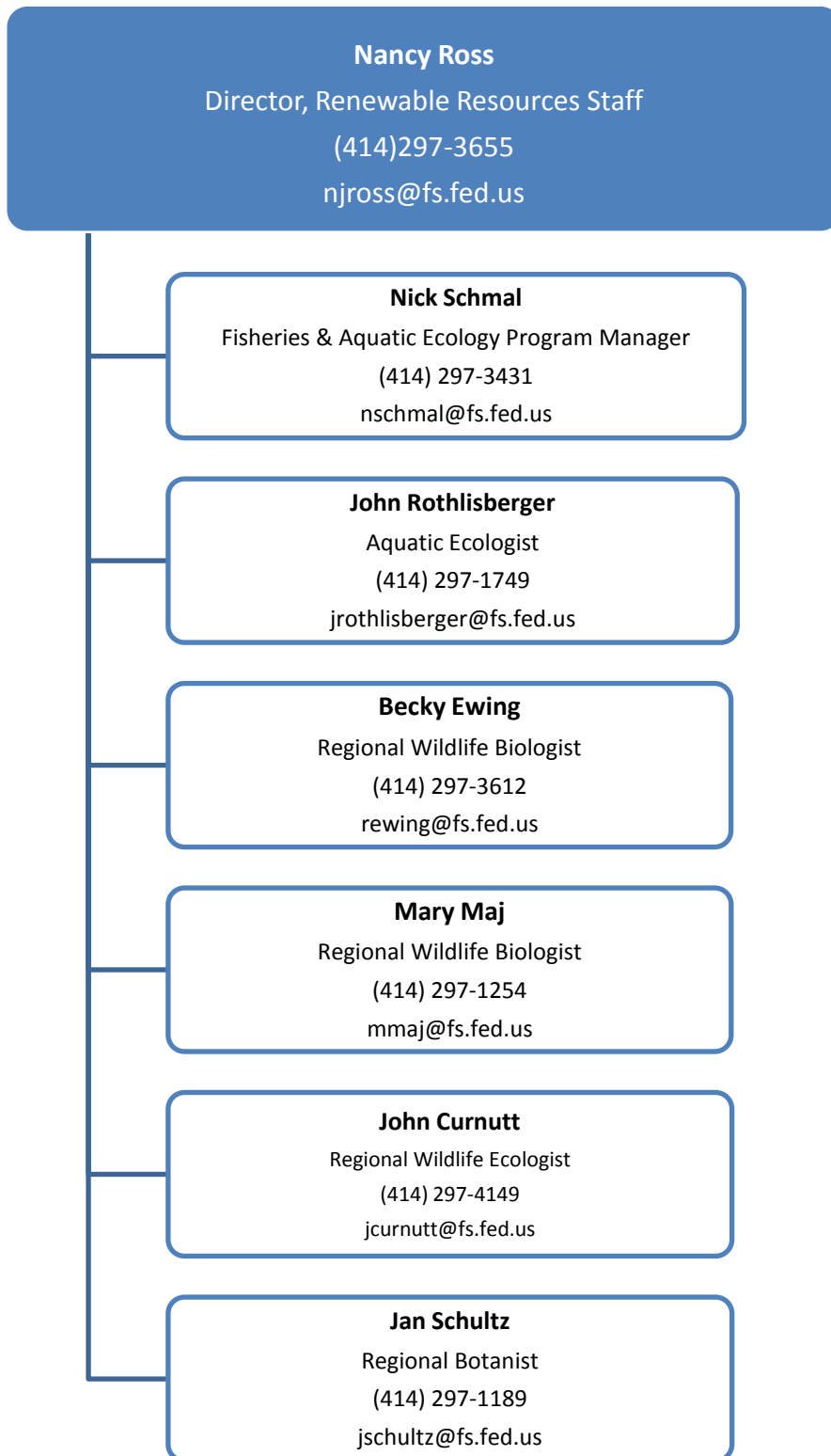
Integrated Resource Restoration (IRR) is the Forest Service's new approach to restoration. This budget line item (BLI) brings together key management resources necessary for maintaining and restoring watershed and forest health under one umbrella and directs funding to achieve priority work in the most important places. This is a step away from the traditional approaches centered on local, individual small scale resource solutions and moves the agency toward evaluating and implementing environmental needs on a broad landscape scale, concentrating activities in priority watersheds. Funds will be directed to reestablish watershed, forest and grassland health, fire-adapted landscapes, and ecosystem function.

Traditionally, important resource work was accomplished in many areas, with actions dispersed over various landscapes within in any given forest unit. Often additional critical restoration work essential in other resource areas still persisted. The IRR umbrella draws from a full suite of options in the restoration toolbox at the necessary level to implement action plans that address the most critical environmental needs in specific geographical locations.

IRR funds are organized into four components:

- Restoration and Management of Ecosystems
- Priority Watersheds and Job Stabilization
- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program
- Legacy Roads & Trails

APPENDIX A: USDA FOREST SERVICE, EASTERN REGION WILDLIFE, FISH AND BOTANY STAFF



APPENDIX B: BIOGRAPHIES



Chuck Myers, Regional Forester of the Eastern Region

Chuck Myers begins his position as Regional Forester of the Eastern Region in July of 2011. He comes to the Region from the Washington Office (WO), in which he has served as Deputy Chief for Business Operations since January 2009.

Myers began his Forest Service career in 1979 on the Allegheny National Forest. He held several positions throughout the Eastern Region, including Deputy Forest Supervisor on the White Mountain National Forest and Forest Supervisor on the Monongahela National Forest. Before becoming Deputy Chief for Business Ops, he served in several other key leadership positions for the Agency, including Regional Forester of the Southern Region; and Associate Deputy Chief for Natural Resources, Director of Forest Management, Assistant Director of Recreation, and lead for the Agency's simplification all in the WO.

Chuck holds a B.S. and Masters Degree in Forest Science from The Pennsylvania State University.



Nancy Ross, Director of Renewable Resources, Eastern Regional Office

Nancy Ross begins her position as Director of Renewable Resources in the Eastern Regional Office in August of 2011. She comes to the Region from the Daniel Boone National Forest in Winchester, Kentucky. In which she serves as Natural Resources Staff Officer.

Ross began her career as part of the Central Timber Team of the Lewis and Clark National Forest. In 1980 she received a Cooperative Education student position and became a Trainee Forester following graduation. Her training included assisting with public involvement for the first Forest Plan for the Lewis and Clark. From there, Nancy went to work on the Targhee National Forest as a GS-9 Forester and then the Ashley National Forest as Timber Management Assistant. In 1993, Nancy returned east to become the Forest Planner on the Jefferson National Forest in Virginia. Prior to moving to Kentucky in 2006, she served as the District Ranger on the New Castle Ranger District of the Jefferson NF.

Nancy holds a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Montana.



Mary Maj, Regional Wildlife Biologist

Mary Maj began as Eastern Regional Wildlife Biologist in June of 2011. She comes to the Region from the Gardiner Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest in Montana.

Maj began her career on the Gallatin National Forest in 1975 in wilderness and trails. She held positions around the Greater Yellowstone area and to the Region 1 Regional Office as district and regional wildlife biologist, resource assistant, natural resource staff officer, and district ranger. Her interest in landscape conservation was realized while working as the stewardship director for the Teton Regional Land Trust, and further developed as the Executive Coordinator of the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, a multi-agency (FWS, NPS, USFS) cooperative of managers working on shared resource challenges and opportunities.

Mary holds a B.S. and Masters Degree in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University.