

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service



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FOREST SERVICE WILDLIFE LEADER RECEIVES NATIONAL WILDLIFE AWARD

WASHINGTON, D.C. –The Wildlife Program Leader for the Forest Service’s Northern Regional Office here in Missoula recently received a wildlife award from top leadership of the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Skip Kowalski received the Jack Adams award during a special Forest Service-BLM reception March 18, held during the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Washington D.C.

Kowalski has worked in the Northern, Rocky Mountain and Pacific Southwest regions of the Forest Service. As one of the first wildlife biologists in the Colorado-based Rocky Mountain Region, he promoted wildlife, fish and rare plant programs that were ahead of their time. He promoted introducing fire into aspen stands to benefit elk populations and also to diversify habitat types within the region. He worked with the state wildlife division to implement a prescribed burn program in the early 1970s that continues today.

In the Northern Region, Kowalski responded to budget-driven staff reductions by maintaining key partnerships with non-profit organizations to leverage limited wildlife funding. He has helped establish his agency as a key partner in the Partners in Flight Program, not just to benefit songbirds but to work for biological diversity beyond national forest boundaries with many other organizations.

Henri Bisson of the BLM and Hilda Diaz-Soltero, Associate Chief of the Forest Service, jointly presented the award.

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