

Thomas L. Tidwell, Chief, USDA Forest Service



Tom Tidwell has contributed more than 40 years of public service as a natural resources management professional of the Forest Service. He has served in a variety of positions at all levels of the agency, including district ranger, forest supervisor, and legislative affairs specialist in the Washington Office. As deputy regional forester for the Pacific Southwest Region, Tom facilitated collaborative approaches to wildland fire management and myriad forest management issues to maintain support for forests and grasslands across a broad spectrum of citizens. As regional forester for the Northern Region, Tom strongly supported community-based collaboration in the region, finding solutions based on mutual goals; thereby reducing the number of appeals and lawsuits, while increasing work on the ground.

In 2009, after being named Chief, Tom set about implementing a vision that met the goals for the agency's mission. Under his leadership, the Forest Service has accelerated treatments on the landscape to improve the health and resiliency of forests and grasslands so they can sustain all the benefits Americans get from their wildlands, including renewable supplies of wood, energy, plentiful supplies of clean water, abundant habitat for wildlife and fish. This also includes job production, stability of rural communities and support for tourism-based economies.

Such benefits are at risk from the effects of increasingly extreme disturbances, insect and disease infestations and wildfires that burn hotter and longer. Under Tom's leadership, the Forest Service has charted a national focus to increase vegetation treatments on the landscape and take measures to help ecosystems remain productive and sustainable amid these increasing risks.

Tom has facilitated a boundary-less approach to addressing the challenges facing America's forests and grasslands where no single entity can meet them alone. Under Tom's leadership, the Forest Service is working with states, Tribes, private landowners, and other partners for landscape-scale conservation.

Through Tom's leadership the Forest Service has focused its efforts to become a more inclusive agency where everyone is respected and treated fairly. The agency also values diversity and is working to eliminate all forms of harassment. Moreover, this ethical standard for service extends to all citizens.

Tom is married to Kim; they have one daughter, MacKenzie.