

TONY TOOKE  
Chief  
USDA, Forest Service



Tony Tooke was named Chief of the Forest on September 3, 2017. He has worked for the Forest Service since he was 18 years old, including many assignments in Region 8 and the Washington Office (WO), most recently as the Regional Forester for the Southern Region of the Forest Service. In that role, he was responsible for 3,100 employees, 14 national forests, and two managed areas, which encompass more than 13.3 million acres in 13 states and Puerto Rico. In his new role as Forest Service Chief, he takes over an agency that oversees 154 national forests and 20 grasslands in 43 states and Puerto Rico.

His previous position in Washington, DC was Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System; with oversight of Lands and Realty, Minerals and Geology, Ecosystem Management Coordination, Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, the National Partnership Office, and Business

Administration and Support Services.

As Associate Deputy Chief, Tooke was the Forest Service Executive Lead for Environmental Justice; Farm Bill implementation; and implementation of the Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment Improvement Strategy. Another priority included implementation of a new planning rule for the National Forest System.

Also in the WO, Tooke served as Director for Ecosystem Management Coordination, Deputy Director for Economic Recovery, and Assistant Director for Forest Management.

Prior to 2006, Tooke served as Deputy Forest Supervisor for the National Forests in Florida as well as District Ranger assignments at the Talladega NF in Alabama, the Oconee NF in Georgia, and the DeSoto NF in Mississippi. His other field assignments were Timber Management Assistant, Other Resource Assistant, Silviculturist, and Forester on six Ranger Districts in Mississippi and Kentucky.

Tooke grew up on a small 200-acre farm in Detroit, Alabama. He earned a bachelor's degree in forestry from Mississippi State University. He was in the Forest Service's inaugural class of the Senior Leadership Program, and he has completed the Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program.