



Patti Hiram
Acting Deputy Chief
State and Private Forestry,
U.S. Forest Service/Department of Agriculture

Patti is the Acting Deputy Chief/State and Private Forestry for the U.S. Forest Service, where she provides shared leadership for programs that include Fire and Aviation, Forest Health Protection, Cooperative Forestry, Tribal Relations, and Conservation Education, and manages the national historic site of the Pinchot Family home at Grey Towers.

Patti's Forest Service career includes assignments in several locations across the country, and at all levels of the agency. Originally from Illinois, she started her tenure with the Forest Service 37 years ago as a Forester Trainee on the Lolo National Forest in western Montana. Like many others, she worked her way through the University of Idaho by being a dirt-throwing wildland firefighter and marking trees in the summer to fund her education. Since that time, she learned and gained experience across the agency and at headquarters.

A few of the more notable assignments that Patti has had with the agency include her depth of experience in wildfire and disaster incident management. She has been on domestic and international response teams, and was instrumental in development of the Forest Service protocol used on national disasters. Patti has been recognized by foreign governments for her roles as technical advisor, instructor, or as a speaker.

One of Patti's non-traditional assignments include 8 months as Senior Advisor in USDA's Department of Homeland Security, where she supported or represented USDA on White House National Security Council Sub-Committees.

Most recently, Patti is responsible for the branch of the Forest Service that focuses on State and Private Forestry, working together to improve the health and sustainability of our nation's forests and grasslands. Although much of the \$2 billion budget she oversees is dedicated to Fire and Aviation Management, she is highly interested in better wood utilization, and has focused on coordinating the agency's work to explore the complexities of wood fiber utilization and markets.

Patti's outreach efforts includes strengthening the symbiotic relationships with external partners and tribal nations upon whom the Forest Service mutually depends to manage natural resources. She actively engages in reaching out to connect to others, and to expand the impact of natural resource management across all landscapes.

One of the most rewarding aspects of her work is to be regularly sought as a mentor or coach by others – internal and external to her own agency, as well as non-government and private sector colleagues.

Patti has two degrees in Forestry from the College of Forestry/University of Idaho, and is a member of the U.S. Government Senior Executive Service.