



Forest  
Service

Washington  
Office

1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250

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**Route To:**

**Subject:** Wilderness 50th Anniversary

**To:** Regional Foresters

September 3, 2014, will mark 50 years since the signing of the Wilderness Act. The Forest Service has a rich legacy as world leaders in wilderness stewardship. With your continued help, our ongoing stewardship work will help preserve this wilderness legacy for future generations. As the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary date approaches, now is the time to honor and build upon our successes.

There are several efforts underway to commemorate this historic anniversary. These efforts include working with a National Planning Team and the establishment of an agency team to explore how we can tell the Agency's wilderness story, and specifically, how we can assist employees in the field with their endeavors (refer to January 18, 2013, Chief Tidwell letter).

To help meet this need, I am pleased to announce that we are committing approximately \$720,000 of National Forest System fiscal year (FY) 14 funds to the field to develop and implement activities and projects that celebrate not only the past 50 years of the Wilderness Preservation System but the next 50 years. Each region will be allocated \$80,000.

Official budget execution documents will distribute these funds as soon as possible, but I strongly encourage regions to move forward now to effectively use this opportunity. The Washington Office (WO) is ensuring that each region has sufficient spending authority under the Continuing Resolution to support these activities. Regions will determine how to best to use and distribute these funds. The funds, however, must be allocated in FY14 for specific activities, projects, and events that engage wilderness partners, Tribes and/or local communities. In addition, each region will be required to submit an accomplishment report in a standardized format (see enclosure) to the WO by December 31, 2014. The information submitted will be assembled and used to help tell the Forest Service wilderness legacy story.

Please note that several resources are available to help forests and districts with their efforts. For instance, Wilderness50 has an active Web site that provides a wealth of information and resources: [www.wilderness50th.org](http://www.wilderness50th.org). In addition, there are also several materials that are available through your respective directors and program managers.

Please contact Leanne Marten, Director, Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers, at 202-205-0925 if you have any questions.

*/s/ Tony Tooke (for)*

LESLIE A. C. WELDON

Deputy Chief, National Forest System

Enclosure

