

Tidwell Named Chief of US Forest Service

SAF member Tom Tidwell is the new Chief for the US Forest Service.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack made the announcement this afternoon.

“Tom Tidwell’s 32 years of experience in our forests and impressive track record of collaboration and problem-solving will help us tackle the great challenges ahead,” said Vilsack in a statement released by the agency this afternoon.

Tidwell has spent the past 32 years with the agency and has worked at all levels of the agency in a variety of positions, including district ranger, forest supervisor, and legislative affairs specialist in the Forest Service’s Washington, DC, Office.

He began his career with the agency on the Boise National Forest, and has since worked in eight different national forests, across three regions. His field experience includes working in the rural areas of Nevada and Idaho, as well as in the urban forests in California. He served as Forest Supervisor on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah during the 2002 Winter Olympics and he has extensive fire experience, beginning as a firefighter, and as an agency administrator responsible for fire suppression decisions.

Tidwell joined SAF in 2007.

The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the national scientific and educational organization representing the forestry profession in the United States. Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, it is the largest professional society for foresters in the world. The mission of the Society of American Foresters is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and, to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethic of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.