

NFFPC Nomination for 2003

Nominee(s): Thomas Brady
NA-S&PF Liaison/Forest Fire Management Officer
White Mountain National Forest
719 N. Main St.
Laconia, NH 03246

Award Category: Commitment to interagency efforts in fire management

Supporting Narrative/documentation based on Award Category Criteria:

Nominated by: Thomas Parent, Executive Director 207-968-3782
Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact (NFFPC)
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Also:

Bill Williams	Fire Supervisor, State of Maine
Robert 'Bud' Nelson	Fire Supervisor, State of New Hampshire
Brent Teillon	Fire Supervisor, State of Vermont
Michael Tirrell	Fire Supervisor, State of Massachusetts
Thomas Bourn	Fire Supervisor, State of Rhode Island
Ralph Scarpino	Fire Supervisor, State of Connecticut
Andy Jacob	Fire Supervisor, State of New York
Kim Connors	Fire Supervisor, Province of New Brunswick
Jean Girard	Fire Supervisor, Province of Quebec
Walter Fanning	Fire Supervisor, Province of Nova Scotia

Although this nomination is being made for the 2003 year, Tom Brady's outstanding contributions to interagency fire management efforts within the Northeastern Compact area have been ongoing and unwavering for many years.

Tom Brady has continued to demonstrate his ability and willingness to work across agency and jurisdictional boundaries in wildland fire management for well over a decade within the Northeastern Compact area. He consistently coordinates wildland fire activities between the White Mountain National Forest, the Green Mt./Finger Lakes National Forest, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Park Service, the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York, and the provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, and the Nature Conservancy. Tom does more than interagency coordination, he exercises true leadership in all of his activities. For 2 years, Tom was the Chair of the NFFPC Operations Committee, comprised of the fire supervisors from 7 states and 3 provinces. He has engaged in all wildland management coordination activities including operations, training, prevention, fire weather, equipment development, and aviation. In this capacity, he has been instrumental in developing interagency operational plans, goals, and administrative procedures.

Tom has played a critical role in developing collaborative solutions for and between all of the above agencies, states and provinces and initiated creative interagency approaches to long-standing fire management challenges. Over the past year, Tom initiated and coordinated an integrated dispatching system for the NFFPC area. Known as the Northeast Coordination Center, the dispatch center coordinates the mobilization of resources for all cooperators within NFFPC. The center is far more than a dispatch system. It assimilates invaluable agency, state, and provincial information concerning fire activity, fire weather, prescribed fire activity, availability of resources, and mobilized resources. The center also dispatches for all levels, including single state, multi-state, state to



province, province to state, and nationwide. A board of Directors for the NECC was established representing each of the cooperating agencies. Tom became the Chair of the Board of Directors and continues to effectively and competently lead the activities of the NECC. In this capacity, Tom was successful in acquiring dispatching staff from the State of Maine, the White Mountain National Forest, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. NECC functions as a sub-regional dispatch center for the Eastern Area Coordination Center.

Tom has also spearheaded an initiative to lead and coordinate prescribed fire activities within the NFFPC. He assisted the state of New York with prescribed fire management on Long Island where the threat to public safety in Wildland Urban Interface areas was very substantial. He also initiated the creation of a fuels management task force representing the federal agencies, states and provinces within the NFFPC area.

For an 8 month period, Tom participated in a fire program review of all of the states and provinces within NFFPC. He worked on developing the procedures, helped assimilate the information, and made major contributions in identifying and organizing improvements to the fire programs of the agencies and the Compact.

The list of Tom's accomplishments in interagency fire management efforts are too extensive to list in this one page nomination. His contributions to interagency fire management activities within and outside of NFFPC also include: Coordination and ongoing dialog with FEMA, supporting and providing cadre for interagency training, active engagement on all of the Working Teams, federal grants management assistance to cooperators, creative and practical solutions to long standing fire management issues, technical assistance to cooperators, and a direct no nonsense approach to dealing with serious deficiencies and problems between fire agencies.

For the above reasons, the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact nominates Thomas Brady for the 2003 Outstanding Service Award for his commitment to interagency efforts in fire management.