

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Forest Protection**

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Alexander B. Grannis
Commissioner

December 11, 2008

Gerard Lacasse, Information Coordinator
Chair of NFFPC Fire Prevention Working Team
715, 7^e rue de l'Aéroport
Quebec (Quebec), Canada G2G 2S7

Dear Gerard Lacasse,

Please accept this letter as a nomination for New York State Forest Ranger Joseph Kennedy to be selected for the Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission, "Compact", 2008 Outstanding Service Award.

Ranger Kennedy is just completing his 25th year as a New York State Forest Ranger. Throughout these years, he has demonstrated an expertise in wildfire control that began with his experiences at fighting wildfire in high school. As a result of the July 1995 Adirondack Microburst and blowdown, Kennedy developed knowledge and skills as one of the nation's top wildfire danger rating and fire weather experts among state-employed fire agencies. In 2002, he was designated as New York's Wildfire Predictive Services Specialist and began working full time on state, Compact, regional and national predictive services projects. This expertise developed in conjunction with active participation in Compact working teams. Some of his contributions include:

- Member of the Compact Fire Danger and Fire Science Working Teams
- Compact liaison with the National Weather Service
- Member of the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) Fire Environment Working Team (FENWT) representing the Northeastern and Southern Area states.
- Member of the National Fire Danger Steering Committee
- Compact liaison to the New Hampshire remote automatic weather stations (RAWS) and historical fire occurrence (Red Flag criteria) projects
- Compact instructor for quick-deploy weather stations, Weather Information Management System (WIMS), Automatic Sorting, Conversion and Distribution System (ASCADS), RAWS and National Fire Danger Rating System
- Compact facilitator of a discussion of the differences between US and Canadian fire danger rating systems and fire behavior.
- Facilitated the development of New York's historical fire occurrence project which resulted in a model for teaching Advanced National Fire Danger Rating System at the National Advanced Fire and Resource Institute (NAFRI).
- Northeast Area representative to the Western Governor's Association and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) national fire weather program initiative.

Ranger Kennedy's travels throughout North America has made him an ambassador for the Northeast Compact. Many of these contacts are with top-level wildland fire agency administrators and state fire chiefs, managers and supervisors. His work with Dr. Tim Brown, Associate Research Professor and Director of the Desert Research Institute Program for Climate, Ecosystem and Fire Applications (CEFA) at the University of Nevada Desert Research Institute regarding fire climatology and historical fire occurrence has created new planning opportunities for states to prevent and respond to wildfire potential.

I ask that you consider Ranger Kennedy for this year's Outstanding Service Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. T. Jacob", written in a cursive style.

Colonel Andrew T. Jacob
Assistant Director of Forest Rangers
New York State Fire Supervisor

cc: T. Rinaldi
T. Parent
D. Russell