



Vice Chancellor's Awards in Excellence Program
Nomination Form
2013

NOMINEE INFORMATION

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL NOMINEE OR TEAM:
(If team nomination – complete pages 3-4)

Lee McNeely

(Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms.)

(First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)

CURRENT TITLE/POSITION:

Wildland Urban Interface Specialist III

DEPARTMENT, CENTER, UNIT, DISTRICT, OR AGENCY:

Texas A&M Forest Service - Mitigation&Prevention

MAILING ADDRESS:

200 Technology Way, Ste. 1164
College Station, TX 77845

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

lmcneely@tfs.tamu.edu

WORK PHONE NUMBER:

979-458-6600

CELL PHONE NUMBER:

OF YEARS EMPLOYED WITH TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE:

33 years

AWARD CATEGORIES

AWARD CATEGORIES *(Check only one)*

Teaching Awards

- Teaching
- Graduate Student Teaching

Research Awards

- Research
- Graduate Student Research

Extension Education Awards

- County Agent
- Extension Specialist/Program Specialist
Serving State or Region

Service Awards

- Public Service in Forestry (TFS)
- Diagnostic Services (TVMDL)

Staff Awards

- Business and Operational Staff
- Office and Administrative Staff
- Technical and Programmatic Staff
- AgriLife Services Staff

Diversity Award

- Diversity

International Involvement Award

- International Involvement

Administration

- Administration

Collaboration

- Partnership
- Team

NOMINATOR'S INFORMATION

NOMINATOR'S NAME: Karen Stafford

NOMINATOR'S MAILING ADDRESS: 200 Technology Way, Ste. 1164
College Station, TX 77845

NOMINATOR'S PHONE #: 979-458-6600

E-MAIL: kstafford@tfs.tamu.edu

NOMINATOR'S DEPT, CENTER, UNIT, DISTRICT, OR AGENCY NAME: Texas A&M Forest Service-Mitigation&Pr

ENSURE YOUR NOMINATION PACKET IS IN THE CORRECT ORDER AND INCLUDES ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

SUBMIT ONE (1) ELECTRONIC .PDF FILE TO AgriLifeAwards@agnet.tamu.edu no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, October 4, 2013

(NOTE: Late nomination packets or changes in nomination packets after the deadline are not permitted)



October 1, 2013

Vice Chancellor's Awards in Excellence Committee
2142 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843

Dear Awards in Excellence Committee:

This statement of qualification and support is for the nomination of Lee McNeely for the Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence – Forestry. Lee McNeely is deserving of this award for his accomplishments working on Mitigation Planning with the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). Lee has been actively engaged with TDEM for the past three years and in particular, this past year through Lee's dedication and focus, TFS has achieved elevated standing with TDEM in the area of mitigation planning and Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program (HMAP) grants through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

TDEM is responsible for updating the State of Texas Mitigation Action Plan for FEMA and providing mitigation template information relating to the various hazards that the state faces. These mitigation templates are then used by various Council of Governments (COGs), Counties and Cities to develop and update their regional and local Mitigation Action Plans as required by TDEM and FEMA. TDEM Mitigation Council (Council) is a working committee consisting of TDEM staff and state agencies. The Council reviews the hazards impacting Texas and ranks hazards in order of their impact to local communities. The ranking of the hazard is related to FEMA's HMAP grant. The higher the hazard the more priority the grant request is and increases the funding request approval.

Through Lee's remarkable and patience efforts, he was able to convince to TDEM staff and the Council that wildfire poses the 4th hazard impacting Texas (hurricanes, tornados, floods and wildfire) from a ranking of the state's 10th ranking hazard. This a true game changer; for the first time Texas wildfire threat was accurately reflected and this caused that the State's mitigation plan to change as well as regional and local plans. In addition, counties and cities that are directly impacted by wildfire for the first time had a realistic opportunity to receive a FEMA HMAP wildfire mitigation grant.

Lee was not just satisfied with the raising the hazard rating, this last year he worked with TDEM staff and provided critical information in updating the wildfire mitigation template that is being used in the state's new mitigation action plan and he has tirelessly worked with several COGs, counties and cities in updating their wildfire risk section for their mitigation action plans. Lee is also directly engaged in assisting counties and cities in applying for FEMA HMAP wildfire grants. Lee's constant advocating for wildfire mitigation planning has earned him and most importantly TFS, has the go to person and agency for wildfire mitigation planning. Lee's relationship with TDEM caused TDEM/FEMA to recognize roadblocks facing Texas counties and cities from receiving FEMA HMAP grants. TDEM urged Lee in March 2013 to submit for a FEMA HMAP grant that would produce a wildfire mitigation how to guide for Texas cities and counties to assist them in completing hazardous fuel reduction projects. Lee wrote the grant in a short time period and in July 2013; TFS was notified that a formal grant award letter is pending. Lee's countless hours of work and outstanding efforts with TDEM is certainly deserving of this award.

Sincerely,

Karen Stafford

Program Coordinator

Mitigation and Prevention Department

Lee McNeely – Bio

Lee McNeely is a native of Danville Virginia, and a 1973 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute with a B.A. in History. Upon graduation from VMI, he received a commission in the United States Marine Corps, where he served in military intelligence from 1973-1977. Upon discharge from the Marine Corps, he entered Louisiana State University, and received a B.S. in Forest Management in 1980. He has been employed by the Texas A&M Forest Service since 1980. He is a recipient of the Bronze Smokey Bear Award for Wildfire Prevention sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, and was the 2008 recipient of the SAF President's Award for Outstanding Field Forester. McNeely is a Certified Forester and a Certified Arborist. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters, International Society of Arboriculture, and Vietnam Veterans of America. He is married to Debbie McNeely, and lives in Marion County. His hobbies include fishing, target shooting, and gun-smithing. NWGG qualifications include ICT3, DIVS, and FOBS(t). Career highlights include incident response to three of Texas ten largest wildfires during the 2011 wildfire season; wildfire response and technical assistance to the Mexican government in 1998; Division Supervisor in New Orleans for Hurricane Katrina in 2005; and wildfire assignments in Kentucky and Tennessee.



October 1, 2013

Vice Chancellor's Awards in Excellence Committee
2142 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843

Re: Reference Letter for Lee McNeely

Dear Awards Committee:

It is my privilege to write a letter of support for Lee McNeely in his efforts of mitigation planning with the Texas Division of Emergency Management for this Year's Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence – Forestry.

In 2012- 2013, Lee successfully completed several key issues that dramatically impacted the entire state of Texas in regards to improving wildfire mitigation efforts. Lee was able to convince TDEM, which is a very conservative agency, that wildfire is a top four threat. This created the need and push for TDEM and local government to change their mitigation plans. This has been needed for a long time. Lee assisted TDEM, Council of Governments, counties and cities in updating their mitigation action plans. Lee's commitment to assist local government in the FEMA mitigation grant process as created opportunities for counties and cities that are at risk to wildfires to have a real shot to receive a FEMA mitigation grant. Lee vigorous efforts with TDEM did not go unnoticed by TDEM. TDEM /FEMA recommended to Lee to submit for a FEMA mitigation grant that would produce a hazardous fuel "how to guide" that would allow counties and cities greater success in securing a FEMA mitigation grants. In July, we received word from TDEM, that Lee's grant will receive a formal grant acceptance letter.

Lee certainly deserves this award. His leadership, vision and commitment to serve has truly impacted the entire state in having wildfire recognized as a top four hazard in Texas. His influencing of TDEM staff has opened the door for county and cities to receive mitigation grants and his grant will make it even easier for counties and cities to navigate TDEM/FEMA mitigation grant process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Woods". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce Woods

Department Head/Chief

Mitigation and Prevention Department