Steve Goldman U.S. Forest Service, Eastern Region Deputy Director, Fire and Aviation



As a teenage boy I had a passion for mountains and forests. I grew up in Maryland and spent several summers at a camp in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. We often took trips to the George Washington National Forest. I noticed the Forest Service Green trucks and employees. I realized they get PAID to be in this beautiful area!!! So, my goal at age 13 was to live that dream and I have been fortunate enough to have done that with the U.S Forest Service. I studied at the University of Arizona and earned a Bachelor of Science in Renewable Resources in 1993. During my college career I was hired by the Forest Service as a recreation Coop Student on the Nogales Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest in 1991.

I spent the 1st 10 years of my career on the Coronado NF, on the Mexico border (the north side, most of the time). My first fire was in the U.S and Mexico. My day job was all types of recreation management (wilderness, developed sites, trails, ORV). I was a militia firefighter and passionate about firefighting. During my time on the Coronado I was able to build my fireline qualifications up to Division Supervisor and Incident Commander Type3.

I then moved to the Cherokee NF and spent the next 4 years in Tennessee. Again, my job was recreation, wilderness, trails, and wildlife programs. I participated in the suppression and prescribed fire programs at every opportunity as the Forest was militia dependent. I learned that some places do cut and burn to manage our vegetation!!

For the last 17+ years I have been in the Eastern Region, 12 years on the Huron-Manistee NF as a District Ranger, 2 years as the Eastern Region Fuels Program Manager, and the last 3 years as the Deputy Director for Fire and Aviation.

The Huron National Forest is one of the most explosive firesheds in the Eastern U.S. with relatively frequent complex fire incidents. As a result, I have participated as an Operations Section Chief and Incident commander for the Eastern Area Type 2 Incident Management Team (Silver). The Last 5 years I have served as the IMT's primary Incident Commander. This team has been deployed nationally all across the country (CA, PR, AK, MN, WA, OR, ID, MT, MO, PA, TN, MI, WV, CT, IL, and NY).

My current duties as the Deputy Director of Fire and Aviation include the 15 National Forests in the Eastern Region and support to all 20 States through the State Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance, and FEPP/FFP firefighting equipment programs.

My wonderful son Nathan is 17 years old and I recently married my beautiful wife Amber. Being outdoors has always been a passion for me and working for the Forest Service has been a true honor. I love many things outdoors including downhill skiing, snowmobiling, hiking (especially state high points), drag racing my mustangs, and even firewood cutting. However, firefighting, and prescribed fire has been one of my lifelong passions and I get paid for it!

