



American Recreation Coalition

Dedicated to the protection and enhancement of everyone's right to health and happiness through recreation.

NEWS

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U.S. Forest Service's Dennis Krusac Receives *Legends* Award

Washington, D.C. (June 11, 2008) Dennis Krusac, Endangered Species Specialist in the Southern Region, was honored as the U.S. Forest Service's 2008 recipient of the American Recreation Coalition's (ARC) *Legends* Award. The *Legends* Awards recognize outstanding federal employees for their efforts to enhance the nation's outdoor recreation opportunities and resources. Awards are given to federal managers from the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Federal Highway Administration, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service.

ARC President Derrick Crandall presented the award to Mr. Krusac. Also present at the ceremony honoring him was Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief for the National Forest System.

"Throughout his career, Dennis has worked consistently to engage non-traditional visitors in agency activities, working closely with a variety of private-sector partners," said Mr. Crandall. Mr. Krusac's development of outreach programs for mentally and physically challenged children, as well as minority students, and widely emulated accessible fishing facilities for children, senior citizens and disabled anglers were highlighted during the ceremony. "Dennis has worked through positive partnerships that have yielded numerous opportunities that would not have been successful otherwise, leveraging limited funds and providing results far beyond the initial investment of time and people," Mr. Crandall noted. He was applauded for his significant contributions to the success of the 2007 Atlanta Recreation Forum, which provided a showcase of his efforts to reach minority youth in Atlanta, resulting in expanded recreational and education partnership opportunities. Mr. Krusac's work with inner-city Atlanta minority youth culminated in a 2008 "More Kids in the Woods" \$80,000 grant focused on minority teens in partnership with the National Wildlife Federation and several other non-traditional partners. Mr. Crandall thanked Mr. Krusac for sharing his cutting-edge proposals with other forests and districts to encourage and stimulate combining recreation and environmental education efforts.

The ARC's *Legends* Awards are presented annually during Great Outdoors Week, a week of special events designed to increase awareness and understanding of the social and economic importance of outdoor recreation.

For more information about the 2008 *Legends* Awards or Great Outdoors Week, contact the American Recreation Coalition at 202-682-9530 or cmica@funoutdoors.com