



For Immediate Release: April 10th, 2017

Contact: Geoffrey L. Haskett, President, National Wildlife Refuge Association:
505-401-5298, ghaskett@refugeassociation.org

Dale Pittman Receives 2017 Employee of the Year Award

(Washington D.C.) – The National Wildlife Refuge Association is honored to recognize Dale Pittman with the 2017 Employee of the Year Award. As a Regional Heavy Equipment Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dale has developed and implemented critical programs that both ensure the safety of Service employees and produce direct cost savings.

Throughout Dale's 25-year career with the Service, he has served as a mentor and a leader of his community. His vision and dedication to the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has empowered staff to make the Service a better and safer workforce.

Dale developed and implemented the Heavy Equipment Safety Training and Off-Road Utility Vehicle Safety Training programs, which have expanded throughout the Department of the Interior, the Department of State and partner agencies. These programs established essential protocols for employee safety and have reduced the number of serious and fatal accidents of equipment operators.

Dale also has led the Service to develop and implement the Maintenance Action Team Program (MAT) which resulted in over \$20 million in savings, expanded supervised equipment operation training, and improved morale across the Service's wage grade professionals.

Dale retired from the Service on March 31st, 2017. Throughout this career Dale has exemplified incredible leadership and an unwavering commitment to getting the job done right. Thank you, Dale.

###

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to conserve America's wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries.