



Andy Loranger Named the 2018 National Wildlife Refuge System Refuge Manager of the Year

March 21, 2018

Washington, D.C. Andy Loranger, of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Alaska, has been named the 2018 Paul Kroegel National Wildlife Refuge System Refuge Manager of the Year. Presented by the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and given in honor of Paul Kroegel, the first manager of the first national wildlife refuge, the award recognizes outstanding accomplishment by a refuge manager in the protection and management of our national wildlife refuges. Mr. Loranger is a visionary innovator and a trusted advisor for fellow conservation partners, community leaders, Alaska Natives, and his staff when it comes to conserving Alaska's critically important landscape.

“Mr. Loranger’s thirty years of civil service has given him a vast understanding of the myriad ways wildlife conservation occurs in the United States,” said Geoffrey Haskett, President of the National Wildlife Refuge. “His passion, dedication, and innovative approaches to getting work done against improbable odds makes him an ideal recipient of this year’s Refuge Manager of the Year Award.”

Mr. Loranger’s tenure with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allowed him to serve in many different capacities. From his beginnings as a seasonal employee, to his first permanent position as an office clerk with the Division of Migratory Birds in the Anchorage Regional Office, to wildlife biologist positions, to Project Leader at Texas Chenier Plains Refuge Complex, to serving as Division Chief for Natural Resources in Washington, D.C., to his current position as Refuge Manager at Kenai NWR, Andy’s career path gave him a fundamental understanding of what it is like to be an employee at many levels of the agency, and reinforced effective and efficient ways to work with, and lead staff.

This solid underpinning of experience and credibility contributes to Andy’s ongoing success as the Refuge Manager of Kenai NWR. His pioneering invasive species management program at Kenai NWR is recognized as a model throughout the National Wildlife Refuge System and his ability to build trusting relationships with communities is a trait emulated nationwide.

With 1.9 million acres and the largest canoe and hiking trail system in the Refuge System, public use conflicts can be common at Kenai NWR. Andy works diligently in the community through numerous projects and partnerships to reduce negative impacts to the refuge and its resources. He played an important role in two Sterling Highway Projects, attending numerous technical advisory meetings where he demonstrated how Kenai NWR should be involved in decisions being made. Under Andy’s guidance, the refuge is also part of the “All Lands, All Hands” Coordinating Committee that helps to reduce wildfires across the Kenai Peninsula. During Andy’s time at Kenai



NWR he has implemented three different youth hiring programs to get youth involved in the field of conservation: Youth Conservation Corps, Student Conservation Association, and Pathways.

Throughout his time at Kenai NWR, Andy has made great strides at emphasizing the habitat management program and research. Due to natural and human-induced environmental changes, the refuge is working with partners to develop new land cover classification for the refuge and Kenai Peninsula. The refuge is also implementing a study on mountain goat populations in the Kenai Mountains using aerial surveys. With the GPS data they are collecting they hope to learn more about how the goats use the habitat and its resources.

Andy's wisdom, work ethic and modest can-do attitude make him an inspirational and respected leader among his peers. We are proud to announce Andy Loranger as our 2018 Paul Kroegel National Wildlife Refuge System Refuge Manager of the Year.

Mr. Loranger's award will be presented on May 24, 2018, at the National Wildlife Refuge Association's Annual Gala Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C.

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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 that secure its ecological integrity. For more information, visit www.refugeassociation.org or contact [Geoffrey L. Haskett](#), President, National Wildlife Refuge Association, 505-401-5298.