

Refuge System Realty Awards Announced

A fast-acting regional realty specialist in the Northeast and a project leader and non-governmental organization chapter in the Northwest are recipients of the 2014 National Realty Awards.

Northeast Region realty specialist Tom Geser received the Rudolph Dieffenbach Award. The award is given to a Division of Realty employee for significant contributions to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's land acquisition systems, operation or mission. Geser, a 16-year veteran of the Service, was cited for quick action in acquiring land at Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge and for his overall expertise and problem-solving skills.

Roy W. Lowe, who retired at the end of December 2014 after 29 years as project leader at Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex, received the Land Legacy Award for his tireless advocacy for the lands and wildlife the Service protects. The award is given to Service employees or volunteers who do not work in the realty function. Lowe was honored for facilitating two important land acquisitions that comprise a spectacular peninsula at Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The acquisitions of a 102.5-acre former Jesuit retreat property and the 90.1-acre Harder Tract closed in 2013.

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon received the National Land Protection Award for its role in the Nestucca Bay Refuge acquisition described above. The award is given to private citizens, groups, organizations, corporations, public agencies and their employees or volunteers outside the Service – for contributions to land protection for fish and wildlife resources in partnership with the Service.