**Garry Oye - Chief, Wilderness Stewardship - National Park Service**

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Garry has 35 years of experience in protected area management, with assignments in the National Park Service and the US Forest Service. In his current position he provides program leadership for Wilderness Stewardship in National Parks. Four out of every five acres of National Park land is managed under a Wilderness prescription. This includes 60 Wilderness areas in 49 Parks for 44 million acres……along with proposed Wilderness that would add another 26 million acres to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

In 2011 Garry represented the National Park Service at Europe’s Wilderness Days, the annual conference of the PAN Parks Foundation which is a unique event bringing together people dedicated to European wilderness protection. This 10th conference was held in Estonia, hosted by Soomaa National Park .

 Garry has also been working with Mexico and Canada on an effort called the North American Wilderness and Protected Areas agreement. <http://nawpacommittee.org/>

 Over the last 5 years, he has had the opportunity to share our Wilderness stewardship concepts with delegations from Russia, Finland, India, Romania, Kazakhstan, Bhutan, Chile and Poland.

In 2010, Garry was a keynote speaker at the American Alpine Club hosted conference “Exit Strategies: Managing Human Waste in the Wild”. This conference brought protected area managers together to talk about one of the greatest challenges coming from increased visitation to the World’s mountain peaks.

In 2009, Garry organized a two-day forum for government agency staff at the 9th World Wilderness Congress in Merida, Mexico. Managers from around the world gathered to discuss opportunities to protect wild places and to share stewardship programs.

In 2007, Garry was featured in a New York Times front page article and video regarding his efforts to manage and protect Mount Whitney. http://www.nytimes.com/video/us/1194817099963/reporter-s-notebook-mount-whitney.html

Garry’s previous positions included: White Mountain & Mount Whitney District Ranger, Pacific Southwest Region Wilderness Program Leader, Mount Shasta District Recreation & Wilderness Manager and Wilderness & Recreation positions in Northern Idaho.

In 1991 he received the Bob Marshall National Wilderness Champion Award for the US Forest Service.

He possesses BS & MS Degrees in Forestry, University of Montana.