

On November 23, 2011, Jim Snetsinger, Chief Forester, ADM of Resource Stewardship Division and Jody Shimkus, former ADM, of Coast Area and Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management, presented field staff from North Island - Central Coast District (DNI) with the fifth annual Chief Forester's Award for Excellence in Resource Stewardship Monitoring (RSM). This annual award is given to the district demonstrating the highest level of contribution and excellence in RSM associated with the Forest and Range Evaluation Program (FREP).

This prestigious district award is based on a number of key criteria including:

- Initiative taken by staff in developing new and innovative processes and approaches to improve Resource Stewardship Monitoring, or FREP as a whole;
- Engagement and involvement of multiple program areas from across the district;
- Communication of monitoring results to stakeholders and First Nations;
- Examples of staff taking on leadership opportunities and roles;
- Initiative taken to ensure that staff are safe;
- Excellence in budget management;
- Number of monitoring checklists completed; and
- Overall quality of data collected.

In presenting the award, Jim Snetsinger said "North Island - Central Coast won this year's award for their outstanding results and for their passion for resource stewardship." The results and the passion was clearly evident in the way North Island staff consistently met monitoring targets while maintaining high quality. Another large part of DNI's success was their commitment to teamwork—they overcame staff resource challenges by involving people from many different district program areas in order to get the work done. DNI staff did an excellent job engaging licensees in discussing monitoring results and recommendations. Furthermore, North Island staff looked beyond direct district FREP responsibilities and were instrumental in helping improve the program as a whole—examples included leading development of the resource features (karst) monitoring protocol, engaging in the FREP information management system development and testing, participating and presenting at FREP's annual continuous improvement workshop. As an example, Paul Barolet, Stewardship Officer gave an excellent presentation on safety at the 2011 FREP Continuous Improvement session.

*Award (2nd from right): Carved by George Williams, Ahousaht Nation of the Nuuchahnulth territory. The Bear signifies strength and power. The Wolf signifies family and togetherness. Raven, the transformer, represents creation, prestige, and knowledge. The moon is held as the protector and guardian of the Earth. Above all, frog depicts communication and the transference of knowledge and power because of its ability to live both in the water and on land.*