



# DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

## Award History

The IAWF's Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations for their outstanding contributions to furthering the goals of the Association.

## Award Recipients

2011

### Dr. William Sommers



Bill Sommers served as the Forest Service Director of Forest Fire and Atmospheric Sciences Research in 1991, where he was instrumental in establishing the International Journal of Wildland Fire. With 30 years at the U.S. Forest Service, he oversaw research in various areas including forest fires and climate change. After his tenure, he became a Research Professor and Chief Scientist at George Mason University, focusing on fire history and greenhouse gas emissions. Bill has significantly contributed to the Association's goals, serving on the IAWF Board of Directors and representing the U.S. at the World Forestry Congress. He holds degrees in Atmospheric Science and Geophysical Fluid Dynamics from prestigious institutions.

2017

## Chuck Bushey



Bushey, founder and President of Montana Prescribed Fire Services, Inc. since 1985, is a seasoned expert in wildland fire management with roles including Fire Behavior Analyst and WUI Fuel Mitigation Specialist. He has authored over eighty publications and served as President of the International Association of Wildland Fire from 2007 to 2011, leading initiatives and interactions with various organizations on fire management issues. With extensive experience dating back to 1970, he previously worked with the US Forest Service and is currently involved with the International Fire Relief Mission. Outside of work, he enjoys fishing, photography, and meteorology, and is active in local community boards.

2020

## Dr. Tom Zimmerman



Dr. Tom Zimmerman is a retired expert in wildland fire management, having worked with various federal land management agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service throughout his career. With over 30 years of experience in incident management, he has served as both Incident Commander and Area Commander during numerous wildland fire incidents and emergency responses across the United States. In addition to his operational work, Tom has contributed significantly to the International Association of Wildland Fire (IAWF), serving on the Board of Directors and as President from 2014 to 2017. He has been actively involved in various committees and planning for multiple conferences and has represented IAWF in several important roles within other organizations, including the Association for Fire Ecology. His training and presentations span several countries, highlighting his extensive expertise and commitment to the field.

2021

## Dr. Susan Conard



Dr. Susan Conard is a prominent figure in wildland fire science, serving as the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Wildland Fire and as an Emeritus Ecologist with the USDA Forest Service. Her 25-year career included key roles in fire ecology research and significant contributions to national and international fire science policy. After beginning as an Associate Editor in 1992, she became Co Editor in Chief in 2008. Dr. Conard played a crucial role in increasing funding for fire research and was instrumental in establishing collaborative initiatives with Russian scientists. With over 80 scientific publications, she has significantly influenced the field of fire ecology and related studies.

2024

## Alen Slijepcevic



As a past President (2018 – 2019) and Board Member, Alen continues to work tirelessly for the IAWF, contributing to Board meetings, committees, position papers, conference planning and management, and so much more. As a wildland fire professional, Alen is also a highly regarded powerhouse. With strong foundations in both science and operations, as well as experience across multiple continents and countries, he works at the senior level in Australia and provides excellent leadership as well as technical and strategic input to so many state and national issues and initiatives.