

Dick works in the Department of the Interior, Office of Wildland Fire where he is the Deputy Director, Management and Programs. He coordinates the fuels, preparedness, response, emergency operations and wildland fire information technologies programs providing guidance, policy and oversight of the Interior Bureaus (Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and National Park Service) implementation of wildland fire. Prior to this he had made a career working with the National Park Service beginning in Glacier National Park as a microbiologist monitoring water and wastewater quality in 1977. He made the move into Fire Management in 1981 as a Fire Control Aide doing structural fire, fire and life safety inspections, and wildfire control. In 1984 he chose wildland fire as a career path and accepted a permanent position as fire cache manager in Everglades National Park. Having been well grounded in wildfire and prescribed fire in south Florida he made a move back west in 1987 going to Yellowstone National Park as the Helitack Foreman. Following the '88 Yellowstone fires he stayed in the park and accepted the Assistant Fire Management Officer position, staying on as the Park Aviation Officer while adding a portfolio of fuels management and use of wildland fire as a resource tool. In 1997 he moved to the Midwest-Regional Office as the Prescribed Fire Specialist building a program that treated over 30,000 acres a year. In the summer of 1999 he headed to the Fire Management Program Center in Boise as the Fire Use Specialist overseeing the fuels and wildland fire use program at the National level. Dick stepped up to the National Science and Ecology program lead job in 2005 having responsibility for fuels management, wildland fire use, fire ecology, fire GIS, research, smoke and coordination with the NPS Natural Resource Program Center. Recent work includes continued support in fire behavior training, technology development and application and clarification of federal wildland fire policy. Focus is on prescribed fire and use of wildland fire building understanding among the public and partners for the challenges and opportunities of how they can guide management response to wildland fire that results in positive outcomes for people and the environment.