



## **Jim Karels**

### **Director, Florida Forest Service**

Jim Karels, appointed Florida State Forester in 2008, is director of the Florida Forest Service, overseeing all wildland fire and land management activities within the Florida Forest Service jurisdiction. He manages 1 million acres of public forest land and more than 26 million acres of homes, forestland, and natural resources. He has more than 30 years of experience in land management and wildfire suppression, including four fire seasons with the US Forest Service.

Mr. Karels represents all 50 states as the National Association of State Foresters Wildfire Committee Chairman and serves on the Wildland Fire Leadership Council providing support for the implementation and coordination of national fire management policies. He is a member of the Governor's Land Acquisition and Restoration Council and sits on numerous national boards and associations dealing with wildland fire suppression and forest land management.

He is a 1984 graduate of the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management.