



Tony Tooke

Regional Forester, Southern Region, USDA Forest Service

Tony Tooke is the Regional Forester for the Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service, based in Atlanta, GA. Tooke has worked for the Forest Service since age 18, including many assignments in Region 8 and the Washington Office (WO).

He is responsible for 3,100 employees, an annual budget exceeding \$400 million, 14 national forests, and two managed areas, which encompass more than 13.3 million acres in 13 states and Puerto Rico.

His previous position in Washington, DC was Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System; with oversight of Lands and Realty, Minerals and Geology, Ecosystem Management Coordination, Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, the National Partnership Office, and Business Administration and Support Services. Since June of 2014 he served as Acting Chief of Staff.

As Associate Deputy Chief, Tooke was the Forest Service Executive Lead for Environmental Justice; Farm Bill implementation; and implementation of the Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment Improvement Strategy. Other priorities included implementation of a new planning rule for the National Forest System as well as improving NEPA implementation to accomplish increased ecological restoration work across the NFS.

Also in the WO, Tooke served as Director for Ecosystem Management Coordination, Deputy Director for Economic Recovery, and Assistant Director for Forest Management. He helped oversee implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and direct national efforts on reforestation, program integration, ecosystem services, forest restoration, and climate change.

Prior to 2006, Tooke served as Deputy Forest Supervisor for the National Forests in Florida as well as District Ranger assignments at the Talladega NF in Alabama, the Oconee NF in Georgia, and the DeSoto NF in Mississippi. His other field assignments were Timber Management Assistant, Other Resource Assistant, Silviculturist, and Forester on six Ranger Districts in Mississippi and Kentucky.

Tooke grew up on a small 200-acre farm in Detroit, AL. He earned a bachelor's degree in Forestry from Mississippi State University. He was in the Forest Service's inaugural class of the Senior Leadership Program, and he has completed the Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program.