

Pat McElroy

Pat McElroy is the Executive Director of Regulatory Programs for the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Washington's State Forester. A native of California, Pat has a Bachelor's degree in Forest Management from Humboldt State College and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Puget Sound. Pat started in forestry in 1957 as a forest firefighter for the California Division of Forestry during his college years.

After graduating from college, he moved to Washington to work for the recently formed Department of Natural Resources as a forester. Since then, he has gained over 34 years of experience with the Department with responsibilities in trust land management, forest fire protection, forest regulation, service forestry and administration. He served in many staff and line positions in both field and headquarters offices over the years.

During the early 1970s, Pat was assigned to the US Forest Service as the Pacific Northwest Region Fire Prevention Specialist through the Intergovernmental Personnel Act. The last 15 years of his work have been as a Deputy Supervisor or Executive Director in Executive Management with diverse assignments over the years. From mid-1994 until his return to DNR in 2001, Pat retired to Arizona where he hiked and explored the mountains and deserts of the Southwest.



Since returning to work, his responsibilities include oversight responsibility for the Department's regulatory, geology and earth resources, resource protection and service forestry programs. He is also the Commissioner's Designee as Chair of the State Forest Practices Board. He has served his professional society, the Society of American Foresters, in many capacities, and was elected a Fellow of the Society in 2003. As State Forester he is active in the National Association of State Foresters, currently serving as President of the Association.