

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 02, 2014 12:31 PM

**To:** FS-pdl all lei; FS-pdl wo LEI Leadership Team

**Cc:** Wagner, Mary -FS; DeCoster, Tim -FS

**Subject:** SAVE THE DATE April 11th 1500 ET for a LiveMeeting with Chief Tidwell and LE&I employees – Logistics to follow

I'm sure many of you have read the recent article in E&E News that takes a very negative view of the LE&I program and its leadership, which includes my leadership. I was disappointed to see that the reporter failed to speak with one of the many current and retired LEOs, SAs and SACs whose viewpoints differ from that of PEER and some former employees. That said, I think the article does raise some important issues that my leadership team and I are working to address.

I want you to know that I stand by all of you in the LE&I community. You consistently show remarkable resilience and outstanding performance of duty as you perform some of the toughest jobs in the Forest Service. You are a critical part of this agency, and your role protecting the people who use our national forests can't be overstated.

In order to speak to you directly about a number of issues cited in the article and the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey as well as inviting you to speak to me directly, ask questions, and offer ideas – I'd like to invite you to attend a LiveMeeting (a virtual meeting) with all of you in the LE&I workforce, the LE&I Leadership Team, me and Mary. It will take place on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 1500 ET. Logistics and call in information will follow in a separate email. This is important and my hope is that you will adjust your schedule and join.

I want to share information with you directly and invite some discussion and advice about how we can improve the work environment and address leadership concerns. I have to admit I've not reached out for this type of opportunity with you – I'm going to ask you to trust that I have your best interests at heart, the best interest of the Forest Service, and a belief that together we can create better understanding and a commitment to improving conditions. I invite you to be open, candid, and help me address leadership concerns – I will offer the same to you. Looking forward to connecting.

Tom