

## **Congratulations Jackie! by Bob Duke**

Jackie Ferrier, Project Leader for the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Washington and Oregon, has been named the 2019 Paul Kroegel National Wildlife Refuge System, Refuge Manager of the Year. The award recognizes outstanding accomplishment by a refuge manager in the protection and management of our national wildlife refuges. This marks the first time in the award's 25 year history that a female Refuge Manager has been selected for the prestigious award.

Geoffrey Haskett, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association, had this to say, "Ms. Ferrier's extraordinary work taking on the complex issues makes her most deserving of this award." "Her efforts on Spartina eradication, dune restoration, protections for listed species including plovers, larks, and endangered Columbian White-tailed Deer are only a few examples of the remarkable work she is doing on behalf of species and refuges." The Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex consists of three refuges: Willapa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for Columbian White-tailed Deer, and Lewis and Clark NWR. She models the way for a multi-disciplinary staff that she refers to as "Team Willapa."

Kathy Freitas, President, Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge speaks for all of the Friends, "Being a Project Leader involves complex interactions with all levels of government, private parties, staff, and volunteers on a daily basis. Jackie's ability to manage all those entities with her expertise, experience, and enthusiasm is nothing short of inspiring. Her passion for the work of Willapa NWR continues to inspire the Friends' mission to support and bring recognition to the Refuge."

Congratulations from us all Jackie, on behalf of the listeners worldwide of Coast Community Radio