

Technical Service Provider Spotlight

By James Anderson, technical service provider



J.R. (Red) Anderson was reared in rural Tennessee. His father was a forester for the Tennessee Division of Forestry and moonlighted as a registered land surveyor. He was part of his father's workforce and learned much of his work ethic while with his father.

He spent many years attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, which increased his knowledge and appreciation for the outdoors. Anderson has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in forestry, and many years of experience practicing forestry on public and private lands.

In 2020, Anderson retired from the U.S. Forest Service. For 42 years, he worked for the federal government, which included two years with the Peace Corps in Honduras as a forester, six years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a hazardous fuel specialist, and the remainder with the forest service.

His years with the forest service, included serving as a data analyst and recreation and lands specialist at the Santa Fe National Forest; studying the effects of the

Gypsy Moth on tree mortality while at the Insect and Disease Laboratory in Hamden, Connecticut; serving as a planning team leader at the Kaibab National Forest; serving as a forest planner and later as a fire planner at the Cherokee National Forest; and, ultimately as the fire, lands and planning staff officer at the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests. He had many short-term assignments to many national forests in the United States and several outside of the country.

Since his retirement, he has focused most of his time on managing his own forest lands, including having written his forest plan, bringing his forest under a three-year cycle of controlled burning, and executing a prescription of Forest Stand Improvement. Presently, he is a certified technical service provider who writes and executes forest plans and prescribed burn plans. He is slowly expanding his list of certifications as time allows.

Anderson is married and has two children, a daughter who is the Tennessee State Director for Refugee Health, and a son who is a pilot in the Air Force. He continues his involvement with the Boy Scouts, helping people earn their forestry merit badge, and is very active in Christ the King Catholic Church and with his neighborhood. He expresses a love of the land, a passion for helping private landowners to manage their land, and an appreciation of the NRCS for helping landowners do the right thing on their land.