



USDA Forest Service Intermountain Region LAW ENFORCEMENT & INVESTIGATION



Special Agent in Charge of Law Enforcement & Investigation



Scott Harris has served as the Law Enforcement & Investigation (LEI) Special Agent in Charge in the Intermountain Region (R4) since 2015, and prior to that served in the same capacity for 5 years in the Pacific Southwest Region. The Intermountain Region LEI program has the mission critical responsibility of protecting the natural resources on nearly 34 million acres and keeping our Forest Service employees and visitors safe. His 26 years in law enforcement has taught him that our greatest successes are achieved through collaborative efforts and relationships, and our greatest assets are our fellow Forest Service colleagues. Scott is honored to lead and work beside the law enforcement professionals of the Intermountain Region.

The Intermountain Region (R4) Law Enforcement & Investigation

R4 Law Enforcement & Investigations program is responsible for patrolling National Forest System land in the Intermountain Region and investigating and enforcing violations of federal law and regulations. The Region's 12 national forests and one national grassland cover Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Idaho, California and Colorado. With several forests near urban areas, the Intermountain Region receives more than 20 million annual visitors that hunt, fish, and recreate (hike, ski, camp, etc.).

R4-LEI works closely with local, state, and other federal law enforcement partners. The program maintains 68 cooperative law enforcement agreements with various counties. These CLE agreements assist R4-LEI provide necessary law enforcement services and coverage region-wide. R4-LEI also supports various federal task forces to include the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).

R4-LEI professionals are ingrained in their local communities. Many of these communities are very small and rural. Our personnel work shoulder to shoulder with sheriff deputies, game and fish wardens, and other law enforcement partners in their local area. They focus on fostering goodwill and strengthening relationships in the communities they serve and reside. Examples of community involvement include such programs as "shop with a cop," job fairs at educational and military facilities, volunteer organizations, OHV and snow mobile organizations, and county search and rescue organizations.



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Currently R4-LEI Personnel Include:

- 29 Law Enforcement Officers
- 5 Patrol Captains
- 5 Special Agents (Criminal Investigators)
- 3 Sworn Command Staff (Special Agent in Charge, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Regional Patrol Commander)
- 5 Administrative Staff

Our Law Enforcement Professionals:

- R4-LEI personnel come from a diverse background to include other Forest Service programs, other land management agencies, the military, other law enforcement agencies, and student trainees.
- R4-LEI personnel must attend and successfully complete extensive law enforcement training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center as well as a comprehensive field training program.
- With only 29 LEOs it is a challenge to provide sufficient law enforcement services as, on average, each LEO is responsible for more than 1.2 million acres. Often backup for our LEOs is an hour or more away.
- R4-LEI personnel interacts daily with visitors to the national forests; provides education relative to being good stewards of the land; and seeks their voluntary compliance.

Local and State Relations:

Currently, R4-LEI enjoys exceptional working relationship with our local and state law enforcement partners. R4-LEI leadership regularly attends the state and regional sheriffs' association meetings along with various other local, state, and federal law enforcement meetings throughout the region. R4-LEI proactively works to keep local and state counterparts informed of policy changes and issues that may affect local jurisdictions.

Examples of our successful relationships include:

- R4-LEI personnel are deputized as Peace Officers in several counties.
- Special Agents are members of Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTF).
- Special Agents and LEOs are incorporated with federal and local drug task forces.
- R4-LEI provides fire investigation course to local law enforcement.
- R4-LEI provides back country operations training to local, state, and federal law enforcement.