



## News Release Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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### New and Familiar Faces on the Chequamegon-Nicolet

**Park Falls and Rhinelander, Wisc.** – January 13, 2006. Two recent vacancies in Staff Officer positions on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest have paved the way for a restructuring that is designed to better serve the public. Forest Management Planning, Environmental Analysis, and Public Affairs are now one group. “This new structure provides better integration among our forest management plan, our projects to implement that plan, and our involvement of the public with the implementation”, said Anne Archie, Forest Supervisor.

To staff this new organization, Archie has made several personnel moves. Debra Kidd, formerly the Eagle River – Florence District Ranger, has been reassigned to lead this new group. Joel “Harv” Skjerven, the District Ranger on the Lakewood-Laona District, has been reassigned to lead the Eagle River – Florence District. And Gerry Jackson, a Forest Products Marketing Specialist at the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, WI has been named as the acting Lakewood-Laona District Ranger until that position is filled permanently.

#### Eagle River-Florence Ranger District

Joel “Harv” Skjerven has accepted a reassignment as the District Ranger for the Eagle River-Florence Ranger District effective January 8, 2006. Skjerven had been the District Ranger on the Lakewood-Laona Ranger District since December 2001. Prior to that, Skjerven had served as the Timber Program Manager for the Chequamegon-Nicolet.

Skjerven is a 29-year veteran of the Forest service and brings with him experience from five national forests in many states. Prior to working in Wisconsin, he was Timber Program Manager for the Ashley National Forest in Utah. He has also worked in Idaho, Montana, and Washington.



“I’ve always enjoyed working with people and natural resources,” said Skjerven, “and look forward to meeting and getting to know the local communities.”

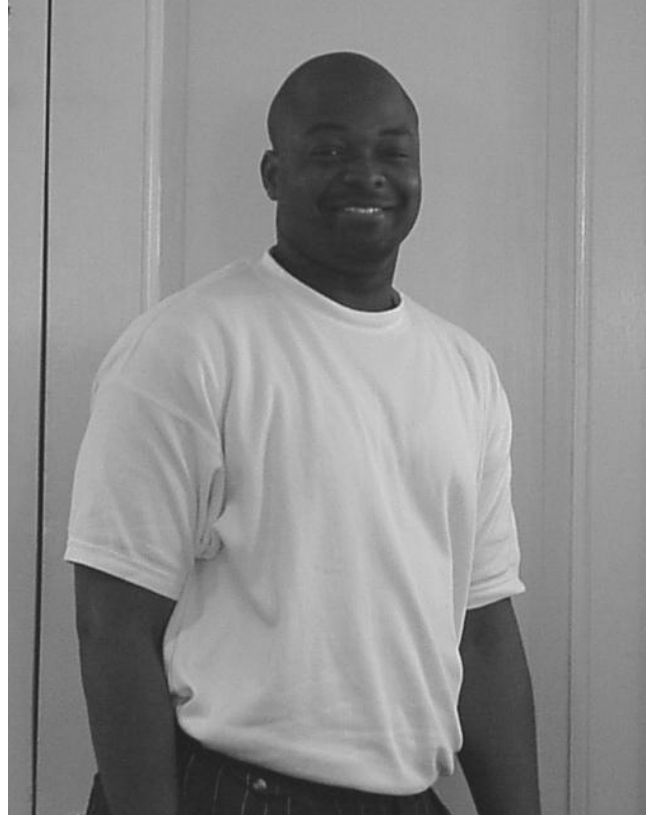
Skjerven is a native of North Dakota and a graduate of Colorado State University in Fort Collins. He began his Forest Service career as a seasonal employee on the Arapahoe-Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado.

### **Lakewood-Laona Ranger District**

Gerry Jackson will begin his position as the Acting District Ranger on the Lakewood-Laona Ranger District effective January 8, 2006. Gerry comes to the Forest from the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, where he serves as a Forest Product Marketing Specialist. In this position, he provides marketing support to forest products customers to meet the demand for sustainable rural/economic development. Jackson has also published studies with the University of Washington and articles in the Forest Products Journal.

Having served in the military for over 12 years, Jackson was awarded a Bronze Star for his leadership in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and is currently in the United States Army Reserve as an Executive Officer in the 521<sup>st</sup> Maintenance Battalion in Milwaukee.

Jackson is looking forward to being the Acting District Ranger. "I'm glad to be a part of the Chequamegon-Nicolet," he said "and I believe team work is the key to success. I can't promise many things, but I do promise I will work hard with the team at the Lakewood-Laona District to manage the resources."



### **Forest Supervisor's Office**

Kidd's reassignment to the Staff Officer position took effect on November 21, 2005. Kidd was the District Ranger on the Eagle River-Florence Ranger District since December 2003. Prior to that, Kidd was the Public Affairs Officer on the Chequamegon-Nicolet and had worked for various Department of the Interior natural resource management agencies in the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West.

Kidd, a specialist in collaborative processes involving natural resource management issues, has been a Certified Professional Mediator since 1995, and is a published author, trainer, and international speaker. She holds a Bachelor's degree in public administration from UW-Oshkosh and a Master's degree in public sector labor-management relations from Loyola University of Chicago.

