

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region



Date: February 1, 2002
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Missoula, MT – February 1, 2002 – Regional Forester Brad Powell announced today that Bitterroot Forest Supervisor Rodd Richardson has been selected to be the Director of Fire, Aviation and Air for the Northern Region.

Powell said that “Rodd has the background and ability to oversee the complex fire program in this region and will help us move forward in our ecosystem restoration responsibilities.” Powell went on to say that “Rodd’s work with local communities and his collaborative skills make him a great choice for the position.”

Spanning a Forest Service career of over 26 years, Richardson has been Forest Supervisor on the Bitterroot National Forest since 1998. Prior to that he served as the Forest Supervisor on the Flathead National Forest and Acting Forest Supervisor on the Custer National Forest. Richardson has had assignments as District Rangers, resource staff positions and spent 4 years as the national Grizzly Bear Habitat Coordinator for the Northern Region as well as multiple fire management positions. Richardson holds a MS and BS in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University.

When asked about his reasons for accepting this position, Richardson said “To remain in the Northern Region and have the opportunity to work with the leadership team on fire, aviation and air management programs is very exciting. Fire is the primary driving force in the Northern Rockies ecosystems and I relish the chance to be part of both – wildland fire suppression and fire use programs.”

Richardson will report to his new position in mid-March.

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