



NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH CAROLINA

USDA FOREST SERVICE, 160A ZILICOA STREET, ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

NEWS RELEASE

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Anthony Matthews

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NATIONAL FORESTS IN NC WELCOMES NEW ECOSYSTEM, PLANNING STAFF OFFICER

ASHEVILLE, N.C.— The National Forests in North Carolina’s new ecosystems and planning staff officer will bring a broad range of experience when he starts his new job on July 12.

Anthony Matthews, a 23-year U.S. Forest Service veteran, will replace Larry Hayden, who accepted a position in the Forest Service’s Ecosystem Management Office in Washington, D.C.

As ecosystems and planning staff officer, Matthews will head the North Carolina National Forests’ fish, wildlife, botany, soil, water, air, and planning programs. He will also play a key role in developing decisions and plans that direct how the four national forests are managed.

Growing up on a small farm in Dunn, N.C., Matthews started his journey in forest management at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C. At the university, he earned a Bachelor’s in Forestry in 1977. The eastern North Carolina

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native went on to receive his master's in forest resource management from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo., in 1981.

Matthews launched his Forest Service career at the Red River District of the Nez Perce National Forest in Elk City, Ida., where he served as timber sale forester from June 1981 to February 1984. Other positions held by Matthews include: supervisory forester at the Kootenai National Forest, Troy, Mont. (February 1984-June 1986); Assistant regional timber appeals group leader at the Pacific Southwest Regional Office, San Francisco, Calif., (June 1986-November 1988); supervisory Forester for the Sandpoint Ranger District, Sandpoint, Ida., (November 1988-July 1991); forest planner for the Idaho Panhandle National Forests in Coeur d'Alene, Ida., (July 1991 to June 2000); and forest planner at the Plumas National Forest, Quincy, Calif. (July 2000 to present).

"I faced many challenges in my most recent position as forest planner for the Plumas National Forest," said Matthews. "We had to apply a forest plan amendment that was part of a congressional mandated pilot project. The project involved uneven vegetative management (group selection) and fuels management."

The forest planner said he is looking forward to getting to know the people he will work with and the people in the communities.

Matthews is married to Susan, and they have two children, Michael, 16, and Katie, 12. When Matthews starts his new job at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Asheville, his wife Susan will begin a position at the Bent Creek Experimental Forest in Asheville. Her job involves technology transfer and outreach to universities and legislative representatives.