



# NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

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

## NEWS • RELEASE

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### **National Forests in North Carolina welcomes new deputy forest supervisor**

ASHEVILLE, N.C.— The National Forests in North Carolina’s new deputy forest supervisor, Monica Schwalbach, brings a broad range of experience as she starts her new job on April 21.

Through her 13 years with the U.S. Forest Service, Schwalbach served in a variety of positions, from wildlife biologist to acting deputy regional forester to assistant forest supervisor.

“The most memorable time in my career was serving as the assistant forest supervisor from 1995-1999 for 3 million acres on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests in Nevada,” said the Cornell University graduate.

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“Tensions were high between the Forest Service and Nye County in 1995 when I moved to Nevada. But on New Year’s Eve that year we signed an agreement that became a major milestone and turning point in community relations for central Nevada,” Schwalbach said. “The agreement showed, and we subsequently demonstrated, that the agency and county could work together as a team and be successful.”

The challenge of working with people on complex resource issues continues to motivate Schwalbach, who will assist Forest Supervisor John Ramey in managing the Nantahala, Pisgah, Uwharrie and Croatan National Forests, which cover 1.2 million acres in North Carolina.

“I’ve always had a desire to work on a large forest with a variety of resource issues. I know that the National Forests in North Carolina will meet that desire,” said the upstate New York native, who holds a bachelor’s in natural resources management from Cornell University and a master’s in Wildlife Ecology and Management from South Dakota State University.

In addition to her strong resource background, Schwalbach gained experience in national policies and issues from 1999 to present as the Forest Service’s assistant director of Wildlife, Soil and Air Conservation. “My experience in Washington, D.C., gives me a perspective on the political issues that affect national forest management,” she said.

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“One of the most challenging issues today is the ever expanding recreational use of national forests and how to appropriately manage the national forests for this increased use,” said the ecologist, who recently earned an honor for developing a fire strategy for protecting people and restoring fire-adapted ecosystems.

Schwalbach’s forest management goals extend into the future. “I’d like to help people appreciate the many values of the national forests—for today and the future. I want to work with people to develop a collective vision of the potential contribution of national forests to society 20 or 120 years from today,” she said.

Schwalbach replaces Ranotta McNair, who was promoted in June 2001 to forest supervisor for the Idaho Panhandle National Forest in Idaho.

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**Note to reporters: for photo, call 828-257-4202 or 828-257-4268.**