

Introducing Gail Kimbell, Chief Forester of the United States

(MUSIC Up & Under/Chief arrives at Grey Towers and greets group of Rangers)

Hi. Oh, golly, you don't need to stand! (laughter) I'm just a forester!

My name is Gail Kimbell, K-I-M-B-E-L-L, rings, it doesn't bounce. And I'm the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, or the Chief Forester of the United States.

(Chief at her desk/in the field)

I really have never had a design on being the Chief of the Forest Service. But I've always liked a challenge. And I do believe in the whole thing of civic duty and responsibility. But along with that, the agency really has been very good to me in providing me with good training, lots of experiences, and when I was contacted in January of this year and they said we want you to come in Friday when we announce you as Chief, I was rather breathless.

(Chief at her desk/in the field/ then on camera)

It's an honor and a privilege to serve as the sixteenth Chief of the Forest Service. And I have to tell you it's still really daunting, still scary, but fabulously rewarding at the same time, just knowing that you all are out there doing - working with communities, doing great things on the land, and keeping a focus on "caring for the land and serving people."

So, now we're ready for lunch? (laughter)

(MUSIC Up and OUT/Credits)