

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Forest Service Announces Selection of Key Fire Leader

Missoula, MT – Larry Dawson will be the new Director of Fire, Aviation and Air for the Northern Region of the Forest Service Regional Forester Gail Kimbell announced today. Dawson replaces former Director Rodd Richardson who retired in 2004.

“Larry is a strong leader in natural resource issues and is active with fire management,” Kimbell said. “His background, skills and energy are an excellent addition to the regional office.” In 2003, Dawson received the National Fire Line Officer Leadership Team Award for his commitment to interagency fire efforts due to his commitment and his ability to make tough decisions in the heat of the fire season.

Dawson is currently Forest Supervisor on the Clearwater National Forest based in Orofino, Idaho. He has been active with hazardous fuels reduction and fire management on the forest, working to return fire resilient ecosystems while protecting communities since his arrival in 2001.

Prior to that assignment, Dawson was the Supervisor on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands in North and South Dakota. His other work experience includes District Ranger in Minnesota and North Dakota, Director of a Job Corps Center in Wisconsin, and assignments as a forester. “Larry started his career as a firefighter in this region and I’m pleased to have him settle into this role at a critical time for fire safety and integrated ecosystem restoration,” Kimbell added.

“It is a great honor for me to be selected as the Director for Fire and Aviation in the Northern Region,” said Dawson. “I have always enjoyed working in fire management; and I look forward to working with the fire leaders and partners across the Region.”

Dawson graduated from the University of Idaho in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in land management. He began his Forest Service career in 1975 as a member of the heli-tack fire firefighting crew on the Nez Perce National Forest.

Dawson and his wife, Jill, enjoy being outdoors and spending time camping. He is an avid fisherman and bird hunter. He is a Rotary and Ducks Unlimited member.

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