

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region



September 27, 2006

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Deputy Director for Forest Service State & Private Forestry Announced

Missoula, MT....Peggy Polichio was selected as the new Forest Service Deputy Director of State and Private Forestry for the five state area spanning Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, and Utah, and part of Wyoming. Her new duties will begin October 3. "I am extremely excited to be working in state and private forestry activities across the five states and to be working more closely with the regional leadership teams," said Polichio.

"Peggy is an outstanding employee who has worked well with our State and local partners in Idaho. She will bring that same spirit to our work in all the states as she joins an excellent team of folks working in state and private forestry," said Gail Kimbell, Regional Forester for the Northern Region. "She has a strong background in resource and fire management," explained Kimbell, "and she excels at working with people wherever she goes."

Polichio, 49, is currently Idaho's National Fire Plan Coordinator; a shared position between the State of Idaho and the national forests in Idaho. She has worked throughout the state in that position for 3 ½ years. "My shared position between the State of Idaho and the Forest Service has been extremely valuable," said Polichio, "but I couldn't be more pleased to take on this Regional assignment."

She began her 28-year career on the Toiyabe National Forest in Carson City, NV where she worked summers on the district crew; planting and thinning trees, fighting wildfires and maintaining trails. Other assignments moved her to the Gallatin NF in central Montana, as well

as to the Salmon, Clearwater and Idaho Panhandle forests in Idaho in roles in resource management and fire.

She graduated from the University of Nevada-Reno with a Bachelor of Science degree in renewable natural resources, with special emphasis in forest and watershed management.

Polichio is married to Charlie Johnson and has three children; Charlie, 20, a student at Eastern Oregon University, Cassie, 17, a senior at Coeur d'Alene High School, and Adam, 13, a middle school student.

Peggy's active with her family and work but also enjoys biking, swimming and fishing. She will be moving to Missoula, MT to begin her new job but will travel extensively in all of the states in the intermountain and northern regions.

To learn more about the work of the State & Private Forestry staff in the intermountain and northern regions, check out the information at: www.fs.fed.us/r1-r4/spf/index.html

If you would like to interview Paul Ries, Director of S&PF, you can call him at (801) 625-5253.