

# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region**



**Date: August 18, 2008**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Deputy Regional Forester Retires; New DRF Announced**

**MISSOULA, Mt.** – Northern Regional Forester Tom Tidwell recently announced changes to key leadership positions in the Missoula, Montana regional office that supports national forests and grasslands in North Dakota, South Dakota, north Idaho, and Montana.

Current Deputy Regional Forester Kathy McAllister retires after 33 years of government service and current Nez Perce Forest Supervisor Jane Cottrell assumes the deputy position.

“Kathy brought a wealth of experience and dedication to the Northern Region,” said Tidwell. “Her career is an excellent example of a lifetime service to a diverse group of stakeholders and natural resource conservation.

McAllister began with the Forest Service as a seasonal employee on the Coronado National Forest in Tucson, Arizona. While attending Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, she continued working summers for the agency on a helitack crew and as a fire prevention technician. With her Forestry degree in hand, McAllister went to work as a forester and recreation staff in Arizona and later held a variety of leadership roles in the eastern United States. McAllister served as district ranger in West Virginia, Job Corps center director in Wisconsin, deputy forest supervisor in Missouri and forest supervisor on the Superior National Forest in Minnesota. McAllister became Deputy Regional Forester in Missoula in 1996. She and her husband Martin plan to stay in the area after retirement at the end of August.

Jane Cottrell transitions to Deputy Regional Forester at McAllister’s retirement.

Tidwell commented, “Our leadership team believes Jane’s background and leadership skills will provide a continuity of experience and dedication to the Northern Region’s stakeholders and employees.”

Originally from Tacoma, Washington, most of Cottrell's first 27 years with the Forest Service were spent in Oregon and Washington. She attended Washington State University, earning Bachelor of Science degrees in Forest Management and Outdoor Recreation Management and began as a forester on the Okanogan National Forest in Washington. Cottrell also served as a district ranger on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah, where she was extensively involved in the Forest Service's 2002 Winter Olympics support programs. She went on to become Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Fremont-Winema National Forest in Oregon before becoming the Forest Supervisor on the Nez Perce Forest in Idaho in 2005. Cottrell and her husband David Henifin have two daughters, Amanda and Miranda.

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