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**Subject:** Deputy Chief, National Forest System

**Attachments:** LeadershipChange\_DeputyChief\_NationalForestSystem\_062119.doc; Leadership Change - Deputy Chief\_NFS.pdf

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**From:** Hale, Cynthia A -FS On Behalf Of Christiansen, Victoria C -FS  
**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 1:30 PM  
**To:** FS-pdl wo chief nlc and exec assistants <[pd\\_l\\_wo\\_chief\\_nlc\\_and\\_exec\\_assistants@ms.fs.fed.us](mailto:pd_l_wo_chief_nlc_and_exec_assistants@ms.fs.fed.us)>  
**Subject:** Leadership Change - Deputy Chief, National Forest System

I am pleased to announce Christopher B. French has accepted the offer to serve as Deputy Chief of the National Forest System Deputy Area, Washington, D.C. He permanently replaces Leslie Weldon who was appointed to serve as Chief Executive of the Office of Work Environment and Performance in August 2018. Chris's effective date is immediate.

A veteran leader in natural resources management and public service for more than 25 years, Chris brings myriad skills and experiences to his role as Deputy Chief. He has acted as the Deputy Chief since 2018. In this capacity he provides direct executive oversight and guidance on the stewardship of 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands. He will continue his executive leadership role in overseeing efforts that improve the condition of America's forests and grasslands—working in a spirit of shared stewardship. As the Acting Deputy Chief, Chris has demonstrated an exceptional ability to forge strong relationships that assist the agency in building credibility to advance work that sustains and actively manages the Nation's forests and grasslands. He recently led the agency's regulatory reform effort to improve environmental analysis and decision making procedures. He has helped the agency achieve a 20-year high in active forest management and successfully implemented a new Planning Rule.

Prior to his recent assignment, Chris served as Associate Deputy Chief in the National Forest System Deputy Area. Prior Washington Office positions also include Director of Ecosystem Management Coordination and Director of Forest Management. He launched his career as a Student Conservation Association intern on the Coronado National Forest, AZ. He

subsequently served as station manager and fire suppression foreman on the Coronado. Later assignments included biological technician and wildlife biologist on the Huron-Manistee National Forest, MI, and Allegheny National Forest, PA; interdisciplinary team leader and environmental coordinator, as a part of the National Enterprise Program. He also served as District Ranger on the Green Mountain National Forest, VT.

An Arizona native, Chris earned a bachelor's degree in conservation biology from Arizona State University.

We extend our thanks to Chris for his exceptional leadership and service over the last year. Please join me in congratulating Chris on his permanent appointment to the job.

VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN  
Chief

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