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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 4, 2004

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## Ozark-St. Francis National Forests Supervisor Accepts New Position

Charles Richmond, Forest Supervisor for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, announced recently that he has accepted the position of Forest Supervisor for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests headquartered in Delta, CO. Mr. Richmond is scheduled to report to his new position in mid-November.

“I have mixed emotions about this opportunity because although I am excited to begin a new experience, I am sad to leave Arkansas, the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests and the Russellville area. They have the best people and partners in the world,” said Richmond. “My career started in the Rocky Mountain Region some twenty-six years ago so I am returning to an area that is familiar to me and my family; however, Arkansas will always be a part of my heart.”

Charles Richmond has been the Forest Supervisor for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests since 1998. During that time, Mr. Richmond has led the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests to many significant accomplishments. Some are:

- Bringing over 1,500 acres of a unique hardwood wetland, called Stumpy Point, into public ownership, through a partnership with the Arkansas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. It is located at the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Francis Rivers near Marianna, AR.
- Fostering a partnership with the Arkansas State Parks and Tourism Department to enhance public use and enjoyment of Mt. Magazine through the creation of the Mt. Magazine State Park. The St. Francis National Forest will also be future home of the new Mississippi River State Park.

- Developing and implementing of an aggressive strategy to address the oak mortality issue impacting the forest. This strategy includes public safety, public awareness, assessment, restoration and research.
- Leading an Interdisciplinary Team of forest specialists for revision of the Forests Land and Resource Management Plan, resulting in a draft for public comment early next year.
- Ensuring availability and wise use of forest products and natural resources for public benefit.
- Developing and promoting Wild Cave Tour opportunities at Blanchard Springs Caverns in Mountain View, AR.
- Recognizing that fuel reduction and wildlife enhancement goals can effectively and efficiently be accomplished with an expanded prescribed fire program.
- Building a world-class mountain bike trail, known as the Syllamo Trail, that has increased tourism in and around Mountain View, AR.
- Supporting the need for additional segments of the Ozark Highlands Trail.
- Restoring and remodeling recreation areas such as Rotary Ann, Cove Lake and Horsehead Lake.

“The employees on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, and throughout the Southern Region are reluctant to see Charlie leave,” said Administrative Officer Ibis Dawson. “Charlie has been a positive influence for the employees, community and partners as well. Charlie has been an active supporter of the Russellville Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Russellville and a variety of civic organizations. He is a member of the Lions Club, Russellville First United Methodist Church, Russellville High School Basketball Boosters – Treasurer (2001-03) and Russellville High School After Prom Games Committee Chair (2003). Charlie is a people person. He will certainly be missed.”

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**(Digital photo available upon request.)**