

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forest Supervisor Tom Reilly announces retirement

Orofino – Clearwater National Forest Supervisor Tom Reilly announced his intention to retire July 3, 2009, at a Forest leadership team meeting Thursday.

Reilly, who has also been serving at Acting Forest Supervisor for the neighboring Nez Perce National Forest since late August, will have served in the area nearly four years, arriving in Orofino in late August 2005.

Reilly has a reputation for being a personable, proven leader who works well with individuals of all persuasions. He was in the midst of several high-profile projects, including travel management planning, the proposed Upper Lochsa land exchange and an effort to share leadership and reduce overhead costs on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. He was also an active participant in meetings convened by the Clearwater Basin Collaborative.

Deputy Regional Forester Jane Cottrell wished Tom “the best” in his retirement. “He has been dedicated to caring for the public lands and the people who manage and use them,” she stated. “I personally hope retirement affords him more opportunity to enjoy those places that have been in his care for so long.”

Reilly has held a variety of important leadership positions in the Forest Service during his 32 years with the agency. In addition to his current assignment, he was Forest Supervisor for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Forest in Montana from 2002-2005. He served as Acting Forest Supervisor and/or Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Rogue River, Siskiyou and Umatilla National Forests in Oregon in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

During most of the 1990s Reilly was the district ranger for the Walla Walla Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest in eastern Oregon. Prior to that he held positions as Acting District Ranger, manager of engineering operations, and geologist.

A native of Portland, Oregon, Reilly earned a degree in geology from Portland State University and a master's degree in natural resource management from Colorado State University.

Reilly and his wife, Peggy, will reside in Walla Walla, Washington. They have three grown children: Mike, Sara and Sean.

“I will miss the people aspect of the job, both working with the publics interested in our stewardship and the employees who work tirelessly to serve the public. We have a great bunch of motivated and productive Forest Service employees on these two Forests,” Reilly said.

“I will also miss my participation in recent efforts such as the Resource Advisory Committee, the proposal to acquire the Upper Lochsa Lands and interaction with the Clearwater Basin Collaborative, a group that is making tremendous strides toward building durable solutions to land management issues that have polarized people in the Clearwater Basin for decades. It has been exciting to see after trying to mediate conflict in the Basin for so many years.”

According to Cottrell, a replacement for Reilly has not been named. She said the Region is recruiting for his replacement.

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