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Salmon - Challis National
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Two New Rangers Assigned to Challis – Yankee Fork and Middle Fork Districts

Two new District Rangers are coming to Challis next week according to Salmon-Challis National Forest Supervisor William A. Wood. Kris Martinson will be the Ranger of the Challis – Yankee Fork District and Chris Grove will be Ranger of the Middle Fork District.

"I am pleased to have Kris and Chris joining the districts and the overall leadership of the Salmon-Challis National Forest," Wood said. "Both bring strong leadership and interpersonal skills as well as relevant resource management skills to the forest. It is an interesting opportunity to have them starting at the same time in the building they share with their staffs in Challis. I look forward to the new era with them on board and invite the public to give them a call to get to know them."

Kris Martinson comes to the Challis-Yankee Fork District from the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon, where she served as the Recreation, Heritage, Engineering, Lands and Minerals Team Leader. She has a bachelors degree in recreation management, and masters in forest management from Oregon State University. She worked for OSU conducting recreation research on public lands in national forests, national parks, and Corps of Engineering sites, and state parks.

Kris has worked with the Forest Service in six national forests as river planner, Wild & Scenic River planner, environmental coordinator, and was acting District Ranger on the Ochoco National Forest. She also served as and Assistant Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management in Prineville, Oregon.

She was born and raised in Los Alamos, New Mexico, with the Santa Fe National Forest as her back yard. Her son, Kai, 13, will be entering Challis HS in the fall.

Chris Grove is coming from the Yakutat Ranger District, a remote 1.2 million acre district situated on the Gulf of Alaska approximately half way between Juneau and Anchorage. Like the Middle Fork District, it is extensively backcountry and wilderness. The Yakutat District operates with a small staff and manages extensive outfitter and guide activity – primarily big game hunting and sport fishing.

Prior to working in Yakutat, Chris worked in northeast Wyoming on the Bearlodge Ranger District as a fire management officer, wildlife biologist and planner. He began his Forest Service career as a smokejumper in 1983. Prior to that, he worked for other organizations: on a Hotshot Crew in southern California and on a Helitack crew in Montana. He was educated at the University of Montana and has degrees in Range Conservation and Wildlife Biology. Chris was born in Alaska and grew up in Montana. He has lived and worked in various places around the West.

Chris' wife, Sara, currently works as a planner on the West Fork District of the Bitterroot National Forest. He has two sons. Ryan graduated from high school this year, Brant will be entering his sophomore year. Chris and his family enjoy a variety of outdoor sports including skiing, paddling, hunting, hiking and fishing.

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