



# Malheur National Forest

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## **MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR TAKES NEW JOB IN MONTANA**

John Day, OR – Gary L. “Stan” Benes announced that he will be leaving the Malheur National Forest to accept a job as Lewistown Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management in central Montana. A reporting date for his new assignment has not been set, but is expected to be in mid-April. No replacement has been named.

“This is one of those times in life when I feel torn in two directions,” Benes said. “On the one hand, this move will get my wife and me closer to family and allow us to assist them with the health problems her elderly parents are facing. That is the highest priority for us personally and Montana feels like home. At the same time, we both love living in eastern Oregon and I personally hate to leave the exciting challenges and excellent workforce on the Malheur National Forest. I know in my heart that the wonderful people of these communities who welcomed us with open arms also understand that family has to come first.”

Benes came to the Malheur National Forest as Acting Forest Supervisor in April, 2006 and was selected for the permanent assignment in May. His tenure on the Forest has seen major wildfire events, including the Shake Table and Egley Fire complexes, significant growth in collaboration among people interested in forest management activities, progress on collaborative projects including Canyon Creek WUI and Dad’s Creek, and the first stewardship project offered on this Forest.

Regional Forester Linda Goodman said, “Stan has been a wonderful asset to the Region, the Malheur National Forest, and the communities who call that area home. He has worked hard to get important work done in a collaborative effort. I admire Stan’s skills and the choice he is making for his family is a true testimony to the quality of the person he is.”

Ongoing challenges include recreation site improvements, completion of large-fire salvage projects, inception of partnership projects across a large landscape, and efforts to increase the local Forest workforce so they can successfully achieve these goals.

“I wish I could stay to see through all the good work that’s underway, but if I tried to do that I’d never leave. This area—the Forest and communities together—are moving forward in exciting new ways. I’ll be watching and cheering from the sidelines while doing what’s best for my family.”

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