



Service First Update

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Introducing new leadership within Service First agencies.....



WASHINGTON DC

Mary Wagner, Associate Chief, National Forest System

Mary Wagner was the Regional Forester of the Pacific Northwest Region (6) prior to her appointment as Associate Chief. As Regional Forester, Wagner oversaw 17 national forests and one national grassland within the states of Oregon and Washington.

Wagner began her career with the Forest Service in 1983 as a Forester on the Sawtooth National Forest in Idaho. She also served as the Forest Supervisor on the Dixie National Forest in Cedar City, Utah. Her other previous leadership positions include Deputy Forest Supervisor and District Ranger on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Nevada, District Ranger on the Ashley National Forest in Utah, and Deputy Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region with oversight for Utah, Nevada, southern Idaho and eastern Wyoming.

Wagner holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management and a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from the University of Utah.



WASHINGTON DC

Peggy O'Dell, Deputy Director for Operations

O'Dell began her career with the National Park Service as a seasonal interpreter at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (Gateway Arch) while attending college. In 1982, she resigned from the NPS to follow her husband, Ben, to Olympic National Park and to raise their children. They transferred to Ozark National Scenic Riverways in 1985, and O'Dell returned to the National Park Service to manage the interpretation and education programs. While completing a Mid-Level Management Development program, she accepted the Management Assistant position at Ozark NSR with major responsibilities in concessions and project management.

She transferred to Custer SD, and spent two years as Superintendent of Jewel Cave National Monument, followed by a stint as Deputy Manager at Harpers Ferry Center in West Virginia. O'Dell served as Superintendent of Jefferson National Expansion Memorial from 2004 to 2007, when she became Regional Director of the National Mall and Memorial Parks in Washington, D.C.

O'Dell received her BA in History from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, and graduated from DOI's SES Development Program in 2006. O'Dell is the National Park Service member of the Service First Leadership Team in Washington D.C.



MONTANA/DAKOTAS STATE OFFICE

Jamie Connell, State Director

Jamie Connell began her BLM career in 1985 as a petroleum engineer in Miles City, Montana. For the past 18 years, Connell has been a public land manager for the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service in locations across the West, including Great Falls and Malta, Montana; Boise, Idaho; and Montrose, Silverthorne, Glenwood Springs, and Grand Junction, all in Colorado. In addition, she successfully completed the federal Senior Executive Service candidate development program, during which she was detailed to a number of positions, including in the BLM's headquarters office in Washington, D.C. Since February 2009, Connell has served as the BLM's Northwest Colorado District Manager.

Connell was born in Butte, Montana, and received her B.S. in Petroleum Engineering from Montana Tech in 1985.



PACIFIC WEST REGION

Christine S. Lehnertz, Regional Director

Chris Lehnertz has been the National Park Service's acting Associate Director for Cultural Resources in Washington, D.C. since April 2010. She served as Deputy Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park from 2007-2010, where she was responsible for all aspects of human resources, budget, and natural and cultural resource management and science programs. From 2004-2007, Lehnertz served as Director of Ecosystems Protection Programs in the Denver regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where she led a large, multi-disciplinary staff to implement federal environmental laws, including the Clean Water, Safe Drinking Water, and National Environmental Policy Acts. Her work with EPA began in 1990.

Lehnertz earned a bachelor's degree in environmental biology from the University of Colorado in Boulder and a secondary education teacher certificate from Metropolitan State College in Denver.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION (6)

Kent Connaughton, Regional Forester

Prior to his appointment as Regional Forester, Kent Connaughton was the Associate Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry in Washington, D.C. He has also served as Deputy Regional Forester for the Pacific Southwest Region; Forest Supervisor of the Lassen National Forest; and as a scientist specializing in forest economics at the Pacific Northwest Research Station. He also was responsible for the economic assistance programs associated with the Northwest Forest Plan's implementation.

Connaughton holds a bachelor's degree from Stanford University, a Master of Forestry degree from Oregon State University, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters, and was elected as a Fellow of that professional society in 1991.



INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

John Wessels, Regional Director

John Wessels began his federal career as a Presidential Management Fellow in 1985 and served in the Office of Management and Budget, where he became a permanent employee from 1985 to 1989. From 1989 to 2000, Wessels worked for U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Boulder, Colorado, managing financial and administrative functions and systems for the National Physics Laboratory. Wessels joined the National Park Service in 2000 as the Intermountain Region's Comptroller. During his career with the National Park Service, he has also served as acting Deputy Superintendent at Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco, acting Deputy Intermountain Regional Director, acting Associate Director for Business Services at the National Park Service headquarters in Washington, D.C., and most recently as acting Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway in Wyoming.

Wessels earned a bachelor's degree and a Master of Science in Public Finance and Policy Analysis from Carnegie-Mellon University and a second Master of Science in Computer Information Systems from Regis University, where he has served as an Adjunct Professor of Business and Information Systems in the College of Professional Studies since 1998.



ALASKA STATE OFFICE

Bud Cribley, State Director

Bud Cribley joined the BLM in 1975 as a Range and Conservation Technician in the Arizona Strip District. Since then, he has held several positions with the BLM in Montana and Colorado. Before moving to Washington, he served as the Assistant District Manager for the Winnemucca District in Nevada. In 1997, he moved to Washington, D.C., as a senior specialist with the Wild Horse and Burro program, later heading up the Rangeland Resources Division. In 2006, he served as Acting State Director in Idaho, before returning to Washington, D.C., as Deputy Assistant Director for Renewable Resource and Planning.

Cribley holds a B.S. in Forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.



IDAHO STATE OFFICE
Steve Ellis, State Director

Steve Ellis recently was appointed Idaho State Director for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Steve began his career in 1979 when he joined BLM's Burley District Office in southern Idaho as a forester. Since then he has served in a variety of important positions, including Associate District Manager, Las Vegas, NV; Area Manager, Shoshone District, Idaho; and in Oregon's Lakeview Office as District Manager.

Recently he served in the U.S. Forest Service as Fremont-Winema National Forest Supervisor and Forest Supervisor, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. He worked in BLM's Washington D.C. Staff and while there served one year as a U.S. Senate Congressional Fellow. Steve holds a Bachelor of Science forestry degree, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and Master of Science degree in Geography, Northern Illinois University-DeKalb.
