

News Release

Umatilla National Forest

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Bob Varner Selected as North Fork John Day District Ranger



Pendleton, OR: Bob Varner has been selected as the new District Ranger for the North Fork John Day District, announced Kevin Martin, Forest Supervisor for the Umatilla National Forest. Varner will be stationed at the district office in Ukiah, Oregon and will take over management of the 465,000 acre unit on July 5, 2009. "We're very excited to have Bob join the Umatilla National Forest team. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Forest," said Martin.

Varner earned a bachelor's degree in logging engineering from Oregon State University in 1980 and began his Forest Service career as a Logging Engineer on the Mendocino National Forest in California later that year. In addition to his position on the Mendocino, he's served as an Area Transportation Planner on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, a Transportation Planner and GIS Coordinator on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Washington, an Information Manager and Regional Transportation Planner for Region Six Engineering, and a Software Engineer for a virtual Enterprise Team. Varner's most recent position was Supervisory Information Technology Specialist at Portland Regional Office where he managed a region-wide technology program.

After completing the Senior Leader Program in 2007, he took detail assignments as Acting District Ranger on the Plumas and Malheur National Forests. "He also come to us with a strong background in engineering programs, transportation planning, and information technology management," said Martin

"The Senior Leader Program, coupled with the two District Ranger details, offered me a glimpse into new opportunities for serving communities first-hand, leading a district in managing critical agency resources, and working in the field again. I've always enjoyed eastern Oregon and my detail on the Malheur National Forest was like coming back home, so when the ranger position at Ukiah became available I applied." said Varner.

Varner credits his leadership motto to from a quote from well-know basketball coach John Wooden, *"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are."*

Bob and his wife, Ravae, have two married daughters and three grandchildren.

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