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Gila National Forest Welcomes New District Rangers

SILVER CITY, NM; Nov. 2, 2015 – Gila National Forest Supervisor Adam Mendonca is pleased to announce the selection of two new district rangers for the forest. Anne Casey reports to her job as Glenwood District Ranger November 16 and Rachelle Huddleston-Lorton starts November 30 as the new Wilderness District Ranger.

Casey has been with the U.S. Forest Service about 11 years, starting as a wildlife technician and then becoming a district biologist at the Safford Ranger District on the Coronado National Forest. During her tenure in Safford, she had detail opportunities as a recreation program manager, assistant forest biologist, and a district ranger both on the Douglas Ranger District of the Coronado and in Glenwood on the Gila National Forest. Casey says, “I’m thrilled for the opportunity to return to the Glenwood Ranger District and I look forward to working with the Gila and the residents of Catron County.”

Casey has a bachelor’s degree in wildlife science from Auburn University and a master’s degree in wildlife management from the University of Arizona. After school, she worked with the Farm Service Agency in Tucson and held internships with the Office of Surface Mining in Tennessee and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Red Wolf Program) in North Carolina. She is an avid reader, yoga student and founding member of the Gila Valley Animal Awareness group – a non-profit organization in Safford.

Rachelle Huddleston-Lorton is the Thorne Bay District Ranger on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. After a few years of wildland firefighting, she earned a bachelor’s degree in wildlife science at Humboldt State University. She worked for a summer in Alaska for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, moved to New Mexico where she attended New Mexico State University and studied bighorn sheep in the Gila Wilderness; this led to a master’s in wildlife ecology. She has worked with the Bureau of Land Management as a wildlife biologist and refuge biologist on Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, as well as an environmental coordinator, natural resource staff and district ranger for the Forest Service.

Huddleston-Lorton says, “I am passionate about public land management through collaboration, teamwork and good science and am excited to be joining the team on the Gila National Forest.” She and her husband enjoy remote and wild places and are looking forward to their return to the southwest. They have two Chesapeake Bay Retrievers and a cat.

-USFS-



Anne Casey



Rachelle Huddleston-Lorton