

Black Hills National Forest EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Timber Sale Accounting Resource Specialist Deann Stearns Supervisor's Office



downstream from cascade falls; by Stearns

What is your educational background?

M.S., Natural Resources in the Organizational Management Program, Chadron State College B.A., Journalism, English minor, Chadron State College

What interested you most about the USFS?

I worked for the Department of Defense for about a decade and then finished my college degrees. A job with the Forest Service allows me to utilize my education in areas that interest me.

What type of work are you doing for the USFS?

I am a resource specialist in Timber Sale Accounting. We do accounting for timber products on the Black Hills and Nebraska National Forests. We also participate in the review of timber sale packages, the bid opening and contract award processes.

What is your favorite thing about working for the USFS?

There are opportunities for advancement in the Forest Service. I started as a term employee at the Supervisor's Office front desk. That gave me a broad view of how the Forest Service manages its natural resources. After a few years, I was able to get a permanent job in the timber section.

How long have you been with the USFS?

I have worked at the Supervisor's Office in Custer for five years. In graduate school, I was a volunteer intern at the Nebraska National Forest SO for a semester.

What do you most admire about the Black Hills National Forest and why?

I grew up on ranch on the southern edge of the Black Hills and am fortunate that I was able to get a job in the area after living out-of-state for two decades. I consider it home. Even though I grew up here, I learned a lot about the Black Hills by working for the Forest Service. I admire the Black Hills National Forest for the effort that is put forth to serve multiple uses.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years? What would be your ultimate career objective or goal inside the USFS?

I can picture myself working for the Forest Service in ten years, possibly doing what I'm doing now, ... or maybe something entirely different.

What do you like to do outside of the office...hobbies or a passion you have?

I like hiking in the Black Hills, horses, and art.