



## Forest Service

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# News Release

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## New District Ranger Reports to Blacksburg, Virginia



**(May 26, 2015) Roanoke, Va** – Dan McKeague reports as the new District Ranger for the Eastern Divide Ranger District, headquartered in Blacksburg, Virginia on June 15. As District Ranger, McKeague will oversee nearly 400,000 acres of the Jefferson National Forest located in 11 counties in southwest Virginia. As District Ranger, McKeague oversees a staff of 26 who manage nearly 400 miles of trails including 150 miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, eight campgrounds, 500 miles of roads, and enhances wildlife habitat through prescribed fire and vegetation management. McKeague replaces Cindy Schiffer who began working with the national office last fall.

“Dan brings a wealth of experience in land management and enjoys working with communities and that’s why he is a great fit for the Eastern Divide Ranger District,” states Forest Supervisor Tom Speaks. McKeague is moving across the country with his wife, Lauren, 3-year-old son, Grant, and 5-month-old daughter, Lynley from Vallejo, California. “I’m thrilled to be joining the outstanding team on the Eastern Divide Ranger District,” states McKeague. “My family and I look forward to making Southwest Virginia home and becoming part of a community that is so engaged with management of the National Forest.”

McKeague currently manages the Forest Service’s State and Private Cooperative Forestry Programs for California, Hawaii, and associated Pacific Islands providing conservation assistance to state and local governments and private landowners. McKeague’s career has spanned from Florida to Alaska to New Zealand working in recreation, forest management, land acquisition, and National Scenic Trail administration.

McKeague graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry, and earned a Master of Science in Environmental Planning from Florida State University. McKeague can be reached at (540) 552-4641 after mid-June.

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