

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

Pacific Southwest Region

1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592



Contact: Matt Mathes 707-562-9004
Ruth Wenstrom 909-382-2711

JEANNE WADE EVANS NAMED SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR

VALLEJO, Calif. Aug. 15, 2005—Jeanne Wade Evans, currently National Program Manager for Fuels in USDA Forest Service’s Fire and Aviation Management staff in Washington DC, will be the new Supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest (NF).

“Jeanne’s national leadership experience in programs to reduce hazardous fuels and rehabilitate burned areas will be a real asset in her new job,” said Pacific Southwest Regional Forester Bernie Weingardt. “Combined with her extensive field experience in watershed, range and wildlife, and her demonstrated management skills as a District Ranger, she will do great work for the San Bernardino National Forest and the communities there. I know she will continue to build on and even expand the legacy that retiring Forest Supervisor Gene Zimmerman created there, with his decisive action to reduce fire risk and formation of strong partnerships to help us accomplish that and other critical work. I am very pleased about having Jeanne become part of our leadership team here in California.”

Wade Evans, 49, received her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Resources from Arizona State University in 1977. She started her Forest Service (FS) career in 1977 on the Coconino NF in Arizona as a range conservationist. She subsequently had responsibilities for watershed, range and wildlife in several ranger district and forest staff positions in the Southwest. She was a District Ranger on the Coronado NF in Arizona from 1990 to 1999.

After that 22 years of field work, Wade Evans transferred to FS’s national headquarters in Washington DC as Deputy Director for Forest and Rangelands, where she coordinated national policy and budget for post-fire rehabilitation for the National Fire Plan. In March 2004, she became the National Program Manager for Fuels in the Fire and Aviation Management Staff there, with responsibility for national policy and oversight of the hazardous fuels program. She is currently working with several Cabinet-level Departments to organize the White House’s Conference on Cooperative Conservation, being held in St. Louis at the end of August.

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“My husband and I are very excited about getting back to the West and working with the Forest Service employees that have made the San Bernardino National Forest a flagship forest of the country,” Wade Evans said. “I’m also looking forward to getting to know the many people in the communities there who have created the cooperative spirit the area is noted for.”

She and her husband Luke have three daughters living in Arizona and Iowa. In her spare time, Wade Evans enjoys gardening, scuba diving and hiking. She will report to her new post Oct. 2, providing some transition time until Zimmerman retires at the end of the year.

Zimmerman’s retirement will cap a 41-year career in the Forest Service, including 14 years spent as Forest Supervisor of the San Bernardino National Forest. “This has been a fabulous assignment,” he said. “We’ve come a very long way in the 14 years I’ve been here. We’re working with a wide variety of partners, communities, and volunteers, and we’re getting things done that didn’t seem possible just a few years ago. I’m confident that Jeanne will take what’s been started and carry it to an even higher level.”

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Jpg photo of Jeanne Wade Evans available upon request.