



# News Release

Colville National Forest  
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## Welcoming the new Republic District Ranger

**Colville, WA**— Colville National Forest officials would like to welcome Tom Whitford to the Republic Ranger District staff as the new district ranger. Tom will be replacing acting District Ranger Steve Rawlings, the Forest's fire management officer, who has served as acting district ranger since November of 2010.

Tom joins the district staff on March 14, 2011 and brings with him 20 years experience providing services in wildlife biology, timber, range, fire and fuels, minerals, recreation, special-use permits, partnerships and collaboration. Also, Tom has completed three district ranger acting assignments in two regions.

Colville National Forest Supervisor Laura Jo West welcomes Tom and his family to northeastern Washington and says, "We are excited to welcome Tom to the Colville National Forest. Tom's experience in land management and collaboration will be a real asset to the Forest and to the community."

Tom leaves his position as manager of the Custer National Forest wildlife and fisheries program in Billings, Mont. and brings with him to Republic his wife and son, their two dogs, horse, and mule. Tom, his wife Tami Parkinson, and their six year old son Nicolas love the outdoors: riding horses, camping, fishing, hunting, as well as skiing. They look forward to the new adventures the Colville National Forest has to offer.

Tom received Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Wildlife Biology at the University of Montana and in 1984 began his career with the Forest Service on the Kootenai National Forest in timber sale preparation, fire and wildlife biology. He also served as a wildlife biologist on the Lewis and Clark National Forest.

The Republic Ranger District office is located on 650 East Delaware Ave. in Republic, WA. To reach the Ranger Station by phone, call (509) 775-7400 or visit Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p. m. To visit Colville National Forest's website, visit [www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville)

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