



Flathead National Forest

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New Staff Officer Joins Flathead National Forest

Gary Danczyk recently joined the Flathead National Forest as one of its two staff officers and is responsible for the Forest's Recreation, Engineering, and Administration programs. Danczyk will lead programs ranging from recreation management to facility maintenance to conservation education.

"Gary brings a wealth of diverse professional experience to this position," noted Forest Supervisor Chip Weber. "His leadership positions for the National Park Service and for the Department of Defense have prepared him well for the forest's complex workload as a staff officer. Additionally, he understands the relationship between the forest and our local economy and he is very passionate about the Forest's recreational opportunities."

Danczyk is a Wisconsin native who, after graduating with a degree in Engineering from West Point in 1979, served in leadership roles in the military across the United States and in Europe. In 2003, after a tour as Chief of Staff and Senior Course Instructor for the NATO School in Germany, Danczyk and his family moved to Whitefish, Mont. He worked as a wild land firefighter and as an engineering technician before joining Glacier National Park in 2004.

At Glacier, Danczyk served as the Program Team Leader for the Going-to-the-Sun Road Rehabilitation. He was responsible for transit and advanced communications systems to preserve Glacier's natural resources while enhancing the visitor experience during the current road reconstruction project. Danczyk was instrumental in the development of the park's current transit system and he led the planning, design and construction of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-certified transit building.

From 2008 to 2010, Danczyk worked as the Chief of the Project Management branch in Grand Teton National Park. He led a team of engineers, architects, landscape architects and technicians on the park's compliance, planning, design and construction program. While there, he worked a compressed schedule so that he could frequently visit his family who remained in Whitefish.

"Over the past decade, I have gained an appreciation for what a complex, challenging, and tremendous resource the Flathead National Forest is, and I'm honored to be a part of the leadership team that will guide in its management," Danczyk said. "I recognize the multitude of uses that the Forest provides and I'm excited to have the opportunity to engage with our partners to provide the best opportunities for these varied interests."

Danczyk also has a Master of Science degree in Physics from the Naval Post-Graduate School in Monterey. He and his wife, Anell, have four children. Their youngest child is a junior at Whitefish High School and the other three all attended and graduated from Whitefish schools.

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Editor's Note: A jpeg photo of Mr. Danczyk is available; please contact Melissa Wilson.