



## WELCOME, NEW EMPLOYEE

### Joe Koloski

Joe Koloski is the new Field Representative for the Eastern Region State and Private Forestry, Morgantown Field Office. As a Vermont native, Joe developed a strong interest in natural resources management through experiences hunting with his family and spending time on his grandparents’ farm. Joe attended the University of Wyoming where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management in 1997.

“When I was a teenager, I went on a trip with some friends to northwestern Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park, and the Grand Tetons. Later, I was job shadowing with an individual from Vermont Game and Fish. When I expressed my interest in going to the University of Wyoming, he spent the rest of the day extolling the virtues of Wyoming. It got me very excited about the prospect of going to college in the mountains of Wyoming. Imagine my surprise when the plane landed and this naïve 18-year-old found himself 40 miles out on the plains,” Joe reminisced.

While in college, Joe worked seasonally as a field technician in Wyoming, Virginia, and Colorado focusing on black bear and grizzly bear research and management. Joe also earned a Master of Science degree in Zoology from the University of Wyoming in 2002 after completing a field research project investigating mountain lion ecology and management on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation in southwest Colorado. As he was finishing graduate school, Joe accepted the Wildlife Biologist position with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

Joe accepted a Regional Wildlife Biologist position with the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) in 2003. Based in Mississippi, Joe managed and delivered NWTF conservation programs across a seven-state region in the South Central United States.

Joe’s Forest Service career started on the Talladega National Forest, Oakmulgee Ranger District in Alabama, where he served as the District’s Other Resources Assistant to manage the recreation, engineering, special uses, non-native invasive species, and game wildlife programs. He then took a position as the District Ranger on the Mark



*As a District Ranger on the Mark Twain National Forest, Joe developed a strong team and partnerships to address a variety of issues. (Forest Service photo provided by Joe Koloski)*

Twain National Forest, Ava/Cassville/Willow Springs Ranger District in Ava, MO, from 2014 to 2019. In this role, Joe led a District team that delivered recreation opportunities to the public and applied active management techniques to address declining oak health and restore and maintain unique oak woodland and glade habitats.

Joe is passionate about active land management and has a strong interest in management across boundaries at large geographic scales. He also places strong emphasis on partnerships and enjoys forming and leading strong teams. Joe has been married to his wife for 18 years and has two teenage sons.

Please welcome Joe Koloski!

