

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region



March 12, 2002

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADMINISTRATOR NAMED FOR NEZ PERCE NIMIIPUU (*NEE-ME-POO*) NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Missoula, MT – March 12, 2002—Sandi McFarland has been named administrator for the Nez Perce Nimiipuu (*NeeMePoo*) National Historic Trail (NPNHT). In her new position, McFarland oversees the management of the trail, which winds through 1,170 miles in Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana from an office at the Clearwater National Forest Supervisors Office in Orofino, Idaho.

The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated authority for administration of the NPNHT to the Regional Forester of the Northern Region. As administrator, McFarland will work with many agencies and communities to encourage protection and public appreciation of the NPNHT called for in the comprehensive management plan. The Nez Perce Trail crosses a variety of jurisdictions, including federal, state, tribal and private lands. It is a collection of sites, trail segments and designated highways that most closely follow the actual route of the NPNHT and the military forces and civilian volunteers during the Flight of 1877.

Bradley Powell, Regional Forester for the Forest Service's Northern Region in Missoula, said in naming McFarland to the post, that McFarland brings quality experience to her new assignment. She began her duties mid-January.

Powell noted that McFarland's service as government tribal liaison for Regions 1,4, and 6 representing the Clearwater, Nez Perce, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, plus her long active involvement in the history of the Nez Perce Trail, and wide variety of public and community interests, made her a good choice for the job.

Sandi said she is, "excited about this new challenge and the opportunity to work with a diverse group of agencies, partners, and Tribes to help coordinate policy and management between the Forest Service, other federal and state agencies, Tribes, partners, and foundations. I am deeply committed to the preservation, protection, and conservation of the trail while inviting our publics to experience the trail. The trick will be to strike a nice balance between protection and visitor use. The trail is spectacular with diverse landscapes, complex management issues and a sense of place and passion.

McFarland has a diverse background. Previous positions include: archaeological technician, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest at the Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area, archaeological consultant and cultural resource director for the Nez Perce tribe, and archaeologist and interpretive specialist on the

Clearwater National Forest.

In addition, Sandi has a long history with the trail. She has served as a member of the Advisory Council for the trail which was formed in 1989 to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on the development and management of the Nez Perce Trail. McFarland was instrumental in developing a trailwide inter-agency interpretive strategy, brochures, video, and website. She has been a proponent for the trail, traveling throughout the United States speaking to a diverse group audience on Nez Perce history and culture and has appeared in two documentary videos.

McFarland graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Outdoor Recreation Planning and a minor in Forest Management. She completed her Master's Degree in Anthropology with a thesis on the Nez Perce Trail in Idaho.

Husband Mike McFarland, is a reforestation and trail construction contractor in Culdesac, ID. They have three over active sons, Harrison (17), Derek (17), and Lucas (14).

END

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