

# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA Forest Service -- Northern Region



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News Contact: Paula Nelson  
(406)329-3472

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Supervisor named for Lewis & Clark National Forest

Missoula, Mont.— Lesley “Spike” Thompson of Hamilton, MT, has been named Forest Supervisor of the 1.8 million-acre Lewis and Clark National Forest in west central Montana.

Thompson is currently the acting-Forest Supervisor of the Salmon National Forest in central Idaho, but has been the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Bitterroot National Forest for the past three years.

Brad Powell, Regional Forester for the Forest Service's Northern Region, said Thompson will bring a willingness to work closely with those interested in the national forest resource issues to his new assignment.

“Spike is a proven leader and a resourceful manager. He has been at the forefront of post-burn activities on the Bitterroot and Salmon national forests and understands the complex challenges within our national forests. He has great depth and familiarity with the resource issues facing the West. This will make him a valued asset in our region,” Powell said.

Thompson, who holds a degree in rangeland resources from Oregon State University, will begin his duties in mid-February. His wife and one son will be joining him in Great Falls. Another son is married and lives in Dickinson, ND, and his third son attends classes at Minot State University in Minot, ND.

“I’m really excited about the opportunity to work with the employees on the Lewis and Clark National Forest and all the communities near the forest,” said Thompson.

Thompson began his career in 1976 as a Range Conservationist on the Malheur N.F. in eastern Oregon. He has held a number of important leadership positions with the agency, including a ten year District Ranger assignment on the Dakota Prairie National Grasslands. Earlier in his career, Thompson worked as the Resource Assistant on the Unity District of the Wallowa-Whitman NF, and soon after served as the Range Staff Officer on the Nez Perce NF.

Powell extended his thanks to Rolando Ortegon who has been serving as the interim Forest Supervisor since May. “Rolando’s willingness to skillfully handle Forest duties until we could permanently fill the position has been instrumental in helping us complete some important projects and provided leadership to a critical Montana forest”.

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