

Glenda Wiles

From: MACO <MACO@mtcounties.org>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2017 9:25 AM
To: MACO
Subject: FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF: Cherished Memories, Lasting Friendships and a Lifelong Love for Public Lands and Service

From: Hagengruber, John -FS [<mailto:jhagengruber@fs.fed.us>]
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2017 11:00 AM
Subject: FW: FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF: Cherished Memories, Lasting Friendships and a Lifelong Love for Public Lands and Service



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Caring for the land and serving people

From: FS-Office of the Chief
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2017 10:33 AM
To: FS-All FS <allfs@ms.fs.fed.us>
Subject: FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF: Cherished Memories, Lasting Friendships and a Lifelong Love for Public Lands and Service

On September 1, I will step down as your Chief and leave the Forest Service—carrying with me more than 40 years of cherished memories, lasting friendships and a lifelong love for public lands and service. It has been my greatest honor to serve, a privilege and most rewarding experience.

When I started in this position eight years ago, I asked you to focus on restoring the ecological resilience of our lands, take a risk management approach to wildland fire, change our safety culture to better protect lives, create an inclusive Agency that values diversity, and to strengthen our connection to communities.

Thank you for all of the tremendous achievements, and the progress we have made. Yes, there is still much more to do, more challenges to confront; but I want you to feel good about what has been accomplished—and just as important, remain inspired by how you have done it. Together we have learned the lasting value of shared leadership, in an agency that welcomes diversity, fosters inclusivity and works collaboratively. This is becoming our standard, how we show up. This is why you are making, and will continue to make, a difference.

Further, I appreciate the progress we have made to eliminate harassment in the work environment. Our employees and our public deserve nothing less.

We have lived through some tough days responding to natural disasters and dangers that come from keeping citizens safe. We have been called to respond in a way that only the Forest Service can. We have grieved together, far too many times, for those who have lost their lives in support of our mission. By far these have been the most trying times for me. But I was always grateful for how you showed up to respect the sacrifices of others, to lend your support for grieving families, friends and co-workers, to help them begin healing from their loss. That, along with your commitment to our safety journey, to do what we can to ensure everyone returns home safely every day, is what carried me through those times. I know you will continue our progress on this never-ending Journey.

When I think about our mission and how emphasis may shift over time, one constant anchor remains: land stewardship and service to all people. We must live up to the responsibility to restore and sustain our nation's forests and grasslands and ensure future generations inherit the same opportunities to receive the benefits many Americans often take for granted. The clean air, clean water, the biodiversity, the wildlife and fisheries habitat, the recreational settings and the economic activity that are essential to America.

It would be far easier to focus only on the short term, the issues of the day. But it takes a group of dedicated and committed employees to take the long view; with it comes the noble responsibility of striking that balance between meeting needs of the present generation while ensuring Forests and Grasslands will be there for the future.

We are fortunate to have gained so many partners, cooperators, and communities that have stepped up through collaboration to find solutions to how we should manage and care for these lands.

I will be forever grateful for your support and respect for the Office of the Chief. Where it takes all of us—our partners, our States, our tribes, interagency coordination and cooperation—to deliver our mission, no position requires more support than the Chief.

No one has appreciated that support more than I.

I know you will extend the same support to the next Chief: your new Chief will certainly appreciate it as much as I have.

The dedication, the commitment, the passion you bring to work every day---that makes such a difference in so many people's lives – have made me proud to have been part of this Agency.

Thank you for all you do.

Tom

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