

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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CORONADO FOREST'S TOP LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Acting Forest Supervisor and Deputy; New District Ranger for Santa Catalina District

TUCSON, AZ (September 9, 2003)-- Deputy Forest Supervisor Sue Kozacek (pronounced CO-zak) assumed the role of Acting Forest Supervisor on September 7, following the transition of former Forest Supervisor John McGee as Visiting Professor to the University of Arizona's School of Renewable Natural Resources.

Kozacek holds a BS in Biology from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, and an MS in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University. Her post-education career includes positions in the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and in the Forest Service where she served as a District Ranger in the states of New Mexico and Mississippi.

An avid outdoors person and traveler, Kozacek took a two-year leave of absence to volunteer for the Peace Corps where she lived and worked in the remote village of Boca Lara in the Darien province of Panama. Kozacek has served as the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Coronado National Forest in Tucson, Arizona, since December 2002.

Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor

In Kozacek's stead as Deputy Forest Supervisor is Ernie Del Rio, currently the District Ranger on the Bradshaw District of the Prescott National Forest in Arizona. Del Rio, a Forest Service employee since 1979, holds an MS in Forest Ecology and Silviculture from Oregon State University. His career includes field assignments in Oregon and California, as well as District Ranger positions in Pennsylvania, and Arizona.

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Del Rio's wife, Jane, is a fifth grade teacher. The Del Rios have two daughters who attend the University of Arizona.

Both Kozacek and Del Rio will return to their respective permanent positions after selection of a new Coronado National Forest Supervisor for which no selection has yet been made.

New Ranger for Santa Catalina Ranger District

Larry Raley, a 30-year Forest Service veteran, will replace retiring District Ranger Ron Senn in September 2003. Raley, the District Ranger on the Glenwood District of the Gila National Forest in New Mexico, holds an AA degree from Eastern Arizona College, and a BS in Forestry from Northern Arizona University. He also is a qualified Type 2 Incident Commander, and currently heads New Mexico's interagency incident management team.

Raley has held various career positions in the national forests of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon and California, including the Coronado's Santa Catalina Ranger District where he began his career as a member of its local helitack crew. Helitack firefighters are specially trained to conduct helicopter management and attack activities.

A national team mediator who teaches total quality management and process management skills, Raley is dedicated to "open and honest communication."

Raley, who grew up in Kingman, is an Arizona native with family ties in Tucson where his parents and siblings' families reside. He and Roxanne, his wife of 28 years, have three children, one of which is a student at Eastern Arizona College in Safford.