



Forest Service News Release

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Regional Forester announces new Forest Supervisor for Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

PORTLAND, OR, September 20, 2021 — Pacific Northwest Regional Forester Glenn Casamassa announced the selection of Shaun McKinney as the new Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor. McKinney joins the Forest Service from the West National Technology Support Center, where he leads a team providing direct assistance, training, and innovative natural resources technological solutions to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service staff throughout the western United States. He will begin working in his new position in late October.

“Shaun has worked in both public and private land conservation, drawing on his background as a fisheries biologist to inform his strategic direction and oversight of a large team tasked with developing and implementing innovative technical solutions for field science staff working on a variety of complex natural resource issues,” Casamassa said. “His considerable experience in organizational leadership, science-based decision-making, and innovative problem-solving will serve him well as he serves the residents and communities of eastern Oregon as Forest Supervisor on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.”

McKinney’s career includes previous leadership positions with both USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and with the Forest Service.

While serving as the NCRS West Technology Support Center director, McKinney served temporarily in Senior Executive Service assignments, as acting National Director of the agency’s Natural Science Division, providing leadership on national science policy for the agency, and as acting Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, providing oversight of ecological science, soil health, engineering and technology support offices and initiatives across the U.S. Previously, he served as the agency’s National Water Quality and Quantity Team Leader.

In his previous work for the Forest Service, McKinney was based in Corvallis, Oregon, where he led large teams charged with developing software-based technological solutions, such as databases and analysis tools, to support aquatic, watershed and fisheries research and program needs.

His background in natural resources management includes work as an aquatic analyst in the Pacific Northwest, conducting research for the Pacific Northwest Research Station’s Aquatic Science Team, and as a biologist on the Umatilla and Siuslaw National Forests. He’s also represented USDA as a technical and policy expert on water policy and natural resources for international projects in Jordan, in support of the Israel and Palestinian Peace Process, and for the government of Madagascar.

McKinney has a Masters of Fisheries Science and Statistics from Oregon State University and a Bachelor of Science from Michigan State University.

“I’m looking forward to returning to the Blue Mountains, where I began my career, to work together with the staff, communities and partners on healthy ecosystems and economies. It will be an exciting next chapter filled with challenges and opportunities,” McKinney said.

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest encompasses 2.4 million acres of public lands in northwestern Oregon and western Idaho. The forest’s ecosystems include alpine peaks, conifer forests, high-desert range lands, grasslands, and watersheds. The forest is home to ten Wild and Scenic Rivers, four Wilderness Areas, and the Hells Canyon Recreation Area. For more information visit:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/wallowa-whitman/home>.