

Chief Kimbell farewell email to Forest Service

Monday, June 22 2009 @ 08:12 AM MDT

Contributed by: Admin

The Chronicle obtained a copy of the following email message, which was represented as coming from Forest Service Chief Gail Kimbell last Friday morning.

Chief Abigail Kimbell 06/19/2009 08:54 AM
To ALL FS
Subject Life Changes

A number of you have asked for some accounting of all this sudden change. Let it suffice to say that the Administration wanted a change. It is sudden. I'll serve as your Chief through July 2, then will move to a new position and will retire in early August.

The good news for me is two-fold. To have my successor already announced and to know that it is Tom Tidwell, a tenured and seasoned Forest Service leader is tremendous news. Tom and I will have some time for transition before he assumes the responsibilities of Chief. The second piece of good news is that I get to rejoin my husband in Missoula, Montana.

It has been my distinct honor to serve as the 16th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. I've had the pleasure to work with incredible people at all levels, in all job series, all across the country, who are highly skilled and dedicated to our mission to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands. Together we have focused on many of the important issues and conservation challenges of our time. I thank you for the outstanding work in climate change, water and kids.

Am I sad? Of course. I cherish my 35+ years in the Forest Service and the relationships with people inside and outside the outfit. But I know you'll continue to keep an eye to the issues of the future and you'll continue in our 104 year history of adapting to the needs of present and future generations. You are an extraordinary group of people. I would do it all over again.

Gail

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