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JOHN GILLER ACCEPTS INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT POSITION IN SOUTH CENTRAL OREGON

Lakeview, Ore. – The Fremont-Winema National Forests and Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Lakeview District welcome John Giller as the new Interagency Fire Staff Officer. Giller will be responsible for overseeing both agencies fire staff and resources needed to administer approximately a \$9 million fuel and fire program.

“We are fortunate to have Giller return to the Forest Service,” said Karen Shimamoto, Forest Supervisor for the Fremont-Winema National Forests. “John’s 26 years of fire suppression and fuels management experience compliments the skills we already have on staff.”

Giller began his fire career as an engine crewperson on the Chemult Ranger District of the Winema National Forest in 1981. At first, wildland firefighting was a great way to earn money during his summer break from college. Originally attending Oregon Institute of Technology for a structural engineering degree, Giller soon realized that fire was his true career calling and took a permanent fire position with the Winema National Forest.

“At first, working with fire was just for the adventure and excitement, but now my views on fire have evolved,” said Giller. “I recognize planned fire as an important tool that can assist both the Forest Service and BLM in meeting their natural resource program goals.”

Of Giller's 26 years of progressive experience, 22 of those were with the U.S. Forest Service. He has over 2000 hours of fire and fuel management training, as well as extensive knowledge in aviation operations, fire planning and fuels modeling. Giller has held numerous fire positions including: Winema Interagency Hotshot Crew Sawyer, Helicopter Module Crewperson, Engine Supervisor, Assistant Fire Management Officer, District Fuels Technician and District Fire Management Officer.

Giller was the Fire Planner and Air Attack Programs Manager for the Pacific Northwest Region before he retired from the Forest Service in 2003. Shortly after retiring, Giller opened his own private fire consulting company.

“Giller brings a wealth of experience to this important job,” said Carol Benkosky, BLM’s Lakeview District Manager. “He has an extensive fire background and is equipped with the skills needed to manage our complex interagency fire organization.”

Giller resides in Klamath Falls, Ore. Giller has one daughter, Alyssa, and two sons, Brandon and Dustin. Brandon currently works at the Chiloquin Ranger District of the Fremont-Winema National Forests on an engine crew.

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