

Witness Bio for 5/21/26 HNRFLSC Hearing

Chris French, Associate Chief, USDA Forest Service

Chris French serves as the Associate Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. Prior to this assignment, he served as the Deputy Chief of the National Forest System based in Washington D.C. In this role, Chris was responsible for policy, oversight and direction for natural resource management and public service delivery programs across the 193 million acres of National Forests and Grasslands in 44 states and territories that make up the National Forest System.

Chris began his 34-year USDA career on the Coronado National Forest in Arizona as volunteer in recreation and eventually started his permanent career in fire. Chris has served around the country in a variety of leadership positions on ranger districts, national forests, and at the national headquarters. He has worked across multiple programs including recreation, fire, fuels, wildlife, NEPA, forest planning, forest management, wilderness, and the enterprise program. Nationally, he has served as the Acting Undersecretary of Natural Resources and the Environment at USDA, Deputy Chief, Associate Deputy Chief, and Director of Ecosystem Management Coordination.

Chris is a graduate of Arizona State University, and avid outdoorsman, and devoted father and husband.