

BIOGRAPHY



Christopher B. French
Acting Deputy Chief – National Forest Systems
USDA Forest Service

Chris was appointed as a member of the Senior Executive Service January 10 of 2016 as Director of Ecosystem Management of the USDA Forest Service. He began his USDA career in 1991 on the Coronado National Forest in Arizona as volunteer in recreation. From there, he has worked in planning, NEPA, fire, fuels, wildlife, and recreation/wilderness. Since that time, he has served in several agency leadership positions: currently as Acting Deputy Chief of the National Forest System (NFS). As Acting Deputy Chief, he is responsible for national policy and oversight of the natural resource programs managing 193 million acres of National Forests and Grasslands.

In his permanent role as Associate Deputy Chief for NFS; Chris provides leadership for the National Forest System programs of Water, Fish, Wildlife, Air & Rare Plants, Forest Management, Range Management and Vegetation Ecology, Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC). As the Director of the EMC Staff he oversaw national policy and oversight for the agency's implementation of

land management planning, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), administrative reviews, land management litigation, monitoring, and mitigation programs.

Chris is a graduate of Arizona State University, enjoys painting, and is an avid outdoor enthusiast. He serves as a coach and mentor to several of the agency's leadership programs and volunteers with several youth conservation programs. He and wife, Jenny live in Northern Virginia and have three children.