

Lewis and Clark National Forest Ranger Roll Call & Forest Supervisors

History – The Lewis and Clarke, as it was originally spelled, was one of the 3 Montana forests established in 1897 by presidential proclamation. Originally it extended from the present Highway 200 corridor northward to the Middle Fork of the Flathead River; from the crest of the Mission Mountains eastward to where the Rocky Mountain front meets the prairie. Five years later the Flathead Reserve was combined with Lewis and Clarke adding the lands from the Whitefish Range eastward including what is now Glacier National Park. In 1908 the Lewis and Clarke was whittled down by returning lands to the Flathead and adjusting boundaries with other adjacent forests. This area of Rocky Mountain front ranges is today’s westerly “Rocky Mountain Division” of the Lewis and Clark NF.

Today’s easterly “Jefferson Division” of the Lewis and Clark NF consists of smaller mountain ranges, originally established as separate Forest Reserves: the 1902 Little Belt Mountains Reserve, 1903 Highwood Mountains Reserve, 1906 Snowy Mountains Reserve, and 1907 Little Rockies Reserve. A 1905 “Enlargement” of the Little Belts Reserve added the entire Castles Mountain Range, then a 1908 Executive Order consolidated these separate Reserves into the Jefferson NF. A 1932 Executive Order combined the Jefferson NF into the Lewis and Clark NF. A 1945 Executive Order then transferred the north Crazy Mountain (Absaroka NF) into the Lewis and Clark NF.

A mix of Ranger Stations and Administrative sites evolved to manage these Reserve and NF lands and were often initially intended to be a day’s horse ride apart. Most of the ranger information comes from old Forest Service directories dating back to 1920, with many of the more recent ones missing. Earlier information comes from bits of information gleaned from old photos or FS stories. An early ranger list for much of the Jefferson Division was found in the forest files.

Forest Supervisors

1902 - 1908: Little Belt Mountains Forest Reserve

Al Young	1902 - 1903
Ira A. Todd	1903 - 1907
Paul G. Reddington	1907 - 1907
George H. Cecil	1908 - 1908

1903 - 1908: Highwood Mountains Forest Reserve

Unknown	1903 - 1905
James G. Thain	1905 - 1908

1906 - 1908: Snowy Mountains Forest Reserve

Unknown	1906 -1908
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1907 - 1908: Little Rocky Mountains Forest Reserve

James A. Thain 1907 - 1908

1908 - 1932: Jefferson NF

[Created from consolidation of four smaller NF's above; headquarters office in Great Falls, MT.]

R. W. Stewart 1908
Herbert Graff 1908
Jasper B. Seeley 1909 - 1910
Wallace S. Perrine 1911 - 1912
Scott Leavitt 1913 - 1917
Wilford B. Willey 1917 - 1932

1897 - 1932: Lewis and Clark NF

[Located within the Rocky Mountains; headquarters office in Choteau, MT.]

Unknown 1897 - 1904
A. B. Bliss 1905 - 1905
Pager S. Bunker 1906 - 1907
W. H. Daus 1908 - 1910
Scott Leavitt 1911 - 1912
Thomas C. Spaulding 1913 - 1915
Justin K. Dwinelle 1915 - 1917
Dwight L. Beatty 1917 - 1918
B. W. Clark 1919 - 1919
Wilford B. Willey 1920 - 1921 (Also Jefferson NF Supervisor)
Eldon H. Myrick 1922 - 1926
William E. Lockhart 1927 - 1930
Wilford B. Willey 1931 - 1932 (Also Jefferson NF Supervisor)

1932 - 2015: Lewis and Clark NF

[The Jefferson NF was consolidated into the Lewis and Clark NF, with headquarters office in Great Falls, MT].

Wilford B. Willey 1932 - 1936
Robert. T. Ferguson 1937 - 1947
F. O. Leftwich 1947 - 1952
Zane G. Smith 1952 - 1956
J. A. Fallman 1956 - 1960
George Roskie 1960 - 1967
George Engler 1967 - 1976
Kenneth D. Wyers 1976 - 1980
John 'Dale' Gorman 1980 - 1995
Gloria Flora 1995 - 1998
Rick Prausa 1998 - 2003
Orlando Ortegon 2003 - 2004
Lesley 'Spike' Thompson 2004 - 2011
Bill Avey 2012 - 2015

2015 - Present: Helena - Lewis & Clark NF

[The Helena NF and the Lewis and Clark NF were officially consolidated in 2015 as the Helena - Lewis & Clark NF, with Supervisors Offices maintained in both Helena and Great Falls, MT].

Bill Avey	2015 - 2021
Emily Platt	2022 - present

District Rangers

Rocky Mountain Division

Rocky Mountain Ranger District - Choteau, MT

Sun River District (1907 - 1929)

[Utilized Hannon Gulch Cabin after squatters moved out in 1907.]

Clyde C. Fickes	1907 - ?
E. A. Woods	1914 - 1917
Arthur F. Bateman	1920 - 1921
H. H. Hendron	1922 - 1924
Henry H. Halvorson	1925 - 1927
Carter V. Rubottom	1928 - 1929

Lubec District /Lubec RS (1907 - 1931)

[Labeled District 1 at Piegan Station in 1912 (Great Northern RR flag-stop), with East Glacier PO. The RS site and District land base located north of the Great Northern RR route between East Glacier and Continental Divide (Marias Pass) were transferred to the newly established Glacier NP in 1910. Apparently, the Forest Service continued use of Lubec RS via agreement with Glacier NP, until Lubec District was rolled into the Teton District in 1931, and Lubec RS became a Glacier NP Ranger Station].

James E. Adams	1912 - ?
Eugene J. Rogers	1920 - 1921
J. C. De Groat	1921 - 1922
Lawrence J. Howard	1923 - 1931

District 2 at Dupuyer Creek Station (1908 - 1921)

[Labeled District 2 in 1912, Blackleaf PO.]

E. A. Woods	1912 - 1914
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District 3 at Ear Mountain Station (1911 - 1921)

[Strabane PO in 1912.]

Price Townsend	1912 - ?
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District 4 at Beaver Creek (1908 - 1923)

[Augusta PO in 1912. Combined with Willow Creek R.D. in 1923.]

Harry C. Schick	1912 - ?
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District 5 Willow Creek District (1908 - 1931)

[Willow Creek Station, labeled District 5, Augusta P.O. in 1912, with Sun River District in 1931.]

Frank J. Jefferson	1912 - ?
Harry H. Halvorson	1920 - 1925
W. E. Fry	1925 - 1925
Ben P. Martin	1926 - 1930

District 6 Elk Creek District (1907 - 1923)

[Elk Creek Station labeled District 6, Augusta P. O. in 1912. Combined onto Dearborn District about 1920]

E. A. Woods	1907 - 1908
John Daley	1908 - ?
G. A. Terry	1912 - ?

Dearborn District (1920 - 1929)

Francis S. Garl	1920 - 1921
George Griff	1922 - 1922
J. C. De Groat	1923 - 1923
W. E. Fry	1924 - 1925
Sam Harris	1926 - 1929

Blackleaf District (1921 - 1929)

[Combined from District 2 and District 3 after 1912. Combined with Teton R.D. in 1929.]

A. W. Lane	1921 - 1921
C. L. McVey	1922 - 1924
G. A. Fredrickson	1925 - 1927
W. N. Streeter	1928 - 1929

Teton District (1921 - 1980) Choteau Office

[Lubec RD rolled into Teton RD in 1931; former Lubec DR Lawrence J. Howard continued as defacto "north zone Teton DR, stationed at East Glacier, 1931 to 1939.]

[Combined with Augusta R.D. in 1980 and renamed to Rocky Mountain R.D.]

Sylver J. White	1921 - 1921
C. A. Butler	1921 - 1925
G. A. Fredrickson	1926 - 1927
W. N. Streeter	1928 - 1933
Lawrence J. Howard	1931 - 1933
Lester H. McLean	1934 - 1935
Lawrence J. Howard	1934 - 1935
George H. Duvendack	1936 - 1939
Lawrence J. Howard	1936 - 1939
William S. Gaffney	1940 - 1942
John F. Hinman	1943 - 1954
David C. Terry	1958 - 1960
Ray E. Pulver	1961 - 1963

Vergil L. Lindsey	1964 - 1966
Robert M. Richmond	1970 - 1975
Lloyd A. Swanger	1976 - 1979

Rocky Mountain RD (1980 - Present), Choteau Office

Lloyd A. Swanger	1980 - 1987
Robert Casey	1988 - 1990
Jerry Dombrowske	1991 - 1999
Mike Munoz	1999 - Present

Augusta District (1930 - 1980)

[Directory labeled as Sun River District at Augusta 1933 - 1979; combined with Teton R.D. in 1980 and renamed Rocky Mountain R.D.]

Ben P. Martin	1930 - 1936
Thomas M. Wiles	1937 - 1945
Douglas C. Morrison	1946 - 1954
George F. McLaughlin	1958 - 1958
Ellis J. Callantine	1960 - 1965
Henry E. Greitl	1966 - 1971
Robert J. Duncan	1972 - 1976
Vacant	1977 - 1980

Jefferson Division

This portion of the Lewis and Clark includes lands in the Little Belt and Snowy Mountains, the Highwood Mountains, the Castle Mountains and part of the Crazy Mountains. The Little Rockies are no longer Forest Service lands

Belt Creek-White Sulphur Springs Ranger District - White Sulphur Springs, MT

Belt Creek Ranger District (1897 - 1978, 2001 - 2014)

[In 1978, Belt Creek R.D. was established as Belt Creek Information Center under the White Sulphur Springs R.D. The combined districts were renamed the King's Hill R. D. In 2001, the Belt Creek R.D. was re-established, until 2014, when the districts were again combined and now named the Belt Creek - White Sulphur Springs Ranger District.]

John A. Hagerman	? - ?
Clagett Sanders	? - ?
Lewis T. Morgan	1910 - 1918
S. C. Sanderson	1920 - 1924
Ralph E. Dickinson	1925 - 1929
Emery E. Wilson	1931 - 1933
W. N. Streeter	1934 - 1951
Oscar W. Ayers	1952 - 1953
William W. Gorden	1954 - 1954
James S. Watson	1958 - 1960
Carl L. Marsh	1961 - 1965
John R. Hook	1966 - 1970
Edward J. Kinsman	1971 - 1977

Belt Creek RD re-established 2001 - 2014

Mike Herrin	2001 - 2003
Al Koss	2003 - 2006
Tina Lanier	2006 - 2013

Cottonwood Station District (1908 - 1923)

[Often labeled the Lebo Station/Lebo District, as mailing address was nearby Lebo P.O.; located in north Crazy Mountains, within Absaroka NF as established in 1908, then eliminated in 1945, and north Crazy Mountains' lands transferred to Lewis and Clark NF in 1945. Station often snowed-in during winter; first Assistant Ranger rented cabin on private land 2 miles northerly towards open flats, known as "Groveland Station".]

[Apparently combined with Shields District in 1924, as Clive Galbraith also listed as Shields DR in 1924 - 1925.]

Walter Eyman, Assistant	1909 - 1913
Harrison Crane, Assistant	1914 - ?
J.S. Paddock	1916 - 1916
W.S. Johns	1917 - ?
Jonathan S. Winder	1920 - 1921
Clive Galbraith	1923 - 1925

Sheep Creek Ranger District (1910 - 1931)

[Newlan Creek Ranger Station office; District office moved to White Sulphur Springs in 1931 and renamed White Sulphur Springs RD.]

Louis Wessel	1910 - 1910
Alvin J. Vinton	1911 - 1911
W. Kierstead	1912 - 1912
Emery E. Wilson	1920 - 1930

Tenderfoot District (1909 - 1930)

[Meade Creek Station near Logging Creek.]

A. L. Giddings	1920 - 1923
C. F. Beal	1924 - 1924
B. J. Burfening	1925 - 1925
Douglas C. Morrison	1926 - 1930

Milligan Station (1913 - 1924)

[Near junction of Tenderfoot Creek and Bear Gulch

Frank Clark	? - ?
John A. Kierstead	? - ?

Castle Mountain District (1907 - 1929)

[4-Mile Ranger Station, station closed in 1929.]

W. A. Perrine	1907 - 1913
Walter Donaldson	1913 - 1916

Atticus R. Sanders	1917 - 1921
W. M. Laybourn	1921 - 1924
Leon L. Lake	1925 - 1929

White Sulphur Springs Ranger District (1931 - 1978)

J. C. De Groat	1931 - 1933
Emery E. Wilson	1934 - 1937
Favre L. Eaton	1938 - 1942
Alban A. Roemer	1943 - 1944
Burt L. Hurwitz	1945 - 1950
George A. Mahrt	1951 - 1953
Robert R. Milodragovich	1954 - 1954
Walter H. Sundell	1958 - 1962
John D. Holden	1963 - 1965
Robert J. Duncan	1966 - 1971
Guy S. Walker	1972 - 1978

Renamed King's Hill RD 1978 - 2000, combined with Belt Creek Information Center.
[Belt Creek RD was re-established from 2001 - 2014]

Frank R. Primozic	1979 - 1984
Victor C. Standa	1986 - 1992
Terry Knupp	1993 - 2000
Tim Benedict	2001 - 2007
Carol Hatfield	2007 - Present

Renamed White Sulphur Springs RD (again) 2001 - 2014, when Belt Creek separated out once more as Belt Creek RD.

Tim Benedict	2001 - 2007
Carol Hatfield	2007 - 2014

Renamed Belt Creek-White Sulphur Springs Ranger District (2014 - Present)

[In 2014, Belt Creek R.D. and White Sulphur Springs R.D. were again combined and now named the Belt Creek-White Sulphur Springs R.D.]

Carol Hatfield	2014 - 2022
Helen Smith	2022 - Present

Judith-Musselshell Ranger District - Stanford and Harlowton, MT

Highwood District (1905 - 1939)

James G. Thain	1905 - 1908
R. J. Eveleth	1913 - 1914
Henry W. Sutton	1914 - 1915
Harry C. Shick	1916 - 1917
A. E. Harris	1918 - 1919
Stacy Eckert	1921 - 1924
Robert K. Gray	1925 - 1927

John P. Bonham	1928 - 1928
Stacy Eckert (Dry Wolf Combination)	1929 - 1939

Little Rockies District (1905 - 1939)

[NF lands and Zortman RS transferred to Bureau of Land Management in 1966.]

James G. Thain	1905 - 1908
Ed "Fred" G. Hart	? - ?
A. W. Armstrong	1920 - 1926
Stacy Eckert	1926 - 1929
Stacy Eckert (Dry Wolf Combination)	1929 - 1939

Dry Wolf District (1905 - 1939)

[Throughout the 1930s, the district renamed to Dry Wolf Combination, reflecting that DR; Eckert managed the Highwoods, Little Rockies and Dry Wolf RD's. The combined districts' office was moved to Stanford in 1940, renamed the Judith RD.]

Radcliff	1905 - 1905
R. J. Eveleth	1906 - 1912
Joe Handley	1913 - 1913
A. C. Adams	1914 - 1914
S. S. Linscott	1915 - 1915
W. M. Laybourn	1916 - 1919
Ralph E. Dickinson	1920 - 1923
J. C. De Groat	1924 - 1928
Robert K. Gray	1928 - 1928
Stacy Eckert (Dry Wolf Combination)	1929 - 1939

Judith River District / Judith Station (1905 - 1939)

[Judith River RD was located near Utica between 1905 and 1940, and apparently managed by the Musselshell DR 1930 -1936, then again had it's own DR 1936 - 1940, then combined into the Judith District in 1940, and the RS office moved into Stanford. The Judith Station continued as a Work Center until being refurbished into the USFS Rental Cabin program in 2005.]

Wellman Holbrook	1905 - 1905
Thomas G. Myer	1906 - 1930
D.C. Morrison (Musselshell DR)	1931 - 1933
K.D. Flock. (Musselshell DR)	1933 - 1935
Fred H. Kennedy (Musselshell DR)	1935 - 1936
L.H. McLean	1936 - 1939

Judith Ranger District, Stanford Ranger Station (1940 - 2009)

In 2010 the Judith RD and the Musselshell RD were consolidated as the Judith - Musselshell RD, retaining both offices and with the DR residing at Stanford.]

Bertram Goodman	1940 - 1949
David G. Massing	1950 - 1952
Morton A. Wood	1953 - 1956
Robert W. Miller	1956 - 1959

Frederic R. Cornell	1959 - 1970
John F. McCulloch	1971 - 1971
Howard C. Challinor	1972 - 1980
Lawrence R. Froberg	1981 - 1987
Jerry Dombrowske	1988 - 1990
Larry Timchak	1991 - 1996
William Fortune	1996 - 2001
Betty Holder	2001 - 2004
Ron B. Wiseman	2004 - 2009

Musselshell District (1905 - 2009)

[The initial R.D. office/residence was a logging company cabin located in Pasture Gulch (1905 - 1908), second a ranch building located on Whetstone Creek (Wilson Place Station 1908 - 1910), third a ranch building on Spring Creek (Hall Place Station 1910 - 1914). The Musselshell Station office/residence was built by DR Bonham (1914 - 1936). The RS moved to Harlowton (1936 -1940), to Martinsdale (1940 - 1952), two miles north to "Bair Station" (1952 - 1958), and finally to Harlowton (USDA Building 1959 - present). In 2010, the Musselshell RD and the Judith RD were combined as the Judith-Musselshell RD.]

John P. Bonham	1905 - 1928
J. C. De Groat	1928 - 1931
Douglas C. Morrison	1931 - 1933
K. D. Flock	1933 - 1935
Fred H. Kennedy	1935 - 1936
David Lake	1936 - 1940
Stacy Eckert	1940 - 1942
George F. Roskie	1942 - 1947
John S. Forsman	1948 - 1953
Clement L. Kalitowski	1954 - 1961
Gary P. Wetzsteon	1962 - 1967
Blaine C. Tennis	1967 - 1981
Carl Fager	1982 - 1989
William Fortune	1990 - 2002
Douglas Dodge	2003 - 2009

Judith-Musselshell Ranger District (2010 - Present)

Ron B. Wiseman	2010 - 2021
Jason Oltrogge	2021 - Present

Muir District (1905 - 1919)

[Managed east end Little Belt Mountains, **Muir Station** located at East Hopley Creek.]

David Lake	1916 - 1919
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West End Snowies District (1908 - 1919)

[Located at Blake Creek Station; Ranger Ray Greathouse died here in 1919, the result of a WWI throat injury.]

Roscoe Lewis	1907 - 1909
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John A. Kierstead	? - ?
Ray Greathouse	1913 - 1917
Fred Thompson	1917 - 1919
Ray Greathouse	1919 - 1919

East End South Snowies District (1908 - 1919)

[Located at Dry Coulee Station; an early, large scale reforestation project occurred here in 1911, as recorded by KD Swan in his book "Splendid Was The Trail".]

Clyde Knouf	1910 - 1911
Al Rossman	1912 - ?

North Snowies/Snowy Mountain East District (1906 - 1924)

[Located at Rogers Station P.O. address Heath, MT]

Ed "Fred" G. Hart	1906 - 1907
E. W. Davis	? - ?
C. W. Weaver	? - ?
Leon L. Lake	1918 - 1924

South Snowies District (1919 - ~1924)

[Located at newly established Judith Gap Station, the Muir RD and West End Snowies RD and East End South Snowies RD combined in 1919, to create the South Snowies District.]

David Lake	1919 - 1924
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Snowy Mountains District (1925 - 1940)

[After DR Leon Lake left Rogers Station in 1924, all the Big Snowies and Little Snowies; Districts were consolidated as the Snowy Mountains District, based out of Judith Gap Station (later 1930's F.S. Directories labeled this consolidated land base as the Judith Gap District). Apparently in 1936 when DR David Lake transferred to the "enlarged" Musselshell RD, the Muir RD land base (east end Little Belts) was rolled into the Musselshell RD (south drainage) and Judith River RD (north drainage).

David Lake	1919 - 1936
Lester H. McLean	1936 - 1940

Lewistown District (1941 - 1967)

[Managed entire Big Snowies (north/south side) and Little Snowies. Records indicate a field office was established by 1937 in Lewistown, thus DR McLean oversaw closing of the Judith Gap RS, and opening of the Lewistown District office in the late 1930's, and served as the first Lewistown DR. The District Office closed in 1967, with the north Big Snowies rolled into the Judith RD, and the south Big Snowies/Little Snowies rolled into the Musselshell RD.]

Lester H. McLean	1941 - 1941
Carl F. Ulhorn	1942 - 1956
Allen Whitten	1956 - 1960
Clarence E. Almen	1960 - 1960
John M. Johnson	1961 - 1964
Maurice A. Vogel	1966 - 1967

Malta District (1954 - 1958)

[Land Utilization Project lands transferred to Forest Service in 1954 and was transferred to Bureau of Land Management in 1958.]

Glenn Mueller	1954 - 1956
Frederic R. Cornell	1957 - 1957
R. J. McElfresh	1957 - 1958