

Search

[Advanced Search](#)

Latest Headlines: Boundary News

[Grizzly bear captured near Nordman...relocated from area](#)

[Bonners Ferry Pound...Animals ready for adoption](#)

[ITD encourages North Idaho residents to "Click it...Don't Risk It"](#)

[Naples Gallery to host artist workshops](#)

[Boundary County Commissioners select Sprungl for interim Sheriff](#)

[Candidates night forums set for end of October](#)

[Nichols sentenced on petit theft charges](#)

[Rockin the night away at the Tower Comedy Club](#)

[Commissioners announce names for interim Sheriff](#)

[Voyles hopes Republicans select Dennis for interim Sheriff...List goes to Commissioners Monday](#)

[Sheriff's race takes negative turn](#)

[First day of a gold medal year at the High School](#)

[Gamer receives State Teacher of Year award](#)

[Fatality accident on US 95](#)

[Palmer speaks out on political pressures](#)

[More](#)

Meet our new Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager ... Dianna Ellis

RuralNorthwest.com
Aug 25, 2004, 11:20

By Bud Larsen

With great pleasure, Ruralnorthwest.com welcomes to Boundary County, Dianna M. Ellis, the new Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge manager.

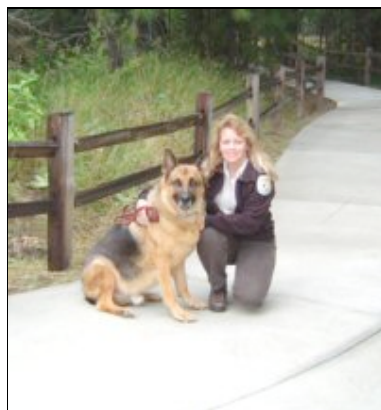
Ellis was gracious in giving us time for an interview as her calendar is pretty much filled up with "new job" stuff ... unpacking boxes, getting to know the staff and meeting with a long list of local well wishers.

This lady brings an impressive 18-year track record of progressive career oriented job assignments to our community, thus giving her a well-rounded working knowledge of fish, fowl and various habitat and environmental experiences.

The groundwork for her career began with the United States Fish & Wildlife Service and an equally impressive record of higher education. Following prep school, Ellis attended Paul Smith's College in Paul Smith, NY where she graduated with an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts. From there, she attended SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry in Syracuse, NY where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental and Forest Biology.

Since publishing her first professional paper in 1986, Ellis has published six more papers on various subjects ranging from *Wetlands* to *Endangered Bats* since then. Her latest professional paper, *Riparian Restoration Along French Creek In Partnership With The Nature Conservancy* was published in 1998.

We hope her tenure with us in Boundary County will prompt her to produce yet another professional paper tailored to our local habitat and environmental issues.



Dianna and King are beginning to settle into life in Boundary County.

Where did this independence and obvious self-confidence come from? Ellis credits her deceased father. He raised her under very strict rules, but the rules were designed to make her independent and in control of her life at a very young age. Reflecting back, Ellis told me of the personal turmoil and trauma to her life when, in her first year of college, her father died at the age of 49. Death so young to someone young is not an easy pill to swallow.

Her fathers' untimely death probably served to enforce her independence and self-



Dianna and King recently moved to Bonners Ferry to manage the Kootenai Wildlife Refuge.

confidence. She confided in me that she often pauses to ask herself if she is doing right and making him proud of the girl he raised in a strict environment. We don't think she has to worry about that question, as her track record to date is worthy of emulation.

Did Ellis bring an agenda with her to the refuge, mandates from USFWS, or major changes to the refuge? This question received an emphatic no. The priority right now is to meet people and talk up the Kootenai International Environmental Learning Center ... yes, even before her bags were unpacked, Ellis recognized that this resource needs to be better utilized (and publicized). She can count on Ruralnorthwest.com to support her 100 percent in this worthwhile project.

While living in New York, Ellis bagged three deer and each one was a *one shot kill*. She is already seeking rifle recommendations for our hunting out here in the promise land. (I steered her to the Kootenai Valley Sportsman Association for some rifle recommendations and honest *local advice*.)

The family traveling with Ellis consists of two dogs. I met one; a giant of a German Shepherd named "King" who is in the fall of his life at 10-years-old, but looking good.

Had the honor of shaking Kings paw. Did not get to meet her other dog "Dusty" a Maltese who is eight. (After Ellis pointed out a small scar on Kings nose and a chunk out of one ear courtesy of "Dusty"... I'll pass on meeting that guy.)

Ellis asked that I let our readers know that she has an "open door" policy. (You know, coming from her that does not sound hollow.) Call the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge at 267-3888 or you can [E-mail Dianna](#) if you want to talk about the Kootenai International Environmental Learning Center or the refuge.

Dianna M. Ellis; we welcome you to Boundary County and wish you fair winds in your management of one of our many great assets, the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge.