

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Rural Development Announces Leadership and Staffing Changes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31, 2020 – United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Bette Brand today announced the following leadership changes:

Chief of Staff for USDA Rural Development **Misty Ann Giles** will be departing the Agency to lead the Department of Administration for the State of Montana in Governor-elect Greg Gianforte's cabinet. In this role, she will help streamline agency operations to better serve the people of Montana. Giles has been with USDA since 2017 and has more than 10 years of public policy experience.

Policy Advisor for the Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development **Ethan Gallagher** also will be departing the Agency to join the Government Affairs team for Delta Air Lines Inc. Both departures are effective as of Monday, January 4, 2021.

Laurel Leverrier has been promoted to Assistant Administrator for Telecommunications Programs. Leverrier has served as the Acting Assistant Administrator for Telecommunications Programs since December 2019. Previously, she served as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Telecommunications Programs, where she oversaw a \$3.6 billion portfolio of telecommunications loans and grants.

In her 16-year career at USDA, Leverrier has served in a variety of positions, including Assistant Deputy Administrator of USDA's Rural Business and Cooperative programs from Aug. 2016 until Nov. 2017. She was also the Deputy Director of the Broadband Division and Chief of the Office of Policy and Outreach within the Rural Utility Services Telecommunications Programs from Aug. 2010 until Aug. 2016. This promotion is effective as of December 30, 2020.

Anthony Brannum has been selected to serve as the Assistant Chief Information Officer for USDA Rural Development. He previously served at this position in an acting capacity and his promotion is effective as of December 20, 2020. Brannum joins Rural Development from USDA's Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Kelli Petrie has been selected to serve as the Deputy Assistant Chief Information Officer. In this role, Petrie will provide leadership for application development, Cybersecurity, infrastructure operations, capital planning and IT resource management. Petrie was previously serving in this role in an acting capacity and her promotion is effective as of January 3, 2021.

USDA encourages partners and stakeholder groups to reach out to Leverrier, Brannum and Petrie in their new roles to build on existing partnerships and facilitate new relationships.

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