

## E&E News

### New superintendent named for Blue Ridge Parkway

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A 21-year veteran of the National Park Service will take over as the new superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway next month.

Tracy Swartout, who has been serving as the deputy superintendent at Mount Rainier National Park in Washington state, will assume her new position on May 23, NPS said in a statement.



**Tracy Swartout. National Park Service**

She plans to relocate to the parkway's headquarters in Asheville, N.C., in June. Swartout is replacing J.D. Lee, who retired as the Blue Ridge Parkway superintendent last year.

"Throughout my life, the Blue Ridge Parkway has played a prominent role, with some of my most treasured memories being shaped along that winding road and in the national parks and communities beyond. The area's landscape, arts, music and culture are deeply meaningful for me," Swartout said.

The 480-mile parkway goes through both Virginia and North Carolina.

During her nine years at Mount Rainier, Swartout also did stints as the park's acting superintendent and as acting deputy regional director for resource management and planning in the Pacific West.

Earlier, she served as the superintendent of Congaree National Park in South Carolina and as the head of the NPS Business Management Group in Washington, D.C. Before joining NPS, she worked for the National Parks Conservation Association.

Swartout, a native of Columbia, S.C., has a Bachelor of Arts in geography from the University of South Carolina and a master's degree in environmental studies with an emphasis in natural resources from the University of Waterloo in Ontario.