



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Steve Goldstein Office (202) 343-6416
Home (202) 887-5248

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INTERIOR SECRETARY LUJAN ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE DIRECTOR

Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan announced today that the President has accepted the resignation of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Frank Dunkle effective March 15.

"Frank Dunkle has performed yeoman service in the cause of wildlife conservation for both the Bush and Reagan Administrations," Secretary Lujan said, "and I have asked him to stay with the Interior Department in a position where we can continue to utilize his experience and skill." Lujan indicated Dunkle's new position would be announced at a later time.

Secretary Lujan lauded Dunkle for "his many accomplishments during his nearly three years as director. In addition to improving the Service's overall efficiency at the grass roots level by moving resources and decision making authority to the field, Dunkle provided real leadership in the national struggle to reverse the tide of wetlands losses that threatens our wildlife.

"As director, Frank Dunkle also took up the cudgels for our declining waterfowl populations, instituting hunting restrictions and other aggressive management approaches to help increase duck numbers. On the fisheries front, great credit is due Frank Dunkle for the leadership he showed in bringing together Federal and state agencies, private conservation groups, and industry in creation of the United State's first-ever National Recreational Fisheries Policy."

During his tenure as Service Director, Dunkle was awarded the Sport Fishing Institute's prestigious "Sportfisherman of the Year" award (former recipients included then Vice President George Bush and Senators John Breaux and Malcolm Wallop). In 1988, he was accorded the "Award of Merit" by the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association. In 1987, Montana State University conferred an Honorary Doctor of Science degree upon Dunkle in recognition of his "leadership roles in natural resource management."

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