



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

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JOHN F. TURNER NAMED DIRECTOR OF INTERIOR'S U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan today announced that President Bush intends to nominate John F. Turner to be the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Turner, when confirmed by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, will have the responsibility of managing the nation's Federal fish and wildlife conservation programs.

"John Turner has the appreciation and understanding of wildlife that one gains only after spending a lifetime closely tied to the environment," Lujan said. "The Fish and Wildlife Service will benefit from his education and his twenty years experience in the Wyoming State Legislature."

In 1970, Turner received his Masters degree in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Michigan. Prior to this he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Notre Dame and completed a year of graduate work in zoology at the University of Utah.

Turner is a third generation partner in his family Guest Ranch business in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He spent nineteen years as a Wyoming State legislator. His Senate tenure included terms as Senate Caucus Chairman, Majority Floor Leader, Senate Vice-President, President of the Senate, and several occasions as Acting Governor.

In the last twenty years, Turner has been on numerous wildlife related committees including the National Wetlands Policy Forum, the National Park System Advisory Board, the Take Pride in America Campaign, and the Hovenweep Task Force for the National Park Service. He has also published over two dozens works on wildlife, specializing in research studies on the Grizzly Bear and Bald Eagle.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for managing the National Wildlife Refuge System which includes some 90 million acres of land in more than 450 national wildlife refuges. The Service provides national leadership for listing and recovery of endangered species, operates more than 70 national fish hatcheries, conserves and restores nationally significant fisheries, and assist Indian tribes in managing their fisheries. The Service conducts research and management programs for migratory birds and establishes annual migratory bird hunting regulations.

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The Service also evaluates the effects of development projects on fish and wildlife and recommends ways to reduce or mitigate harmful impacts, enforces Federal wildlife laws, and administers Federal Aid funds for state fish and wildlife restoration programs. The service has nearly 7,000 employees stationed at more than 700 offices and field units around the country.

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