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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
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News Advisory



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Wayne White, chief of Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, retiring after 31-year career helping imperiled species

Under his leadership, office on forefront of comprehensive habitat and cooperative conservation

Wayne White, who has led the largest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field office in the nation for the past 17 years, will retire Friday, Feb. 3 after a 31-year career with the Service. The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office implements the Endangered Species Act and other resource-management initiatives throughout Central California including the Central Valley, the west slope of the Sierra Nevada and the Bay Area -- one of the fastest growing and most ecologically diverse areas in the nation. White's successor has not been named.

Besides leading the effort to conserve and recover more than 140 threatened or endangered species, the Sacramento Office plays a pivotal role in California water issues, pollution prevention and cleanup, monitoring of environmental contaminants, and restoration and protection of wildlife habitat. Under White's leadership, the Sacramento office pioneered efforts to develop new cooperative conservation strategies. White's accomplishments include helping craft the CalFed Bay-Delta agreement, developing economically viable conservation banks that allow the private sector to offset the adverse growth impacts on species, fostering Safe Harbor Agreements for private landowners, developing legal safeguards for ranchers who protect endangered species, and fostering local Habitat Conservation Plans to better protect species in rapidly growing areas.

The Sacramento office also is about to release an ambitious whole-ecosystem strategy to conserve and restore 33 plant and animal species that live in vernal pools, or spring-time seasonal wetlands, across California and southern Oregon.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 Fish and Wildlife Management offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.