



## U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Region 7 - Alaska

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*News*

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### **New USFWS Alaska Chief of Refuges Announced**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Alaska Region announced today that Mr. Mitchell R. Ellis has been selected as the new Regional Refuge Chief for Alaska. Mr. Ellis most recently served as Refuge Manager for the Southwest Arizona National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Mitchell Ellis has demonstrated outstanding leadership skills over a 24-year career with the Fish and Wildlife Service, including field and Washington Office assignments, and has a long history of conservation accomplishments. He has managed Refuges in 3 Regions and 6 states. Mr. Ellis also served in the Refuge Systems' Washington Office, occupying management positions in both Wildlife Resources and Refuge Law Enforcement, and has extensive policy experience with the National Wildlife Refuge System and with budgeting.

Mr. Ellis has a diverse background, having worked on a variety of fish and wildlife resource and management issues; including water issues, endangered species management, fire management, and predator/prey issues. Mitch has experience in landscape conservation partnerships and will be an effective advocate for implementation of the Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation business model, working through Alaska's new Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and with our emerging Science Program. He has worked on international issues, a factor which is also important for success in Alaska. His academic background is in Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Alaska Regional Director Geoffrey L. Haskett said, "We look forward to welcoming Mitch to our Alaska team. The Region is fortunate to obtain the services of someone with his broad experience and outstanding credentials in a position that oversees the operation of, and issues affecting, Alaska's 16 National Wildlife Refuges, which together make up more than 80% of the entire National Wildlife Refuge System."

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).*