



**Office of Public Affairs  
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## **Service Announces Scientific Code of Professional Conduct**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director H. Dale Hall this week announced the organization's Scientific Code of Professional Conduct. The code, developed over a three-year period by the Service's Science Committee, is a set of guidelines applicable to scientists, managers and executives within the agency. It applies to scientific conduct, but also extends to the translation and application of science used to inform resource management decisions.

The code provides clear guidance to support employees and managers in their pursuit of sound science and help the Service maintain open and robust ties with the greater scientific community.

The Service code is modeled after codes from professional scientific organizations, and it has been praised by The Wildlife Society and American Fisheries Society – the two leading societies for fish and wildlife scientists:

*"The American Fisheries Society includes many U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees among its members and has long believed that a strong code of professional conduct is an important aspect of organizational integrity. This new Service policy reflects that same commitment, and we applaud the Service for taking this step which is closely commensurate with the code of conduct that the American Fisheries Society has long espoused."*

– Dr. Gus Rassam, Executive Director  
American Fisheries Society.

*"The Wildlife Society adopted a Code of Ethics and Standards for Professional Conduct in 1963 to recognize and uphold the*

*professional integrity of the wildlife profession. We commend the Service in adopting a parallel scientific code of professional conduct, which we believe will reinforce and strengthen the agency's tradition of scientific excellence and commitment to wildlife research and management."*

– Dan Svedarsky, President  
The Wildlife Society

To view the code, please visit <http://www.fws.gov/science/>

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