



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Principal Biographies

Daniel M. Ashe Director



Daniel M. Ashe was confirmed on June 30, 2011 as the 16th Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the nation's principal Federal agency dedicated to the conservation of fish and wildlife and their habitats. His appointment by President Obama is the culmination of a lifetime spent within the Fish and Wildlife Service family.

Dan Ashe was born and spent his childhood in Atlanta, Georgia, where his father began his 37-year career with the Service. Much of Ashe's childhood was spent on national wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries in the Southeast, where he learned to band birds, fish, hunt and, most importantly, simply enjoy the outdoors.

Prior to his appointment as Director, Ashe served as the Service's Deputy Director for Policy beginning in 2009, where he provided strategic program direction and developed policy and guidance to support and promote program development and fulfill the Service mission.

Ashe also served as the Science Advisor to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Appointed to this position in March, 2003, he advised the Service Director and provided leadership on science policy and scientific applications to resource management. As Science Advisor, Ashe led an organizational renaissance for science and professionalism, leading the Service's efforts to respond to changes in the global climate system; shaping an agency agenda for change toward a science-driven, landscape conservation business model; defining an agency Code of Scientific and Professional Conduct; authoring new guidelines for scientific peer review and information quality; building state-of-the-art, electronic literature access for employees; and reinstating internal scientific publication outlets. He was also responsible for leading efforts to build stronger relationships with the U.S. Geological Survey, and scientific professional societies.

From 1998 to 2003, Ashe served as the *Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System*, directing operation and management of the 150 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, and the Service's land acquisition program. During his tenure as Chief, the Refuge System experienced an unprecedented and sustained period of budget increases for operations, maintenance, construction and land acquisition. The Refuge System also saw vastly expanded public visibility, and partner and community involvement. Ashe also led the Service's migratory bird management and North American wetlands conservation programs from 1998 to 2000, contributing to significant advances in both programs' impact and effectiveness.

From 1995 to 1998, Ashe served as the Fish and Wildlife Service's Assistant Director for External Affairs, where he directed the agency's programs in legislative, public, and Native American affairs, research coordination, and state grants-in-aid. During his tenure in this position, the Service restructured and broadened its communications programs and capacities, incorporating communications expertise into all of its program areas and employee training. The



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agency implemented a forward vision for Congressional relations, which led to several groundbreaking legislative accomplishments, including enactment of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act.

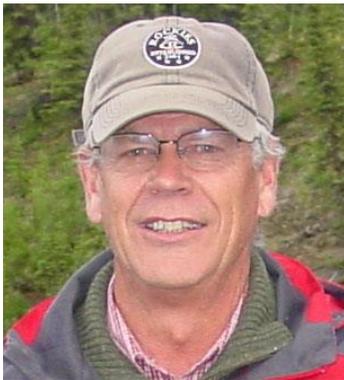
From 1982 until 1995, Ashe was a Member of the Professional Staff of the former Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 13 years on Capitol Hill, Ashe served in several capacities, advising the Committee's Chairmen and Members on a wide range of environmental policy issues, including endangered species and biodiversity conservation, ocean and coastal resources protection, the National Wildlife Refuge System, the National Marine Sanctuaries Program, the Clean Water Act, wetlands conservation, fisheries management and conservation, and offshore oil and gas development.

Ashe's journey to the Nation's Capital was made possible by the National Sea Grant College Program, in 1982, when he was awarded a National Sea Grant Congressional Fellowship.

Ashe earned a graduate degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Washington, where he studied under a fellowship from the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation. His Master's thesis, on estuarine wetland mitigation, was published in the Coastal Zone Management Journal, in 1982.

Ashe is very active in local civic affairs in Montgomery County, Maryland, where he and his family reside. He is an avid waterfowl hunter, angler and tennis player. Ashe's father, William (Bill) C. Ashe, also a career employee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, retired in 1990, and now resides in Harvard, Massachusetts.

William C. Woody **Assistant Director for Law Enforcement**



William C. Woody has served as the Assistant Director for Law Enforcement for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since March 2011. In this position, he directs criminal investigations of wildlife trafficking; oversees wildlife import/export inspection operations at U.S. ports of entry that help intercept wildlife smuggling; and ensures that Service law enforcement expertise is available to assist nations worldwide in building law enforcement capacity and pursuing wildlife crime investigations.

Woody's initiatives to address global wildlife trafficking include launching a professional wildlife detector dog program at key ports of entry in the United States and working to create a formal wildlife special agent/international attaché program, which will station its first officer in Thailand later this year. He also secured the formation of an expanded Special Investigations Unit, which is conducting a highly successful investigation of rhino horn trafficking.

Woody served previously as Director of Law Enforcement and Security for the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management. His experience in natural resource law enforcement includes 19 years with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and service as that State's top wildlife law enforcement official. Early in his career, he worked as an enforcement officer with



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the Rich County Sheriff's Office in Utah. He is a graduate of the elite FBI National Academy and earned undergraduate degrees at Utah State University and Weber State University.

Edward J. Grace

Deputy Assistant Director for Law Enforcement



Edward J. Grace has served as the Deputy Assistant Director for Law Enforcement for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since September 2010. In this position, he directs criminal investigations and wildlife import/export inspection operations. He also oversees the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Oregon and the National Wildlife Property and Eagle Repositories in Colorado.

Grace's experience in natural resource law enforcement includes 16 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and two years with the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission. With the Service, he worked his way up through its special agent ranks before being appointed in 2010 as Deputy Assistant Director.

His past positions include supervising the Service's long term complex undercover operations branch and its Intelligence Unit and overseeing its U.S. and international officer training programs. Grace also worked as a field agent in the Service's Chicago and New York City law enforcement offices where he conducted criminal investigations that broke up black market trafficking in caviar, elephant ivory, and other protected wildlife.

Grace is a recipient of the Clark R. Bavin International Wildlife Law Enforcement Award. He is a graduate of the elite FBI National Academy and earned his graduate degree in biology at the University of Illinois-Champaign and undergraduate degree in biology at Loras College.

Bryan Arroyo

Assistant Director for International Affairs



With over 20 years of experience, Bryan is responsible for the Service's coordination of domestic and international strategies to protect, restore and enhance the world's diverse wildlife and their habitats with a focus on species of international concern. He works closely with States and Native American tribes, foreign governments and non-governmental organizations from around the globe to conserve species and habitats at risk.

Prior to serving as the AD for International Affairs, Bryan served as the Service's AD for Fisheries and Habitat and as AD for Endangered Species. Bryan attended the public school system in Puerto Rico, graduating from Ponce High School in 1982. He has bachelor's degree in science from Catholic University of Puerto Rico a master's degree in science with a major in zoology from the University of Arkansas.



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Richard G. Ruggiero

Chief of the Branch of Africa, Division of International Conservation



Richard received a Ph.D. from Rutgers University in 1989 with a dissertation on the Ecology and Conservation of Elephants in Central Africa. His Master's research was on predator-prey relationships of lions and other large carnivores in the Central African Republic. During his 17 years of on-the-ground experience in Africa, he has also worked extensively in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Republic of Congo, and Gabon. His work currently focuses on: conservation policy; endangered species conservation; protected area design and management; wildlife security; the building of governance capacity related to wildlife conservation; and professional training.

A native of Paterson, New Jersey, Richard now lives in Arlington Virginia with his wife Dr. Heather Eves, daughter Casey Savanna, son Ryan Forest, and assorted Border Collies. His outside interests include: classical music; wildlife photography; creative writing; and fly-fishing.

Craig Hoover

Chief, Wildlife Trade and Conservation Branch, Division of Management Authority, International Affairs Program



His office is responsible for developing and implementing U.S. CITES and wildlife trade-related policies, regulations, and procedures, compiling CITES annual wildlife trade reports, and preparing documents and U.S. negotiating positions for meetings of the CITES Conference of the Parties and technical committee meetings.

Prior to his current position, Craig was the supervisor of the Service's Intelligence Unit in the Office of Law Enforcement. He also worked for TRAFFIC North America, the wildlife trade monitoring program of World Wildlife Fund for eight years. Craig has a B.S. in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from Loyola Law School.

Dr. Michelle Gadd

African Elephant and the African Rhino Conservation Programs



Michelle's work in Africa spans more than twenty years, including teaching, surveying amphibians, studying elephant conservation in rangelands, human wildlife conflict, the role of financial benefits on attitudes towards wildlife, and more recently, the effects of barriers on African mammals. Along the way, she collected degrees from Rice University, University of the Witwatersrand and the University of California at Davis. She did her Master's fieldwork in the Kruger ecosystem, and her Ph.D. fieldwork in Botswana and Kenya.