

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release June 25, 1974

McGarvey 202/343-5634

NOW IT'S OFFICIALLY "UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE"

A ceremony marking the name change of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was held in Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton's office today.

The ceremony was attended by a number of Congressmen and conservation leaders and by Federal officials from several agencies concerned with fish and wildlife matters.

"The new name for this Interior agency," the Secretary said, "more nearly describes its present responsibilities; for example, one of its major duties is to provide biological services expertise to other Federal agencies that are involved in land, water, and other resource developments."

The Act of Congress renaming the Bureau was signed by the President on April 22. It becomes effective on July 1.

The Act also requires that the Director of the Service meet high professional standards and that he be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

The present Director, Lynn A. Greenwalt, 43, holds degrees in zoology and wildlife management and his Federal career has been devoted entirely to wildlife work in the National Wildlife Refuge System, law enforcement, and wildlife research.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal agency through which the Federal Government carries out its responsibilities for conserving fish and wildlife. Its responsibilities date back over 100 years to 1871 when the Bureau of Fisheries was created by Congress as an independent agency. Later it was placed in the Department of Commerce. A second predecessor agency, the Bureau of Biological Survey, was set up in 1885 in the Department of Agriculture.

The two bureaus and their functions were transferred to the Interior Department in 1939 and designated the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 1956 two bureaus were created within the Fish and Wildlife Service--the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

In 1970 the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries was transferred to the Department of Commerce, and renamed the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife remained at Interior, and the recent Act brought the name of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in line with its functions.

SECRETARY MORTON'S REMARKS CONCERNING
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, 6/25/74

In less than one week the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will become the Fish and Wildlife Service. What is in a name? I don't ask this as a rhetorical question.

I believe the key word in this new title is "Service." Certainly, Director Greenwalt and I have a common understanding--a shared perception--of what service means in the context of fish and wildlife and today's and tomorrow's world.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has an increasingly more critical role to play as decisionmakers try to balance development of this Nation's natural resources with environmental quality--national economic growth with social costs if you will. Decisions made today will shape and structure the lives of our children, and our children's children. This is the thought I keep in my mind as the decisions of the day are made in what some term "our crisis-oriented times."

About two years ago I challenged the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to become "the biological arm of the Federal Government for wildlife resources." Implicit in that statement was my desire that I could look within the Department to one group of professionals to supply me with the biological or ecological aspects needed in my decisionmaking process. In a sense, I wanted an internally generated independent view of the biological costs of alternative choices. I'm personally pleased with the steps that have been taken toward that end. I will actually be even more pleased when I am faced with even harder choices, for this will mean that the real biological costs are part of the decision equation.

The Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Services effort is on the launch pad. In-depth biological information on ecosystems which would likely be seriously affected by development, frankly, can not be made available to me too soon. It is precisely this type of information that will help me to surface that one best alternative on each project as the Nation moves toward an adequate level of energy self-sufficiency.

I do not imply that service on biological aspects is geared to me or to my office alone. It is this same role of providing objective, timely biological information and technical assistance that is being requested in ever greater quantities and of ever greater quality by the total Federal community. Again, I look to the Fish and Wildlife Service to carry out that Departmental assignment--to provide that service.

With each State Department of Natural Resources, the Fish and Wildlife Service is jointly performing this role to the private conservation agencies and to the public. In a national sense, it is these State entities and the

Fish and Wildlife Service that serve as partners in being both guardian and advocate of our living natural resources. It is only through this cooperative inter-governmental relationship that biological information can be brought to bear effectively at all decision levels.

Of course, a mandate to provide biological services is hollow without the resources and the institutional pathways to make it happen. I believe that those in the Fish and Wildlife Service would agree that this upcoming fiscal year--1975--will probably be a very good year in terms of both new dollars and expanded position ceilings. I've stated, in formulating the 1976 fiscal year budget, that "the Department will do everything possible to overcome the energy crisis." But also, the 1976 budget would "reflect my firm conviction . . . that we should not relax our environmental concern. In fact, we are going to have to increase our efforts to ensure that increased domestic fuel supplies are not produced at the price of environmental degradation."

In terms of institutional arrangements to allow the results of these increased resources to be effectively used, we are reviewing a number of arrangements on how this Department does business. For example, procedures are being reviewed to determine the most responsive means by which this Department can handle its various leasing efforts, be they geothermal, Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas, oil shale, coal, or whatever. I want procedures that will assume the best possible development choices from both an energy commodity production aspect and from an environmental standpoint. In all candor, I will probably have to assume success if no one is entirely happy. But then, whether we speak of either the Department of the Interior or the Fish and Wildlife Service, what makes life interesting is the multiple constituencies we serve.

In fact, that is why I'm pleased with this change in name to the Fish and Wildlife Service--it better reflects the key role to be played--to serve!