

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release May 27, 1977

ANDRUS ANNOUNCES WHALEN, HUTCHISON AND COOK .
WILL TAKE TOP POSTS WITH PARKS AND FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES

Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus today announced his intention to appoint William J. Whalen as the new Director of the National Park Service and Ira Hutchison as Deputy Director.

At the same time he announced he would appoint Dr. Robert S. Cook as Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

All are Secretarial appointments and none require Senate confirmation.

"These are outstanding people with distinguished careers in their fields. I have every confidence they will greatly strengthen the management of the priceless natural resources in their care," Secretary Andrus said.

"Bill Whalen will make a fine leader of the National Park Service," Andrus continued. "He is already an experienced career man at the relatively young age of 37. He has demonstrated independence, imagination, and unusual ability to work with people in all kinds of situations. We expect him to put some innovative ideas to work."

Robert L. Herbst, Assistant Secretary--Fish and Wildlife and Parks, said the new appointees had demonstrated "unusually strong ability as managers, and, just as importantly, a genuine talent for working with the public under frequently heavy pressures."

Since 1972 Whalen has been based in San Francisco with the National Park Service, initially as the first Superintendent of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and since July 1974 as General Manager of Bay Area National Parks, which include GGNRA, Point Reyes National Seashore and Muir Woods National Monument.

Prior to his San Francisco assignments Whalen served as Deputy Superintendent of Yosemite National Park, where he originally had been sent as a troubleshooter in a period of unrest. Before that, from 1969 to 1971, he had headed the Division of Urban and Environmental Activities of the Service's National Capital Region in Washington, D.C., developing special training to sensitize new rangers to the attitudes and needs of visitors from urban areas, and managing the "Summer in the Parks" program.

Whalen holds a bachelor's degree in American history and government and has completed graduate course work toward a master's degree in psychology and counseling. A native of Pittsburgh, he is married and has four sons. In 1971 he received the Arthur S. Flemming Award as one of the 10 outstanding young men in the United States Government. He joined NPS in 1965 as a Job Corps counselor.

Hutchison, 50, was assigned in March as Superintendent of Gateway National Recreation Area in New York and New Jersey. He formerly was Superintendent of National Capital Parks-East, a unit of the NPS regional setup which includes Oxon Hill Children's Farm and Fort Washington in Maryland and the Frederick Douglass Home in Washington, D.C., since 1974. Prior to that he headed community programs for the region.

Before Hutchison joined NPS in 1972 he was assistant to the president of the National Recreation and Park Association, with primary responsibility for that organization's urban recreation programs. He formerly had worked with the New York City Department of Health, where he developed recreation programs for rehabilitation of narcotic addicts. Hutchison holds a bachelor's degree in physical education and recreation from Kansas State University and a master's degree in therapeutic recreation services from Columbia University Teachers College.

Cook, 47, who is chairman of the Biology Department of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, has been a biologist, teacher and youth worker in that State since 1958. He has taught ecology, zoology, microbiology, wildlife management, public health, epidemiology, resource management strategy and recreational planning at the Green Bay campus. His research experience includes wildlife ecology, wetlands quality, waterfowl nesting, and recreational planning, and he has worked as a consultant for some 20 programs and projects including the UNESCO Environmental Studies Program. Cook is a member of the Wildlife Society, the Wildlife Disease Association, and several other professional groups, and has been active in community work. He holds a bachelor's degree in natural resource conservation, a master's degree in wildlife ecology, and a doctorate in veterinary science-wildlife ecology, all from the University of Wisconsin.

Whalen and Hutchison will replace Gary Everhardt and William J. Briggie as Director and Deputy Director, respectively. Cook will replace George W. Milias.

x x x