

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR
NOMINATED FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Don Wylder Minnich, an official of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, has been nominated to be regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's western regional headquarters in Denver, Colorado.

Lynn A. Greenwalt, Director of the Interior Department agency, said today that Minnich was his choice for regional director. He said Minnich's official appointment was awaiting completion of the formalities required for employment with the Federal Government.

As regional director, Minnich would supervise Fish and Wildlife Service activities and offices in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

"Don Minnich is well qualified to assume the leadership for the Fish and Wildlife Service in Region 6, and I am delighted to recommend him for this key field position.

"Further, one of the strengths of the Fish and Wildlife Service is the number of former State fish and wildlife employees in its ranks," Greenwalt said.

Minnich, 42, has a broad range of experience in fish and wildlife management, having worked at virtually every level from field biologist to executive administrator. He is especially noted for his work in devising and implementing a long-range planning and management system for the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The Colorado system, by which long-range goals for the conservation of wildlife are set and ranked in order of priority, is the basis for all budget requests. The system has become a model for other State wildlife agencies.

A native of Ardmore, Oklahoma, Minnich graduated from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, with a B.S. in biology and wildlife management. He began his career as a conservation officer, with the Colorado Division of Wildlife and later served as a game biologist and as a game and fish planning specialist. He then joined the private sector, working for a year as director of fish and wildlife management on one of the largest privately-owned ranches in the Nation.

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After rejoining the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Minnich was given responsibility for supervising planning and budgeting, including land acquisition and projects under the Federal Aid in fish and wildlife restoration programs.

In July 1978, he was promoted to his present position as assistant director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources where he is responsible for overseeing the programs and budgets of the renewable resource divisions of the department.

Minnich has extensive experience in working with the Colorado legislature, other State and Federal agencies, and the public. His many accomplishments also include participation in a number of special projects, such as Colorado's review of RARE II wilderness designations and the preparation of information for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's environmental impact statement on Federal Aid programs. He has also served on the legislative committee of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Minnich and his wife, Mary, have 2 daughters and live in Denver.

The Denver regional director position became vacant earlier this year after Harvey Willoughby retired.

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