



# NEWS

*from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

January 22, 1998

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**GERRY JACKSON NAMED ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR ECOLOGICAL SERVICES  
FOR THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

Fish and Wildlife Service Director Jamie Rappaport Clark has named Gerry Jackson as the Assistant Director for Ecological Services of the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Jackson has been with the Service for 25 years.

"Mr. Jackson's academic background and diverse Service experience makes him an excellent choice for this position," said Director Clark. "I am thrilled to have him in this leadership position. He brings an amazing breadth of wildlife management experience to his new role as the Assistant Director for Ecological Services. During his 25-year career with the Service, he has served with distinction in a variety of field, research, and management positions, which has given him a deep understanding of the agency, its mission, its culture, and most importantly, the direction the Service needs to move in the future."

Graduating from Mississippi State University with a B.S. degree in forestry, a professor once said to him, "The future is in fisheries." Jackson took that advice to heart and traveled a less traditional course than many of his fellow forestry graduates by going on to obtain an M.S. degree in wildlife management with an emphasis in fisheries. He joined the Fish and Wildlife Service as a fishery biologist in 1973 at the Southeastern Fish Culture Research Laboratory in Marion, Alabama. His initial charge was to start an environmental toxicology program to assess the impacts of pesticides on aquatic species.

Jackson has worked for the Service at the field, regional, and national levels, and has lived or worked in every geographic region of the United States except Alaska. After spending his first 12 years in the Service's research program, which included a stint in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, where he studied the fate and effects of chemical contaminants on the Upper Mississippi River System, Jackson transferred to Ecological Services in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he helped launch the Service's new operational environmental contaminants program. Following that assignment, he transferred to Washington, DC, after being selected for the Department of the Interior's Management Development Program. Having completed the program, which included a 5-month assignment to the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, he joined the staff of the Division of Environmental Contaminants in Ecological Services, where he eventually became the Deputy Chief.

In 1992, Jackson transferred to Portland, Oregon, to assume the duties of the Deputy Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services in the Service's Pacific Region. In this capacity, he helped manage the region's endangered species, environmental contaminants, and habitat conservation programs. When the President's Forest Plan was initiated, he helped guide the Service's implementation of that effort to protect old-growth-dependent species, including the northern spotted owl and the marbled murrelet. In 1995, he transferred back to Washington, DC, to assume the position of Deputy Assistant Director for Ecological Services under the direction of Jamie Rappaport Clark.

Jackson visualizes his new role in the Service as an opportunity to use its extremely dedicated workforce and world-class expertise to protect and restore habitat values that will ultimately prevent species from becoming endangered and lead to the recovery of species already listed. The habitat conservation and environmental contaminants programs in Ecological Services, in addition to the endangered species program are poised to help achieve that goal. "I hope to help lead the Service toward working in collaboration with states, other Federal agencies, and the private sector to actively avoid problems that will have a negative effect on our land, water and the species that rely on these resources for their existence. That's what I consider good government," said Jackson.

"This agency offers so many important services to society: we work to protect threatened and endangered fish and wildlife; we strive to protect habitat in terms of both quantity and quality; we assess and remedy contaminant impacts on plants and animals; and we restore and protect valuable habitat through our Partners for Wildlife, fisheries, national wildlife refuges, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, migratory bird, and coastal programs, among others. All of the work that we do is not only a service to the species that rely on the various resources but to the American people who rely on our government to protect those resources for our survival and enjoyment. We must integrate all of the Service's programs in a coordinated fashion with our partners to ensure healthy ecosystems," says Jackson.

Jackson was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, but moved to Gulfport, Mississippi, with his family when he was 10. His love for nature and the evolution of his conservation ethic was honed by fishing, hunting, and exploring the wilds of Ontario and the irreplaceable resources along the Mississippi gulf coast. He currently resides in Gaithersburg, Maryland, with his wife Brenda. They have two daughters, Jennifer (age 26) and Stephanie (age 21), who also live in the area.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish

and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages 511 national wildlife refuges covering 92 million acres, as well as 67 national fish hatcheries.

The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes Federal excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies. This program is a cornerstone of the Nation's wildlife management efforts, funding fish and wildlife restoration, boating access, hunter education, shooting ranges, and related projects across America.