



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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GRESH APPOINTED AS FWS REGIONAL DIRECTOR IN ATLANTA

Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay today announced the appointment, effective February 1, 1954, of Walter A. Gresh as regional director of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Region 4, with headquarters in Atlanta, Ga.

Gresh, who has served as assistant regional director since 1948, succeeds James Silver who retired on January 31.

In his new post Mr. Gresh will direct Fish and Wildlife Service activities in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky. These include the development and administration of national wildlife refuges, the operation of fish hatcheries, the conduct of rodent control work, the administration of the Federal Aid to States programs for wildlife and sport fish restoration, the enforcement of Federal conservation laws, and studies of proposed river basin projects.

Mr. Gresh joined the Fish and Wildlife Service in Atlanta in August 1939 when he was appointed as regional supervisor of Federal aid activities for Region 4, at the inception of the program. In November 1942, shortly after the central office of the Service was "decentralized" to Chicago for the war period, Mr. Gresh was transferred there to be assistant chief of the Federal Aid Division. In January 1945, to broaden his experience, he was sent to the regional office in Minneapolis to supervise the increasing volume of Federal Aid projects in that area. In recognition of his technical ability and experience, Mr. Gresh was promoted in June 1948 to the position of assistant regional director in Atlanta. In this capacity he served with distinction and has contributed materially to the more scientific management of the game and fish resources of the Southeast.

Gresh was born May 10, 1903, in Hummelstown, Pa. He attended high school at Harrisburg Technical High School. He spent a year at Lehigh University studying civil engineering, and then went to Pennsylvania State College to study forestry, graduating with a B.A. degree in 1928. After leaving college, he worked as a timber cruiser in Arkansas. From 1928 to 1935 he was employed by the Pennsylvania State Game Commission, and from 1935 to 1937 he worked as a game technician with the Tennessee Valley Authority. In 1937 he went to West Virginia to serve as chief of the Division of Game, West Virginia Conservation Commission. He held this job until he joined the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1939.

Gresh is a member of Xi Sigma Pi, the Society of American Foresters, the Wildlife Society, and the Outdoor Writers of America.

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