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news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NEW CHIEFS FOR REFUGES AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCED BY FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Robert A. Jantzen today announced new assignments for the chiefs of the Service's refuge management and wildlife management divisions.

James F. Gillett has become chief of the Division of Refuge Management. In this position he will supervise the agency's 88.7-million-acre network of national wildlife refuge lands, which provides habitat for migratory waterfowl, endangered and threatened animals, and many other wildlife species throughout the United States. Gillett was formerly chief of the Division of Wildlife Management.

William G. Reffalt, the former refuge management chief, has been named chief of the Division of Wildlife Management. Reffalt will supervise the Service's animal damage control program, which seeks to limit and prevent damage to livestock and crops caused by various species, and its wildlife assistance program, through which the Service provides technical wildlife management expertise to other Federal and State agencies.

Gillett, 46, a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has been chief of wildlife management since 1980. In his new position, he will follow in the footsteps of his father, Francis C. Gillett, who also served as chief of refuge management before his retirement in 1966 after a 30-year career with the Service.

Gillett joined the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1960 and served as refuge manager at several posts in the Midwest before being assigned in 1971 to the Washington, D.C., headquarters, where he helped guide the refuge system's wilderness program and several other wildlife management activities. He holds a B.S. in wildlife management from the University of Minnesota.

Reffalt, 45, is from Denver, Colorado, and has served as chief of refuge management since 1980. Previously, he directed the Fish and Wildlife Service's activities under the Alaska Native Claims Act and the agency's assistance to Congress in developing the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Passage of this act in 1980 led to a doubling in the size of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Reffalt's earlier assignments included posts at four wildlife refuges in the West and the Albuquerque regional office. He received a B.S. in wildlife management from Colorado State University in 1963.

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