

News Release

Washington Fish and Wildlife Office
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Date: January 6, 2015

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New Leader at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Washington Fish and Wildlife Office

Olympia, Wash. – Longtime natural resource professional Eric Rickerson has been hired as Supervisor for the Washington Fish and Wildlife Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Rickerson will provide leadership in all facets of the federal agency’s wildlife conservation responsibilities, including our important partnerships with Tribes, Washington state, other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and others.

“The wildlife resources in Washington deserve strong collaboration among government organizations and the public,” said Pacific Region Director Robyn Thorson. “Eric was selected for his excellent partnership skills, in addition to his outstanding management experience.”

Rickerson will lead a staff of approximately 115 employees, headquartered in Lacey, with field stations in Spokane and Wenatchee, Wash. The offices manage complex natural resource issues throughout Washington, requiring broad collaboration on landscape scales with a variety of partners. Core responsibilities include species conservation and recovery, private lands and conservation partnerships, listing and classification of endangered species, federal agency assistance and consultation, leadership in forming the Lake Sammamish Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, the assessment of contaminants on natural resources, fisheries management and outreach. Staff works to implement the Endangered Species Act with Tribal, governmental and private partners, furthering the Service’s mission to conserve, protect and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats.

”The WFWO has a long history of working with partners, conserving trust resources in Washington that enrich all of our lives,” said Rickerson. “I look forward to using my experience to build on that history of success.”

Rickerson formerly served as the Deputy Chief for wildlife programs for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, where he oversees the Game, Conservation, and Habitat Resources programs. Eric has been with ODFW for 17 years. Prior to his current role as the Deputy Chief (since 2010), Eric has held various technical and leadership positions, including Waterfowl Program biologist, Upland Game Bird Coordinator, Federal Aid Coordinator, Wildlife Area Operations Coordinator, Legislative Liaison, District Manager, and supervisor of the Habitat and Conservation Programs.

Rickerson received a Bachelor of Science and Master's degree in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University. He enjoys fishing throughout the northwest, scuba diving, and mountain climbing the Cascade peaks.

Rickerson begins his tenure with the Service on February 2, 2015.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov/pacific, or connect with us through [facebook.com/USFWSPacific](https://www.facebook.com/USFWSPacific), twitter.com/USFWSPacific, [tumblr.com/blog/usfwspacific](https://www.tumblr.com/blog/usfwspacific), [flickr.com/photos/usfwspacific/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwspacific/) and [youtube.com/user/USFWS](https://www.youtube.com/user/USFWS)

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