

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR NAMED FOR WILDLIFE RESOURCES PROGRAMS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Richard J. Myshak--former assistant commissioner of Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources, and most recently deputy assistant secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks--has been named Associate Director-Wildlife Resources of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In his new position, Myshak, 51, will be responsible for managing the program areas of the Fish and Wildlife Service with the most employees, the broadest array of missions, and over half of the agency's budget. He will oversee and set policy for the operation of 393 national wildlife refuges, a nationwide network of wildlife interpretation specialists, law enforcement officers and wildlife inspectors, the management of migratory birds, marine mammals, other nonendangered mammals and nonmigratory birds, animal damage control, and land acquisitions by the Service.

"Dick Myshak's demonstrated managerial skills and his ability to deal effectively with people and with sensitive issues make him an outstanding choice for one of the key leadership posts in the Service," said Director Lynn A. Greenwalt in announcing the appointment. "I welcome the fresh perspective and innovative ideas he will bring to a demanding assignment."

As deputy to Assistant Secretary Robert L. Herbst, Myshak has directed major Departmental policy studies of some of the issues he will now be responsible for, such as animal damage control, wildlife refuges, national wildlife policy, organization and management of the Service, and the Mississippi Flyway Canada Goose Program. Other policy studies he directed included the National

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Park Fisheries Study (conducted by the Service), Big Cypress Preserve, National Fisheries Recognition System, and the Everglades Fisheries Program. He represented the Assistant Secretary in decision meetings on Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing, Coal Policies, and Water Policies, and on the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission. He also directed the environmental review process.

A noted environmental educator and long-time resident of Minnesota until he came to Washington in 1977, Myshak has held major conservation positions in the private, academic, and government sectors. He served as Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Environmental Planning and Protection for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and as executive director of the Minnesota Environmental Sciences Foundation, where his successful efforts to expand the State's junior college system won him an "outstanding citizen" award from the Minnesota community of Brooklyn Park. During this time, he and Herbst were instrumental in getting the State legislature to pass the first environmental education act in the country. His earlier positions were as administrative and science assistant to the Director of the University of Minnesota School of Mathematics and Science Teaching Project, and field secretary of the Minnesota Academy of Science.

Myshak earned a bachelor's degree in forest management with a minor in fish and wildlife management from the University of Minnesota, and a bachelor's and master's degree in science education and biology from Mankato State College. He also has taken graduate studies in radiation biology and field biology at the University of Montana. He began his professional career as a general science teacher in the Aurora-Hoyt Lakes public schools, progressing to chairman of the science departments of the Walnut Grove and later the Mankato school systems.

Myshak is president of the Conservation Education Association, past president of the Minnesota Academy of Science, and a life member of the National Education Association. He was vice-chairman of the first national advisory committee to the U.S. Office of Education on environmental education and served on similar committees for the Minnesota Department of Education. He was the alternate U.S. representative to an international council on UNESCO's "Man and the Biosphere" and is a member of the executive committee of that program's directorate.

The new Associate Director has received awards from the Izaak Walton League, the National Aeronautical Space Administration (NASA), and other organizations for his community, science, and environmental education activities. He has edited and contributed to several professional and scientific journals and presented the first environmental education paper in an international forum at Kiel, West Germany, in 1970. He has written more than 150 instructional materials on environmental education, including the first ever prepared for the Fish and Wildlife Service. These materials were used at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, then at other refuges, and by hundreds of schools and universities across the country and abroad.

A native of Wisconsin, Myshak lives in Annandale, Virginia, with his wife, Beatrice, and their 5 children.

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