



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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### HARVEY K. NELSON NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Frank Dunkle today announced that he has assigned Harvey K. Nelson to serve as Executive Director for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Nelson will coordinate U.S. efforts to implement the international waterfowl conservation agreement between the United States and Canada.

"Harvey Nelson's appointment to this new position further demonstrates our commitment to fulfilling the North American Waterfowl Management Plan," Dunkle said. "Mr. Nelson has devoted a significant portion of his career to waterfowl research and management. He knows the concerns of wildlife officials in the United States, Canada and Mexico, and he is well qualified to represent the United States in this international endeavor."

Dunkle said Nelson's assignment would commence immediately. Nelson, a career employee of the Fish and Wildlife Service, has served since 1979 as Regional Director of the Service's North Central Region, which includes Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. He will serve as special assistant to Dunkle for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and migratory bird issues. He will conduct the duties of his new post from an office in Minneapolis.

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The Plan was signed in 1986 by Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel and Canada's Environment Minister, Thomas McMillan. Its purpose is to organize a coordinated international effort to preserve essential waterfowl habitat and restore populations of ducks, geese, and swans through the year 2000.

The Plan describes requirements for waterfowl management in the United States and Canada, describes population and habitat goals, and recommends actions to resolve problems of international concern.

Nelson is known widely in international professional wildlife management circles for his work with migratory birds. He has many years of experience working in the "prairie pothole" region of the north-central United States and Canada, an area known as "America's duck factory" because the majority of ducks nest there.

Nelson currently is chairman of the Service's Migratory Bird Regulations Committee, and the U.S. co-chairman of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee. He formerly was director of the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center at Jamestown, North Dakota, and has held a variety of high-level administrative positions with the agency in Washington, DC, including the position of Associate Director.

Nelson joined the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1950 as a biologist and worked on field projects in South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Michigan.