



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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JIM GRITMAN NAMED DIRECTOR OF FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE'S NORTH CENTRAL REGION

James C. Gritman, a native Midwesterner and career manager with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has been appointed Regional Director for the agency's North Central Region, headquartered in Minneapolis, Service Director Frank Dunkle announced today.

Gritman replaces Harvey Nelson, who was recently appointed executive director for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an international waterfowl conservation agreement between the United States and Canada.

Since 1980, Gritman has served as deputy Regional Director for the North Central Region, which includes the States of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Over the past year, Gritman has also served as acting assistant director -- refuges and wildlife, in the agency's Washington, DC, headquarters.

"Jim Gritman is one of the Fish and Wildlife Service's most experienced and well-rounded professional managers," said Dunkle. "In a region with a wealth of natural resources, a large sporting community, and a wide range of fish and wildlife conservation issues, it is imperative that we continue the Service's tradition of strong leadership. I can think of no finer individual to continue that presence in the Great Lakes than Jim Gritman."

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Gritman joined the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1964 as area forester at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin. In 1967, he became forest ecologist for the agency's division of wildlife refuges in Washington, DC. In 1971, he returned to the North Central Region as associate Regional refuge supervisor in Minneapolis.

Gritman was chosen in 1973 to direct all Fish and Wildlife Service operations in North Dakota, becoming one of the first five area managers in a program designed to improve the agency's coordination of activities with State governments and the general public. Between 1976 and 1980, Gritman served as deputy Regional Director of the Service's eight-State Rocky Mountain Region, headquartered in Denver.

Gritman graduated from the University of Missouri in 1958 with a B.S. in forest management. He has attended the graduate schools of George Washington University and the University of Georgia. A native of Geneseo, Illinois, he served in the Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict. Before joining the Fish and Wildlife Service, Gritman worked 6 years for Dierk's Forests, Inc., now a subsidiary of the Weyerhaeuser Corporation.

In 1976, Gritman was given the Department of the Interior's meritorious service award for outstanding contributions to the natural resource conservation mission of the agency.