



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife**

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**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  
**ANNOUNCE EMPLOYEE EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

A new employee exchange program between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service was announced today by Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Mike Hayden. The vanguard program is aimed at sharing the strengths of the two sister agencies. More than 100 employees across the country will participate in the initial exchange, which has already begun.

"This program is consistent with the President's policies of strengthening the management of government programs and increasing efficiency," Hayden said. "Employees of each of these agencies can learn much from each other. The Fish and Wildlife Service is without a doubt the world's finest scientific organization dealing with wildlife and its habitat while the Park Service is unmatched when it comes to managing natural and cultural resources for the enjoyment and education of the public."

A primary goal of the exchange is to help the Fish and Wildlife Service improve interpretation programs for the public

(more)

on its 485 National Wildlife Refuges and 78 National Fish Hatcheries.

At the same time, the exchange will help the Park Service with the scientific management of its living natural resources at the 365 units of the National Park Service.

"Public support for wildlife conservation is critical to the future of our mission -- we simply must get people excited about conserving wildlife," said Fish and Wildlife Service Director John Turner. "The exchange will help us become a more people-oriented agency, as well as a wildlife-managing agency."

National Park Service Director James Ridenour said, "It is important for the Park Service to improve its scientific base and deal with the ever-increasing pressure on the natural resources within our Parks, including growing numbers of visitors.

"Fish and Wildlife Service biologists will provide our employees invaluable insight into the science needed to keep the parks healthy and vital into the 21st Century," Ridenour said.

The length of the exchanges will be up to one year.