



For Immediate Release
January 7, 2015

Contact
Christine McGowan
(202) 417-3803, ext. 19,
cmcgowan@refugeassociation.org

Jim Kurth Chosen as New Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

(WASHINGTON, DC) – The National Wildlife Refuge Association is elated to learn that Jim Kurth has been chosen as the new Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service following the retirement of Rowan Gould.

“We are thrilled to see Jim Kurth appointed to this new position,” said Refuge Association President, David Houghton. “As former Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System, he will bring years of experience and expertise to the table. The Refuge Association is a long time supporter of Jim Kurth, and we could not be more excited.”

Before being appointed to this new position, Kurth served as the Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System for more than three years. As Chief he led the management of the world’s premier system of public lands and waters set aside to conserve America’s fish, wildlife, and plants.

“The National Wildlife Refuge Association could not be more supportive of this decision,” said Desiree Sorenson-Groves, the Refuge Association’s Vice President for Government Affairs. “We have full confidence that Kurth will exceed any and all expectations in his new role.”

Kurth is almost a 35-year veteran of the Refuge System. Prior to becoming Chief, Kurth was the Deputy Chief of Refuges for thirteen years. Prior to that, he was the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Manager for five years.

After graduating from the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point with a degree in wildlife management, Kurth began his Refuge System career in 1979. He was positioned at Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, Bogue Chitto National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana, Seney National Wildlife Refuge in Michigan, and Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge in Rhode Island.

###

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to conserve America’s wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries.