



## **National Wildlife Refuge Association Names Haskett and Musaus as Acting President and Acting Chief Operating Officer**

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The National Wildlife Refuge Association's board of directors is pleased to announce that Geoffrey Haskett has been named as the Acting President beginning February 1, 2017. Mark Musaus has been named Acting Operations Manager and will begin in that role also on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Both Haskett and Musaus have already been working part-time for the Refuge Association as consultants.

Haskett retired in 2016 from the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service where he served as the Regional Director for Alaska. Prior to that, he was the Chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Musaus retired in 2012 as the Service's Deputy Regional Director for the Southeast Region.

"Geoffrey Haskett and Mark Musaus together have over sixty years of deep expertise with the National Wildlife Refuge System in protecting America's diverse wildlife, and we are delighted they have agreed to share their leadership and skills with the Association," said Rebecca R. Rubin, board chair of the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

The move comes as the current President, David Houghton, and Vice President Anne Truslow will be transitioning at their own requests from their current positions into active consulting roles for the Association on vital conservation programs including Beyond the Boundaries, which they inaugurated over a decade ago.

"David and Anne have worked tirelessly for the Association for years, and we are thrilled they will continue their respective contributions in different capacities," said Rubin. "Their leadership has significantly expanded the Association and its programs, and enhanced its visibility, credibility, and recognition."

The Refuge Association looks forward to working with Haskett and Musaus during the transition as the Board continues its executive search to hire a permanent President.

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*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.*

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