



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ken McDermond

Deputy Regional Director, Pacific Southwest



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Ken McDermond, a 24 year veteran of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, became deputy regional director of Region 8, formerly the California and Nevada Operations Office (CNO), in 2002. Region 8 oversees Service programs in California, Nevada, and Klamath Basin that administer the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and manages 51 national wildlife refuges, and three national fish hatcheries.

The Service established the CNO in 1998 in recognition of the unique natural resource challenges facing California, Nevada, and the Klamath Basin. Many of these challenges evolve from the inherently rich biodiversity of this area, couples with many of the fastest growing communities in the nation.

The CNO was renamed Region 8 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in November 2007. In Region 8, decision making is placed as the local level, where managers are in a better position to develop partnerships with external groups and organizations.

Prior to coming to Sacramento, McDermond was based in Denver as the Regional Chief for the National Wildlife Refuge System in the Service's Mountain Prairie Region. Prior to serving in Denver, he spent two years as a program specialist in the National Wildlife Refuge System Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

McDermond began his career as a biologist with the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Olympia Washington in 1984. In 1985 he moved on to the Pacific/Remote Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Hawaii. During his eleven year tenure he filled a variety of biological and management positions, the last five years as the refuge manager for the complex.

McDermond, 50, was born and raised in Maryland, served in the U.S. Navy for 4 years, and graduated with a B.S. in environmental sciences from The Evergreen State College, in Olympia, Washington.