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NWRA Welcomes Steve Thompson to Board of Directors

Washington, DC- The National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) is pleased to announce the election of Mr. Steve Thompson to its Board of Directors. Mr. Thompson joins the Board with more than thirty-two years of federal service with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Bureau of Land Management, and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the NWRA.

Mr. Thompson served as the FWS Region 8 Director until August of last year, where he oversaw 130 national wildlife refuges, totaling 3 million acres, and 800 employees and an annual budget of \$150 million. In addition, he is also a wildlife biologist and has served as a refuge manager for four different national wildlife refuges.

“We’re excited to have Steve join the NWRA Board of Directors,” said Evan Hirsche, President of NWRA. “His unparalleled experience as a refuge manager and as director of one of the most challenging FWS regions will be invaluable to guiding the organization’s work to advance the conservation mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.”

Mr. Thompson is known for his creative vision and ability to bring together diverse stakeholders. By working collaboratively with private landowners for the conservation of natural resources and water on private and public lands, he has achieved notable successes most recently in the Sacramento Valley and Klamath Basin.

Mr. Thompson is the recipient of The Secretary of Interior’s Executive Leadership Award, Gold Level, the Presidential Rank Award for Distinguished Executive, as well as numerous Fish and Wildlife Service Performance and Leadership Awards.

In 1994, Thompson received the first NWRA “Refuge Manager of the Year” award. “That early recognition helped me and I would like to give something back to the National Wildlife Refuge Association,” said Thompson.

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 that secure its ecological integrity.

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