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Geoffrey Haskett Named President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association

Washington, DC – The National Wildlife Refuge Association announced today the appointment of Geoffrey L. Haskett to serve as President of the Refuge Association, after an extensive national search. Haskett, who has been Acting-President of the Refuge Association since early 2017, brings extensive experience with the National Wildlife Refuge System. He has previously served as a leader and manager in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including as Regional Director of the Alaska Region and Chief of Refuges in D.C. He will assume responsibility as President immediately.

"Geoff Haskett's extensive knowledge of the Refuge System coupled with his strong leadership and ability to build support for national wildlife refuges will serve both the organization and the Refuge System well," said Rebecca R. Rubin, Chair of the National Wildlife Refuge Association Board of Directors. "Our new President is deeply knowledgeable about the Refuge System, he is committed to our mission, and he has the right skills to advance it."

Founded in 1975, the National Wildlife Refuge Association is an independent nonprofit focused exclusively on protecting and promoting the National Wildlife Refuge System - the world's largest network of lands and waters set aside for wildlife conservation. The Refuge System consists of 850 million acres, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Refuge Association's mission is to conserve America's wildlife for future generations through programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries.

For more information on the National Wildlife Refuge Association, please visit <http://refugeassociation.org>.

Since starting out with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Oregon, Mr. Haskett has devoted his career to the stewardship of public lands. He brings over 38 years' experience as a leader and manager of national programs, resources, and staff. He most recently served as Regional Director of the Alaska Region from 2008-2016. During this time, Haskett was appointed by Presidents Obama and Bush as the Polar Bear Commissioner for the U.S.-Russia Polar Bear Commission, a landmark wildlife management cooperative between governmental and Native representatives of the

U.S. and Russia. He also served as head of delegation for the U.S. at the last four Range States Meetings for polar bears in Tromso, Norway, Ikaluit, Canada, Moscow, Russia, and Ilulissat, Greenland.

"I am deeply honored to be chosen to serve as President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association," said Mr. Haskett. "I have spent my entire career protecting and promoting public lands and am looking forward to this next chapter with an organization that I believe in deeply. I look forward to working collaboratively with our board, staff, and partners to continue this incredibly important mission."

The National Wildlife Refuge Association partnered with Koya Leadership Partners, a leading executive search firm that works exclusively with nonprofit clients, to conduct a national search for a President.

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The National Wildlife Refuge Association is the only independent nonprofit that promotes and protects the world's largest wildlife conservation network: the National Wildlife Refuge System. Learn more at: refugeassociation.org.