

Here are some updates from Region 1.

Hey everyone,

I'm looking forward to our meeting in the morning.

I have been meeting with the acting recreation therapist at the Spokane veteran's administration. We are supposed to talk in the next week or so to set an actual date and location for a cookout for area veterans with disabilities. The cookout will be to try to get more veterans involved in the group and to share the most current information. The Spokane VA already has a monthly meeting for veteran's adaptive sports. I try to attend most of those meetings. They have been discussing upcoming events such as the fishing event in September that if I remember correctly is actually near Seattle. With the help of the rec. therapist, we are starting the planning phases of resurrecting the veterans shooting sports program. It looks like we will have a couple of private and public locations that we will be able to utilize for regular shoots, for helping new disabled hunters learn to shoot with adaptive equipment, and to be able to sight in firearms and bows for hunting.

I have also connected with the Inland Northwest Disabled Veteran's Sportsman Association. In preliminary discussions, they may be open to helping develop new projects, help with researching needs in the Region, and possibly being able to help with funding in certain situations. As we have discussed alternative uses for the accessible blinds, the INDVSA also is involved with other outdoor activities such as bird watching, photography of wildlife, and such.

Last month I was asked to become a reserve board member for the Inland Northwest Wildlife Counsel. This is the organization that I have been a member of and the host of monthly Hunter Education classes where I teach. They are very informed of the needs for Region 1 and are interested in how they can be more involved in some of the events and programs the committee is looking at. Tonight I received a voice message that stated they want me to move into a regular board member. This will give me more access to the building, and other programs they already have going, as well as developing other programs that can be organized with them. Which leads into...

I have spoken to 2 of Region 1's wildlife officers who would like to get involved with helping to train disabled hunters and fishers on laws, accommodations, and overall accessibility options. One of the officers even told me she would like to discuss how she could help me build on our current hunter education class to add specific information on the rules for disabled hunters, how hunters without disabilities can add to the experiences of disabled hunters through understanding and cooperation.

Finally, I have met with the guy that was the original Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for St Luke's. I've worked with him in the past on other projects. He also uses a wheelchair and is an avid outdoorsman. He is the one who told me how to use my job as a way to show persons with new disabilities how to get back into hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. He and I are going to meet in the next couple weeks to get deeper into discussions on some of the resources he has access to and to explore if there is any possibility of utilizing the community college for training, events, etc. (he is an instructor at Spokane community college).

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Region 2 – Dan Dickerson

Greetings to you all! If your lives are anything like mine, you are swimming in the projects and responsibilities that concern you. So, this is a friendly reminder that we have our next meeting via phone conference on Monday the 18th at 9:00 AM. I have not heard from some of you in a while so I need a brief update as to your status and what is happening in your region before the meeting. I have sent an agenda to Mary for next Monday but I am flexible so we can discuss important happenings.

I have meetings with the Lands Manager in my region on 22nd of June. I have been in contact with the Regional Director and following up on several items. The Fish Lake thing is becoming a fued between the concessionaire, the USFS and local sportsmen.

I look forward to talking to you all.

Dan Dickerson
ADA AC Chairman

From: Public Affairs (DFW)
Sent: Saturday, June 16, 2018 1:03 PM
To: DFW DL WDFW Staff
Subject: Commission selects Kelly Susewind as new director of WDFW

NEWS RELEASE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
June 16, 2018

Commission selects Kelly Susewind as new director of WDFW

OLYMPIA – The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission today appointed Kelly Susewind of Olympia as the new director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

The commission, a citizen panel appointed by the Governor to set policy for WDFW, voted unanimously to select Susewind after interviewing seven candidates in May and narrowing the field to three finalists, who were interviewed for a second time earlier this week.

Susewind accepted the appointment as permanent director following the commission's vote. He will oversee an agency of 1,800 employees and an operating budget of \$460 million for the current two-year budget period. WDFW is charged with conserving fish and wildlife and providing sustainable recreational and commercial opportunities.

Susewind has worked at the state Department of Ecology since 1990 in a variety of roles, most recently as the director of administrative services and environmental policy. He also worked several years during the 1980s as a private-sector environmental consultant.

Susewind received a bachelor's degree in geological engineering from Washington State University and an associate's degree in engineering from Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen. He grew up in the Grays Harbor area.

"All of the commissioners look forward to a fresh start for WDFW under Kelly's leadership, particularly in the approach our agency takes to improving our working relationships with the Legislature, native American tribes, and the people of Washington to manage the state's wonderful fish and wildlife resources," said Commission Chairman Brad Smith.

"Today's appointment marks the beginning of a new era in the department's history," Smith added. "We have an immensely dedicated, talented, and energetic staff, and we are confident that with Kelly in the director's position, WDFW will achieve the high level of success we expect."

Susewind said, "I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve the people of Washington at an agency whose effectiveness is critical to our ability to conserve fish and wildlife resources while providing outdoor recreation and commercial opportunities throughout the state. The public has high expectations for WDFW, and I'm excited about being in a position to deliver the results they deserve."

Susewind's salary will be \$165,000 per year. He will assume the director's position on Aug. 1.

After voting to appoint Susewind, the commission thanked Acting Director Joe Stohr for his service since former Director Jim Unsworth's resignation in early February. "The commission sincerely appreciates Joe's strong leadership over the past five months," Smith said.

Editors: A photo of Susewind is available as a link from the news release in the "latest news" section of the WDFW website, <https://wdfw.wa.gov>.

Persons with disabilities who need to receive this information in an alternative format or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact Dolores Noyes by phone (360-902-2349), TTY (360-902-2207), or email (dolores.noyes@dfw.wa.gov). For more information, see https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/reasonable_request.html.