

Enforcement officials named by F & WS regional office

Two U.S. fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement officials — one a returning Alaskan — have been selected to fill top positions with the agency's law enforcement division in Alaska.

They are R. David Purinton, currently based in Sacramento, and James V. Sheridan, chief of the service's law enforcement staff in Boston.

Sheridan began his Fish and Wildlife Service career here in 1970.

Robert Gilmore, Alaska regional director for the Interior Department agency, said Purinton, 45, will be the new assistant regional director for law enforcement. He will replace James Hogue who recently retired as special-agent-in-charge.

Purinton has 21 years' law enforcement experience, 14 of which were spent in supervisory jobs. A graduate of the University of Minnesota, he began his career as a special agent trainee in 1965. A past recipient of the department's Meritorious Service Award, Purinton recently completed a temporary duty assignment in Alaska.

He said he is "impressed by the diversity and abundance of wildlife" in Alaska, and noted law enforcement is an integral function of fish and wildlife management:

"Law enforcement agents play an important role, particularly in Alaska because of the unique problems the service faces now and in the future. I feel comfortable with the regional staff and people in Alaska. I look for-

ward to my assignment with optimism," he said.

Purinton and his wife Jane have three children.

Jim Sheridan, 45, is currently assistant regional director for law enforcement with the agency's 13-state region in the northeastern U.S. He will assume the assistant special-agent-in-charge position here.

Sheridan has 16 years of enforcement experience with the service. He replaces Larry Hood who recently transferred to Minneapolis as the new enforcement chief there.

Sheridan holds a B.S. from the University of Delaware. He started his career here as a U.S. game management agent/pilot, and after three-and-a-half years, transferred to Washington, D.C., then became senior resident agent in New Orleans.

For the past nine years he has been in the agency's Boston Regional Office where's been the top regional law enforcement officer, special-agent-in-charge.

Sheridan's military career includes five years' active duty and 16 years' service as an Air National Guardsman and Reservist.

He and his wife Carol consider themselves Alaskans. They have maintained ownership of property in Homer and Anchorage.

"My wife and I are both excited about returning," he said. "We can't wait to get back."

They have two children.