

Diane Regas

Diane Regas is the Director of the United States Environmental Protection's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, also known as O-WOW.

Her Office works in partnership with state and local governments, and the public, to protect and restore the nation's watersheds. The Office focuses on wetlands, coastal waters and such programs as TMDLs and monitoring.

She joined EPA in 1987 as an Attorney-Advisor in the Office of General Counsel where she specialized in clean water and hazardous waste issues. Since that time, she has served in several positions including Special Assistant to two EPA Administrators and Senior Policy Analyst to the White House Domestic Policy Council. She has also served as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water at the EPA.

Ms. Regas has a Masters degree in Environmental Science and a Law degree from the University of California, Berkeley. She is married and has three young boys at home. The whole family enjoys canoeing, boating, swimming and otherwise enjoys the nation's water resources.

David K. Paylor

David K. Paylor was appointed Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources in January of 2002 by Governor Mark Warner, overseeing all the natural resource agencies of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Prior to his current position, David was the Director of Operations for the Department of Environmental Quality overseeing air, water and waste programs and regional office coordination. David's career began in 1973 with the State Water Control Board where he began as a field biologist and has held a variety of positions since then as an aquatic ecologist, water resources manager, Director of Petroleum Programs, as well as other management positions.

David is graduate from Duke University with a B.S. in Zoology and received is M.S. from Oregon State University in Fisheries Science. He married and has two children. His hobbies include camping, canoeing, and woodworking.

William G. Ross Jr

Gov. Mike Easley appointed William G. Ross Jr. Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on January 15, 2001. He is an attorney who specializes in environmental law, and has broad civic and professional experience in a variety of land conservation and environmental protection efforts.

This is not his first time with the department. From 1979 to 1984, Secretary Ross served as Director of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, which was later reorganized to become DENR.

He's been a member and leader of many committees and organizations that focus on preserving open space, parks and greenways and on environmental education. They include The Nature Conservancy, the Guilford County Parks and Recreation Committee, the Piedmont Land Conservancy, the Raleigh Greenway Commission, the N.C. Environmental Education Fund and N.C. Environmental Defense.

Interestingly, Secretary Ross is the grandson of George Ross, who served as North Carolina's secretary of the Department of Conservation and Development, a predecessor of DENR, from 1949 to 1953 under Gov. Kerr Scott.

Ross received a bachelor's degree in history from Davidson College in 1969 and his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1972. He is married and has two daughters.

Anne Taylor

Anne's commitment to collaborative partnerships for excellence in environmental quality is outstanding. She has an unwavering commitment to a healthy environment, and I believe that her two grandsons, Max and Griffin have only strengthened that commitment.

Anne Taylor was instrumental in creating the North Carolina Office of Environmental Education under the Environmental Education Act of 1993. She served as Director of that office from 1995 until 2002.

In 1998 Anne became the founding Chair of the Environmental Education Fund and in 2002 became its Executive Director. Last November, Anne was named to the eleven-member National Environmental Education Advisory Council by the Administrator of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency.

She developed and supervised a partnership with International Paper and a diverse collection of partners each year since 1995 to develop and deliver over 5,000 environmental education kits know as *Love A Tree*.

She served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources, Director of the Office of Natural Resources Planning & Assessment, Director of the Office of Regulatory Relations and as the Governor's Policy Advisor for Natural Resources to name a few.

Upon leaving state government for the non profit sector, she was awarded the North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the state's highest honor for leadership for her distinguished career in environmental management.