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Pinelands Commission mourning the loss of federal appointee Frank Hays

NEW LISBON, NJ – The New Jersey Pinelands Commission is mourning the loss of federal appointee Frank Hays, who passed away suddenly on March 3. He was 58.

Hays was appointed as the U.S. Secretary of the Interior’s designee on the Commission’s 15-member board in January 2017.

At the time of his passing, Hays served as the Associate Regional Director for Resource Stewardship and Compliance in the National Park Service’s Northeast Regional Office in Philadelphia. In that capacity, Hays managed the region’s Cultural Resource, Natural Resource, and Resource Planning and Compliance programs.

Prior to joining the Northeast Regional Office, Hays was the superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands (WEAR), including Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, and the Noatak National Preserve. The four parks of the Western Arctic Parklands preserve 11 million acres, thousands of miles of river and coastline, hundreds of unnamed mountain peaks and Arctic wilderness.

Hays began his career with the National Park Service in 1980 as a seasonal park ranger at Zion National Park. He worked in a variety of positions at Grand Canyon National Park, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Saguaro National Park and Dinosaur National Monument. During his assignment at Grand Canyon, Frank served a detail with the Albright Training Center, coordinating a five-week-long Fundamentals for Natural Resource Management training course.

Hays received his Bachelor of Science in Renewable Natural Resources from the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona in 1980 and a Master’s degree in Public Administration with Honor’s from Northern Arizona University in May of 1999.

Hays is survived by his wife, Norma; sons, Brian and Matt; daughter, Sarah; grandchildren, Liesel, Hannah and Felicity and brothers, Herb, John and Donald.

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