

Mollie Beattie Biography

After earning an M.S. in forestry from UVM, Mollie Beattie began her public environmental stewardship career as Vermont's Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Appointed to that post by Governor Madeleine Kunin in 1985, she went on to become Deputy Commissioner of DEC. A state park near her home in Grafton bears her name. Under President Clinton she became the first woman Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under her leadership 15 new wildlife refuges were created. Clinton named the largest block of wilderness in the Brooks Range of the northeastern Alaska National Wildlife Refuge after her. Among her legacies is the reintroduction of the grey wolf to northern Yellowstone National Park. She wrote, "What a country chooses to save is what a country chooses to say about itself." Mollie died of a brain tumor at age 49 in 1996. The environmental community universally mourned her passing.