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Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel announced today the appointment of Sam Yankee to the Department's new 15-member Advisory Board on Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The newly established Board, composed of citizens from all over the country, will provide counsel and advice to the Secretary on policy matters relating to the conservation of our wildlife resources.

Yankee, a resident of McGregor, Minnesota, is a member of the Mille Lacs band of Chippewa Indians and an ardent conservationist, secretary Hickel said. He has worked closely with Fish and Wildlife Service Personnel at the Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota.

Dr. Leslie L. Glasgow, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks in the Department of Interior, said that Mr. Yankee's past experience in working with refuge personnel together with his interest in wildlife habitat will enable him to make a valuable contribution to the Department's efforts to enhance our nation's wildlife resources.

The first meeting of the new Advisory Board will be held in the Secretary's conference room in Washington, D.C. on July 23, 24. The Secretary at the opening of the meeting will present each member with his Certificate of Appointment.