

Stockman, Tina

From: Soil & Water Conservation Program
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2021 9:52 AM
To: Soil & Water Conservation Program; DNR.Soil and Water Conservation Districts staff
Cc: DNR.SWC Staff
Subject: Dru Buntin Announced as New Director of the Department of Natural Resources

To all Soil and Water Conservation Districts:

Please see the announcement below regarding the Director of the Department of Natural Resources. Thank you.

Dru Buntin Announced as New Director of the Department of Natural Resources

On August 11, 2021, during a press conference at the State Capitol, Governor Mike Parson announced that he has named Dru Buntin as the new Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, effective immediately.

"We are excited to announce Dru as the new DNR Director and look forward to his continued service to Missourians," **Governor Parson** said. "Dru is an experienced and trusted leader within DNR and across state government. He worked closely with Director Comer during her illness and stepped up to be a steady hand of leadership upon her passing. We are confident in Dru's abilities to lead DNR, and we look forward to seeing him implement his vision and ideas."

Mr. Buntin has served as the Deputy Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for more than four years. He first joined DNR in 2000 as the Director of Government Affairs and advanced to Deputy Director for Policy and Chief of Water Resources. In 2013, Mr. Buntin became the Executive Director of the Upper Missouri River Basin Association before rejoining DNR in 2017. He has more than 15 years experience with DNR and more than 20 years experience in Missouri state government.

Since rejoining DNR as Deputy Director in 2017, Dru has been instrumental in leading the Department's Red Tape Reduction initiative as well as drought response and flood recovery support efforts. He also worked closely with the late Director Carol Comer to strengthen partnerships with Missouri businesses, citizens, and communities to assist with and promote compliance with Missouri's environmental laws and regulations.

"I am honored and humbled to be appointed by Governor Parson to serve as the new Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources," said **Department of Natural Resources Director Dru Buntin**. "Five generations of my family have lived in Missouri, and I love this state. We have a great team at DNR, and I'm excited about what we can accomplish working together with communities across Missouri."

Mr. Buntin attended the University of Missouri-Columbia where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science.

Thank you,

Soil and Water Conservation Program

We'd like your feedback on the service you received from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Please consider taking a few minutes to complete the department's Customer Satisfaction Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MoDNRsurvey>. Thank you.