

# John "Coop" Cooper

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## Biography

John Cooper retired from his position as Cabinet Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks in January 2007 after 12 years of service as Secretary under two Governors. From January 2007 until July 2008, he served as Governor Rounds' Senior Policy Advisor on Missouri River Issues, which also included serving as the first Chairman of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes. John also served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Bipartisan Policy Center on climate change and wildlife management issues from 2007 until 2010.

Prior to his appointment as Game, Fish & Parks Secretary by Governor Janklow in 1995, John served 22 years with the Law Enforcement Division of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. He was the Senior Resident Agent for North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska, supervising six special agents who enforced federal, state and tribal wildlife laws.

He has served as President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (2005-2007), Chairman of the National Fish Habitat Initiative Board (2005-2007) and Vice-Chairman of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (1996-2006).

He is currently the Chairman of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission.

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