

JOHN A. KITZHABER, M.D.
Governor



NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS DIRECTOR DAVE COOK

Kitzhaber Appoints Ben de Haan Interim Director

Governor John Kitzhaber announced today that Dave Cook, Director of the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC), is retiring June 30, 2002, after 25 years in public service.

As DOC Director, Cook oversees more than 11,000 state inmates, 3,700 employees, and a biennial operating budget of \$915 million. He has worked with the governor for seven years, focusing correctional policy in Oregon on holding inmates accountable for their actions and reducing the risk that people released from prison will commit new crimes.

When Cook joined DOC in 1995, laws had just gone into effect that increased the number of people in prison and required them to work or train full-time. Cook redirected the department's energies to fulfill the voter mandates while reshaping its culture to focus on successfully transitioning former offenders back into the community as law-abiding citizens.

"Dave's inspired leadership of the Department of Corrections has had a positive effect on public safety in Oregon," Kitzhaber said. "His steady demeanor and depth of experience will be missed."

Kitzhaber also announced the appointment of Benjamin D. de Haan, DOC Deputy Director for the last seven years, as Interim Director. He was formerly deputy administrator of child welfare services for the state and executive director of the Child Welfare Partnership at Portland State University. He holds a Ph.D. in Social Research from Portland State.