



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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VETERAN FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE EMPLOYEE
NAMED DEPUTY DIRECTOR

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director John Turner has announced the appointment of Richard N. Smith, a 28-year veteran of the Service, as the new Deputy Director of the Interior Department's wildlife agency.

In making the announcement, Turner said, "Dick Smith brings to this position a wealth of knowledge and a wide perspective gleaned from his years in both the management and research sectors of the Fish and Wildlife Service. His vast experience with the Service's mission will help address the significant challenges facing this Nation's fish and wildlife resources in the coming years."

Smith has served as acting deputy director since June 13, 1989. Prior to that assignment, he supervised the Service's fish and wildlife research programs (which include 13 major laboratories and 91 field projects) as Regional Director for Research.

Smith, 55, joined the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1962. He spent the first 11 years of his career in the Division of Wildlife Resources and later transferred to the Division of Research. He worked at various field stations in the Northeast, Southeast, and Midwest prior to coming to Washington, DC, in 1971. His field experience includes work in the areas of waterfowl management, endangered species, and animal damage control.

Before joining the Service, Smith worked for the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in St. Petersburg, Florida, and the Maryland State Fish and Game Commission where he served as a fisheries biologist and waterfowl biologist, respectively. His work with the State of Maryland involved waterfowl research around the Chesapeake Bay.

An Army veteran, Smith holds a B.S. degree in wildlife management from the University of Maine, as well as masters degrees in wildlife management and public administration from the University of Massachusetts and The American University in Washington, DC. He is a graduate of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit program in which the Service participates, and has served as an adjunct professor at Ohio State and Bowling Green State Universities.