



BULLETIN

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

BABBITT HONORS DICK SMITH WITH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

At a December ceremony in Washington, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt recognized longtime U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee Dick Smith of Vienna, Virginia, with the Department's Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to fish and wildlife conservation. The award is the highest given by the Department to career civil servants and recognizes outstanding achievement in their careers.

Smith worked for the Service for 31 years, including serving as deputy director from 1989 to 1995 and as regional director for research and development from 1986 to 1989. He achieved national prominence for expanding the Service's ability to successfully address fish and wildlife resource problems both here and abroad. In the process, he contributed significantly to ensuring proper balance between conservation and commercial and recreational uses of natural resources.

As deputy director, Smith skillfully handled numerous sensitive natural resource issues of national and international impact. These included supporting an international ban on commercial trade in African elephant ivory and initiating efforts to upgrade the protective status of the elephant from threatened to endangered, strengthening cooperation and partnerships with other nations to improve environmental conservation across national borders, and overseeing the Service's endangered species efforts during a critical time when the number of species requiring protection grew considerably and recovery efforts became more complex and difficult to implement.

Smith successfully developed partnerships among the Service, states, Tribes, and other Federal agencies to implement programs to restore river ecosystems and the Nation's fishery resources. He was also instrumental in the formulation of the Service's Native American Policy that identifies the joint roles of the Service and Native Americans in managing fish and wildlife resources on Tribal lands with recognition of the sovereign status of Tribes.

Throughout his career, he was recognized for supporting outreach programs to recruit minorities and women into professional and scientific positions in the Service. For example, while he was regional director for research and development, he oversaw a tenfold increase in the number of women and minorities in his region.

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Hugh Vickery 202-208-5634

*Office of Public Affairs
1349 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
Room 3447*

*(202) 208-5634
FAX (202) 219-2423*