

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2008-66
September 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Selection of Gary Smith as the Director of Plant Pathogens and Weed Programs

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program is pleased to announce the appointment of Gary Smith as the Director of Plant Pathogens and Weed Programs PPQ's Emergency and Domestic Programs staff, effective August 3, 2008.

Mr. Smith is a native of Chicago, Illinois, and received his BS in Forest Management from the University of Illinois, and his MS in Forest Science from the University of Idaho. Gary Smith, who has 32 years of Federal government service, began his career as a timber sale program forester in USDA Forest Service on the Plumas National Forest, California in 1976. He subsequently served as a silviculturist and natural resource forester for National Forests in Idaho and Oregon. In 1989, Mr. Smith was appointed as an Integrated Pest Management Specialist for the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Region, Forest Health Protection Staff. Mr. Smith was instrumental in developing pest management strategies to deal with a variety of native and introduced forest pests.

In 1997, Mr. Smith assumed additional responsibilities as program manager for noxious weeds for the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region, developing and implementing prevention and management strategies for Federal lands, and managing cooperative grant programs for state and private forest lands with state departments of agriculture and forestry. In 2005, Mr. Smith moved to the USDA Forest Service national headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, as agency pesticide specialist and manager of invasive plant programs for State and Private Forestry.

Please join us in welcoming Gary Smith to his new position. He can be reached at (301) 734-8717 and his email address is Gary.K.Smith@aphis.usda.gov.

/s/ John H. Payne for

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine