



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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August 5, 2013

Chief Jason Weller

USDA, NRCS, Office of the Chief

1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 1505-S

Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Weller,

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is pleased to congratulate you on your new position as Chief of NRCS. The Wildlife Society was founded in 1937 and is a non-profit scientific and educational association representing nearly 11,000 professional wildlife biologists and managers, dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Our mission is to represent and serve the professional community of scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, and others who work actively to study, manage, and conserve wildlife and habitats worldwide. We look forward to working with you to manage and conserve our nation's wildlife and other resources.

The long-standing relationship between TWS and NRCS is formalized through two partnership agreements, the first, an MOU laying out a general framework for cooperation that calls for 'strengthening collaboration, communication, and technology transfer to proactively conserve wildlife species, while encouraging, promoting and increasing continuous scientific learning and professional development within both organizations.' The second agreement allows Certified Wildlife Biologists to become certified as Technical Service Providers by NRCS. Certified Wildlife Biologist is a designation by TWS that certifies individuals who meet the stringent educational, ethical, and professional conduct standards set by TWS. These standards can help qualify certified individuals as Technical Service Providers to deliver wildlife resources and habitat advice and recommendations to private landowners and others.

Together, these agreements serve as frameworks for future collaborations between NRCS and TWS in order to maximize skills, knowledge, and effectiveness for the benefit of wildlife species and associated habitats. We look forward to continuing to work together in the future as well as strengthening our partnership. If you have any questions please contact Laura Bies, Director of Government Affairs (laura@wildlife.org or 301-897-9770x308).

Sincerely,

Winifred B. Kessler
President