



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

26 January 2018

Mr. Joshua Winchell
Designated Federal Officer and Coordinator
Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wildlife Refuge System
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

RE: Nomination of Winifred Kessler for the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council

Mr. Winchell:

The Wildlife Society (TWS) nominates Dr. Winifred B. Kessler to serve as a representative on the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council. The Wildlife Society was founded in 1937 and is a non-profit professional society representing over 10,000 wildlife biologists and managers, dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Our mission is to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation.

Dr. Kessler is a Certified Wildlife Biologist®, with vast experience in the field of wildlife management in the service of non-profits, academia, and the federal government. She has previously served on federal advisory committees, and will be an excellent founding member of this newly established body.

Dr. Kessler holds a bachelor's degree in zoology and a master's degree in range management from the University of California at Berkeley, and a PhD in range science from Texas A&M University. Building on that educational foundation, she has served in diverse capacities to advance wildlife conservation and management. Dr. Kessler served 20 years in academic positions at multiple U.S. and Canadian universities, and 21 years with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Her positions with the USFS included National Wildlife Ecologist, National Rangeland Ecologist, and a decade as the Alaska Regional Director for Wildlife, Fisheries, Ecology, Watershed, & Subsistence Management. In this position she developed specialized expertise on subsistence hunting and fishing by Native Alaskan and other rural communities. She also led the Alaska Region's response to President George W. Bush's Executive Order 13443, Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation (2007). This EO directed federal agencies to facilitate expansion and enhancement of hunting and shooting sports opportunities on public lands.

Dr. Kessler's expertise in federal wildlife laws and policies is extensive, as evidenced by her co-editorship of a new textbook, *North American Wildlife Policy and Law*, scheduled for publication in spring 2018.

As a life-long hunter and recreational shooter, Dr. Kessler has a keen personal interest in North America's hunting heritage and in maintaining and enhancing these opportunities for future generations. She has hunted extensively in the U.S., including Alaska. She also has deep interest in international aspects of wildlife and hunting management, and has hunted in Canada, Mexico, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and other parts of the world. In 1993 she was voted into the Boone & Crockett Club as its first female Professional Member. During her past 25 years with Boone & Crockett, she has served on many committees and projects to advance the Club's mission in wildlife conservation and the hunting heritage.

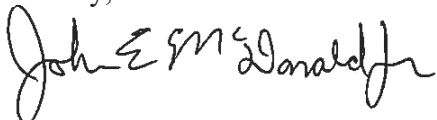
Dr. Kessler has a long record of service to wildlife and conservation organizations. She has been a member of TWS for 44 years, serving 10 years on TWS' governing Council including 4 years on the Executive Committee. This is Dr. Kessler's 21st year on the Board of Directors of the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF), including two terms as Chair of the Board. The HCTF administers trust funds generated by hunting, angling, trapping, and guide-outfitting in British Columbia; annually, the board approves \$6–7 million in priority conservation projects. Dr. Kessler also is a member of the Board of Directors for Ducks Unlimited Canada, the premier conservation organization in Canada. Dr. Kessler's efforts have helped ensure investments in wildlife conservation achieve priority outcomes and advance science-based management of natural resources. Her career contributions to wildlife management were recognized by The Wildlife Society in 2017 with its highest award, the Aldo Leopold Memorial Medal for distinguished service to wildlife conservation.

Dr. Kessler is a consummate professional, an exemplary networker, communicator, and cooperater, and TWS firmly believes that she will represent our organization, the wildlife profession, and the larger constituency of wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations effectively.

In addition, we would like to nominate Mr. Keith Alan Norris to serve as Dr. Kessler's alternate. As you will see from Mr. Norris's resume below, he is well-versed in wildlife management and conservation efforts, is an active participant of hunting-based conservation, and will ably serve as an alternate for Dr. Kessler in representing the constituency of wildlife and habitat conservation/management organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this nomination. Please contact Caroline Murphy, AWB®, Government Relations Program Coordinator (caroline.murphy@wildlife.org, 301-897-9770 x308), if you have any questions regarding this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. McDonald, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. John E. McDonald, Jr.
President, The Wildlife Society