



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

30 July 2019

Assistant Secretary Robert Wallace
Stewart Lee Udall Main Interior Building
1849 C St NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Wallace:

Congratulations on your appointment as Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the US Department of the Interior. As you enter your role overseeing both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service, The Wildlife Society hopes to be a valuable resource in your work towards implementing science based cooperative conservation.

Founded in 1937, The Wildlife Society (TWS; wildlife.org) and our network of affiliated chapters and sections represent more than 15,000 professional wildlife biologists, managers, and educators dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship. Our mission is to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitat through science based management and conservation.

The Wildlife Society appreciates your focus throughout the nomination process on science in policy making and in placing trust in the federal and partner scientists and managers on the front lines of conservation. This approach is critical to conserve the wildlife resources that not only provide \$145 billion in direct economic benefit to the U.S., but are also important to America's 90 million wildlife-associated recreationists.

The Wildlife Society and our membership are here as a resource when determining next steps in the formulation of wildlife management and conservation policies, laws, and regulations. We are available to provide you and your staff timely, practical, and science-based input for managing and sustaining the nation's diverse fish and wildlife resources. We recognize that natural resource decisions must consider many social, economic, and ecological factors, with science serving as a foundation.

In addition to providing an independent and science-based perspective on relevant government policies, TWS also shares information through multiple scientific and popular publications; hosts an annual conference on wildlife science and management; organizes professional development opportunities; and manages a professional certification program for wildlife biologists.

On September 29-October 3, we will be hosting our annual conference for the first time ever with the American Fisheries Society in Reno, Nevada. This conference will be the largest ever gathering of fish and wildlife professionals, and presents several professional development, information exchange, and networking opportunities for scientists and managers. We invite you and your staff to engage in this historic event. To find out more about the conference, check out afstws2019.org.

We look forward to providing you with the views of wildlife professionals and wish you well as you begin your appointment. Please contact Caroline Murphy, AWB®, government relations manager at cmurphy@wildlife.org or (301) 897-9770 x 308 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darren Miller". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent initial 'D'.

Darren A. Miller, Ph.D., Certified Wildlife Biologist®
President, The Wildlife Society