



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

16 December 2019

Aurelia Skipwith, Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Stewart Lee Udall Main Interior Building
1849 C St NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Skipwith:

Congratulations on your appointment as Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As you enter your role leading thousands of wildlife professionals and the conservation and management of our nation's fish and wildlife resources, The Wildlife Society offers you our collective expertise as leaders in wildlife science, management, and 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 through science and education. Our mission is to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitat through science-based management and conservation.

Through the collective knowledge and expertise of our wildlife professional and student members, TWS is a valuable resource in formulating wildlife management and conservation policies, laws, and regulations. We are always 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 the bedrock principle for making those decisions. That is why we appreciate your recognition of the importance of science in policy making, and endorse your approach of working closely with private landowners, states, tribes and federal partners to ensure management decisions benefit wildlife, landowners and the public.

Along with providing decision makers independent and science-based perspectives on relevant government policies, we also provide information to professionals through multiple [scientific](#) and [popular publications](#); an [annual conference](#) on wildlife science and management; a broad array of professional development opportunities; and a professional [certification program](#) for wildlife biologists. USFWS employees are provided the opportunity to submit articles to TWS publications, allowing for a routine exchange of information between federal, state, non-government, and university employees.

We encourage you and your employees to take advantage of these resources as well as existing joint USFWS-TWS programs. Our growing relationship with the Service has proven extremely beneficial for USFWS employees, TWS members, and the next generation of natural resource professionals. Through our work with USFWS staff on the Diversity Joint Venture, we have found new tools and techniques for reaching out to minority-serving institutions to ensure

students have the skills needed to effectively enter into a career as a wildlife professional. USFWS has also been very supportive of the TWS Native Student Professional Development Program, which provides Native American students the opportunity to engage on existing conservation field projects.

We look forward to providing you with the views of wildlife professionals and wish you well as you start your term. Please contact Caroline Murphy, AWB®, Government Relations Manager at cmurphy@wildlife.org or (301) 897-9770 x 308 with any questions, comments, or thoughts on coordination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary C. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "W".

Gary C. White, PhD, CWB®
President