

TWS Council Candidate Biographic Sketch Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative – 2020

Terry Messmer

Education:

B.S. University of North Dakota 1977 (Fish and Wildlife Management)
B.S. University of North Dakota 1979 (Biology – Teacher Certification))
M.S. North Dakota State University 1985 (Botany - Natural Resource Management)
M.S. North Dakota State University 1986 (Community and Regional Planning)
Ph.D. North Dakota State University 1990 (Animal and Range Sciences)

Present Position:

Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist, Director, Utah Community-Based Conservation Program (CBCP), Quinney Professor for Wildlife Conflict Management (QPWCM), Director, Jack H. Berryman Institute (BI), Editor-in-Chief (EIC), Human-Wildlife Interactions (HWI) Utah State University Extension, Quinney College of Natural Resources, Department of Wildland Resources (1991-Present).

As a faculty member and extension wildlife specialist, I have generated over \$500,000 annually to support lab research, teaching, and extension programs. I have advised, supervised, and funded 60 graduate students as their major professor and 6 Post-Doctoral Fellows. I have developed and taught 12 different undergraduate and graduate courses ranging from principles of wildlife management to developing and funding natural resources conservation partnership. I have developed extension programs which have enhanced habitat for wildlife and hunting access on over 2.5 million acres.

As the CBCP director, I work directly with over 1,500 diverse stakeholders to identify, implement, and evaluate the effects of management actions on sagebrush obligate species, and the conservation of 7.5 million acres of sagebrush landscapes. I am responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating regional and statewide adaptive resources management local working group plans, actions, and programs. I also serve as the science advisor and a voting member of the Utah Governor's Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Executive Strategy Committee.

As the QPWCM, I am responsible for identification, planning, funding, implementing, and evaluating state, regional, and national programming that lead to adoption of new technologies and strategies to better address human-wildlife conflicts to improve human-wildlife interaction and facilitate species conservation.

As the BI director, I engage stakeholders in programming to resolve human-wildlife conflicts through research, education, outreach, and policy implementation. I am responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating national extension and education programs designed to manage and mitigate human-wildlife conflicts and enhance the professionalism in the field of wildlife damage management.

HWI is the only professional scientific journal dedicated to resolving human-wildlife conflicts through research, outreach, and education (<http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/hwi/>). HWI is an open-access journal that publishes three issues a year, averaging 200 article downloads a day in over 190 countries. As EIC, I am responsible for supervising all aspects of the journal publishing to include maintaining scientific rigor and quality.

Former Positions:

Assistant Professor, and Extension Wildlife Specialist, North Dakota State University (1990-1991). Responsible for implementing state wide extension fisheries and wildlife management programming to include wildlife conservation policy, wetland and endangered species management, environmental, education, 4-H, rangeland management, aquaculture, and wildlife management management in urban and rural landscapes.

Extension Wildlife Specialist, and Co-coordinator Project Wild North Dakota, North Dakota State University (1984-1990). Responsible for implementing state wide extension fisheries and wildlife management programming to include wildlife conservation policy, wetland and endangered species management, environmental, education, 4-H, rangeland management, aquaculture, and wildlife management in urban and rural landscapes. Conducted Project Wild teacher training workshops for over 1,000 elementary and secondary education teachers. Supervised 70 volunteer workshop facilitators. I also served as the Director, North Dakota State University Wildlife Rehabilitation Program, North Dakota State where I supervised staff and volunteers involved in wildlife rehabilitation and public education programs.

Garrison Diversion Biologist, North Dakota Game and Fish Department (1982). Completed wildlife mitigation/impact studies on the Garrison Diversion Project.

Natural Resource Mitigation Biologist, North Dakota Department of Transportation (1979-1982). Prepared and implemented mitigation plans and NEPA documents to offset the impacts of highway construction operation, and maintenance on wildlife, fisheries, water and air quality.

Wildlife Society Activities:

The Wildlife Society Member (TWS), (1977-Present), Certified Wildlife Biologist 1987. Nominations Committee (1995-98, 2013-2014, Chair 2014) and Awards Committee (1997-99, Chair 1999). Editor-in-Chief of the Wildlife Society Bulletin (2005-2006). Student Mentor (1995-2002 TWS Annual Conferences), Member of the Wildlife Damage Management and Public Conservation Education and Outreach Working Groups (1998-Present), Chair, Public Conservation Education and Extension Working Group (1998-2015). Associate Editor, Journal of Wildlife Management (2006-Present). Associate Editor, Wildlife Society Bulletin (2010-2019).

Central, Mountain, and Plains Chapter (CMPS), Member (1977-Present), Chairperson TWS Annual Meeting Student Travel Grant Committee (1994-96), Chairperson Annual Meeting Committee (1996), Candidate for Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative (1996). CMPS Board member (1993-1997), President-elect, CMPS (2001-2002), President CMPS 2002-2004. Past-President CMPS (2005).

The North Dakota Chapter (TWS), (1977-Present), Executive Board (1985-1991), President, and Past-President (1991-92), Chapter Life member (1990-Present).

The Utah Chapter (TWS), (1991-Present), President-elect (1994), President (1995), Past-President (1996). Chairperson Annual Meeting Committee (1995-2000).

Other Professional Affiliations:

Associate Member, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 1994-Present. Member, Wildlife Resources Policy Committee, Federal and Tribal Lands Committee, and Human Wildlife Conflict Task Force. As a member of these committees, I work with wildlife professionals throughout the national to identify national issues affecting wildlife management and implement programs to increase stakeholder involvement in conservation programs.

North Dakota Natural Science Society, (1980-Present), President-elect (1990-91), First Chapter Life member (1990). Prairie Naturalist Editorial Review Board.

Society for Range Management (1980-Present), Northern Great Plains Region (1980-90) and Utah Section (1990-Present).

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies - Mule Deer Working Group, Human-Wildlife Conflict Committee, and Sagebrush Conservation Strategy Committee (1991-Present).

Epsilon Sigma Phi, National Honorary Extension Fraternity, (1991-Present).

Leadership Experience (professional and organizations, up to 5):

1. **U.S. Army** – in 2014, I completed 41 years of military service as both an enlisted soldier, non-commissioned and commissioned officer. I served as a military policemen, photo and broadcast journalist, race-relations instructor, and environmental scientist. My last 20 years I served as the commander where I was responsible for the health, welfare, survival, and training of my soldiers and their families. These commands are summarized below. Skills developed include conflict resolution, personnel management, management of large budgets, and equipment and program accountability.

Commander, 200th Medical Detachment, 96th Reserve Command, Fort Douglas, Utah (1999-2006). Responsible for command and control of a 20-soldier detachment and over \$4 million in equipment. The unit provided public health services for active U.S. Army, Reserve, and National Guard units stationed worldwide. We participated in humanitarian missions in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. I coordinated a community effort in Utah that generated over \$400,000 in school equipment and supplies, text books, and medical equipment to support remote communities in Guatemala and Nicaragua. In addition, I coordinated transportation and distribution of the equipment and supplies with the U.S. State Department, Host Nations, and US Army Southern Command. Promoted to Major (2002). Completed Command Leadership School. The Detachment was mobilized and deployed to support 4th Infantry and 82d Airborne Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Responsible to provide preventive medicine support to coalition forces in Iraq. The unit received the US Army Reserve Safety Award and the 96th Regional Readiness Command Deployment Readiness Award. Awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal for service in Iraq.

Commander, 172nd Medical Battalion (2006-2011). The 172 Medical Battalion was a 230 Soldier battalion consisting of 3 companies with \$50 million in equipment and inventory. The unit was responsible to provide bio-medical repair and medical re-supply throughout the western United States. Unit received awarded Meritorious Unit Citation for superior service. Served as the force

commander the 957th Medical Company during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2010-2011. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel (2008). Awarded Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Commander, 1835th Medical Detachment (Combat Stress Control). The 1835th Medical Detachment was a 60-soldier unit consisting of mental health providers that provided psychiatric care and counseling service to deployed and non-deployed soldiers to mitigate the effects of combat stress on soldier and family well-being. Promoted to Colonel in 2012. The unit provided counseling support to over 10,000 soldiers and their families in 48 units where soldier's had committed suicide. Unit was awarded a Meritorious Service and Superior Unit Award for impacts in reducing soldier suicides. Retired in 2014 after 41 years of military service. Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (2nd Oak Leaf Cluster) and inducted into the Order of Medical Military Merit (2013).

2. Director, Mule Deer Foundation (MDF), Salt Lake City, Utah.

As an elected board member for MDF, I chaired the Projects and Funding Committee, was a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, chair of the Executive Director Search, Scientific Review, and National Convention Symposium Committees (1998-2003). The MDF raised over \$5 million annually to support mule deer conservation. As chair of the Scientific Review Committee I coordinated the review process for project proposals submitted to MDF for funding consideration. In this capacity, I gained experience in working with budget, fundraising, and a broad range of NGOs, and sportsmen and sportswomen.

3. Executive Director, Dakota Wildlife Trust, a private nonprofit conservation organization based in Valley City, ND (1986-99).

I supervised 5 employees and coordinated volunteer efforts for over 1,000 hunters and anglers that were members of 40 North Dakota wildlife/sportsmen clubs and organizations under the Hides for Habitat Program. The program generated over \$300,000 for local habitat projects through the sale of deer hides donated by hunters. Administered and coordinated the Trust's Youth for Wildlife Food and Habitat Program. The program engaged over 500 youth in projects designed to develop wildlife habitat. Over 5,000 acres of wildlife habitat were created through the program. As Executive Director I also served as a Board member, U.S. Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). Guided implementation of NAWMP in the Prairie Pothole Region of the United States (1988-99). In this capacity I gained valuable organizational and communications experience working with federal and state agencies, private conservation organizations, hundreds of landowners, and youth to conserve wetlands and wildlife habitat.

4. Founder and Executive Advisor, Utah Cooperative Wildlife Management Association (CWMA) (1994-Present).

This is a private 501(c)(6) non-for-profit business organization. The corporation was organized to ensure Utah's Cooperative Wildlife Management Program provides high quality hunting experiences and incentives to encourage habitat management on private lands. The program

engages over 500 landowners who own and manage over 2.5 million acres of private land. Since inception the program has generated over \$500 million dollars in new revenue in support of wildlife management on private lands and as such has provided ranchers with an economic alternative to selling ranches for development. The program has also increased public access to private lands for hunting. Annually over 5,000 hunting permits are available to public hunters. In this capacity I gained valuable skills working with diverse natural resource conservation stakeholders and legislators to develop legislation and rules to ensure the program continued to provide multiple public and wildlife benefits.

5. *Free-roaming Equid and Ecosystem Sustainability Network* (2019-Present)

As of March 1, 2019, the BLM estimated that there were 89,000 free-roaming equids (i.e., wild horses and burros) in BLM-administered HMAs. This is more than three times the ecological balance. Not every HMA is affected adversely, but where there is an overabundance of free-roaming equids, they impact the overall health of the U.S. western public rangelands by degrading ecosystem functions and reducing the forage and water available for domestic and native wildlife species. To address this issue, I founded the Free-roaming Equid and Ecosystem Sustainability Network (FREES; <https://extension.usu.edu/freesnetwork/>).

FREES purpose is to facilitate open dialogue and build positive relationships that engage the partners in collective actions to ensure the health of free-roaming equids, western rangeland ecosystem health and sustainability and the principles of multiple-use. In this capacity, I have honed my organizational skills and abilities to work with animal welfare and animals' rights groups to seek common ground to better manage what has been called the most wicked natural resource problem the US may face.

Principal Professional Interests (limit 15 words):

Identification, implementation, and evaluation of conservation strategies, technologies, and partnerships to benefit wildlife and stakeholders

Views (limit 250 words):

Climate change, species extinction, population growth, homelessness, hunger, poverty, depression, and suicide. All of these issues are interrelated, and they can only be truly addressed by engaging the range of stakeholders most affected in discovery, research, and management processes. The success of these processes is linked to reciprocity and transparency in information exchange, the identification of shared visions and common goals, an enhanced understanding of rules of law and social processes, and stakeholder direct engagement. Cumulatively, these actions create the trust required to enhance the connectedness of communities to government and governance. Building this trust requires all stakeholders to be fully engaged in processes to learn together about the landscapes, and each other, while they are actively managing landscapes. These processes also encourage innovation, new ideas, and risk taking.

The controversy's regarding what constitutes sustainable human and natural resources conservation, are rooted in deep differences in stakeholder values. The typical response of the scientific and management

community to mitigate controversy has been “we need more science.” Because stakeholder’s values differ, more science may only increase the polarization. Contemporary examples of this “information deficit fallacy theory” are stakeholder views about climate change.

I believe for professional communities like The Wildlife Society to remain relevant, we must; 1) have leadership engaged at multiple levels, 2) a bottom-up hierarchy, 3) practice partnerships, 4) be true to a science-based approach, 5) operate at meaningful spatial scales, 6) be solution minded, not problem focused, and 7) unselfish in sharing of our resources.