



# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

*Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation*

27 July 2020

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

RE: Nomination of Misty Sumner to the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council

Dear Director Skipwith,

The Wildlife Society (TWS) nominates Misty Sumner to serve as a representative on the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council. Ms. Sumner's vast experience in the field of wildlife and private lands management in the service of state agencies, professional societies, conservation organizations, and the public make her an excellent candidate for this position.

Founded in 1937, The Wildlife Society (TWS; [wildlife.org](http://wildlife.org)) and our network of affiliated chapters and sections represents over 15,000 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 their habitat through science-based management and conservation.

Ms. Sumner has held a diverse set of positions within her career, which includes over 20 years with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. While with the Department she managed chronic wasting disease monitoring efforts, provided technical assistance to private landowners, worked with various partners such as the Farm Bureau and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, conducted outreach to conservation and private lands stakeholders through the creation of local wildlife management associations, and studied multiple game species including white-tailed deer, mule deer, dove, and quail in order to inform harvest decisions.

Ms. Sumner has taken her expertise in wildlife and private lands management to a consultancy she founded in service of private landowners and businesses looking to promote conservation practices. Through this work, Ms. Sumner provides expertise to clients on effective habitat management to inform harvest and grazing practices. She also assists clients in public outreach through the creation of hunting and nature tourism promotional materials.

As a life-long hunter, angler, and recreational shooter, Ms. Sumner has a keen personal interest in North America's hunting heritage and in fostering the next generation of sportsmen and women. She has shared this commitment through her time spent as an instructor with the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow program, a certified Hunt Master with the Texas Youth Hunting Program, a leader in bringing one of the first hunting and shooting sports facilities to a U.S. boy scout camp, and a longtime member and mentor to young professionals within The Wildlife Society.

This work has earned her extensive recognition from her peers. Within The Wildlife Society, Ms. Sumner has been nominated by her colleagues to serve as President of the Southwest Section, Board Member and Secretary of the Texas Chapter, and chair of several committees including the Ethnic and Gender Diversity working group. In 2009, her commitment to the profession earned her

the designation of TWS fellow, an award reserved for individuals who have distinguished themselves through exceptional service.

This dedicated service is evident through her long list of positions and recognitions from long-standing conservation institutions. This includes her appointment as a Director of the Texas Wildlife Association, her appointment to multiple county and statewide advisory committees, and her designation as an official measurer with the Boone and Crockett Club.

Ms. Sumner is a consummate professional, an exemplary networker, communicator, and mentor, and The Wildlife Society firmly believes she will represent our organization and the interests of wildlife and private lands managers effectively.

In addition, we would like to nominate Dr. John E. McDonald, Jr. to serve as Ms. Sumner's alternate. Dr. McDonald has spent his career in service to the profession, including as past-President of The Wildlife Society. His work as an associate professor and as a former grants administrator for the USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program have provided him the diverse experience needed to effectively represent multiple facets of the profession. Like Ms. Sumner, Dr. McDonald has been recognized for his work through his appointment as a TWS fellow, and works alongside other professional institutions through his associate membership in the Boone and Crockett Club. We strongly believe Dr. McDonald will effectively serve as an alternate for Ms. Sumner if the need arises.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this nomination. Please contact Caroline Murphy, AWB®, Government Relations Manager (cmurphy@wildlife.org, 301-897-9770 x 308), if you have any questions regarding this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary C. White".

Gary C. White, PhD, CWB®  
President