

# TWS Council Candidate Biographic Sketch Canadian Section Representative – 2021

## Evelyn (Evie) Merrill

### Education

1982-1987	Ph.D., University of Washington - Wildlife Ecology
1975-1978	M.Sc., University of Idaho - Wildlife Management
1970-72, 1973-74	B.A., St. Lawrence University – Government
1972-1973	University of Vienna, Austria – German
1969-1970	Sorbonne University, Paris, France – French Civilization

### Present Position

Professor Emeritus, Dept. Biological Sciences, University of Alberta

### Former Positions

1999-2020	Associate & Full Professor, Biological Sciences, University of Alberta
1996-1999	Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, WI.
1986-1994	Assistant Professor/Instructor, Dep. Zoology and Physiology, Univ. of Wyoming, WY.
1979-1982	Wildlife Research Biologist, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game, Soda Springs, ID.
1979	Wildlife Technician, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Falls, ID.

### The Wildlife Society Activities: Member since 1976; Certification in 1998.

- Idaho Student Chapter TWS Member (1976-1978), Idaho Chapter TWS Member (1979-1981)
- Washington Chapter TWS Member (1983-1985)
- Wyoming Student Chapter Advisor (1988-1989)
- Wyoming Chapter TWS Executive (1989)
- Alberta Chapter of TWS, President- (2007); ACTWS Awards: Dedicated Service (2011), William Rowan Distinguished Service (2013), Special Recognition Group Award (2017), Best technical Publication (2020)
- Canadian Section of TWS, Vice President (2008), President (2010)
- Wildlife Society Fellow (2012)
- Committee Chairs: Jim McDonough Awards (2011); Aldo Leopold Award Committee (2012)
- Editor-in-Chief: *Journal of Wildlife Management* (2015-2016); Associate Editor, 1996-2004
- TWS Special Recognition Service Award (2016)
- Canadian Section Representative to TWS Council (2018-2021)

### Other Professional Affiliations

- Ecological Society of America – 1987
- Society of Range Management – 1987
- Wildlife Disease Association -2010
- Alberta Trappers Association, Recognition Award – 2011
- Boone and Crockett Club, Professional member – 2011
- Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution – 2017
- Life member, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation since 2008, Wildlife Research Award - 2017

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

- Alberta Chapter TWS, President- (2007). Worked with committees & members to promote mission of TWS; organized conferences (20-year ABTWS AGM, NW Section TWS meeting); established historian position.
- Canadian Section TWS, Past present (2007); President (2014). Worked with newly formed Canadian Section Executive to launch the Canadian Section; as President worked with committees & members to promote CSTWS in TWS; during presidency conducted first survey on membership priorities, established the Ian McTaggart-Cowan Award; organized joint ACTWS-CSTWS conference.
- Editor-in-Chief: *Journal of Wildlife Management* (2015-2016): worked with authors, Associate Editors, TWS publishing staff, TWS Executive Director to produce JWM; handled paper reviews and a range of publishing issues and wrote editorials to guide JWM publishing.
- International Expert Panel Member: CWD in Canadian Wildlife (2004); evaluated scientific status of CWD and made recommendations for CWD policy in Canada.
- Alberta Big Game Advisory Board (2011-2015), ACTWS representative; reviewed AB policy for large mammal management for scientific quality.

### **Principal Professional Interests**

Ungulate foraging & trophic ecology, predator-prey interactions, disease ecology, and professional diversity, inclusion & equality.

### **Views: Limit of 250 words.**

First, I give kudos to the Canadian Section Board of Directors for an efficient job in establishing their Incorporation, TWS Affiliation, and Charitable Status, and facilitating Canadian Chapters' options for TWS Affiliation in the last few years. We still have our work cut out to establish a well-integrated Canadian TWS where Section and Chapters have a framework to support each other. Second, with our house in order, we need to continue to strengthen Canadian perspectives in TWS. Not only do we have distinct ecosystems, but our cultural and political systems afford unique challenges and solutions. Since coming to Canada 21 years ago, I remain in awe of the vast but fragile Canadian wildlife resources, the cultural diversity, and the impassioned and close-knit wildlife professionals who work to conserve them. Canada's long wildlife legacy and our experience can benefit our neighbors, but the importance of TWS Affiliation in backing our efforts is not to be underestimated. Third, as our world continues to globalize, conserving the earth's biota will depend on making wildlife relevant and foraging international collaborations. Strong international teamwork within TWS is key in meeting the future challenges. TWS has been a part of my life for the past 40 years; I have seen the opportunities The Society has offered to young and seasoned professionals alike. It is growing in terms of diversity and inclusion. I hope to help promote the synergism that Canadians bring to tackling past and emerging professional and wildlife issues head-on.