

# TWS Council Candidate Biographic Sketch Southwest Section Representative – 2021

## James Ramakka

### Education

B.S. Wildlife Science, Cornell University, 1969

M.S. Wildlife Management, University of Maine, 1971

Additional Graduate Level Classes, Oklahoma State Univ. 1976-1978, Univ. Nevada Reno 1998

### Present Position

Retired July 2013 – present

### Former Positions

- National Wildlife Program Leader - Bureau of Land Management (D.C) - 2012-2013
- Managing Partner - Tierra Natural Resource Consultants (NM, CA, OR) - 2008-2011
- Land Use Planner - Bureau of Land Management (NM) - 2002-2007
- Chief Natural Resources- National Park Service, Chaco Culture NP (NM) - 2001-2002
- District Wildlife Biologist - Bureau of Land Management (NV, OR) - 1991-2001
- Wildlife Biologist - U.S. Forest Service (OR) - 1990-1991
- Wildlife Biologist - U.S. Bureau of Land Management (UT, NM) - 1978 - 1990
- Research Associate - Oklahoma Coop. Wildlife Research Unit - 1976 - 1978
- Instructor Wildlife Ecology, Field Biology - Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute - 1974 -1976
- Research Wildlife Biologist - U.S. Peace Corps -1972-1974

**The Wildlife Society Activities:** Member since 1969; CWB® in 1978; Member SW Section, NM Chapter; Past-member NE, SE, CMP, W, and NW Sections.

- Newsletter Editor NM Chapter (1984-1988)
- Secretary-Treasurer NM Chapter The Wildlife Society (1988-1989)
- TWS McDonough Award Committee (1995)
- President Elect NV Chapter The Wildlife Society (1995 – 1997)
- President NV Chapter The Wildlife Society (1997 -1998)
- Chair Western Section Awards Committee (1996),
- The Wildlife Society Certification Review Board 1994 to 2000 (Chair 1999-2000)
- Secretary Treasurer of The Wildlife Society International Working Group (2003 – 2006)
- Chair of The Wildlife Society International Working Group 2006 – 2009)
- Program Committee IV International Wildlife Management Congress (2011-2012)
- The Wildlife Society Nominations Committee (2014)
- Ding Darling Artist Award Committee (2016, 2017,2108, Chair 2019, 2020, 2021)
- Chair TWS SW Section Conservation Affairs Committee (2013 - 2018)
- SW Section Representative to TWS Council (2018-2021)

### Other Professional Affiliations

- American Ornithological Society
- Association of Field Ornithologists

- New Mexico Ornithological Society
- Raptor Research Foundation
- Public Lands Foundation

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

Virtually all of the BLM leadership positions I held (3 Planning Team Leader Positions, National Wildlife Program Leader) were positions for which I was recruited by upper-level management. I was told the reason they specifically sought me out was my ability to work with diverse groups of people in dynamic and complicated situations.

In other positions, such as serving as the Chair of the Nevada Partners in Flight steering committee (1993-1999) and Chair TWS International Working Group (2006-2009) I was asked by the membership to take over when the existing chairs unexpectedly decided to leave. In both situations, I guided team efforts by establishing clear objectives, facilitating communication between members to achieve those objectives, and encouraging exceptional members to assume leadership roles.

As Vice-Chair of the New Mexico Department Game and Fish Habitat Stamp Citizen Northwest Advisory Committee (appointed by NM Game and Fish Commission 2014-present) – I co-lead a committee of sportsperson and special interest groups that advises BLM and Forest Service on habitat improvement projects in NW New Mexico. There I use my experience in public land use planning and knowledge of recent wildlife research to facilitate committee decisions as to which projects to fund with Habitat Stamp Program dollars.

**Principal Professional Interests** (limit 15 words)

Endangered Species, Migratory Bird and Mammal Ecology, Resource Planning, International Wildlife Conservation, Mitigation, Professionalism

**Views: Limit of 250 words.**

It has been a privilege to represent the Southwest Section on Council. If nothing else, the past stressful year has demonstrated the strength of The Wildlife Society's Strategic Plan, the dedication and resourcefulness of TWS staff, and the willingness of Council to adapt to a situation none of us ever expected. The last two and a half years have found me working with highly focused, professional colleagues who place the welfare of The Wildlife Society, its members and its Chapters and Sections, at the forefront of every discussion.

If re-elected to serve another term on Council, I will continue to bring forward issues of concern to the members of the three strong Chapters that make up the Southwest Section. These issues include supporting the establishment of a Mexican Chapter and the pursuit of opportunities to collaborate with the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. I also believe we must continue to seek avenues to encourage minority recruitment and retention in the wildlife profession and to ensure that all members are made to feel welcome at TWS events. Students and early career professionals are the wildlife profession's future. It is important that we continue to listen to their concerns. The Wildlife Society is in a stronger financial position now more than ever before. While cautiously approaching the future, we need to examine strategies for assuring the most benefit for the membership, while maintaining long-term financial stability. I would be glad to be able to continue helping in these efforts.