

TWS Council Candidate Biographic Sketch Southwest Section Representative – 2021

Kathy Granillo

Education

M.S. Wildlife Resources, 1985, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID. Thesis title “Habitat use by small mammals and songbirds in selected vegetation types in the Centennial Mountains, Montana.”

B.S. Forestry (Wildlife emphasis), 1979, University of California, Berkeley, CA.

Present Position

2010 – present. Refuge Manager, Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Socorro, NM.

Manage the 230,000-acre refuge. There are 5 & 1/2 other permanent staff (we share a person with another refuge) and several volunteers. Conduct prairie and riparian restoration projects, permit approximately 80-90 research projects per year, host the Sevilleta LTER site, and the captive facility for the Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Program. Mentor REU students each year, conduct research on the bird community, reintroducing Gunnison’s prairie dogs to the refuge grasslands.

Former Positions

- 2008 – 2010. Regional Climate Change Coordinator, Southwest Region, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM.
Served on the USFWS National Climate Change Team; helped write the Service’s Climate Change Strategic Plan. Developed, organized, and chaired the Southwest Regional Climate Change Team. Organized two regional climate change workshops for the Service and our partners.
- 1993 – 2008. Regional Refuge Biologist, Southwest Region, NWRS, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM.
Supervisory Wildlife Biologist and Branch Chief from 1993 – 2003. Under various organizations, I supervised Visitor Services, Refuge Planning, Invasive Species, Nongame Migratory Bird Program, Migratory Bird Permit Office, Cultural Resources, Fire Management, Quarters Coordinator, Refuge Database Coordinator, and Aviation Management. Formulated and managed budgets and supervised from 2 to 8 employees. Conducted Wildlife and Habitat Management Reviews for refuges in the region. Assisted refuges with preparation of Comprehensive Conservation Plans, Habitat Management Plans, and Inventory and Monitoring Plans. Chaired the national “Habitat Monitoring on Refuges” team. Developed national habitat monitoring guidance for national wildlife refuges. Helped develop Fulfilling the Promise, the vision and recommendations document that guided the NWRS from 1998 through 2011. Helped write the Service manual chapter on biological integrity, diversity and environmental health. Trained facilitator; facilitated recovery team meetings for the Attwater’s Prairie Chicken and for the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow.
- 1992 – 1993. Regional Nongame Migratory Bird Coordinator Southwest Region, NWRS, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM.
Awarded grants and coordinated several research projects and education and outreach efforts for nongame migratory birds. Represented the Region on Partners In Flight Workgroups.

- 1990 – 1992. Forest Wildlife and Range Staff Officer Klamath National Forest, USDA Forest Service, Yreka, CA.
Member of the Forest Planning Team that developed the Klamath National Forest Land Management and Resource Plan. Member of the Forest Management Team (Forest Supervisor, Deputy, all staff officers, and all District Rangers). Helped set priorities and develop budgets. Developed the first wildlife inventory and monitoring plan for the Forest. Designed a Forest-wide songbird monitoring program. Established a Sister-Forest relationship with a biosphere reserve in Chiapas, Mexico.
- 1988 – 1990. District Biologist, U.S. Forest Service, Coronado National Forest, Safford Ranger District, Safford, AZ.
Implemented recovery actions for the endangered Mt. Graham Red Squirrel. Interfaced with the University of Arizona and their cooperators on development of a world-class observatory with three telescopes in the heart of red squirrel habitat. Wrote biological assessments and environmental assessments for several District projects.

The Wildlife Society Activities: Member since early 1990's; NM Chapter since 1993; SW Section since 1998

Member of the local committee for the first-ever TWS Annual Conference in 1994 held in Albuquerque, NM. Chaired the Exhibits and Trade Show Committee.

I have served on the NM Chapter Board as both Secretary/Treasurer and as a Board Member at Large. I have assisted several times with putting on the joint annual conference of the AZ and NM Chapters of TWS and the AZ/NM Chapter of the AFS (JAM) when organized by the NM Chapter TWS.

Member of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Awareness (IDEA) Working Group, Chair of Women of Wildlife sub-group. Have participated in many annual conferences as a presenter, and as an organizer of panel discussions and symposia.

Other Professional Affiliations

- Society for Conservation Biology
- New Mexico Ornithological Society – President
- Society for Ecological Restoration

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

I have been a leader my entire life either officially: Captain of my High School Tennis Team, President of the California Scholarship Federation Chapter, Crew Leader in seasonal jobs, District and Forest Management Team Member, Various Branch Chief positions with FWS, Refuge Manager, and President of NMOS.

Or unofficially: being an active member of whatever groups I belong to.

Leadership Skills/knowledge – good communicator, writer, speaker, and most importantly listener. I see the big picture and how to reach goals.

Latest Publications:

Granillo, Kathy. A long way to go. 2019. The Wildlife Professional September/October 2019

Granillo, Kathy et al. 2019. Moving forward: how do we change the culture of sexual harassment of women? The Wildlife Professional September/October 2019.

Eleven other publications in peer-reviewed outlets. (some under my maiden name Kathy Milne)

Principal Professional Interests (limit 15 words)

Working with others to conserve native ecosystems; landscape-level conservation of wild places

Views: Limit of 250 words.

I have lived and worked in the Southwest for over 30 years, and the wild lands and wildlife of this area are near and dear to my heart. The world of wildlife management and research is comprised of a relatively small, close-knit group of very dedicated people. Through my many years of working across the Southwest, and through my involvement in TWS, I have gotten to know many of these people well. They care deeply about wildlife resources. They work long hours. They do good things for wildlife. They need someone who knows the issues in the southwest to speak up at the national level; to be their voice to TWS leadership. They also need to hear back from leadership. I believe I can do this and do it well.

I would focus on better communication between scientists and managers. I have a long-time interest in improving communication between these two groups and I believe that TWS has a large role to play in this endeavor.

A top issue for me is involving youth and minorities in conservation and science. We need more young people, from diverse backgrounds, to engage in conservation and to pursue careers in wildlife research and management.

Another issue that I care deeply about is rapidly accelerating climate change. Anyone who lives in the southwest has seen and felt the changes – hotter and drier, with more intense weather events. I would keep this issue in the limelight while working with national, section and the state chapters.