



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

3 March 2022

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

Dear Director Williams:

Congratulations on your confirmation as Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Wildlife Society looks forward to working with you and serving as a resource in your work leading thousands of wildlife professionals and the conservation and management of our nation's fish and wildlife resources.

Our mission at The Wildlife Society is to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitat through science-based management and conservation. Founded in 1937, TWS and our network of affiliated chapters and sections represent more than 15,000 wildlife professionals dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education.

Through the collective knowledge and expertise of our wildlife professional and student members, TWS is a valuable resource in formulating wildlife management and conservation policies, laws, and regulations. We are always available to provide you and your staff timely, practical, and science-based input for managing complex conservation implementation challenges.

Our Society recognizes that science serves as the founding principle for making natural resource decisions, but that these decisions do not occur void of social and economic considerations. Along with providing independent and science-based perspectives on relevant government policies, we also provide information to professionals through a variety of professional development and communication tools. This includes a [professional certification program](#), a member magazine, three peer-reviewed journals, a weekly e-newsletter, and a website that provides robust coverage on the latest conservation news.

Since 2016, our organizations have shared a cooperative agreement that strives to leverage TWS' reach to benefit USFWS' professional development, talent recruitment, collaboration and public education efforts. Past agreements have included increased visibility for USFWS within the wildlife community; diversity efforts; opportunities for USFWS to contribute to TWS publications and communications; conference support and associated benefits; custom newsletters; and more. Our agreement has since expired and we look forward to developing a new and reinvigorated agreement that will further elevate the professional development goals of the agency.

Our [annual conference](#), taking place in Spokane, Washington this November 6-10, serves as a key event bringing together thousands of wildlife professionals to exchange scientific information and develop new skills via our workshops and symposia. During TWS' 2021 conference, we were able to bring together several USFWS employees and partners to highlight the successes and associated challenges in implementing the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. We welcome and encourage USFWS engagement at this year's conference in order to continue these conversations and allow for exchange of the latest ideas and research in the profession.

The Wildlife Society and our network of affiliated chapters and sections also provide USFWS employees the opportunity to engage in professional growth through volunteer leadership positions within TWS. If you have any questions about the benefits of employee-level engagement and representation in professional associations, please do not hesitate to let us know.

The Wildlife Society and our members wish you success in your new role and look forward to working with you and your staff. Please contact Caroline Murphy AWB®, Government Relations Manager at cmurphy@wildlife.org or (301) 968-1903 with any questions, comments, or thoughts on coordination.

Sincerely,



Gordon R. Batcheller, CWB®
President, The Wildlife Society



Edward B. Arnett, Ph.D., CWB®
Chief Executive Officer, The Wildlife Society