

WY – TWS 2020 Award Announcement

Wyoming TWS Roger Wilson Lifetime Achievement Award

We are eager to announce that Timothy Woolley has been awarded the 2020 WY – TWS Roger Wilson Lifetime Achievement Award. Tim's career has taken him across the state and back again, and during his trek from Laramie to Savery, then on to Cody, before returning again to the southeast corner of the state in Cheyenne, he influenced several aspects of wildlife management in Wyoming. He is a great scientist, communicator, and lifelong learner. These qualities made Tim an excellent person to work with and made him a successful member of the communities he lived in, as well as a great team member within the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. His career reflects his broad range of interests and willingness to take on new challenges. Tim has used his curiosity about life to make him better informed about wildlife management, research, and the world around him. It is without a doubt that wildlife management in Wyoming has been positively influenced by Tim Woolley. The same can be said for those who were fortunate enough to have worked with him.

Professional of the Year

The 2020 WY-TWS Professional of the Year Award has been awarded to Chris Colligan. Within his role in the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, he has worked tirelessly to get wildlife crossings out of the imagination and onto the roadways of Wyoming. He has navigated the perspectives of every possible stakeholder, from engineers to people who just love moose, from wildlife professionals to kids in the classroom learning about the impacts of safe passageways for wildlife. Chris has disseminated the information about the possibility of the first ever federal BUILD grant awarded for wildlife crossings so that many more NGO's could sign on and get behind it. Throughout the many hours, months and years Chris has spent on these projects, he has always respected and protected the science, as well as worked to maintain the tradition and uniqueness of Wyoming. Chris is a natural leader in the efforts to build wildlife crossings, but always attributes the successes to those who have worked with him.

Citizen of the Year

Amy Ramage works as an engineer for Teton County, Wyoming. In recent years, she has taken a leading role in bringing diverse agency partners and stakeholders together to incorporate wildlife needs into high profile transportation projects. She has been highly involved in transportation projects that have occurred or are currently in planning phases in Teton County, including the Highway 22 Pathway Construction, South Highway 89 Reconstruction Project, Snake River Bridge Replacement and Highway 22/390 Intersection Improvements, and Tribal Trails Connector Project. All of these projects bisect important wildlife habitats and movement corridors, and thus incorporating wildlife requirements into their designs is essential. She works extremely closely with the Wyoming Department of Transportation and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), as well as regularly reaching out to partners outside of government for input and expertise. One of Amy's most notable contributions was serving as the County lead for the development of Teton County's Wildlife Crossings Master Plan, which was formally adopted by the Teton County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in 2018.

Amy has a tremendous respect for scientific data and continually advocates for its use in decision-making. She plays an essential role in guiding funding requests from WGFD and BCC for financial support for moose GPS-collars to learn more about moose movement patterns around roadways. The support for this research by the elected officials was due to Amy's effective and clear communication of the benefits and usefulness of this information to County decision-making. It is because of her clear passion for wildlife issues that we announce Amy Ramage as the 2020 recipient of the WY – TWS Citizen of the Year Award.

WY – TWS 2021 Award Announcement

Wyoming TWS Roger Wilson Lifetime Achievement Award

Frank Blomquist has been a major player in wildlife issues and management in central Wyoming for over 30 years. As the Bureau of Land Management's wildlife biologist in Rawlins, he has worked tirelessly to protect Wyoming's wildlife resources and has greatly improved our understanding of wildlife populations through his efforts to support and help fund many important research projects. His work in that region has spanned several decades, through the natural gas boom of the 1990s and early 2000s, to our current contemporary challenges facing wildlife resources. Stephen E. Williams, retired Department head of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences at the University of Wyoming stated that "Frank is one of those rare individuals in the universe who understands the intricate working in nature and appreciates and is awed of them. He is doing the kind or heroic work that no one hears or knows of."

In addition to his contributions to wildlife, he has led roles of leading wetland evaluations for Proper Functioning Condition and Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring programs, as well as the Botany Program in the BLM field office. We are happy to announce that Frank Blomquist is the recipient of the 2021 WY – TWS Roger Wilson Lifetime Achievement Award.

Professional of the Year

We are happy to announce that Dr. Embere Hall has been awarded the 2021 WY – TWS Professional of the Year. Dr. Hall is an outstanding scientist, communicator, collaborator, advocate for wildlife, and has contributed substantially to the Wildlife Society at the state, section (Central Mountains and Plains), and national levels. Throughout her time in Wyoming, Dr. Hall has shown continued commitment to both the wildlife profession, but also to professionals in the field. She has served as a dedicated mentor and advocate for students and young professionals throughout the state and has continually displayed incredible leadership to the people who work with her and is able to motivate and inspire others with her passion and excitement for the work she does. She is passionate about research, but equally as enthusiastic about providing tangible solutions to on-the-ground problems through science-based management efforts. She works effortlessly with managers, researchers, stakeholders, and the public around the state. In her current position, Dr. Hall is shaping the future of our profession by equipping the Wyoming Game and Fish Department with the tools and resources needed to conserve and manage the wildlife in the state of Wyoming.

Citizen of the Year

Julie Hugel has worked as a volunteer in her homeowner's association (HOA) as well as in the greater Jackson Hole community. In recent years, she has taken a leading role in improving wildlife movement, wildfire mitigation in her subdivision, and volunteers as a medical professional assisting Teton County Health Department at vaccine clinics related to the pandemic. Julie has been highly involved in organizing wildlife friendly fencing conversions on her own property and on the larger Butler Creek Subdivision's boundary with the Forest Service and Wyoming Office of State Lands school parcel. In addition, she has also been studying wildlife vegetation needs and working to convert vegetation on her own property to reduce wildlife conflicts.

With assistance from Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation (JHWF), Julie organized the removal of 4,000 feet of fence wire across 2 HOA's, on private lands and bordering public lands, and efficiently navigated the Forest Service and HOA approval process. She has also served as a point of contact with JHWF for two removal projects in four additional locations and solicited volunteers from her community to assist with fence removal. It is clear that Julie is passionate about wildlife and landscape issues and serves as a role model for her community. It is our great pleasure to announce that Julie Hugel is the recipient of the 2021 WY – TWS Citizen of the Year Award.

Amy Ramage:



Chris Colligan



Timothy Woolley



2021

Embere Hall



Julia Hugel



Frank Blomquist

