

TWS Council Candidate Biographic Sketch

Western Representative – 2022

Rhys Evans

Education

1991 B.S. Wildlife Management, Humboldt State University (California)

Present Position

Natural Resources Manager, Vandenberg Space Force Base, California

Former Positions

Ecologist, United States Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, 29 Palms, CA;
National Park Advisor (U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer), Tatra National Park, Poland 1991-1993

The Wildlife Society Activities: Member since 1997

- Certified Wildlife Biologist® (2000-present)
- Past President, TWS Western Section (President-elect, President and Past President -- 3 yr cycle)
- Certification Review Board, 2015-2022 (co-chair, 2021-2022)
- Chair, TWS Quiz Bowl Subcommittee, 2015-2022
- Chair, Western Section Professional Development Committee (several years)
- California Central Coast Chapter (member)

Other Professional Affiliations

- Past President, National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (Vice President, President-Elect, President -- 4-yr cycle)
- Board of Directors, National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (Western Regional Director, At-Large Director, approx. 1998-2005)

Leadership Experience (professional and organizations; limit 5):

- TWS Western Section Executive Board, about 11 years in various roles, including developing workshops, symposia and annual meetings.
- National Military Fish and Wildlife Association, a fine group of more than 1200 natural resources managers in all 50 states – led conference planning for an annual meeting, assisted with policy guidance and membership; helped to expand the Board of Directors, helped them become more visible on the internet.
- Supervised as many as four natural resources management employees when employed by the U.S. Marine Corps, coordinated with dozens of cooperators and contractors
- I currently work with a team of Natural Resources Managers with an annual budget well in excess of \$4M/year; contract oversight, project planning, coordination with cooperators and contractors

Principal Professional Interests

Mostly a Policy/Regulatory geek, but I love whatever field work I can get...except when poison oak is nearby.

Views: Limit of 250 words.

I would be honored to represent the Western Section on TWS Council. I'm soon concluding six years on the Certification Review Board; I'm also stepping down as chair of the Quiz Bowl subcommittee – but I'll probably never stop working Quiz Bowl, it's fun!

Quick background, although many Western Section members know me. I'm a California native, and a proud graduate of Humboldt State. I served in the Peace Corps in southern Poland, working in gorgeous Tatra National Park (Google some photos, it's spectacular...). I've worked as a Wildlife Biologist in the Department of Defense for 26 years, first for the Marine Corps at 29 Palms (near Joshua Tree NP) and nearly 15 years at Vandenberg Space Force Base (formerly Vandenberg AFB). Those jobs have been challenging, rewarding...and occasionally frustrating. Currently, I'm part of a small team that manages 17 ESA-protected species on 100,000 acres of coastal California. We also manage MBTA, MMPA, NEPA, and more.

If elected, I look forward to representing TWS-WS! I will actively promote the great accomplishments of TWS and specifically TWS-West! Westerners need a voice at Council, which I will facilitate. I'd like to strengthen the TWS Certification program. I'm aware that there may not be an immediate or financial "payback" to becoming a Certified Wildlife Biologist®, but I strongly believe that certification demonstrates a commitment to wildlife management AND to our professional society. I'm proud to be a CWB®, and I would be proud to be elected Western Section Representative to TWS Council.