

TWS Council Candidate Biographic Sketch

Central Mountain and Plains Representative - 2023

Terry A. Messmer

Education

1977	B.S. University of North Dakota (Fish and Wildlife Management)
1979	B.S. University of North Dakota (Biology)
1985	M.S. North Dakota State University (Natural Resource Management)
1986	M.S. North Dakota State University (Community and Regional Planning)
1990	Ph.D. North Dakota State University (Animal and Range Sciences)

Present Position

- **Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist**, Director, Utah Community-Based Conservation Program, Quinney Professor for Wildlife Conflict Management, Director, Jack H. Berryman Institute, Editor-in-Chief of Human-Wildlife Interactions, Utah State University Extension, Quinney College of Natural Resources, Department of Wildland Resources. (1991-Present).

Former Positions

- **Assistant Professor, and Extension Wildlife Specialist**, North Dakota State University (1990-1991). Responsible for implementing state wide extension fisheries and wildlife management programming to include wildlife conservation policy, wetland and endangered species management, environmental, education, 4-H, rangeland management, aquaculture, and wildlife management in urban and rural landscapes.
- **Extension Wildlife Specialist, and Co-coordinator Project Wild North Dakota**, North Dakota State University (1984-1990). Responsible for implementing state wide extension fisheries and wildlife management programming to include wildlife conservation policy, wetland and endangered species management, environmental, education, 4-H, rangeland management, aquaculture, and wildlife management in urban and rural landscapes. Conducted Project Wild teacher training workshops for elementary and secondary education teachers. Director, North Dakota State University Wildlife Rehabilitation Program.
- **Garrison Diversion Biologist**, North Dakota Game and Fish Department (1982). Completed wildlife mitigation/impact studies on the Garrison Diversion Project.
- **Natural Resource Mitigation Biologist**, North Dakota Department of Transportation (1979-1982). Prepared and implemented mitigation plans and NEPA documents to offset the impacts of highway construction operation, and maintenance on wildlife, fisheries, water and air quality.

The Wildlife Society Activities: Member since 1977

- The Wildlife Society (TWS), Certified Wildlife Biologist 1987. Nominations Committee (1995-98) and Awards Committee (1997-99, Chair 1999). Editor-in-Chief of the Wildlife Society Bulletin (2005-2006). Student Mentor (1995-2010 TWS Annual Conference), Wildlife Damage Management and Public Conservation Education and Outreach Working Groups (1998-Present), Chair, Public Conservation Education and Extension Working Group (1998-2015). Associate Editor, Journal of Wildlife Management (2006-Present). Associate Editor, Wildlife Society Bulletin (2010-Present). TWS Caesar Kleberg Award for Excellence in Applied Research (2016),

TWS Group Achievement Award – Utah Community-Based Conservation Program (2016), TWS W.I McAtee and G.V. Burger Award for Outstanding Service as an Associate Editor (2019).

- Central, Mountain, and Plains Chapter (CMPS), Member (1977-Present), Chairperson TWS Annual Meeting Student Travel Grant Committee (1994-95), Chairperson Annual Meeting Committee (1996), Candidate for Central Mountains and Plains Section Representative (1996). CMPS Board member (1993-1997), President-elect, CMPS (2001-2002), President CMPS 2002-2004. Past-President CMPS (2005).
- North Dakota Chapter (TWS), (1977-Present), Executive Board (1985-1991), President, and Past-President (1991-92), Chapter Life member (1990-Present). North Dakota Chapter of the Wildlife Society Communicator Award (1989).
- Utah Chapter (TWS), (1991-Present), President-elect (1994), President (1995), Past-President (1996). Chairperson Annual Meeting Committee (1995-2000). Award of Excellence (2019).
- Wyoming Chapter (TWS) Member 2020-Present
- South Dakota Chapter (TWS) Member 2020-Present
- Colorado Chapter (TWS) Member 2020-Present
- Nebraska Chapter (TWS) Member 2020-Present
- Kansas Chapter (TWS) Member 2020-Present

Other Professional Affiliations

- ***Associate Member, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies***, 2000-Present. Member, Wildlife Resources Policy Committee, Federal and Tribal Lands Committee, and Human Wildlife Conflict Task Force, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
- ***North Dakota Natural Science Society***, (1980-Present), President-elect (1990-91), First Chapter Life member (1990). Prairie Naturalist Editorial Review Board (1985-1992).
- ***Society for Range Management*** (1980-Present), Northern Great Plains Region (1980-90) and Utah Section (1990-Present).
- ***Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*** - Mule Deer Working Group, Human-Wildlife Conflict Committee, and Sagebrush Conservation Strategy Committee (1995-Present).
- ***Epsilon Sigma Phi***, National Honorary Extension Fraternity, (1991-Present).

Leadership Experience:

1. ***U.S. Army*** – Completed 41 years of military service in 2014 as both an enlisted soldier, non-commissioned and commissioned officer. Served as a military policemen, race-relations instructor, photo and broadcast journalist, and preventive medicine/environmental scientist. Served 20 years as unit commander responsible for the health, welfare, combat survival, and training of my Soldiers. Skills developed include conflict mitigation and resolution, policy development, mental health and suicide protection, management of large budgets and personnel, equipment maintenance, and program accountability.
 - Commander, 200th Medical Detachment, 96th Reserve Command, Fort Douglas, Utah (1999-2006). Responsible for command and control of a 20-soldier detachment and over \$4 million dollars in equipment. The units provided public health services for active U.S. Army, Reserve, and National Guard units stationed worldwide (1999-2006). We participated in foreign humanitarian missions in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. Coordinated a community donation effort in Utah that generated over \$400,000 in school equipment and supplies, text books, and medical equipment to support remote communities in Guatemala and Nicaragua. Coordinated transportation and distribution of the equipment and supplies with the U.S. State Department, Host Nations, and US

Army Southern Command. Promoted to Major (2002). Mobilized and deployed to support 4th Infantry and 82d Airborne Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Provided preventive medicine support to all coalition forces in Iraq. Received the US Army Reserve Safety Award and the 96th Regional Readiness Command Deployment Readiness Award. Awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Meritorious Unit Citation.

- Commander, 172nd Medical Battalion (2006-2011). The 172 Medical Battalion is a 230 Soldier battalion consisting of 3 companies with \$50 million dollars in equipment and inventory. The unit was responsible to provide bio-medical repair and medical supply throughout the western United States. Awarded Meritorious Unit Citation for superior service. Force commander the 957th Medical Company during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2010-2011. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel (2008). Awarded Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.
- Commander, 1835th Medical Detachment (Combat Stress Control). The 1835th Medical Detachment provided psychiatric care and counseling service to deployed and non-deployed soldiers to mitigate the effects of combat stress on soldier and family well-being. Promoted to Colonel in 2012. Provided counseling support to over 10,000 Soldiers and their families in 48 units where a Soldier had committed suicide. Awarded a Meritorious Service and Superior Unit Award for reducing Soldier suicides. Retired in 2014. Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (2nd Oak Leaf Cluster) and inducted into the Order of Medical Military Merit (2013).

2. Director, Mule Deer Foundation (MDF), Salt Lake City, Utah.

- Chaired of the Projects and Funding Committee, member of the Strategic Planning Committee, chair of the Executive Director Search, Scientific Review, and National Convention Symposium Committees (1998-2004). The MDF raised over \$5 million annually to support mule deer conservation. Coordinated the review process for project proposals. Gained experience in budgeting, fundraising, project proposal review and evaluation, and communicating with a board range of NGOs, and sportsmen and sportswomen.

3. Executive Director, Dakota Wildlife Trust, a private nonprofit conservation organization based in Valley City, ND (1986-99).

- Coordinated volunteer efforts for over 1,000 hunters and anglers that were members of 40 North Dakota wildlife/sportsmen clubs and organizations under the Hides for Habitat Program. The program generated over \$300,000 for local habitat projects through the sale of deer hides donated by hunters. Administered and coordinated the Trust's Youth for Wildlife Food and Habitat Program. The program engaged over 500 youth in projects designed to develop wildlife habitat. Over 5,000 acres of wildlife habitat were created through the program. Served as a board member, U.S. Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). Guided implementation of NAWMP in the Prairie Pothole Region of the United States (1988-99). Gained organizational and communications experience working with federal and state agencies, conservation organizations, NGOS, thousands of landowners, and youth to conserve wetlands and wildlife habitat.

4. Founder and Executive Advisor, Utah Cooperative Wildlife Management Association (CWMA) (1994-Present).

- This is a private 501(c)(6) non-for-profit business organization. The corporation was organized to ensure Utah's Cooperative Wildlife Management Program provides high quality hunting experiences and incentives to encourage habitat management on private lands. The

program engages over 500 landowners who own and manage over 2.5 million acres of private land. Since inception the program has generated over \$1 Billion in new revenue in support of wildlife management on private lands and as such has provided ranchers with an economic alternative to selling ranches for development. The program has also increased public access to private lands for hunting. Gained skills working with diverse stakeholders and legislators to develop legislation and rules to ensure the program continued to provide multiple public and wildlife benefits.

5. ***Free-roaming Equid and Ecosystem Sustainability Network*** (2019-Present)

- As of March 1, 2019, the BLM estimated that there were 89,000 free-roaming equids inhabiting BLM-administered HMAs. This is more than three times the ecological balance. Not every HMA is affected adversely, but where there is an overabundance of free-roaming equids, they impact the overall health of the U.S. western public rangelands by degrading ecosystem functions and reducing the forage and water available for domestic and native wildlife species. Founded the Free-roaming Equid and Ecosystem Sustainability Network (FREES; <https://extension.usu.edu/freesnetwork/>) to facilitate open dialogue and build positive relationships that engage the partners in collective actions to ensure the health of free-roaming equids (i.e., wild horses and burros), western rangeland ecosystem health and sustainability and the principles of multiple-use. Honed organizational skills and abilities to work with animal welfare and animals' rights groups, horse activists, landowners, public land stakeholders, and First Nations while seeking sustainable management of free-roaming equids.

Principal Professional Interests

Identification, implementation, and evaluation of conservation strategies, technologies, and partnerships to benefit wildlife and stakeholders.

Views: Limit of 250 words.

In his book "Politics Western Style," Governor Cecil Andrus shared guiding principles of governance; 1) always tell the truth, and 2) before you make a policy decision, understand how that decision will affect those who have the least access to the decision process. I embraced this philosophy as we sought to integrate communities into natural resources management. Ultimately the power to make management policy decisions is the responsibility of government. To achieve conservation, stakeholder access to the policy process and good science are essential.

When there is controversy regarding what constitutes natural resources management, there are often inherent and deep differences in stakeholder values. The typical response of the scientific community to mitigate controversy has been "we need more science." However, more science may only increase the polarization. Achieving organizations, such as TWS, can only succeed by increasing stakeholder responsibility. Stakeholders are asked to define their contributions. In doing so, TWS has focused to developing competencies of empathy, respect, and adaptation to change; without change there can be no progress.

In achieving organizations, the partners assume the risks; financial, policy, relationships, and otherwise. My principles of shared governance include: 1) leadership engaged at multiple levels, 2) a bottom-up hierarchy, 3) building a history of collaboration, 4) learning by doing, 5) science-based approaches, 6) operating at meaningful spatial scales, 7) being solution minded, not problem focused, and 8) unselfish sharing of resources. Thank you for the opportunity to share my personal and professional perspectives in consideration as your TWS Council representative.