# Nominee, please provide your answer to the following question (500-word limit):

I started down The Wildlife Society (TWS) path in the 1970s and have never looked back. I have seen TWS evolve just like the ecosystems around me, and this is a strength of The Society. The current revision of the Strategic Plan reflects a blend of maintaining our core values while adapting to the realities of our future. I intend to support this direction with particular attention in: 1) strengthening policy engagement in North America while keeping science at the forefront and being proactive in developing effective partnerships, 2) fostering opportunities for students and new professionals (who will be our teachers and our legacy) along with seasoned mentors; 3) diversifying our community and expanding inclusiveness in creative ways that may take stepping outside of the box; and 4) by not losing sight of the financial solvency needed to support our staff and everyday efforts. The best steps forward for each of these may not always be clear and outcomes may not be immediate. But when weighing the options, we need to be transparent and communicate clearly the end-game, institute our decisions in an equitable manner, and learn from our mistakes. Martin Luther King was a leader because he had not only a plan but a dream. I aspire to help TWS stay relevant and to support our members and those around them to enjoy wildlife in sustainable and reverent ways that battle the malaise of emerging environmental grief, unites us in cause, and motivates us to step up. I am passionate about ensuring the same wonder and enthusiasm for the world of wildlife in the future that I have been fortunate enough to find in my life. I see my service to TWS as an important means for achieving that, and as an enduring legacy of my career.

1. **Nominee, please share information about yourself that members should know for selecting the Vice President of TWS (500-word limit).**

Although born in the asphalt jungle of Manhattan, I found my land ethic alongside of the Beaverkill River in the Catskills of New York. After traveling abroad, I changed my focus from political science to wildlife science and became the first woman graduate student in the University of Idaho’s Wildlife program. In my MSc, I learned to climb trees to avoid protective mother bears, understand the impact of invasive species and pseudo-replication, and contend with the realities of politics. During my PhD, I found myself amidst a moonscape at Mount St. Helens not knowing what to hypothesize but left in awe of an ecosystem’s resilience and in love with watching elk. Navigating the challenges of a dual-career couple at the Universities of Wyoming and Wisconsin-S.P., I gained the resolve to follow through on my passion for research. I moved to the University of Alberta in 1999, which has been home for half of my 47-year career. In each new environment, and at each stage of my career, I was part of the TWS community— gaining experience as a Student Chapter Advisor, filling roles in 4 Chapters, guiding the *Journal of Wildlife Management* as its Editor-in-Chief, and now as Canadian Representative to Council. The network of peers, now friends, that inspired and educated me along the way remains at the heart of my motivation to continue to step up for TWS.

Challenges lie ahead for TWS in uniting and leading our profession in a world that seems divided and overwhelmed with pressing needs for resource management solutions. But I have seen amazing, creative new professionals emerge. For my part, I have directed my research toward the science and tools to support agencies in making decisions trying to close the lingering research-management gap. I am encouraged by the collective will at all levels of TWS to move to the forefront in the policy arena. To be successful, we need the synergy of a culturally diverse Society to keep evolving and remaining relevant. Witnessing first-hand how TWS’s support for women has expanded, encourages me to expect the same bold work will be done to embrace diversity in other groups as part of “ALL ARE WELCOME”. The subtle but significant ways that Canada approaches wildlife management has broadened my thinking on current problems and solutions. This includes seeing the world through the eyes of land-based, indigenous groups and listening, hearing, and examining what it will take in ourselves to become allies and work alongside these impassioned peoples. My experience as a TWS journal Editor has deepened my awareness of the challenges for communicating broadly while maintaining quality science in the, and wisdom within TWS’s members to build the capacity to influence the future of wildlife conservation and management in North America. I would be honored to help guide changing world of publications, at the same time maintaining their key revenues to fund meaningful programs within a non-profit society. There is no shortage of dedication, resolve and work alongside them to tackle what lies ahead.

1. **Please “paste” a recent photograph of the nominee below (in .jpg, .jpeg or .tif format)**.

