**Candidate Search for Vice President of The Wildlife Society (TWS)**

**NOMINEE:**

1. **Contact Information**

Adam A. Ahlers

1712 Claflin Road

Manhattan, KS

217-419-2090

aahlers2@ksu.edu

1. **Education** *(Include degree(s), institution(s), date(s))*

Ph.D., University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (2015)

M.S., University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (2010)

B.S., Eastern Illinois University, Biological Sciences (2007)

A.A., Northeast Community College, Liberal Arts (1998)

1. **Current position** *(Include major duties, accomplishments, and years held)*

Associate Professor, Kansas State University (2020-present)

Duties

* Conducted and published applied research related to wildlife population demographics and habitat management
* Taught undergraduate and graduate courses related to wildlife ecology and management
* Provided leadership on department, college, and university committees

Accomplishments

* North American Colleges & Teachers of Agriculture Educator Award (2020)

**Additional positions pertinent to TWS president position** *(Include major duties, accomplishments and years held)*

**Assistant Professor, Kansas State University (2015-2020)**

Duties

* Conducted and published applied research related to wildlife population demographics and habitat management
* Taught undergraduate and graduate courses related to wildlife ecology and management
* Provided leadership on department, college, and university committees

Accomplishments

* Natural Resource Communication Award, Annual Meeting of CMPS (2019)
* Early Career Award, Gamma Sigma Delta (2018)
* Outstanding Teacher Award, Gamma Sigma Delta (2017)

**Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois (2007-2015)**

Duties

* Conducted and published applied research related to semiaquatic mammal ecology
* Taught and assisted with undergraduate courses (e.g., Population Ecology, Mammalogy, Wildlife Field Techniques)
* ‘Research Coordinator’ for University of Illinois Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society

Accomplishments

* Louis V. Logeman Graduate Student Teaching Award (2015)
* North American College & Teachers of Agriculture Graduate Teaching Award (2015)

**Squad Leader, Illinois Army National Guard (2005-2008)**

Duties

* Provided leadership and accountability for soldiers and equipment during peacetime
* Provided training and evaluation for soldiers
* Organized logistics for short- and long-term deployments

**Team Leader, United States Army (2001-2005)**

Duties

* Provided leadership during combat and non-combat missions
* Responsible for soldier and equipment accountability
* Provided leadership and oversight of soldiers and equipment in dangerous/stressful situations

**Operations Supervisor, Little Blue Natural Resources District (2000-2001)**

Duties

* Provided leadership for the District’s tree planting program
* Conducted habitat management at District-owned properties
* Assessed surface and ground water quality throughout the District

**Water Resources Technician, Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District (1998-2000)**

Duties

* Provided leadership for the District’s weed barrier teams
* Monitored surface and ground water quality
* Monitored ground water depths and irrigation outputs

1. **Memberships and involvement with TWS at the TWS, Section, and Chapter levels**

The Wildlife Society - International

Member, The Wildlife Society (2006-present)

Associate Wildlife Biologist (2013-2017)

Certified Wildlife Biologist (2017-present)

Fellow (2022)

The 1000 (2016-present)

Leadership Institute (2016)

Student Mentor, Leadership Institute (2017)

Publication Awards Committee (2013-2019, 2023 – present)

Editorial Advisory Board, *The Wildlife Professional* (2018-2021)

Central Mountains & Plains Section of The Wildlife Society

Member, CMPS (2015-present)

President-elect (2017-2018)

President (2018-2020)

Past-President (2020-2021)

Chair, Mission and Strategic Plan Review Committee (2017-2018)

Chair, Resolutions and Statements Committee (2017-2020)

Annual Meeting Planning Committee (2017-2021)

Annual Program Committee (2017-2020)

State Chapter Memberships and Involvement

Kansas Chapter of The Wildlife Society

-Member (2015-present)

-President (2023-present) - (*term expires late 2024; added by Evans)*

-Liaison with Central Mountains & Plains Section of TWS (2022-present)

-President-elect (2021-present)

-Annual Meeting Planning Committee (2021)

-Nebraska Chapter of The Wildlife Society

-Member (2020-present)

-*Ad hoc* Conservation Advocacy Team (2021)

-Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society

-Member (2020-present)

-North Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

-Member (2020-present)

-South Dakota Chapter of The Wildlife Society

-Member (2020-present)

-Utah Chapter of The Wildlife Society

-Member (2020-present)

-Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society

-Member (2020-present)

**Membership with other professional organizations** *(Include major contributions, officer or chair positions held, committee involvement, awards received)*

American Society of Mammalogists (Life Member; 2006-present)

-Grants-in-Aid Committee

-Conservation Committee

The Great Plains Natural Science Society (Life Member; 2021-present)

Central Plains Society of Mammalogists (2015-2018)

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

*Why are you interested in running for the office of TWS Vice President and what is your vision for The Wildlife Society?*

I’m interested in running for the office of TWS Vice President so I can continue my service to TWS in an expanded leadership capacity. My past work with TWS, state chapters, and CMPS has been rewarding and I genuinely feel like my volunteer work in these units has positively affected the careers of other wildlife professionals and aided in the management and conservation of wildlife populations and landscapes. It is a great feeling to work with people who are passionate about wildlife conservation and management and who also volunteer their free time to contribute to the efforts of TWS (and state chapters and sections). The wildlife profession is changing in some ways, and TWS needs to adapt to meet the needs and ambitions of its members and also wildlife professional who are not members. Additionally, TWS needs to remain relevant to wildlife professionals across North America while also remaining an effective voice in wildlife management and conservation. My own leadership vision has been shaped by working with outstanding leaders across various disciplines ranging from agriculture, state agencies, academia, and the military. This also includes working with great leadership at the TWS, state chapter, and section levels. My leadership vision has equally been shaped by my work with less-than-perfect leaders in these fields and by my own shortcomings in past leadership roles. I would be excited to volunteer my time to help TWS meet the challenges ahead of our organization and enhance our relevancy as the voice of wildlife conservation and management in North America. As Vice President of TWS, I would work closely with our membership to ensure that our organization’s work will help enhance wildlife conservation and management. Additionally, I would work with our diverse TWS members and others to ensure we are delivering resources to wildlife professionals that enhance professional development and help them achieve their conservation goals.

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

I’m an applied ecologist who works closely with state and federal agencies to help solve problems related to wildlife management. My research group focuses on understanding how landscape changes impact species’ distributions and population demographics. Our work occurs in wetlands across the Upper Midwest and through the Great Plains and also in the ever-changing working lands embedded in historic prairie ecosystems. I’m also an educator and I help undergraduate and graduate students prepare for careers in in the wildlife profession. Although I currently work in academia, my past roles have included work in agriculture, state agencies, and the military. I’ve volunteered a considerable amount of time over the last couple decades expanding the work of state chapters (I’m finishing my last year President of the Kansas Chapter of TWS) and the Central Mountains & Plains Section of TWS (I’m a past-President of CMPS), as well as participating on TWS working groups, the publications award committee, and with the editorial board of *The Wildlife Professional*. My time volunteering with all aspects of TWS has been super rewarding and I would like to expand my leadership role in the organization. I’ve been a member of TWS as a student, an early career professional, and in whatever group I belong in now. I’ve benefited from my involvement with TWS at many stages in my career, and I would like to lead efforts that empower other wildlife professionals to become leaders in conservation and wildlife management. When I’m not working, my wife and I are driving my daughters around to all their school and sporting events. I also spend a lot of time walking behind my two setters chasing prairie grouse in the fall.

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

