



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

On behalf of The Wildlife Society (TWS; wildlife.org), congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of the Interior. We look forward to working with you and your staff and serving as a resource for the Department alongside thousands of natural resource professionals in implementing science-based and collaborative conservation actions.

Founded in 1937, TWS and its network of affiliated chapters and sections represent more than 10,000 professional wildlife biologists, managers, and educators. Our mission is to empower wildlife professionals to advance conservation through science, community, and professional excellence.

The Wildlife Society works closely with federal bureaus and agencies, state wildlife agencies, non-profits, academia, business, and industry to fulfill its mission. The extraordinary system of wildlife conservation in the U.S. includes sustainable hunting, birdwatching, and other wildlife-related activities that generate hundreds of millions of dollars annually for our national and local economies. This system is fundamentally dependent on trained wildlife professionals in all sectors of the profession, including those charged with managing public trust wildlife resources on federal and private lands.

We have long-standing relationships and multi-year cooperative agreements in place with several agencies and bureaus within the Department of the Interior, and we look forward to continuing these relationships under your leadership. Our professional society recognizes that natural resource decisions must consider many social, economic, and ecological factors, and that decision-makers may make determinations that do not always provide maximum benefits or minimize impacts to wildlife and their habitats.

However, the appropriate use of science in the decision making process is essential to achieving balance and success under the multiple use mandate for our public lands. That includes openly acknowledging and considering the best available science and consequences from a range of management options. Professional science-based management requires consulting with and hiring professionally competent individuals capable of dealing with the complexities of modern management and science into wildlife agencies at all levels. To that end, we are always available to assist you and your staff with science-based input for managing our nation's natural resources.

Along with providing decision makers independent and science-based perspectives on relevant government policies, TWS also shares information through multiple scientific and popular publications, hosts an annual conference on wildlife science and management, organizes professional development opportunities, and manages a professional certification program for wildlife biologists. All of these outputs from our work at TWS benefit our federal workforce in the wildlife profession.

The Wildlife Society wishes you great success in your new role. My staff and I would very much appreciate meeting with you in late March or late April to discuss opportunities for continued collaboration with the Department. Please contact myself (earnett@wildlife.org) or Kelly O'Connor, Conservation Policy Manager, at koconnor@wildlife.org or (301) 897-9770 x332 with any questions, comments, or to coordinate a meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward B. Arnett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Edward B. Arnett, Ph.D., CWB®
Chief Executive Officer
The Wildlife Society

cc:

Ms. Katherine MacGregor, Transition Team Lead & Deputy Secretary Nominee, DOI
Mr. Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
Dr. Sarah J. Ryker, Acting Director, USGS
Mr. Paul Souza, Acting Director, USFWS
Mr. John Raby, Acting Director, BLM