



THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

February 19, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

On behalf of The Wildlife Society (TWS; wildlife.org), congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of Agriculture. 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 dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. 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., which includes sustainable hunting and other wildlife-related activities that generate hundreds of millions of dollars annually for our national and local economies, is fundamentally dependent on trained wildlife professionals in all sectors of the profession. This includes professionals charged with managing public trust wildlife resources, and the habitats they depend upon, on federal and private lands.

Our professional society recognizes that natural resource decisions must consider many social, economic, and ecological factors, with science serving as the bedrock principle for informing those decisions to achieve balance and success under the multiple-use mandate for our public lands. To that end, we are always available to assist you and your staff with science-based input for managing our nation's natural resources. We have long-standing relationships and multi-year cooperative agreements in place with several agencies and bureaus within the Department of Agriculture, and we look forward to continuing these relationships under your leadership.

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 that 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 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 on coordinating a meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward B. Arnett".

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

Cc: Dr. Michael Watson, Administrator, APHIS
Mr. Randy Moore, Chief, USFS
Mr. Louis Aspey, Acting Chief, NRCS
Ms. Kimberly Graham, Acting Administrator, FSA
Ms. Kailee Tkacz Buller, Chief of Staff, USDA
Mr. Tom Schultz, Chief of Staff, NRE