



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Science Awards

2016 RULES & REQUIREMENTS

NOMINATION PROCESS FOR ALL AWARDS

There are two phases to the nomination process – initial submission by anyone interested in nominating, followed by review by the Region/Program to determine which nominations it will put forward for National consideration. Each Region/Program is limited to submitting two nominations per award type per year (for a total of six per Region/Program). Anyone may submit a nomination for their Region or Program to consider; however, only nominations approved by the Regional Director or Assistant Director will be included in the national review process.

SharePoint Submission Site: <https://fishnet.fws.doi.net/regions/9/OSA/ScienceAwards>

The Science Awards SharePoint site has been designed to accommodate the Region/Program review process in addition to the National process.

Initial Nomination Submission

Complete an online nomination package at the SharePoint site; you can save a partially completed nomination and finish it later. Detailed instructions are available on the site.

Nominations must be completed by **24 October 2016** so they can be reviewed and approved at the Region/Program level. In SharePoint, update Nomination Status to “Ready for regional review.”

Region/Program Review

To be eligible for National consideration, a nomination must complete the Regional/Program review process and be marked “Selected for national review” in SharePoint by **16 November 2016**. These nominations must include a DI-451 Form (Recommendation and Approval of Awards) that is signed by the appropriate Regional or Assistant Director. Without this signed form uploaded to SharePoint, the nomination will not be considered at the National level. Be sure to check the “DI-451 Signatures Verified” box. This process is coordinated by the Region/Program Science Awards Contact.

For nominations selected as national winners

After the national review process is complete and the winners are selected, the winning Regions or Programs will be required to provide high-quality photographs of the winning nominee.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Science Awards

Rachel Carson Award for Exemplary Scientific Accomplishment



AWARD DESCRIPTION

The *Rachel Carson Award for Exemplary Scientific Accomplishment* is an honorary award recognizing a Service employee, or group of employees, who exemplifies the best in the Service's tradition of scientific contributions applied to achieve conservation results for fish, wildlife, and plants.

There is one award each year, from either of the following:

- an individual award to a Fish and Wildlife Service employee
- a group award to a set of Fish and Wildlife Service employees, which may include a combination of field, regional, or Headquarters employees.

The award consists of a certificate signed by the Director and a medallion. Notice of the award will be published in Fish and Wildlife News and/or in other news outlets. The Director or Deputy Director will present the award at a Headquarters or regional office ceremony. The Director, at his/her discretion, may provide additional funds (up to \$50,000) to the organizational unit of the recipient(s) for one fiscal year.

AWARD CRITERIA

The *Rachel Carson Award* recognizes scientific excellence through the rigorous practice of science applied to a conservation problem. The award criteria are: (1) statement of a clear conservation problem that the nominee(s)'s efforts address, (2) demonstration of extraordinary scientific accomplishment (60%), and (3) resulting conservation outcomes (40%).

Conservation Problem

Clearly describe the conservation issue of importance to the Fish and Wildlife Service that was addressed by the nominee(s)'s scientific efforts. Be specific. What was the problem? What resource management decisions were affected by the problem? What were the key information needs, uncertainties, or methodological barriers to improving the situation?

Extraordinary Scientific Accomplishment

Describe the nominee(s)'s specific scientific accomplishment. Clearly specify the *outputs*, which are the products that resulted from the nominee's scientific activities. For example, an innovative analytical method, design of a monitoring program, a new captive breeding or propagation system, or an influential publication.

Include at least one, but no more than five, citations or scientific products that summarize or demonstrate the nominee(s)'s scientific accomplishment. For individual nominations, include the nominee's CV (no more than two pages), highlighting publications or presentations relevant to this

accomplishment. For group nominations, include a list of all members and briefly describe each member's role and contribution.

(This criterion accounts for 60% of the evaluation)

Conservation Outcomes

Describe the direct application of the nominee(s)'s scientific output to the decision making associated with the conservation problem. What was the *outcome* relative to how the Service conducts its work? *Outcomes* are the conservation actions, decisions, or benefits that resulted from the nominee(s)'s outputs. For example: a prairie restoration, the decision to list an endangered species, increased survival at a fish passage, modification of hunting regulations, etc. If possible, describe the conservation impacts, such as measurable improvements in species, populations, ecosystems, or habitats.

(This criterion accounts for 40% of the evaluation.)

To be eligible, the scientific accomplishment must have occurred in the last five years.

A COMPLETED NOMINATION PACKAGE FOR THE RACHEL CARSON AWARD CONTAINS:

- A. Name(s) and contact information for nominee(s), including each member of a group being nominated.
- B. For individual awards, a CV for the nominee (no more than 2 pages) that highlights publications or presentations relevant to this contribution. For group nominations, a list of all group members that briefly describes each member's role and contribution.
- C. A completed nomination form that clearly justifies how each of the award criteria were met. Provide supporting documentation, such as publications, reports, awards, news articles, photos, etc., by either (i) including references and/or links directly in the text of the criteria or (ii) uploading no more than five supporting documents and listing the names of the relevant attachments in the nomination form.

AWARD SCOPE

- A. Up to one award will be presented per fiscal year;
- B. Assistant and Regional Directors may each submit up to two nominations per award type per year;
- C. Scientific accomplishments must have been achieved in the last five fiscal years;
- D. Nominees may include biologists, hydrologists, forensic scientists, planners, habitat specialists, attorneys, economists, IT specialists, and any other discipline that meets the evaluation criteria;
- E. One or more of the top nominees not selected for an award may be given an Honorable Mention certificate;
- F. Award recipients will not be eligible to compete again for two years following receipt of the award;
- G. Award solicitation will be announced in October and the selection process will be completed by late January. Award presentation timing may vary.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact Megan Cook, Science Applications, at 703-358-1892 or megan_cook@fws.gov.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Science Awards

Sam D. Hamilton Award for Transformational Conservation Science



AWARD DESCRIPTION

The *Sam D. Hamilton Award for Transformational Conservation Science* is an honorary award recognizing a Service employee, or group of employees, who exemplify the best in the Service's tradition of innovation in conservation through scientifically-based natural resource management. The award emphasizes improving scientific quality, capability, and efficiency; and facilitating cultural and institutional change in support of sound science. For example:

- Increasing coordination and collaboration of scientific activities, either across programs within the Service or with conservation partners;
- Developing innovative approaches to large scale conservation science problems or decisions; or
- Improving the Service's scientific capacity and infrastructure for more effective and/or efficient resource management decision making.

There is one award each year, from either of the following:

- an individual award to a Fish and Wildlife Service employee
- a group award to a set of Fish and Wildlife Service employees, which may include a combination of field, regional, or Headquarters employees.

The award consists of a certificate signed by the Director and a medallion. Notice of the award will be published in Fish and Wildlife News and/or in other news outlets. The Director or Deputy Director will present the award at a Headquarters or regional office ceremony. The Director, at his/her discretion, may provide additional funds (up to \$50,000) to the organizational unit of the recipient(s) for one fiscal year.

AWARD CRITERIA

The Sam D. Hamilton Award for Transformational Conservation Science recognizes innovative application of science. The award criteria are: (1) statement of a clear conservation problem that the nominee(s)'s efforts address, (2) demonstration of extraordinary contribution to the scientific community (60%), and (3) resulting conservation outcomes (40%).

Conservation Problem

Clearly describe the conservation issue of importance to the Fish and Wildlife Service that was addressed by the nominee(s)'s scientific efforts. Be specific. What was the problem? What resource management decisions were affected by the problem? What were the key information needs, uncertainties, or methodological barriers to improving the situation?

Extraordinary Contribution to the Conservation Science Community

Describe the nominee(s)'s contribution to transforming the production or application of science to the resolution of the conservation problem. Clearly specify the *outputs*, which are the products that resulted

from the nominee(s)'s efforts. For example, developing a scientific community of practice, convening science partners to collaboratively address a shared conservation problem, developing a decision support tool or framework, building new data management systems, completing a landscape conservation design, etc.

Include a list of no more than 10 related materials (e.g., publications, websites, news articles, etc.) that summarize or demonstrate the nominee(s)'s scientific contribution. For individual nominations, include the nominee's CV (no more than two pages), highlighting publications or presentations relevant to this contribution. For group nominations, include a list of all members and briefly describe each member's role and contribution.

(This criterion accounts for 60% of the evaluation.)

Conservation Outcomes

Describe the *outcomes* that were achieved and were due, in some significant way, to the nominee(s)'s efforts. Clearly specify how these *outcomes* are applicable to conservation or management decisions on the ground. *Outcomes* are the conservation actions, decisions, or benefits that resulted from the nominee(s)'s outputs. For example, strengthened partnerships (engagement, commitment, support for decisions, leveraging of resources, coordination among partner activities); improved landscape-scale conservation delivery (e.g., targeting conservation activities on identified priority areas or priority species), enhanced production and delivery of scientific information resulting in faster or better informed resource management decision processes (e.g., reduction of critical uncertainties, access to previously unavailable data, better documented decision processes), etc. If possible, describe the conservation impacts, such as measurable improvements in species, populations, ecosystems, or habitats.

(This criterion accounts for 40% of the evaluation.)

A COMPLETED NOMINATION PACKAGE FOR THE SAM D. HAMILTON AWARD CONTAINS:

- A. Name(s) and contact information for nominee(s), including each member of a group being nominated.
- B. For individual awards, a CV for the nominee (no more than two pages) that highlights publications or presentations relevant to this contribution. For group nominations, a list of all group members that briefly describes each member's role and contribution.
- C. A completed nomination form that clearly justifies how each of the award criteria were met. Provide supporting documentation, such as publications, reports, awards, news articles, photos, etc., by either (i) including references and/or links directly in the text of the criteria or (ii) uploading no more than 10 supporting documents and listing the names of the relevant attachments in the nomination form.

AWARD SCOPE

- A. Up to one award will be presented per fiscal year;
- B. Assistant and Regional Directors may each submit up to two nominations per award type per year;

- C. Accomplishments must have been achieved in the last five fiscal years;
- D. Nominees may include biologists, hydrologists, forensic scientists, planners, habitat specialists, attorneys, economists, IT specialists, and any other discipline that meets the evaluation criteria;
- E. One or more of the top nominees not selected for an award may be given an Honorable Mention certificate;
- F. Award recipients will not be eligible to compete again for two years following receipt of the award;
- G. Award solicitation will be announced in October and the selection process will be completed by late January. Award presentation timing may vary.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact Megan Cook, Science Applications, at 703-358-1892 or megan_cook@fws.gov.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Science Awards

Science Leadership Award

AWARD DESCRIPTION

The *Science Leadership Award* is an honorary award to recognize a Fish and Wildlife Service project leader, branch chief, division chief, or other comparable supervisor who exemplifies the best in practicing and supporting scientific activities to improve the Service's knowledge and management of fish and wildlife resources.

There is one award per year.

The award consists of a certificate signed by the Director and a medallion. Notice of the award will be published in Fish and Wildlife News and/or in other news outlets. The Director or Deputy Director will present the award at a Headquarters or regional office ceremony. The Director, at his/her discretion, may provide additional funds (up to \$50,000) to the organizational unit of the recipient(s) for one fiscal year.

AWARD CRITERIA

The *Science Leadership Award* recognizes supervisors who empower their staff to accomplish scientific work and engage in the scientific community and who champion the use of science in conservation decision-making.

Support for Scientific Activities of Staff

This criterion assesses the nominee's support for his/her staff's involvement in scientifically-based work that advances the Service's mission. Clearly describe, using specific examples, how the nominee enables the development of their staff's scientific contributions, engagement, and growth through:

- Encouraging staff to gain and maintain scientific proficiencies; participate in scientific societies; collaborate with scientists (internal and/or external to FWS); and gather, analyze, and present scientific results relevant to important Service issues.
- Fostering a productive working environment by providing staff with needed resources and removing barriers to conducting scientific activities.

(This criterion accounts for 60% of the evaluation)

Using Science to Support Decisions

This criterion assesses the nominee's leadership on the use of science in the organizational unit s/he supervises. Clearly describe, with specific examples, how the nominee:

- Seeks scientific resources, information, or results to inform fish and wildlife conservation issues;
- Objectively evaluates the credibility and relevance of scientific information; and
- Makes conservation management decisions and recommendations that are scientifically defensible.

(This criterion accounts for 40% of the evaluation)

A COMPLETED NOMINATION PACKAGE FOR THE SCIENCE LEADERSHIP AWARD CONTAINS:

- A. Name and contact information for the individual being nominated.
- B. A completed nomination form that clearly justifies how each of the award criteria were met. Provide (optional) supporting documentation, such as publications, reports, awards, news articles, photos, etc., by either (i) including references and/or links directly in the text of the criteria or (ii) uploading no more than five supporting documents and listing the names of the relevant attachments in the nomination form.

AWARD SCOPE

- A. Up to one award will be presented per fiscal year;
- B. Assistant and Regional Directors may each submit up to two nominations per award type per year;
- C. Accomplishments must have been achieved in the last five fiscal years;
- D. Nominees may include project leaders, branch chiefs, division chiefs, or any other comparable supervisory level employee from any organizational unit in the Service;
- E. One or more of the top nominees not selected for an award may be given an Honorable Mention certificate;
- F. Award recipients will not be eligible to compete again for two years following receipt of the award;
- G. Award solicitation will be announced in October and the selection process will be completed by early January. Award presentation timing may vary.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact Megan Cook, Science Applications, at 703-358-1892 or megan_cook@fws.gov.

Comparison of FWS Science Awards

Award Type	Award Criteria	Who is Eligible?	Examples of Work that Qualifies
<p>RACHEL CARSON AWARD for Exemplary Scientific Accomplishment</p> <p>The Rachel Carson Award recognizes scientific excellence through the rigorous practice of science applied to a conservation problem.</p> <p>This award can be given to an individual or to a group.</p>	<p>Conservation Problem Clearly describe the conservation issue of importance to the Fish and Wildlife Service that was addressed by the nominee(s)'s scientific efforts. Be specific. What was the problem? What resource management decisions were affected by the problem? What were the key information needs, uncertainties, or methodological barriers to improving the situation?</p> <p>Extraordinary Scientific Accomplishment (60%) Describe the nominee(s)'s specific scientific accomplishment. Clearly specify the outputs, which are the products that resulted from the nominee's scientific activities. For example, an innovative analytical method, design of a monitoring program, a new captive breeding or propagation system, or an influential publication.</p> <p>Include at least one, but no more than five, citations or scientific products that summarize or demonstrate the nominee(s)'s scientific accomplishment. For individual nominations, include the nominee's CV (no more than two pages), highlighting publications or presentations relevant to this accomplishment. For group nominations, include a list of all members and briefly describe each member's role and contribution.</p> <p>Conservation Outcomes (40%) Describe the direct application of the nominee(s)'s scientific output to the decision making associated with the conservation problem. What was the outcome relative to how the Service conducts its work? Outcomes are the conservation actions, decisions, or benefits that resulted from the nominee(s)'s outputs. For example: a prairie restoration, the decision to list an endangered species, increased survival at a fish passage, modification of hunting regulations, etc. If possible, describe the conservation impacts, such as measurable improvements in species, populations, ecosystems, or habitats.</p> <p>To be eligible, the scientific accomplishment must have occurred in the last five years.</p>	<p>The <i>Rachel Carson Award for Exemplary Scientific Accomplishment</i> is an honorary award recognizing a Service employee, or group of employees, who exemplifies the best in the Service's tradition of scientific contributions applied to achieve conservation results for fish, wildlife, and plants.</p> <p>There is one award each year, from either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an individual award to a Fish and Wildlife Service employee a group award to a set of Fish and Wildlife Service employees, which may include a combination of field, regional, or Headquarters employees. <p>The nominated Service employees must play an active and substantive role in the scientific work that defines the extraordinary accomplishment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a genetic and GIS framework to evaluate how habitat and historic events influence genetic diversity of Pacific salmon at different spatial scales to determine optimal habitat requirements at a landscape scale. Pioneering propagation methods for endangered Hawaiian plants to provide habitat for native forest birds. Developing innovative propagation methods for imperiled freshwater mussels for reintroduction and restoration in the wild. Demonstrating and characterizing the ecosystem degradation from an invasive species, resulting in better informed management decisions and partner support for species removal.

Award Type	Award Criteria	Who is Eligible?	Examples of Work that Qualifies
<p>SAM D. HAMILTON AWARD for Transformational Conservation Science</p> <p>The Sam D. Hamilton Award recognizes innovative application of science.</p> <p>The award emphasizes improving scientific quality, capability, and efficiency; and facilitating cultural and institutional change in support of sound science. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing coordination and collaboration of scientific activities, either across programs within the Service or with conservation partners; Developing innovative approaches to large scale conservation science problems or decisions; or Improving the Service’s scientific capacity and infrastructure for more effective and/or efficient resource management decision making. <p>This award can be given to an individual or to a group.</p>	<p>Conservation Problem Clearly describe the conservation issue of importance to the Fish and Wildlife Service that was addressed by the nominee(s)’s scientific efforts. Be specific. What was the problem? What resource management decisions were affected by the problem? What were the key information needs, uncertainties, or methodological barriers to improving the situation?</p> <p>Extraordinary Contribution to the Conservation Science Community (60%) Describe the nominee(s)’s contribution to transforming the production or application of science to the resolution of the conservation problem. Clearly specify the outputs, which are the products that resulted from the nominee(s)’s efforts. For example, developing a scientific community of practice, convening science partners to collaboratively address a shared conservation problem, developing a decision support tool or framework, building new data management systems, completing a landscape conservation design, etc.</p> <p>Include a list of no more than 10 related materials (e.g., publications, websites, news articles, etc.) that summarize or demonstrate the nominee(s)’s scientific contribution. For individual nominations, include the nominee’s CV (no more than two pages), highlighting publications or presentations relevant to this contribution. For group nominations, include a list of all members and briefly describe each member’s role and contribution.</p> <p>Conservation Outcomes (40%) Describe the outcomes that were achieved and were due, in some significant way, to the nominee(s)’s efforts. Clearly specify how these outcomes are applicable to conservation or management decisions on the ground. Outcomes are the conservation actions, decisions, or benefits that resulted from the nominee(s)’s outputs. For example, strengthened partnerships (engagement, commitment, support for decisions, leveraging of resources, coordination among partner activities); improved landscape-scale conservation delivery (e.g., targeting conservation activities on identified priority areas or priority species), enhanced production and delivery of scientific information resulting in faster or better informed resource management decision processes (e.g., reduction of critical uncertainties, access to previously unavailable data, better documented decision processes), etc. If possible, describe the conservation impacts, such as measurable improvements in species, populations, ecosystems, or habitats.</p>	<p>The <i>Sam D. Hamilton Award for Transformational Conservation Science</i> is an honorary award recognizing a Service employee, or group of employees, who exemplify the best in the Service’s tradition of innovation in conservation through scientifically-based natural resource management.</p> <p>There is one award each year, from either of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an individual award to a Fish and Wildlife Service employee a group award to a set of Fish and Wildlife Service employees, which may include a combination of field, regional, or Headquarters employees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing partnership networks to work across agencies and jurisdictions to implement science-based conservation activities at a landscape scale to address issues such as habitat fragmentation, migratory bird conservation, or climate change impacts. Leading a data management initiative that elevates the quality of, and access to, the Service’s scientific information. Implementing an adaptive management approach to a pressing conservation problem and guiding sound management choices. Standardizing protocol development across all monitoring programs, leading to more efficient use of resources and integrated data analysis.

Award Type	Award Criteria	Who is Eligible?	Examples of Work that Qualifies
<p>SCIENCE LEADERSHIP AWARD</p> <p>The <i>Science Leadership Award</i> recognizes supervisors who empower their staff to accomplish scientific work and engage in the scientific community and who champion the use of science in conservation decision making.</p> <p>This award is for an individual.</p>	<p>Support for Scientific Activities of Staff This criterion assesses the nominee’s support for his/her staff’s involvement in scientifically-based work that advances the Service’s mission. Clearly describe, using specific examples, how the nominee enables the development of their staff’s scientific contributions, engagement, and growth through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encouraging staff to gain and maintain scientific proficiencies; participate in scientific societies; collaborate with scientists (internal and/or external to FWS); and gather, analyze, and present scientific results relevant to important Service issues. ● Fostering a productive working environment by providing staff with needed resources and removing barriers to conducting scientific activities. <p>(This criterion accounts for 60% of the evaluation)</p> <p>Using Science to Support Decisions This criterion assesses the nominee’s leadership on the use of science in the organizational unit s/he supervises. Clearly describe, with specific examples, how the nominee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seeks scientific resources, information, or results to inform fish and wildlife conservation issues; ● Objectively evaluates the credibility and relevance of scientific information; and ● Makes conservation management decisions and recommendations that are scientifically defensible. <p>(This criterion accounts for 40% of the evaluation)</p>	<p>The <i>Science Leadership Award</i> is an honorary award to recognize a Fish and Wildlife Service project leader, branch chief, division chief, or other comparable supervisor who exemplifies the best in practicing and supporting scientific activities to improve the Service’s knowledge and management of fish and wildlife resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistent record of supporting employees to publish their work in peer-reviewed journals and to present at professional conferences ● Empowering employees to obtain and maintain scientific credentials and training ● Seeking and applying the best scientific information to inform conservation management decisions