



ASSOCIATION *of*
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

CRITERIA FOR NATIONAL PRIVATE LANDS FISH AND WILDLIFE STEWARDSHIP AWARD

Purpose of Award:

To recognize the contributions of private farm, ranch and forest lands to conservation of the nation's fish and wildlife resources by selecting a private land manager for outstanding stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.

Nominations:

Nominations for the annual award will come from the state fish and wildlife agencies. States that have their own landowner awards program may enter the winner in the national competition. State fish and wildlife agencies without a landowner award program may elect to enter the winner of such an award presented by any other government or private group in the state. A state fish and wildlife agency may decide upon its entry in any manner it chooses.

Criteria:

Regardless of how a state fish and wildlife agency elects to pick its entrant, all nominations to the national program will be judged on the basis of the attached criteria.

Participation:

State fish and wildlife agencies should send their nominations to the chair of the Association's Awards Committee. State fish and wildlife agencies can enter state winners of the current year or previous year. Entries are entirely at the state fish and wildlife agencies prerogative.

Judging:

The winner will be selected each year by judges appointed annually by the chair of the Association's Awards Committee, in consultation with the Association executive vice president. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Association in September.

Award:

The winner will receive a plaque, expense-paid trip to the Association annual meeting and possibly other items.

Qualifications

1. Actively engaged in farming or ranching business as owner, lessee or operator-manager (includes non-industrial private forest lands).
2. Land must be under private ownership or control.
3. Nominee must have made the decisions about land management activities for a minimum of five (5) years.

4. At least 50% of the land under ownership or control must be devoted to farming or ranching.

Nominations: (Self-nominations or can be nominated by others, but signature of nominee is required see item 7, below)

1. Name, address and telephone number of nominee.
2. Name, address and telephone number of nominator.
3. Description of the property
 - a. Location (legal description or map), county and nearest town.
 - b. Map of the property
 - c. Land ownership pattern (i.e., deeded, leased, state or federal) and approximate percentage of each type.
 - d. Approximate percentages by habitat type:

Woodland _____	%
Native Rangeland _____	%
Wetland _____	%
Crop Land _____	%
Pasture _____	%
Other (Specify) _____	%
Total _____	100%
 - e. Land uses (description of agricultural/ranching operation)
 - f. Number of years owned, leased, operated: _____
4. Description of fish and wildlife conservation activities (please provide a narrative and pictures and/or video).
 - a. Past and current agricultural/livestock practices conducted and percentage of operation affected (for example, grazing systems, pasture rotation, rowcrop rotation, terracing, low input/no till, manure management, etc.).
 - b. Past and current habitat management practices conducted and percentage of operation affected (for example, timber management, prescribed burning, brush control, pond management, stream/wetland restoration/ improvement, streamside management, integrated pest management, type of fencing, etc).
 - c. Past and current fish and wildlife management practices conducted and percentage of operation affected (for example, census, population management, supplemental feeding, nesting structures, water development, introduction, etc.).
 - d. Uses of natural resources that provide income (for example, farming, livestock, timber, oil and gas, hunting leases, eco-tourism, etc.).
 - e. What effects have these management practices had on the overall productivity and aesthetics of the property (for example, fish and wildlife quantity and quality, species

diversity, livestock production, vegetation trends, crop production, water quality, soil stability, etc.)?

- f. What effects have these management practices had on the overall economics of the property (annual expenses, annual income, and net revenue)?
5. Explain past and current uses of the land, water, wildlife, and fish by the public (limited or unlimited) or special groups (for example, hunting, fishing, trapping, educational tours, demonstration plots, youth group involvement).
6. Describe involvement in conservation-related activities, other community involvement, membership in conservation groups, associations, and any pertinent information that supports the nomination, or anything the judges should know about the nominee or the property.
7. Endorsement letters (one page) are encouraged that describe coordination with governmental agencies and cooperation with conservation, agricultural, and/or ranching organizations.
8. Landowner/lessee/operator-manager acceptance of this nomination. The signature of the nominee is required and indicates his/her acceptance of the nomination for recognition.