



ASSOCIATION *of*  
FISH & WILDLIFE  
AGENCIES

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## 2016 NATIONAL PRIVATE LANDS FISH & WILDLIFE STEWARDSHIP AWARD

### **Purpose of Award:**

To recognize an individual- or family-run farm, ranch or forest land operation that has incorporated proactive conservation and environmental practices and exhibits outstanding stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.

### **Nominations:**

Nominations for the annual award must come from state fish and wildlife agencies through a state-based awards program. States that have their own landowner awards program may enter the winner in this national competition. State fish and wildlife agencies without a landowner award program may elect to enter the winner of an award presented by another government entity or private group in the state. State fish and wildlife agencies may select either nomination option.

### **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 nominate state award winners from 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.

### **Award:**

The award will be presented at the Annual Awards Banquet held during AFWA's Annual Meeting in September. The winner will receive a plaque or framed print and possibly other items.

### **Criteria:**

Regardless of how a state fish and wildlife agency elects to choose its entrant, all nominations to the national program must meet the following 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.

**Application:**

Please include the following items in your nomination package. Note, the nominee's signature is required, see item 8.

1. Name, address and telephone number of nominator.
2. Name, address and telephone number of nominee.
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 (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 (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 (census, population management, supplemental feeding, nesting structures, water development, introduction, etc.)
  - d. Uses of natural resources that provide income (farming, livestock, timber, oil and gas, hunting leases, eco-tourism, etc.)
  - e. Effects these management practices had on the overall productivity and aesthetics of the property (fish and wildlife quantity and quality, species diversity, livestock production, vegetation trends, crop production, water quality, soil stability, etc.)
  - f. Effects 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 (hunting, fishing, trapping, educational tours, demonstration plots, youth group involvement, etc.)
  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.

**Direct Questions & Annual Awards Nominations to:**

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**Deadline to Submit Nominations:**

**July 1, 2016**