



ASSOCIATION *of*
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD

Purpose of Award:

To recognize outstanding, national-level achievements in conservation law enforcement by an individual, a unit, bureau, division or a combination of the preceding, to enhance the professionalism and significant advancement of conservation law enforcement in the areas of: 1) Deterrence of Violations; 2) Forensic Techniques; 3) Equipment Development; 4) Public Relations; 5) Innovative Operations; and 6) Conservation Law Enforcement Research.

This award is not intended to be an “Officer of the Year” award. Rather, this award was developed to recognize outstanding, national-level accomplishments above and beyond simply doing a “good job.”

Nominations:

Over the past century, conservation law enforcement has evolved into a sophisticated, scientific wildlife management tool. The Association established this award in 1982 to encourage the continued advancement of this important field by recognizing individuals, bureaus, work teams and others.

The recipient will be directly involved in conservation law enforcement; however, is not a requirement or limiting criteria for this award. It could well be that a biologist, public relations specialist, a crime lab or university might develop a technique or in some other way contribute significantly to the field of conservation law enforcement.

Nominations will be evaluated based on:

1. Quality and effectiveness of the nominee’s work.
2. Complexity, difficulty and scale of the nominee’s accomplishments.
3. The level of benefit (immediate, long-term or anticipated) accruing to the nominee’s agency work.

Judging:

The Association's Law Enforcement Committee will review all the nominations and submit its recommendation to the Annual Awards Committee for final selection.

Award:

Recipient(s) of the Conservation Law Enforcement Award will be recognized at the Annual Awards Banquet held at AFWA's Annual Fall Meeting.

Application:

Agency directors and law enforcement chiefs are invited to submit letters of nomination for the AFWA Conservation Law Enforcement Award. Please include the following items in your nomination package:

1. Name, address and telephone number of nominator.
2. Name, address and telephone number of the nominee.
3. Description of the nominee's contributions to conservation law enforcement (please provide a brief narrative, and pictures and/or video if applicable) related to:
 - a. deterrence of violations; forensic techniques; equipment development; public relations; innovative operations; and conservation law enforcement research.

Direct Questions & Annual Award Nominations to:

Patricia Allen pallen@fishwildlife.org

*Accepting electronic nominations only. Please submit nominations to pallen@fishwildife.org

Deadline to Submit Nominations: July 1, 2026