Purpose of Award:
To recognize the lifetime achievements of natural resource administrators who have worked steadfastly and effectively for the best use of North American natural resources and the public trust therein.

Nominations:
The award is primarily designed to recognize an individual for his/her outstanding career in fish and wildlife conservation. Nominations must be submitted by an AFWA member.

Judging:
The winner will be selected 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 Steuben glass owl on a wooden base featuring a brass inscription plate. The recipient also will be featured in the next year’s AFWA annual report with a photo and quote.

Criteria:
AFWA’s highest honor was created for and first presented to the award’s namesake, Seth Gordon, in 1970 in celebration of his five decades of service to the Association and to the cause of wildlife conservation. Seth Gordon was the epitome of the enlightened, able and progressive natural resources administrator who sees beyond the limits of one state to the international need, and works accordingly and effectively.

Nominations will be evaluated based on:

1. NON-POLITICAL — the nominee's essential contributions shall have been in the professional field as opposed to partisan political activities.

2. PUBLIC AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR — the nominee's primary background leading to award consideration should be through work with a governmental agency (or agencies) affiliated with AFWA and not primarily through private organizations.

3. ASSOCIATION CONTRIBUTIONS — the nominee shall have provided outstanding assistance, service or support to the Association and its objectives.

4. PROLONGED SERVICE — the nominee shall have made diverse and valuable contributions to conservation objectives over a period of at least 20 years.
5. ADDITIONAL DESIRABLE QUALITIES — other qualities desirable in a nominee include:

(1) Continuing interest in natural resource problems and projects and/or the Association.
(2) Long-time interest in AFWA programs and enhancement of its purposes.
(3) Outstanding leadership in provincial, state, commonwealth or federal administrative positions or a combination of any of these.
(4) Unusual record of related additional natural resources activities at local, state, provincial or national level.

Consideration for the award will be weighed for sustained effort and accomplishments as opposed to one or more major accomplishments. The nominee may be in a retired status, but must be living at time of nomination.

Criteria Changes: After adoption by the Executive Committee, these criteria can be changed only by the Executive Committee at least one year (12 months) prior to the selection of any nominee by the Awards Committee.

Application: 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 the legacy of fish and wildlife conservation and to the Association (please provide a brief narrative, and pictures and/or video if applicable).

Direct Questions & Annual Awards Nominations to:
Patricia Allen
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
1100 First Street, NE
Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002
202/ 838-3461
pallen@fishwildlife.org

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

Deadline to Submit Nominations: July 1, 2021