



ASSOCIATION *of*
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

JOHN L. MORRIS AWARD

The Association's highest citizen honor was created for, and first presented to, the award's namesake, John L. Morris, in 2012 in celebration of his lifetime of service to the cause of fish and wildlife conservation. John L. Morris is the epitome of the enlightened, able and progressive citizen conservationist who sees beyond the limits of one state to the national or international scale, and works accordingly and effectively to produce conservation results.

Purpose of Award:

To recognize a lifetime commitment to fish and wildlife stewardship by ***citizen conservationists*** who have exhibited exemplary leadership at the highest level and demonstrated a steadfast commitment to large scale natural resource challenges.

Nominations:

The award is solely designed to recognize an individual for his/her/their outstanding contribution to fish and wildlife conservation from a national or global perspective. Nominations will be solicited annually and must be submitted by a State, Provincial, or Territorial Director member of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Nominations will be evaluated based on:

1. NON-POLITICAL — the nominee's primary contributions shall have been essential and far reaching at the national or international fish and wildlife conservation level as opposed to partisan political activities.
2. CITIZEN CONSERVATIONIST — the nominee's primary background leading to award consideration should be through essential work, support, or volunteer efforts to fish and wildlife conservation outside of a governmental agency (or agencies). Consideration is limited to individuals.
3. ASSOCIATION CONTRIBUTIONS — the nominee shall have provided outstanding assistance, service or support to the Association, its member states, and/or their mission.
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:

- I. Continuing interest in natural resource problems and projects and/or the Association.
- II. Long-time interest in Association programs and enhancement of its purposes.
- III. Outstanding leadership in conservation community.
- IV. Unusual record of related additional natural resources activities at local, state, provincial or national level.

Consideration for the award will be weighted 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.

Judging:

The winner will be selected by the Association's Awards Committee.

Award:

Recipient of the John L Morris Award will be recognized at the Annual Awards Banquet held at AFWA's Annual Fall Meeting.

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 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