

CITATION

FOR SUPERIOR SERVICE

RALPH W. TINER

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to the National Wetlands Inventory program and the field of wetlands conservation for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nation.

Mr. Ralph W. Tiner, Regional Wetlands Coordinator in the Northeast Region for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), has provided leadership, coordination, and expertise in wetlands biology, mapping, and delineation at the highest standards to advance the state of wetlands science and geospatial data in the United States. Mr. Tiner's commitment to publish and share current and relevant wetlands information with the public and conservation decision-makers has influenced the health and status of America's wetlands. Mr. Tiner has authored over 200 publications, including five field guides to wetlands interpretation. These include *A Field Guide to Coastal Wetland Plants of the Northeastern United States*, recognized as the definitive work on the subject and recently revised and expanded. He has also written the NWI program's 2009 historical summary and annual report; comprehensive scientific wetland reports for the States of Maryland and West Virginia; and numerous county- and watershed-scale reports and wetlands technical papers. Mr. Tiner has singularly developed a unique hydrogeomorphic-type mapping system, referred to as Landscape position, Landform, Waterflow Path, Waterbody (or LLWW), that will be used to predict functionality of wetlands in a watershed, such as storm flood storage, storm surge abatement, and fish and wildlife habitat. Used in conjunction with the NWI data, this system will more effectively inform decision makers and managers about the specific types of functions being lost in the event that wetlands are converted or destroyed, and support strategies for wetlands restoration and protection actions to mitigate for lost hydrologic functions. In addition, he has played a critical role in developing the Nation's wetlands mapping standard, the maintenance review of the wetlands classification standard, and the NWI program's comprehensive online training module for wetlands mapping. For his many outstanding contributions to wetlands conservation and the Service's NWI program, Mr. Ralph W. Tiner is hereby granted the Superior Service Award of the Department of the Interior.



DIRECTOR