



**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
RACHEL CARSON AWARD FOR SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE
2014 RULES & REQUIREMENTS**



AWARD DESCRIPTION

The Rachel Carson Award for Scientific Excellence is an honorary award recognizing a Service employee, or group of employees, who exemplifies the best in the Service's tradition of scientific contributions to applied conservation science for the achievement of extraordinary results in fish and wildlife conservation.

There are up to two awards each year:

- an individual award to a Fish & Wildlife Service employee
- a group award to a set of Fish & Wildlife Service employees, which may include a combination of program, regional, or Headquarters employees.

The award consists of a citation and certificate signed by the Director and a medallion. Notice of the award will be published in the Fish and Wildlife News and/or in other news outlets. The Director or Deputy Director will present the award at a Washington Office or regional office ceremony. The Director, at his/her discretion, may provide additional operating funds (up to \$50,000) to the organizational unit(s) of the recipient(s). The additional funds will typically be made available for one fiscal year.

AWARD CRITERIA (updated in 2013)

Conservation Application

Describe the fish and wildlife conservation issue of importance to FWS that was addressed by the nominee's scientific efforts.

(This criterion accounts for 30% of the evaluation.)

Scientific Contribution

Describe the nominee's scientific contribution to the resolution of the conservation issue, including both the scientific task *and* how that task contributed to the resolution of the issue. Contributions may include new data or information produced by the nominee(s). New data encompasses direct or indirect measurements of the natural world and new information can include reanalysis of existing data, development and/or application of new methods, etc. To be eligible, the contribution must have occurred in the last five years.

Include a list of no more than 5 citations or specific scientific products that summarize or demonstrate the nominee's scientific contribution.

For individual nominations, include the nominee's CV (no more than 2 pages) that highlights publications or presentations relevant to this contribution. For group nominations, include a list of all group members and briefly describe each member's role and contribution.

(This criterion accounts for 30% of the evaluation.)

Extraordinary Results

Describe the extraordinary results that were achieved and were due, in some significant way, to the direct application of the nominee's scientific contribution to the conservation problem.

Such conservation results may include direct and measurable:

- improvements in populations, population vital rates, or habitats of species important to the Service and its partners;
- improvements in status of large spatial-scale biological or ecological systems, including ecosystem functions, restoration, carbon sequestration or reduction of emissions, etc.; or
- improvements in the Service's ability to monitor and manage systems, to implement management and conservation actions, or to complete its other resource management decision-making processes.

(This criterion accounts for 40% of the evaluation.)

NOMINATION PROCESS

There are two phases to the nomination process – initial submission by anyone interested in nominating, followed by review by the Region/Program to determine which nominations it will put forward for National consideration. Each Region/Program is limited to submitting 2 nominations per award type per year (for a total of 6 per Region/Program). Anyone may submit a nomination for their Region or Program to consider; however, only nominations approved by the Regional Director or Assistant Director will be included in the National review process.

SharePoint Submission Site: <https://fishnet.fws.doi.net/regions/9/OSA/ScienceAwards>

The Science Awards SharePoint site has been designed to accommodate the Region/Program review process in addition to the National process.

Initial Nomination Submission

Complete an online nomination package at the SharePoint site; you can save a partially completed nomination and finish it later. Detailed instructions are available on the site.

A completed nomination package contains:

- A. Names and contact information for nominee, including each member of a group being nominated.
- B. For individual awards, a CV for the nominee (no more than 2 pages) that highlights publications or presentations relevant to this contribution. For group nominations, a list of all group members that briefly describes each member's role and contribution.
- A. A completed nomination form that clearly justifies how each of the award criteria were met. Provide (optional) supporting documentation, such as publications, reports, awards, news articles, photos, etc., by either (i) including references and/or links directly in the text of the criteria or (ii) uploading no more than 5 supporting documents and listing the names of the relevant attachments in the nomination form.

Nominations must be completed by **6 November 2014** so they can be reviewed and approved at the Region/Program level. In SharePoint, update Nomination Status to "Ready for regional review."

Region/Program Review

To be eligible for National consideration, a nomination must complete the Regional/Program review process and be marked "Selected for national review" in the SharePoint form by **19 November 2014**. These nominations must include a DI-451 Form (Recommendation and Approval of Awards) that is signed by the Assistant Director; Chief, Law Enforcement; or

Regional Director. Without this signed form uploaded to SharePoint, the nomination will not be considered at the National level. Be sure to check the "DI-451 Signatures Verified" box.

For nominations selected as National winners

After the National review process is complete and the winners are selected, the winning Regions/Programs will be required to provide:

1. A photograph of the winning nominee (no larger than 3 MB; .gif or .jpg format); and
2. A citation (500 words max) that may be used for web content, an award poster, press release materials, etc.

AWARD SCOPE

- A. Up to one award for each category will be presented per fiscal year;
- B. Assistant Directors; Chief, Law Enforcement; and Regional Directors may each submit no more than two nominations per award type per year;
- C. Accomplishments must have been achieved in the last five fiscal years (i.e., the five fiscal years prior to the fiscal year in which the award was announced);
- D. Nominees may include biologists, hydrologists, forensic scientists, planners, habitat specialists, attorneys, economists, IT specialists, and any other discipline that meets the evaluation criteria;
- E. One or more of the top nominees not selected for an award may be given an Honorable Mention certificate;
- F. Award recipients will not be eligible to compete again for two years following receipt of the award;
- G. Award solicitation will be announced in October and the selection process will be completed by early January. Award presentation timing may vary.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact Megan Cook, Science Applications, at 703-358-1892 or megan_cook@fws.gov.