

**Native American Fish & Wildlife Society**

# **Award Policy**

**Chief Sealth,  
Biologist,  
And  
Conservation Officer**

Prepared by  
NAFWS Board of Directors  
December 2017

**(Revised and Approved December 2017)**

**AWARD POLICY**  
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## **AWARD POLICY**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this document is to provide criteria for selecting the annual "Chief Sealth", "Biologist" and "Conservation Officer" awards.

### **SCOPE**

Members of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society shall follow the guidelines in this policy for submitting their recommendations to the Board of Directors. Additionally, the appointed committee to designate the awardees and the Board of Directors shall follow the guidelines contained within this policy in their selection and announcement, ensuring non-eligible submissions are not selected.

### **DISCUSSION**

The mission of the Society is to promote the prudent use of Native natural resources. This can only be accomplished through the dedication and hard work off all Society members. Awards for the "Biologist" and "Conservation Officer" will be given to two individual members and in some special circumstances, award two individuals for each award, on a yearly basis, who best exemplifies his or her dedication and hard work. To honor these individuals is not intended to diminish the contributions of other individuals but to reflect the accomplishments of those individuals involved in Native natural resource management activities. The "Chief Sealth" award shall honor one person who has made a significant and positive impact on Native natural resources.

## 1000.1 DEFINITION/CRITERIA

### 1000.1.1 **Chief Sealth Award:**

This award will go to any member in good standing that works for a Tribe or agency in the natural resources field. This person should be working in the capacity of a director, manager, leader or similar position. This person is recognized for their exceptional work. This person is someone who has worked to develop their program in the name of fish and wildlife protection, preservation and enhancement or has worked with an agency that has made significant who has dedicated their life and work to fish, wildlife and natural resources. They are a steward of the land or natural resources. Their impact in Indian country creates the road to the future for better management of natural resources.

### 1000.1.2 **Biologist Award:**

This award will go to anyone that works for a Tribe and has a degree in biology and/or related field or has extensive in-the-field, including traditional/indigenous ecological and cultural knowledge experience that has made an impact in preserving and/or protecting important fish or wildlife species or habitats. This person is one who has spent many hours outdoors collecting data and using that information to educate fellow Tribal and agency personnel in the importance of their work. This person is one who works to manage diverse projects for their Tribe. They cover many geographic areas, deal with multiple agencies, use technical skills in gathering and logging, information, understand TEK, but most importantly promote the importance of the science to protect fish and wildlife.

### 1000.1.3 **Conservation Officer Award:**

This award will go to a person that works in the capacity of a Tribal CO, game warden, fish and game officer, natural resource enforcement or similar law enforcement capacity. This person has the training and experience in carrying out themselves in a professional manner while working in an enforcement capacity. They work to ensure that all hunters, fishermen, recreationalists, etc. follow Tribal laws, rules and regulations of the reservation. They also work to continue to participate in training in keeping their skill level proficient. They are responsible for conducting thorough and fair investigations as well as provide accurate and timely information to the court systems. This person is also involved in many other activities, i.e. visitor education, organize hunter and fishing educational courses, conduct fishing and hunting checks and look out for the environmental and natural resources.

### 1000.1.4 **Selection Committee**

The committee will consist of five Society's Board of Directors.

- 1000.1.5 Nominator**  
A Society member, in good standing, who nominate an eligible recipient for an award. Current Society Board of Directors are not eligible to nominate a Society member for any award.
- 1000.1.6 Non-Eligible recipient**  
A current member of the Society's Board of Director's or a Society employee is not eligible to receive the "Chief Sealth" award.
- 1000.1.7 Nomination Package**  
The nominator of an individual must be in a form of a formal letter addressed to the Society's Board of Directors. Supporting written material of the candidate's accomplishments may be attached. For the "Chief Sealth" award nomination package, the nominator must also include three letters of support for the nominee. To assist the nominator in preparing a nomination package, the National Office will make available to the nominator the Definitions/Criteria and Nomination Package sections of the policy as well as placing information on the Society's web site.
- 1000.1.8 Nomination Deadline**  
The nomination package from the nominator must be received in the National Office by March 25<sup>th</sup> by close of business by either U.S.Mail or by email

National Office Address:

NAFWS  
Attention Awards Committee  
10465 Melody Dr. Ste 307  
Northglenn, CO 80234

Email:

[hmccann@nafws.org](mailto:hmccann@nafws.org)

### 100.1.9 Required Information

The nomination package for the "Biologist" and "Conservation Officer" award shall include:

- A. CONTACT INFORMATION
  - Nominator's name
  - Nominator's phone number
  - Member's name
  - Member's work organization
  - Member's job title
  - Award for member being nominated
  
- B. ACCOMPLISHMENTS
  - Current year work projects
  - Past program/project involvement
  - Society volunteer involvement
  - Tribal government involvement
  - Community involvement
  
- C. OCCUPATION HISTORY
  - Time-in-Service in occupation for award being nominated
  - Time-in-Service in natural resource occupations

The nomination package for the "Chief Sealth" award shall include:

- A. CONTACT INFORMATION
  - Nominator's name
  - Nominator's phone number
  - Member's name
  - Member's work organization
  - Member's job title
  - Award for member being nominated
  
- B. Accomplishments
  
- C. Minimum of Two letters of support for nominee

### 1000.1.10 Optional Information

Information may be attached to package to support the candidate's accomplishments.

## 1000.2 SELECTION AND ANNOUNCEMENT PROCESS

### 1000.2.1 Package Announcement

The National Office will forward a copy of all received nomination packages to the President by March 16<sup>th</sup> by email or by mail.

### 1000.2.2 Package Delivery

The National Office will deliver a copy by email or mail of all nomination packages to each committee member by March 17<sup>th</sup> or one month prior to the national conference. Whichever date is earliest.

### 1000.2.3 Award Approval

The committee will meet by conference call to vote separately on each award no later than March 25<sup>th</sup>. The committee will submit their final results to the NAFWS President. If the committee fails to select a recipient for an award by this date, the Board of Directors will determine the award recipient. Also, the committee may elect to rename the "Biologist" award to the "Biologist" or "Manager" for appropriate recognition of the recipient's field of work.

The NAFWS President will contact the nominator to inform him or her of the selections to ensure the recipient is available to attend the National Conference to receive their award. If they are unable to attend, the next recipient will be selected and confirmed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### 1000.2.4 Award Announcement

The President will announce the winners of the "Chief Sealth", "Biologist" and "Conservation Office" awards during the dinner banquet at the Society's National Conference. The National Office will have awards ready with the correct information for the awards two weeks prior to the National Conference.