



For Immediate Release
February 4, 2019

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Jackie Ferrier Named 2019 National Wildlife Refuge System Refuge Manager of the Year

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 4, 2019) – Jackie Ferrier, of the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Washington, has been named the 2019 Paul Kroegel National Wildlife Refuge System Refuge Manager of the Year. Presented by the National Wildlife Refuge Association, and given in honor of Paul Kroegel, the first manager of the first national wildlife refuge, the award recognizes outstanding accomplishment by a refuge manager in the protection and management of our national wildlife refuges. This marks the first time in the award’s 25 year history that a female Refuge Manager has been selected for the prestigious award.

“Ms. Ferrier’s extraordinary work taking on the complex issues makes her most deserving of this award,” said Geoffrey Haskett, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. “Her efforts on *Spartina alterniflora* eradication, dune restoration, protections for listed species including plovers, larks, and endangered Columbian White-tailed Deer are only a few examples of the remarkable work she is doing on behalf of species and refuges.”

Ms. Ferrier has been the Project Leader for the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex for almost 8 years. Willapa National Wildlife Refuge Complex consists of three refuges: Willapa National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for Columbian White-tailed Deer, and Lewis and Clark NWR. She models the way for a multi-disciplinary staff that she refers to as “Team Willapa.”

“Being a Project Leader involves complex interactions with all levels of government, private parties, staff, and volunteers on a daily basis. Jackie’s ability to manage all those entities with her expertise, experience, and enthusiasm is nothing short of inspiring. Her passion for the work of Willapa NWR continues to inspire the Friends’ mission to support and bring recognition to the Refuge.” said Kathy Freitas, President, Friends of Willapa National Wildlife Refuge.

We are proud to announce Jackie Ferrier as our 2019 Paul Kroegel National Wildlife Refuge System Refuge Manager of the Year. Ms. Ferrier’s award will be presented on February 27, 2019, at the National Wildlife Refuge Association’s Annual Gala Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C.

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The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to conserve America’s wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries that secure its ecological integrity. For more information, visit www.refugeassociation.org or contact [Kristen Berry](mailto:kristenberry@refugeassociation.org), National Wildlife Refuge Association, 202-417-3803.