



## Steve Thompson Receives Lifetime Achievement Award From The National Wildlife Refuge Association

May 11, 2018

**Washington, D.C.** The National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) presented Steve Thompson, former Refuge Association board member and longtime leader in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Thompson was a vital asset in protecting the National Wildlife Refuge System throughout his 32 years as a civil servant.

Steve built his wealth of knowledge of wildlife and conservation early, beginning as a biologist with the Bureau of Land Management, and then moving to the National Wildlife Refuge System with positions at Malheur (OR), Puget Sound (WA), Stillwater (NV) and Laguna Atascosa (TX), where his efforts as Refuge Manager came to the attention of the Refuge Association in 1994 when he was chosen as the Association's first [Refuge Manager of the Year](#). Steve then moved into more senior leadership roles in the Southeast, Washington, D.C. and ended his career as the Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for California, Nevada and the Klamath Basin.

After Steve's retirement from the Service in 2008, he served as a Refuge Association Board member from 2009-2015. His experience, steady leadership and thoughtful approach to problem solving have made him a "go-to" leader and mentor in consensus building conservation.

"Steve Thompson had a remarkable career and made incredible contributions to conservation throughout his time with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and after," said Geoffrey Haskett, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. "He was the first recipient of the Refuge Association's Refuge Manager of the Year Award, and he served with us as a Board Member. Steve has been my colleague and friend for many years and I am proud to present this award to him."

Steve received the Secretary of Interior's Executive Leadership Award, Gold Level in 2003, and the Distinguished Executive Award in 2007, the highest Presidential Rank Award given to career Senior Executive Service employees, as well as numerous Fish and Wildlife Service Performance and Leadership Awards.

Steve is known for his creative vision, extensive knowledge in conservation, leadership and passion for wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System. We are proud to announce Steve Thompson's presentation with this prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award.



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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](http://www.refugeassociation.org) or contact [Geoffrey L. Haskett](#), President, National Wildlife Refuge Association, 505-401-5298.*