



2018 NATIONAL WETLANDS AWARDS

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The National Wetlands Awards are presented annually to individuals who have excelled in wetlands protection, restoration, research, and education. The Awards are administered by the Environmental Law Institute and supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory, U.S. Forest Service, NOAA Marine Fisheries, and Federal Highway Administration. Award recipients are chosen by a diverse selection committee representing federal, state, and local government, nonprofits, academia, and past winners from across the country.

Steps in the Nomination Process and Key Dates

- **Submit Short-Form Nomination: A summary of the nominee’s accomplishments (see “Short-Form Nomination” below for additional details)** **Extended Deadline: January 22, 2018**
- **Finalists Selected; Nominators Invited to Submit Full Nomination** **February 2018**
- **Winners Announced** **April 2018**
- **Award Ceremony (Location TBA)** **May 9, 2018**

Eligibility

Only individuals—not organizations—are eligible to be nominated for an award. Federal employees are not eligible. Retired federal employees are not eligible for any work or volunteer efforts done during the time they were employed by a federal agency. Self-nominations are not allowed. Projects not currently in compliance with the Clean Water Act or similar state or local statutes are not eligible.

Contact ELI

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact wetlands@eli.org.

Short-Form Nomination

Nominators should submit a short-form nomination no later than **January 22, 2018**. A short-form nomination consists of three parts:

- (1) **Contact Information:** Nominators should provide contact information for both the nominator and nominee; this includes (a) full name; (b) affiliation; (c) mailing address (including city, state, and zip code); (d) telephone number; and (e) e-mail address.
- (2) **Nomination Category:** Nominators may suggest one or more nomination categories (with a maximum of three categories) for their nominee. The categories are described more fully below. The Selection Committee will make the final decision on the nomination category for each nominee. Awards may not be given in every category each year.
- (3) **Summary of Accomplishments:** Nominators should provide a summary of the nominee's accomplishments and why those accomplishments are significant. Nominators may wish to include the following in their summary of accomplishments:
 - A description of the projects and/or activities in which the nominee has been involved, including a description of where the projects and/or activities took place, how many acres and what types of wetlands were affected, whether the projects and/or activities are complete or are in process, and the nominee's contribution to the projects and/or activities.
 - A description of the significance of the projects and/or activities at the local, state, national, or international level.
 - An explanation of why the nominee merits recognition (e.g., did the nominee exceed expectations? Did the nominee devote personal time? Has the nominee achieved extraordinary results?).

The summary should be a **maximum of 800 words**.

Full Nomination

The Selection Committee will review and rank the short-form nominations to determine the finalists. Nominators of finalists will be informed in **January 2018** and invited to complete a full nomination. Additional information and deadlines regarding what should be included in a full nomination will be provided to nominators at the time they are informed of the finalist results.

Submitting Short-Form and Full Nominations

Short-form and full nominations should be e-mailed as a single PDF or Word document to wetlands@eli.org.

Nomination Categories

You may suggest one or more categories (a maximum of three categories) for your nominee. Please note, awards may not be given in each category every year. For examples of previous recipients, please visit www.nationalwetlandsawards.org.

- (1) **Conservation & Restoration:** This award is given to an individual who has accomplished the conservation and/or restoration of significant wetland resources through the use of on-the-ground restoration, management, or conservation methods on public or private lands. For example, this may be an individual who has used an innovative approach to restore a wetland ecosystem, or someone who has contributed to the protection of a regionally significant wetland area through the use of tried-and-true conservation methods.
- (2) **Education & Outreach:** This award is presented to a teacher, nonprofit organization staffer, state/local government employee, artist/film maker, reporter, or other individuals involved in wetland education or outreach. For example, this may be an inspirational educator who has developed a wetland course that brings children into the field to learn about wetland ecology.
- (3) **Landowner Stewardship:** This award is presented to a private landowner who, while using his or her private land for farming, forestry activities, ranching, or development, voluntarily helps restore, protect, or minimize impacts to wetlands. For example, this may be a farmer involved in wetland restoration or conservation on his or her land or enlisting nearby landowners in such efforts, or a residential developer who provides significant protection or restoration of wetlands associated with a subdivision.
- (4) **Science Research:** This award is presented to an academic, consultant, or individual leading scientific research on wetland values and functions, restoration, or enhancement. For example, this may be an individual who has spearheaded groundbreaking or influential research on restoration.
- (5) **State, Tribal, & Local Program Development:** This award is given to a state, tribal, or local government employee, who has developed and administered an outstanding wetland program. For example, this may be a state government employee, who has developed a streamlined wetland regulatory program, or a local government employee, who has developed a wetland registry.
- (6) **NEW! Wetland Business Leader:** This award is given to an individual who, through the course of their work in the private sector, has made a substantial contribution to wetland programs, sustainable wetland practices, or in other ways advance wetlands protection through their business. For example, this may be an environmental consultant or mitigation provider who has inspired positive change in the industry or developed innovative restoration projects/techniques, or a person who has provided significant resources or support to wetland programs or restoration efforts.