

Association of Retired Fish and Wildlife Employees Annual Charitable Donations

For many years the Association of Retired Fish and Wildlife Employees (ARFWE) has made annual charitable donations to various conservation organizations in Washington State in honor of those members lost the preceding year. This includes efforts to protect fish and wildlife and their habitats as well as donations to scholarship funds and memorial scholarship funds for students enrolled in natural resource curriculums. Following is a summary of donations made the last five years and a brief description of the charity.

2016: \$500 Donation to The Ecosystems Scholarship Fund

The Ecosystem Scholarship Fund was established by Rollie Geppert after he retired from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Rollie believed the future of our natural resources was in the hands of young adults and that education was the only viable long-term solution to saving ecosystems and all the fish and wildlife they support. The Fund is now administered through the **Community Foundation of South Puget Sound** in Olympia, WA. and makes awards every year to a deserving natural resource sciences student. This scholarship fund is unique in that it provides a systematic process for assisting students with their college expenses in pursuing careers in natural resources and land use planning. Also, donors who employ people in natural resources and land use planning can have confidence that this scholarship will ultimately create a pool from which they can hire future employees.

2017: \$500 Donation to Conservation Northwest

Conservation Northwest a Washington State focused Conservation Organization. They are active and extraordinarily successful at partnering with numerous individuals, government, and other conservation organizations to effect landscape level conservation projects on the ground. The Wildlife Overpass along I-90 just east of Snoqualmie Pass is just one example of what they have been able to accomplish with multiple partners over the last couple years. They have also played a major role in protecting and helping to restore populations of Lynx, Fischer, Marten and Wolverines to their historic ranges in Washington State.

Restoring habitat connectivity has been a cornerstone of Conservation Northwest's work since their founding in 1989. By focusing on connecting the big landscapes,

they have protected vital wildlife corridors and reconnected habitat between Washington's North and South Cascades, from the British Columbia Coast and Chilcotin Ranges to the North Cascades, from the Cascades to the Kettle River Range and Greater Rocky Mountains, and more.

2018: \$755 Donation to the Dave Brittell Memorial Scholarship Fund.

This scholarship fund was established by Dave's family. Dave was a former research biologist, Regional Wildlife Manager and Assistant Director of the Wildlife Program. He passed away shortly after retiring in 2017.

Dave was a passionate wildlife advocate and recognized leader within the agency. He epitomized the "...be hard on the issues and soft on people" approach to management and was deeply respected by employees of the Program, throughout the agency and with the public.

The scholarship memorializes Dave's love of fish and wildlife and the recreational opportunities it provides for Washington State residents. It also recognizes his devotion to science and the foundation it provides for natural resource decision making. The Scholarship awards are made annually to support students enrolled in Wildlife Biology and Natural Resource related curriculums.

2019: \$500 Donation to Washington Outdoor Women (WOW)

WOW was started by Ronnie McGlenn, wife of former Fish and Wildlife Commissioner John McGlenn

WOW is celebrating its 23rd year and offers [hands-on workshops](#) dedicated to teaching women and girls traditional outdoor wilderness skills in relevant settings. [WOW Workshops](#) connect women and girls to the outdoors and provide unforgettable experiences for all skill levels. WOW instructors teach 20 different skills that have outdoor applications, from fly fishing to archery to map reading and much more.

Their workshops teach a deeper respect for the outdoors and how to become responsible stewards of our state's natural resources.

2020: \$250 Donation to Youth Outdoors Unlimited (Pending)

Youth Outdoors Unlimited (<https://www.youthoutdoorsu.org/contact-us>) is a Washington based non-profit organization dedicated to take **youth diagnosed** with life threatening illnesses or physical disabilities on the hunting or fishing adventure of their dreams! **Youth Outdoors Unlimited** was honored by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife for 2017 Organization of the Year!