

ALDO LEOPOLD AWARD – 2017



Winifred B. Kessler, CWB®
Past President and Fellow of
The Wildlife Society



A native of San Francisco, California, Winifred “Wini” Kessler completed BA and MS degrees at the University of California-Berkeley and PhD at Texas A&M University, where she studied the Attwater’s greater prairie chicken. She held positions as Assistant and Associate Professor of Wildlife at the University of Idaho before joining the U.S. Forest Service as the first Regional Ecologist for the Alaska Region. In her next position, as the National Wildlife Ecologist, she established a Wildlife and Fish Ecology Unit at Utah State University before moving to Washington, DC, to assist with the Forest Service transition to ecosystem-based management. In 1993 she immigrated to Canada to chair natural resources at the brand-new University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), where her innovative approach to natural resources education earned her recognition as the 1997 BC Academic of the Year. In 2000 she returned to Alaska as a regional director for the U.S. Forest Service, retiring from that position in 2010.

A member of The Wildlife Society since 1973, Dr. Kessler served in leadership positions including Northwest Section Representative, Vice President, President-elect, President, and Past-president—always working to advance women and diversity in the profession. She received TWS’ Special Service Recognition Award in 1999. A professional member of the Boone & Crockett Club since 1993, she chaired its Research Conservation Grants Program for 15 years and served 8 years as its science editor. In 2018 she commenced her third term as Chair of the Board for the BC Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. She also serves on the boards of directors for Ducks Unlimited Canada and the Ecosystem Management Research Institute. In 2018, with Bruce Leopold and James Cummins, she completed the comprehensive textbook *North American Wildlife Policy and Law*.
