1. PURPOSE
To encourage the development and exchange of information by WS personnel and to appropriately recognize contributions to the wildlife management profession.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS
This directive revises WS Directive 4.410 dated 8/14/97.

3. POLICY
All WS operations personnel are eligible to receive awards for publications or published abstracts for presentation of papers they authored or co-authored. In addition, methods development personnel who co-author presentations or publications with operations personnel are eligible to receive awards. WS will recognize a maximum of three technical or non-technical papers presented by WS employees at national, regional, or State wildlife management meetings or workshops and/or published in conference proceedings or scientific and technical journals.

In the spring, the Director of Operational Support Staff, may request that Directors and State Directors submit papers that were published or presented for publication by WS employees during the previous calendar year or other appropriate period of time as denoted in the call for papers.

4. REVIEW PROCESS
The WS Deputy Administrator will appoint a panel of three to five members to assess the merits of each eligible paper based on the following criteria:

a. Degree subject matter is related to the WS program,

b. Degree WS operational personnel contributed to the publication,

c. Where presented or published (national, State, etc.),

d. Quality of publication:
   1. Sound analysis and logic
   2. Publication within a referred journal,
   3. Quality of writing,

e. Level of contribution to the wildlife management profession.

5. AWARD
A maximum of three papers will be selected by the panel for recognition, and the WS author(s) will receive a cash award based on the panel's recommendation. The WS Deputy Administrator will determine the amount of the award and the occasion on which it will be presented.

[Signature]

Deputy Administrator