

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Executive Department



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**Governor Tim Walz**

President of the Senate

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT**

**Suzanne Baird**

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed you to the office of:

**Public Member**

**Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council**

Effective: April 3, 2024

Expires: January 4, 2027

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed March 29, 2024.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

**Tim Walz**  
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

**Steve Simon**  
Secretary of State

Filed March 29, 2024  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State  
Steve Simon

Replacing: Ashley Peters

# Application for the position Public Member Application Date: 10/10/2023 2:30:43 PM

Note: If your application needs to be amended, including updates to any uploaded documents, contact [open.appointments@state.mn.us](mailto:open.appointments@state.mn.us). Please provide your name, board, position you've applied to, and any other documentation you'd like included in your application along with a brief summary of your request.

## Part I: Position Sought

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**Agency Name:** Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

**Position:** Public Member

## Part II: Applicant Information

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**Name:** Suzanne Baird scbairds@gmail.com

**Phone:** (757) 377-6834

**County:** Scott

**Recommended by the Appointing Authority:** False

**Mn House District:** 54B

**US House District:** 2

## Part III: Appending Documentation

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### Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/pdf
Resume	application/pdf

### Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

## Part V: Signature

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**Signature:** Suzanne C Baird

**Date:** 10/10/2023 2:30:43 PM

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**Suzanne C. Baird**  
3258 Spruce Trail SW Prior  
Lake, MN 55372  
Phone: 757-377-6834  
Email: scbairds@gmail.com

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**WORK  
EXPERIENCE**

*Currently retired*

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**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service  
Midwest Regional Office  
5600 American Blvd West  
Bloomington, MN 55437**

**05/2020 – 05/2023**

**Grade Level: GS-15**

**Salary: \$164,000/year  
Hours per week: 40 +**

**Regional Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, 0480**

Served as Regional Chief of the Midwest Region of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Oversaw 56 national wildlife refuges and 12 wetland management districts in an 8 state region. Oversaw a variety of programs with in the Refuge System including budget and administration, facilities management, law enforcement, fire management, natural resource management and planning, and the Partners for Wildlife Program. Also worked with other program Assistant Regional Directors in the coordination and development of programs across the region. Supervised 4 area supervisors, the Deputy Regional Chief and the Regional Refuge Law Enforcement Program.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Midwest Regional Office  
5600 American Blvd West  
Bloomington, MN 55437**

**11/2018 – 05/2020**

**Grade Level: GS-14**

**Salary: \$142,338/year  
Hours per week: 40 +**

**Deputy Regional Chief, NWRS, 0480**

Serve as the Deputy Regional Chief of the Great Lakes Region of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Exercises managerial and leadership in integrating multiple aspects of refuge management and related programs within the Regional Refuge program. Analyzes and evaluates management plans, goals, objectives, goals, objectives, and resource problems and makes determinations in conjunction with the Regional Chief regarding management approaches. Reviews, formulates, and influences the establishment of policies, plans, programs, and procedures of Regional Scope. Serves as supervisor for division chiefs of Law Enforcement, Fire Management, Natural Resources and Planning, Visitor Services, Budget and Administration and Facilities Management. Also helps to coordinate cross-programmatic cooperation and partnerships within the Service and with other partners. Manages and coordinates the formulation and allocation of annual and multi-year budgets for Regional Office programs as well as refuge field stations of the NWRS within the Great Lakes Region. Coordinates budget allocations with Refuge Supervisors and program leads. Temporarily served as Acting Hunt and Fish Chief.

Served as Acting Regional Chief for the Midwest Region of the National Wildlife Refuge System from 8/2019 to 05/2020.

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Lostwood WMD Complex  
42000 520<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Kenmare, ND 58746**

**9/2015 – 11/2018  
Grade Level: GS-14  
Salary: \$127,164/year  
Hours per week: 40**

**Project Leader, 485**

Serve as the Project Leader for a complex of two wetland management districts and two national wildlife refuges in North Dakota (Lostwood and Crosby WMDs and Lostwood NWR and Des Lacs NWR). Responsible for long range plans and management of a \$1.8 million budget to include budgeting, procurement, supervising 10 permanent and 4-8 seasonal/temporary/term employees. Oversee the day-to-day management activities. Oversee the easement acquisition, administration, and enforcement in the heart of the Bakken oil field. Worked closely with oil and gas interests and other infrastructure interests in the area such as wind energy company to ensure the protection of Service interests.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Chesapeake Marshlands NWR  
Complex**

**2145 Key Wallace Drive  
Cambridge, MD 21613**

**9/2007 – 9/2015  
Grade Level: GS-14  
Salary: \$ 106,358/year  
Hours per week: 40-55**

**Refuge Manager/Project Leader, 485**

Serve as Refuge Manager/Project Leader for a complex of four national wildlife refuges in Maryland and Virginia, including Blackwater, Eastern Neck, Martin, and Susquehanna refuges. Responsible for development of long-range plans and management of a \$4 Million budget to include procurement, budgeting, supervising 27 permanent, 10 – 20 temporary/seasonal employees. Also, direct day-to-day management activities and administrative aspects of refuge management. Responsible for management and oversight of complex biological, visitor services, law enforcement, fire, and maintenance programs. Provide leadership for a refuge complex facing major challenges including urban encroachment, marsh loss, and impacts from sea level rise. Responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with US and State congressional delegations, two active Friends groups, state partnerships in 3 states, relationships with numerous federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, as well as local government agencies. Responsible for large land acquisition working with NGO and state partners. Responsible for oversight, management and planning of large facility program. Work with WO staff on a variety of issues including Ecosystem Services study, National Scenic Byway recommendations, as well as providing multiple tours for WO staff. Developed partnership with The Conservation Fund and Audubon to complete and begin implementation of climate change assessment and sea level adaptation plan. Worked with staff and partners to implement wetland restoration plans on four national wildlife refuges.

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Serve on Capt John Smith NHT Advisory Council as USFWS representative.

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Serve as co-leader of Delmarva Nutria Management Team. Serve on Harriet Tubman Working Group. Assist with Refuge Academy field experience and have served as a class advisor.

Completed a 30-day detail in Regional Office as Refuge Supervisor for southern refuges. During the detail finalized several staff selections, advised refuge managers, provided input into budgeting/ planning decisions, etc. Served on National workforce planning team. Worked with the USFWS Washington Office of Planning and Evaluation in the development of the SHC pilot project for the Chesapeake Bay and the PD express program.

ALDP Assignments: 30-Day: Chief, Division of Management Authority, International Affairs, Headquarters, 60-day: Deputy Assistant Regional Director, External Affairs, Midwest Region, Bloomington, MN.

Served on the National SHC Management Practices Subteam, the Region 5 NWRs Workforce Planning Team. 2013

Other major partnerships include USACOE, MD DNR, The Conservation Fund, Audubon, USDA Wildlife Services, NPS, Maryland Park Service, Dorchester County Tourism, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and US Navy. Currently serving on a three-way partnership in the development of the Harriet Tubman National Monument, National Historical Park – an overlay of the Blackwater NWR. Completed a 30-day detail as Project Leader for Chincoteague NWR Complex (August 2014) Serving as a coach for SUTL in 2015. (Contact Supervisor: yes: Anne Sittauer 413-253-8553).

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Great Dismal Swamp NWR  
3100 Desert Road**

**Suffolk, VA 23434**

**11/2005 – 9/2007**

**Grade Level: GS-13**

**Salary: \$85,470/year**

**Hours per week: 40-50**

**Refuge Manager/Project Leader, 485**

Served as Refuge Manager/Project Leader for Great Dismal Swamp and Nansemond NWRs. Responsible for development of long-range plans and management of a \$1.9 Million budget. This included procurement, budgeting, supervising 12 permanent and 2 temporary employees. Direct day-to-day management activities on 2 NWRs, direct all administrative aspects of refuge management. Responsible for management and oversight of maintenance, visitor services, biological, law enforcement and fire management programs. Also had supervisory oversight of VA/WV Zone fire management program. Developed relationships with Congressional delegation in two states, worked closely with two city governments in Virginia and made contacts with County officials in North Carolina. Responsible for bringing rough draft of CCP to completion in July 2006. Took the lead in the development of the Conservation Partnership for Southeast Virginia. Handled several controversial issues including a commercial filming request, new black bear hunt, and worked to resolve conflicts regarding the location of proposed headquarters/visitor contact station. Successfully battled a temporary restraining order in U.S. District Court regarding the bear hunt planned in the CCP. Serve as Co-leader of RTNCF Ecosystem Team. (Contact Supervisor: Yes, Supervisor's Name: Steve Funderburk, (retired) Supervisor's Phone: 413-253-8579)

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**USFWS, NWRS  
1 Federal Drive  
Fort Snelling, MN 55111**

**10/2002 - 11/2005**

**Grade Level: GS-13  
Salary: \$75,293/year  
Hours per week: 40**

**Assistant Refuge Supervisor, 485**

Served as an assistant to all three Refuge Supervisors for the National Wildlife Refuges and Wetland Management Districts in Region 3, directly involved with all aspects of refuge and wetland district supervision and operational guidance. Responsibilities included serving as Acting Refuge Supervisor with full authority during supervisors travels and absences (over 50% of the time – acting for one or more supervisor); assisting with development and review of operational procedures; conducted field station inspections and prepared station reports; reviewed management plans; assisted in developing budget and funding initiatives and assisted with the allocation of funds and FTEs to field stations; assisted budget chief with tracking fund utilization, travel and personnel ceilings; provided coordination between field stations and Regional support offices. Coordinated with Realty staff on land acquisition and the Small Wetland Acquisition Program. Served as Refuges Student Career Experience Program (SCEP/STEP) manager. Responsible for recruitment, selection, placement, and conversion of SCEP students for the Division of Refuges in Region 3. Coordinated program with Division of Human Resources. Worked with the Leadership Development Council (LDC) to develop an Individual Development Plan (IDP) for SCEP students. Also developed a Project Leader and Student handbook for Region 3 Refuges SCEP program. Served on a team to develop a succession planning strategy for maintenance professionals. With over 50% of the current cadre over the age of 50 a strategy to ensure we have a well-trained replacement group was developed. Also served as the representative from Refuges on the Region 3 Recruitment Team. This team was tasked with development of a diversity recruitment plan for the Region. Worked on the development of standard position description for Easement Enforcement Officer. Worked closely with Regional Environment Compliance Coordinator. Provided input to Safety on Environmental Management Program.

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February 8, 2004 thru April 11, 2004 TEMPORARY PROMOTION TO ACTING REFUGE SUPERVISOR GS-480-14 Served as Refuge Supervisor for the State of Minnesota. Supervised refuge/WMD operations/programs of 11 National Wildlife Refuges and 7 Wetland Management Districts. Assumed full authority of the position. Worked closely with Division of Realty and Office of Appraisal Services (OAS) to coordinate Small Wetland Acquisition Program (SWAP). Coordinated activities with Realty Staff, Wetland District staff, and OAS appraisers through monthly meetings, email Correspondence, phone calls, and personal interactions. (Contact Supervisor: Yes, Supervisor's Name: Jim Leach, (retired) Supervisor's Phone: 612-713-5406)

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mackay Island NWR  
316 Marsh Causeway  
Knotts Island, NC 27950**

**2/1998 - 10/2002**

**Grade Level: GS-12  
Salary: \$59,702/year  
Hours per week: 40**

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**Refuge Manager, 485**

Served as Refuge Manager for Mackay Island & Currituck National Wildlife Refuges encompassing over 12,000 acres. Responsibilities included development of long-range plans, managing a \$400,000 budget with additional supplemental appropriations for storm damage. This included procurement, budgeting, supervising 6 permanent, 3 seasonal and up to 2 temporary employees, directing day-to-day management, directed administrative aspects of refuge management including providing leadership for land acquisition, coordinated land acquisition activities with the Regional Realty Office and other non-profit organizations, coordinated activities with nearby refuges including Back Bay, Alligator River and Pea Island refuges. Responsible for planning, protection and management of 3 threatened species on Currituck NWR. Responsible for interpretation and recreation programs and long range planning of future programs. Responsible for the management of a prescribe fire program involving the burning of approximately 2,500 acres annually, the coordination of biological programs including routine wildlife surveys, threatened species monitoring, water monitoring, vegetation monitoring and other similar activities. Also responsible for management of a law enforcement program for two refuges located in two states, coordinated activities with special agents, state wildlife officers and other local law enforcement officers. Actively involved in the enforcement of refuge regulations, the Refuge Administration Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act and other related federal laws. Served on several team efforts including Roanoke-Tar-Neuse-Cape Fear Ecosystem Team, Currituck Wild Horse Advisory Board, Virginia Beach Wild Horse Committee, North Carolina Estuarine Research Reserve Advisory Board, Currituck-Back Bay Focal Area Team, Outer Banks Environmental Education Center Team and the Hampton Roads Planning District Back Bay Use Conflicts Team. (Contact Supervisor: Yes, Supervisor's Name: Mike Bryant, (retired) Supervisor's Phone: 252-473-1131)

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Kern NWR Complex  
P.O Box 670  
Delano, CA 93216**

**2/1994 - 2/1998**

**Grade Level: GS-11  
Salary: \$42,509/year  
Hours per week: 40**

**Primary Assistant Refuge Manager, 485**

Responsible for assisting the Project Leader in the overall management, planning and administration of the Kern NWR Complex. Assisted with the development of long-range plans, annual work plans and budgets. Responsible for day-to-day management of field operations on the Complex, including direct supervision of maintenance, administrative staff and secondary assistant refuge manager. Set work schedules and determined work assignments. Responsible for tracking a \$450 thousand budget. Also performed routine administrative duties such as preparing monthly, quarterly, or annual RMIS, RCAR, Annual Narrative Reports and other associated paperwork. Supervised and managed a complex water management program involving the management of an open ditch irrigation system. Planned and implemented the irrigation of moist soil units. Also responsible for planning and oversight for rehabilitation of managed wetland units, repair and replacement of water control structures, dikes and levees. Managed over 4,000 acres of wetland

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habitat including 1,250 acres of moist soil units, over 2,000 acres of seasonal marsh and 300 acres of riparian habitat.

Responsible for management of the Public Use Program including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and other recreational activities. Coordinated and conducted Complex Law Enforcement Program which included coordinating activities with state and federal agents, conducting routine patrols, monitoring public use activities on Kern Refuge and patrols other refuges for trespass and poaching activities.

Managed fire management program, grazing program, planned and coordinated invasive species program, assist with biological program including assisting with waterfowl and other water bird surveys as well as work on endangered species, assisted with easement management and WPR on nearby lands. Also managed wildlife disease outbreaks within the southern San Joaquin Valley region. (Contact Supervisor: Yes, Supervisor's Name: David Hardt, (retired) Supervisor's Phone: 702-646-3401)

**U.S Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Ash Meadows NWR**

**HCR 70, Box 610Z**

**Amargosa Valley, NV 89020**

**2/1992 - 2/1994**

**Grade Level: GS-11**

**Salary: \$33,504/year**

**Hours per week: 40**

**Refuge Manager, 485**

Served as Manager for the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and the Amargosa Pupfish Station. Although supervision was provided by the Deputy Project Leader for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex, the Refuge is almost 100 miles away, all but the most difficult, sensitive issues were handled independent of immediate supervision. Supervised on-site refuge staff and volunteers. Responsible for the development of long-range plans governing wetlands restoration and management, water management, habitat restoration, public use, maintenance, safety, fire management, endangered species management and other activities related to the refuge and the pupfish station. As part of planning process was responsible for preparing Section 7 evaluations and coordinating consultations with Service Ecological Services office in Reno, Nevada. Also responsible for the providing guidance for the management of fisheries program for the refuge including several species of endangered fish as well as planning to address invasive fish populations in coordination with station biologist, staff from Ecological Services staff and Deputy Project Leader. Conducted waterfowl surveys and assisted with endangered fish and small mammal surveys. Assisted with other biological evaluations with the refuge biologist and during position vacancies assumed the responsibility for biological program. Responsible for coordinating and administering public use activities, coordinated activities with state and federal agencies. Worked closely with Death Valley National Monument in coordinating management and law enforcement activities for the Devils Hole unit of the Monument. Directed and conducted on-site Law Enforcement Program with emphasis on endangered species and cultural resource protection. Coordinated research activities on the refuge with a variety of agencies, organizations, and universities to investigate many aspects of the unique desert oasis ecosystem. Responsible for, in close coordination with the Nevada State Engineer's Office and Regional Office hydrologist, applying for, maintaining, perfecting, and protecting water rights, both surface and

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subsurface sources. (Contact Supervisor: Yes, Supervisor's Name: David Hardt, (retired) Supervisor's Phone: 702-646-3401)

**USAF, Avon Park Bombing Range**  
**29 South Blvd**  
**Avon Park, FL 33825**

**11/1988 - 2/1992**

**Grade Level: GS-11**  
**Salary: \$32,423/year**  
**Hours per week: 40**

**Wildlife Biologist , 486**

Responsible for managing a complex public use program requiring coordination, daily, with U.S. military, national guard, and state prison on an active bombing range. Also responsible for coordinating wildlife management activities with installation personnel, the Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission (FG&FWFC) and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Responsible for developing program goals, installation regulations governing hunting, fishing, camping, and other outdoor recreation activities and setting limits on public access and game harvest.

Responsible for management of Law Enforcement program for the Outdoor Recreation and Hunting Programs. Coordinated LE activities with the FG&FWFC and installation Security Police. Planned and carried out game management program. Conducted population surveys and evaluated population indices of game species based on direct counts and harvest data. Assisted Wildlife Biologist with endangered species surveys on the red cockaded woodpecker and the Florida grasshopper sparrow. Assisted state biologist with research project on Florida grasshopper sparrow. Also surveyed timber stands for the expansion of red-cockaded woodpecker colonies. Developed management plans and annual budgets for the Outdoor Recreation and Hunt Programs. Established fee schedule for recreational activities and plans expenditures. Developed procedures to carry out permit issuing program including selection of participants, issuance of permits, developing safety briefings, setting rules and regulations, and controlling user access.

Supervised 15 employees. Set work schedules, evaluated work performance, and handled all civilian personnel matters including hiring, completing performance evaluations, and terminating employees when necessary. (Contact Supervisor: Yes, Supervisor's Name: Paul Ebersbach, Supervisor's Phone: 813-452-4119)

**USFWS, Ecological Services**  
**2321 W. Royal Palm Road,**  
**Suite 103**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85021**

**3/1987 - 6/1987**

**Grade Level: GS-05**  
**Salary: \$14,822/year**  
**Hours per week: 40**

**Wildlife Biologist , 486**

Investigated, researched, and wrote reports on water quality resources projects, contaminants studies and permits. Conducted field investigations concerning contaminants studies and water-quality analysis. i.e. collection of eggs, soil samples, and water samples. Responsible for obtaining monthly water quality and related data including temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen,

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specific conductivity readings, bacteriological samples, and other composite samples. Responsible for the computer analysis of field data for a fisheries population study on Lake Havasu in Arizona. Also reviewed and reported on environmental assessments and permit applications. (Contact Supervisor: Yes, Supervisor's Name: Mike Spiller, Supervisor's Phone: 602-261-4720)

**EDUCATION**

Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas 77843 US  
Master's Degree - 12/1985  
Major: Wildlife Science

Austin College  
Sherman, Texas 75090 US  
Bachelor's Degree - 5/1982  
Major: Biology

Winston Churchill High School  
San Antonio, Texas 78216 US  
Graduated: 5/1978

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**JOB RELATED  
TRAINING**

New Employee Orientation – Region 1- 10/92  
Basic Law Enforcement for Land Managers – FLETC – 93  
Annual Law Enforcement In-Service – 94-02  
Basic Aviation Training – 94  
Equipment Operator Certification (backhoe/loader, dozer, wheel loader,  
grader, farm tractor) – 7/94  
USFWS Refuge Academy – Charleston, SC – 95  
Region 1 Admin. Training - 96  
Small Purchase Training – Portland, OR – 5/96  
Refuge Improvement Act Workshop – 2/98  
CCP Training – NCTC – 9/98  
IMPACT (Involving and Motivating People to Achieve Conservation  
Teamwork) – NCTC – 2/99  
BTS Training – Orlando, FL – 2/00  
Land Pre Acquis. Contaminant Surveys – Level I Procedures – NCTC –  
4/00  
MOCC (Motorboat Operator Certification Course) – Titusville, FL – 4/00  
Wildlife & Environmental Crimes Training Conference – Kitty Hawk, NC –  
3/01  
Refuge Compatibility Training, Jacksonville, FL – 4/01  
Cultural Resources Overview – NCTC – 8/01  
Aviation for Supervisors - 02  
Stepping Up To Leadership – NCTC – 05/02  
FWS- RCRA/Environmental Compliance Training- Ft. Snelling, MN –  
12/02  
Regional Environmental Compliance Coordinator, Environmental Mgmt  
System Training – Denver, CO – 1/03  
Coaching for Excellence – Minneapolis, MN – 3/03  
Mgmt Program for Natural Resource Managers – Penn State Executive  
Programs – 12/03  
Budgeting for Supervisors – NCTC-3/04  
Congressional Operations Seminar 3/05  
Law Enforcement for Supervisors-FLETC- 8/06  
Media Academy – NCTC -12/06  
Law Enforcement for Supervisors -NCTC -3/09  
Structured Decision Making -NCTC - 1/2010  
Crucial Conversations – Hadley, MA -11/2010  
Advance Leadership Development Program – NCTC – 7/2012  
Urban Refuge Academy – NCTC – 9/2013  
LE for Supervisors -NCTC 2011, 2013, 2016, 2019  
Aviation Training, A-100, A-116, A200, M3 – 8/14, 7/17, 8/17  
Coaching for SUTL, 2015, 2017

Fire Training

S-130 & S-190 – Bakersfield, CA 6/94  
S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior – 1/95  
S-390 Intro to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations 1/96  
Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation 10/96  
Burn Boss III Task Book – 9/97  
S-236 Wildland Fire Suppression Tactics 2/99  
S-200 Initial Attach Incident Commander 2/99  
S-233 Tractor Plow Boss 2/99  
S-205 Fire in the Urban Interface 2/99  
Fire Management Leadership 2/02

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Local Fire Management Leadership NCTC, 7/2014

**PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS** Weller et al. 1994. Vegetation Relationships to Water Gradient in a Constructed Freshwater Wetland near Brazoria, Texas, The Texas Journal of Science 46:205-219

Delany, M.F., Progulske, D.R., Coltman, S.D., Netting and Banding Florida Grasshopper Sparrows, North American Bird Bander Vol 17, No. 2:45-47

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Performance Awards 1990, 1991, Star Award 1996, On-the-Spot 1997, City of Virginia Beach, City Manager's Award - April 15, 1999, Extra Mile Award - On the Refuge Road - Contributions to the Charles Kuralt Trail - 10/1999, Star Award - 9/2002, 9/2004, 2/2005, 9/2008, 8/2009, 7/2010, 7/2017,11/2019 Time off Award 9/2008, 2016, 2017 Performance Awards 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014 - 2019 Quality Step Increase - 2010 Maryland Conservationist of The Year - Ducks Unlimited - 2009 Coastal America Partnership Award - 2009 Protecting Our Natural Resources Award, Region 5 - 2010 Environmental Leadership Award - 2012

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Suzanne C. Baird  
3258 Spruce Trail SW  
Prior Lake, MN 55372  
757-377-6834

October 10, 2023

The Honorable Tim Walz  
Governor  
State of Minnesota  
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
Ste 130  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz,

I am writing to express interest in serving on the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. It is my understanding that there is an opening for a public position to be appointed by the Governor on the Council. The establishment of the Outdoor Heritage Fund by the legislature has been one of the most critically important legislations for the conservation of the natural resources for the State of Minnesota. The continued restoration, protection and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forest, and other habitats is important for maintaining the continuing natural heritage of the state.

I have a strong interest in the conservation of natural resources. I recently retired from 37 years of working in the conservation field, primarily working in the National Wildlife Refuge System. My passion has been in the restoration and conservation of natural resources across the country. I have also had the privilege to assist in the restoration and enhancement as well as the opportunity to enjoy these resources by hunting and fishing. I have been working with a group of women to help raise money for conservation lands by assisting with the Clays for a Cause fund raiser held each spring in Prior Lake at the Minnesota Horse and Hunt Club. Funds raised have gone toward the purchase of lands for Wildlife Management Areas as well as Waterfowl Production Areas. Additionally, I have been an instructor for the Women Teaching Women to Pheasant Hunt Class which teaching women about hunting and provides practical experience and helps recruit women into the hunting community.

I have chosen to retire here in Prior Lake, MN giving me the opportunity to continue to enjoy the hunting and fishing opportunities and other outdoor experiences that this state is known for. I would love an opportunity to help support the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund implementation by serving on the Council to help continue to support the important legacy of wildlife conservation in Minnesota.

Thank you for this opportunity to apply for the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council. Feel free to reach out to me at 757-377-6834 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Suzanne C. Baird

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