
Distinguished Service Citation

Jim MacMahon

Utah State University

The **Distinguished Service Citation** is given in recognition of long and distinguished service to the ESA, to the larger scientific community, and to the larger purpose of ecology in the public welfare. We are pleased to present the award this year to Dr. Jim MacMahon of the Utah State University.

Jim's contributions both to ESA and to the field of ecology have been substantial and diverse. He has given a tremendous amount of time, talent, and energy in a way that few of us are able to parallel. This award recognizes the long-term and massive contributions that he has so selflessly offered to the broader community, regionally and nationally, to improve the public profile of ecology and opportunities for ecologists.

Jim became President of the ESA in 1997, a very challenging time for the Society. The budget was in turmoil and ESA had recently moved into a headquarters office in Washington with a new Executive Director and staff. Jim made and articulated the tough decisions that were necessary to set the ESA on its present course of financial solvency, leading to the flexibility to tackle new initiatives. Jim spent an extraordinary amount of personal time working with the existing staff. These were critical times, and Jim did more to keep the Society on an even footing than almost any other President in the ESA's long history.

Jim has long been a leader in foresighted efforts to involve the science of ecology and scientific community with the public welfare. He was a leader in the Sustainable Biosphere Initiative of the Society. He has served for years on the steering committee, insuring that the committee thinks creatively about how the SBI and the ESA leadership can shape ecological sciences. Jim also co-founded the ESA's Annual Fund for the Millennium, the first organized effort for the Society to begin a "development" program. In addition, he has been one of the primary ESA leaders in the field of ecological restoration.

More than most ecologists, Jim spends a great deal of time and effort mentoring people, especially students. He is passionate about ecology and brilliantly communicates this passion to students in the classroom, field, and his writings. Not only does Jim take pride in his mentoring; his students have lavished important awards on him.

Jim MacMahon is one of those rare people who makes a huge contribution almost anonymously, without apparent need of recognition. That is one reason why it is a special pleasure to recognize him with this award.

