



**Hugh Hammond Bennett
Award
for
Conservation Excellence
Nomination Packet**

*Sponsored by
National Conservation Planning Partnership
July 31, 2019*

Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence Guidelines

Objective

The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) including Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Association of Conservation Districts, National Conservation District Employee Association, National Association of State Conservation Agencies, and National Association of Resource Conservation & Development Councils is proud to announce the opening of the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence.

Recognizing the leadership and dedication of Hugh Hammond Bennett, the father of the modern soil conservation movement and the first chief of the Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service), the Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence recognizes individuals at the local, state and the national level for extraordinary achievements in and contributions to the soil and water conservation movement in the United States.

These awards recognize producers and conservation planners from within the NCP partnership who have exemplified outstanding service through development and implementation of sound conservation planning and other conservation techniques.

AWARD CATEGORIES

- **Producer Award:** An award will be presented to a producer who demonstrates a commitment to conservation planning, pioneering new opportunities and leadership in the community.

The local field office staff providing assistance to the Hugh Hammond Bennett Producer Award winner will also receive recognition.

- **Conservation Planner Award:** The conservation planner award is independent of the producer award and will be given to an individual who

demonstrates a high standard of conservation planning and implementation for customers as well as sharing his/her expertise with others.

Eligibility

Producer Award

Any producer working with any of the NCP partner organizations on conservation planning or implementation of a conservation plan is eligible for the producer award.

Conservation Planner Award

All NCP partnership employees are eligible for the individual conservation planner award.

Partner organizations are those recognized by NCP at the national, state or local level.

Submission Deadline

Nominations must be submitted by an employee or member of a NCP agency or organization. Those interested in submitting a nomination should notify their respective NCP State leadership with a carbon copy to the NRCS State Conservationist. Nominations must be provided on the official form and submitted electronically to NCP at awards@email.nacdnet.org no later than October 1, 2019.

Evaluation of Nominations

A panel of judges represented by no more than two individuals for each of the NCP partner organizations will evaluate and recommend the winner. All entries will receive equal review and evaluation. Award winners will be determined strictly upon the written explanation of their activities in the application and demonstration of their contributions to effectively provide assistance to customers relative to conservation planning and/or implementation of conservation techniques to address resource concerns and improve environmental performance. A point evaluation system will be used as follows:

Evaluation of Criteria for the Producer Award

- A. Commitment to Conservation:** Nominee shall have a current conservation plan and demonstrate commitment to following and monitoring their plan.
- B. Civic Engagement:** Nominee demonstrates commitment to civic engagement and service at the local, state, or national level. Civic engagement could be through elected or appointed service to a local soil and water conservation district; a resource conservation and development council; a local or state government body; or membership or service in other local, state, or national organizations.
- C. Pioneer New Approaches to Conservation Planning and Implementation:** Nominee shall embrace and incorporate into their management strategy new and innovative conservation planning tools (i.e., Resource Stewardship Evaluation Tool (RSET), Field Print Calculator, 4-R Nutrient Stewardship, etc.)
- D. Advancement of Soil Health Adoption:** Nominees not only have adopted soil health practices on their own land or operation but have also championed soil health through a variety of community outreach and educational activities.

Evaluation and Scoring for Producer Award

Evaluation Criteria	Range of Points
A. Commitment to Conservation Planning	0-10
B. Civic Engagement	0-10
C. Pioneer New Approaches to Conservation Planning and Implementation	0-10
D. Advancement of Soil Health Adoption	0-10
<i>Total Possible Points</i>	40

Local Field Office Team Recognition

The team award will be presented to the local conservation planners and support staff who have provided assistance to the producer award winner.

A list of the individuals to be recognized should be included on the Producer nomination form.

Evaluation Criteria for the Conservation Planner Award

- A. Communication:** Provide details of the nominee's ability to communicate effectively and cultivate personal and professional relationships with diverse groups of farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, state, local and tribal government officials, non-profit organizations, and businesses relative to conservation planning and implementation techniques. Documentation can include presentations, articles, newsletters, tours, workshops and field days.
- B. Relations:** Describe the nominee's working relationships and development of partnerships with diverse groups of farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, state, local and tribal government officials, non-profit organizations, and businesses relative to conservation planning and implementation techniques.
- C. Education and Training:** Describe the nominee's accomplishments in youth and/or adult education and training of others in conservation planning and implementation techniques including other staff, partners, local farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners. The nominee should also demonstrate a commitment to professional development.
- D. Application of Conservation Planning and Implementation:** Describe the nominee's assistance and technical contributions that have led to the application of outstanding conservation planning, implementation, and monitoring techniques demonstrating innovation on a variety of land uses to address local resource concerns to improve environmental performance.

E. Complexity of Work and Mix of Achievements: Describe the nominee’s work complexity and highlight the mix of accomplishments in each type of activity.

The write up should illustrate the nominee’s commitment to and responsibilities in conservation planning and implementation of techniques to address resource concerns to improve environmental performance.

F. Professional Activities: Describe the nominee’s activities and involvement with professional conservation organizations that have assisted the nominee in achieving outstanding application of conservation planning and implementation techniques, such as, but not limited to, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Society of American Foresters, Ecological Restoration Society, the Wildlife Society, Society for Rangeland Management, American Society of Agronomy and American Forage and Grassland Council, etc.

ceremony. Travel expenses will be paid by NCPP partners for all non-federal employees. Travel for any Federal employee award winner will be paid by their employer.

The local conservation planning staff providing assistance to the producer award winner are not expected to travel to the NACD meeting. They will receive a plaque at a later date as determined by NCPP national and state leadership teams.

In addition to the award winners, the top three to five nominations in each award group will be recognized in print and online in each NCPP partner organization’s newsletters and other outreach materials. Upon selection, the award winners will be contacted for providing additional information for print/online materials including current photos.

Evaluation and Scoring for Conservation Planner Award

Evaluation Criteria	Range of Points
A. Communication	0-5
B. Relations	0-5
C. Education and Training	0-10
D. Application of Conservation Planning and Implementation	0-10
E. Complexity of Work and Mix of Achievements	0-15
F. Professional Activities	0-5
<i>Total Possible Points</i>	50

Winner Recognition

Both the producer and conservation planner award winners will be formally recognized at the NACD Annual Meeting, NACD Appreciation Banquet on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 in Las Vegas, NV.

The producer and conservation planner award winners are encouraged to attend the awards

Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence

1. Producer Award Nominee's Personal Information

Name

Farm Name (if different from Name above)

Address

Town State Zip Code

Telephone

Email

USDA Service Center Location

Servicing Conservation District

2. Nominator Information

Name

Title

Agency/Organization (if it applies)

Address

Town State Zip Code

Telephone

Email

3. Recognition Information:

In the event your nominee is selected, please provide this additional information:

A. Plaque Information

Print the recipient's name exactly as it should appear on the plaque:

2020 Producer Award Nomination Form

B. For publicity, please provide the name and contact information for one or two publications in the nominee's hometown.

#1 Publication Name

Publication Article Submission Email Address

#2 Publication Name

Publication Article Submission Email Address

Conservation Planning Team Recognitions

Please list the names, positions, agency/organizations and email addresses for the team of conservation planners who provided assistance to the nominee.

Conservation Planning Staff

A. Name

Position Title

Agency/Organization

Email Address

B. Name

Position Title

Agency/Organization

Email Address

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C. Name

Position Title

Agency/Organization

Email Address

D. Name

Position Title

Agency/Organization

Email Address

E. Name

Position Title

Agency/Organization

Email Address

F. Name

Position Title

Agency/Organization

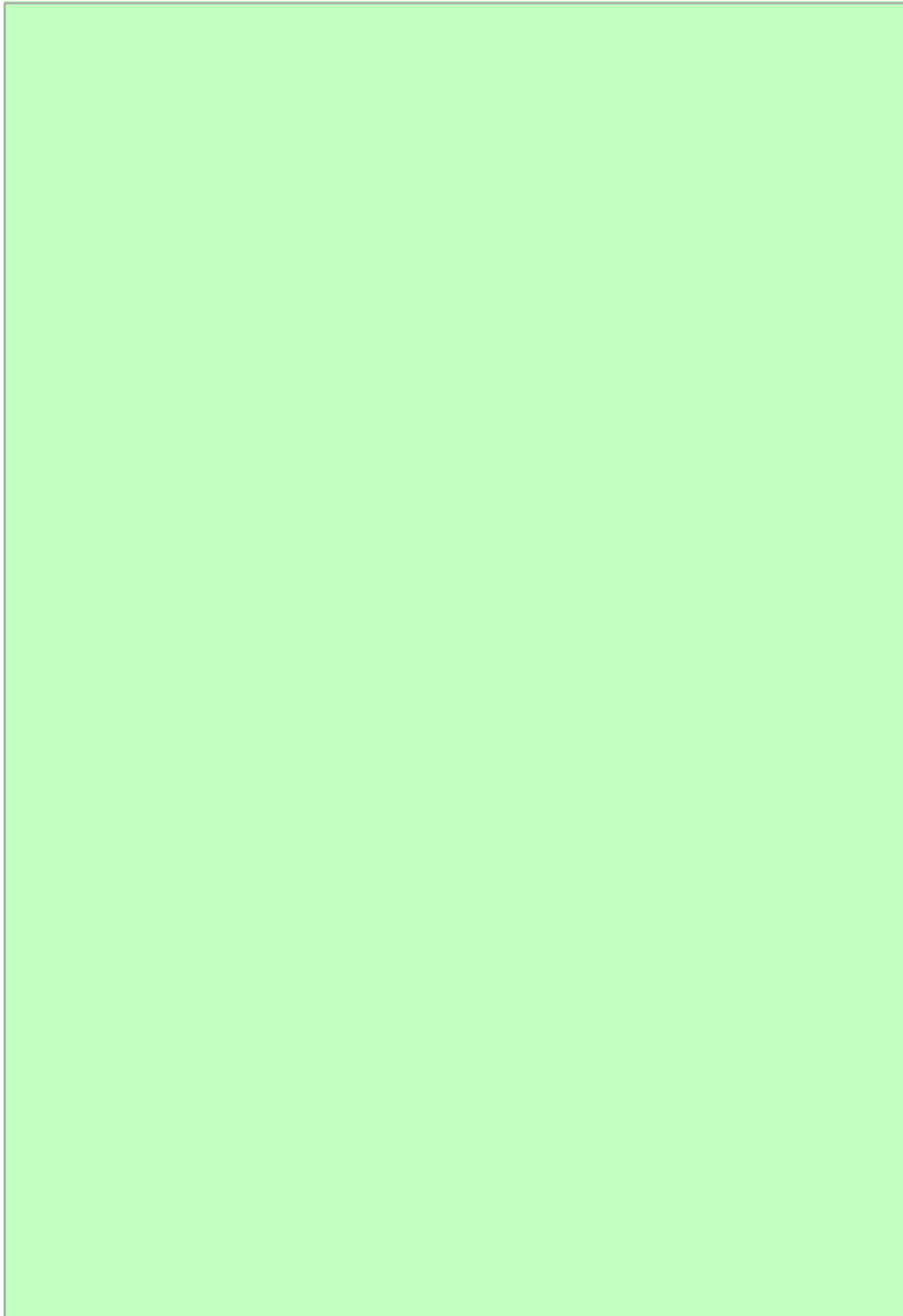
Email Address

These pages will be separated from the rest of the nomination packet for the evaluation process.

4. Explanation of Meeting Award Criteria

Describe how the nominee has met the award criteria. Refer to Award Guidelines for details of each category.

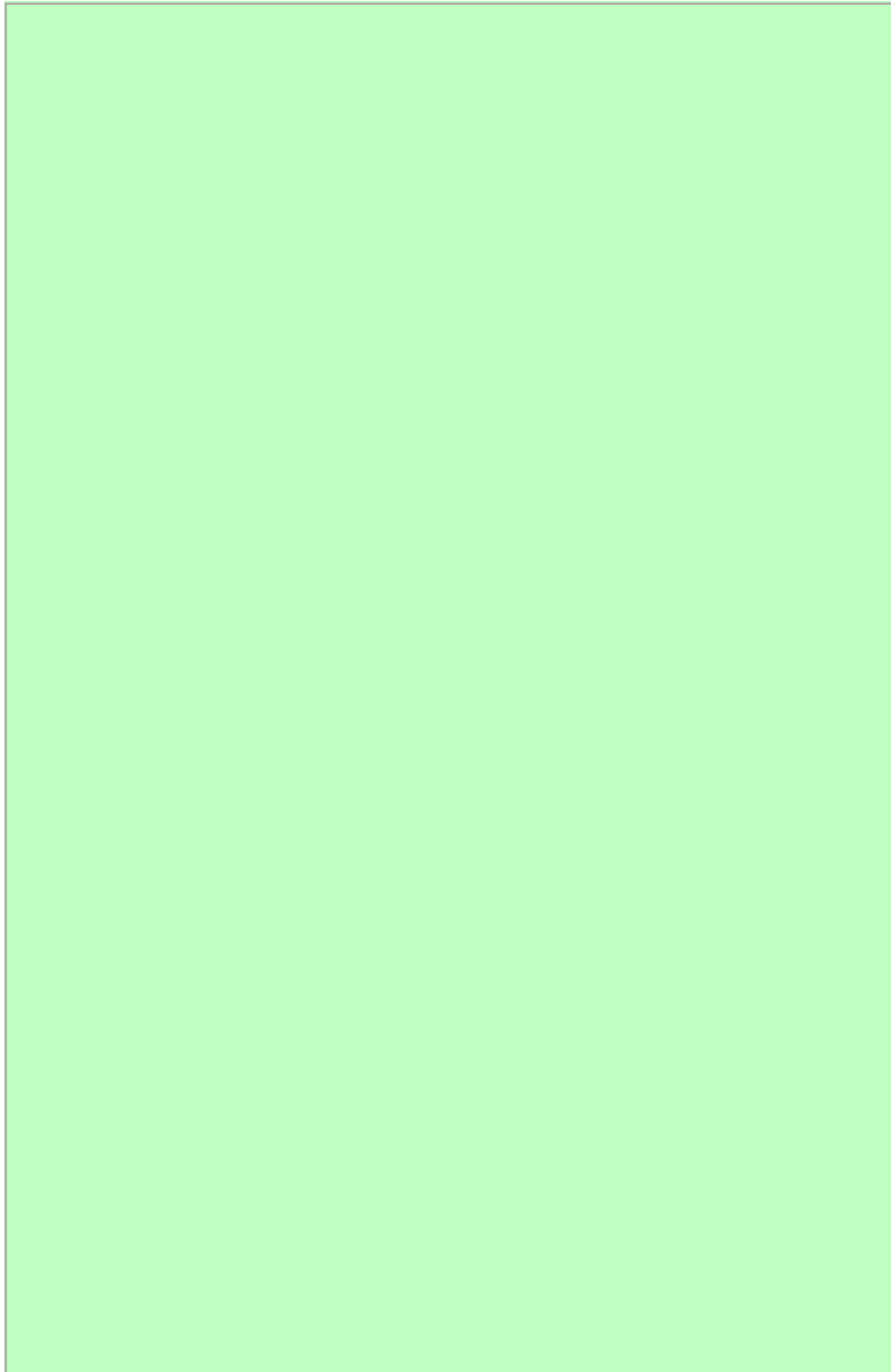
A. Commitment to Conservation Planning



B. Civic Engagement



C. Pioneer New Approaches to Conservation Planning and Implementation

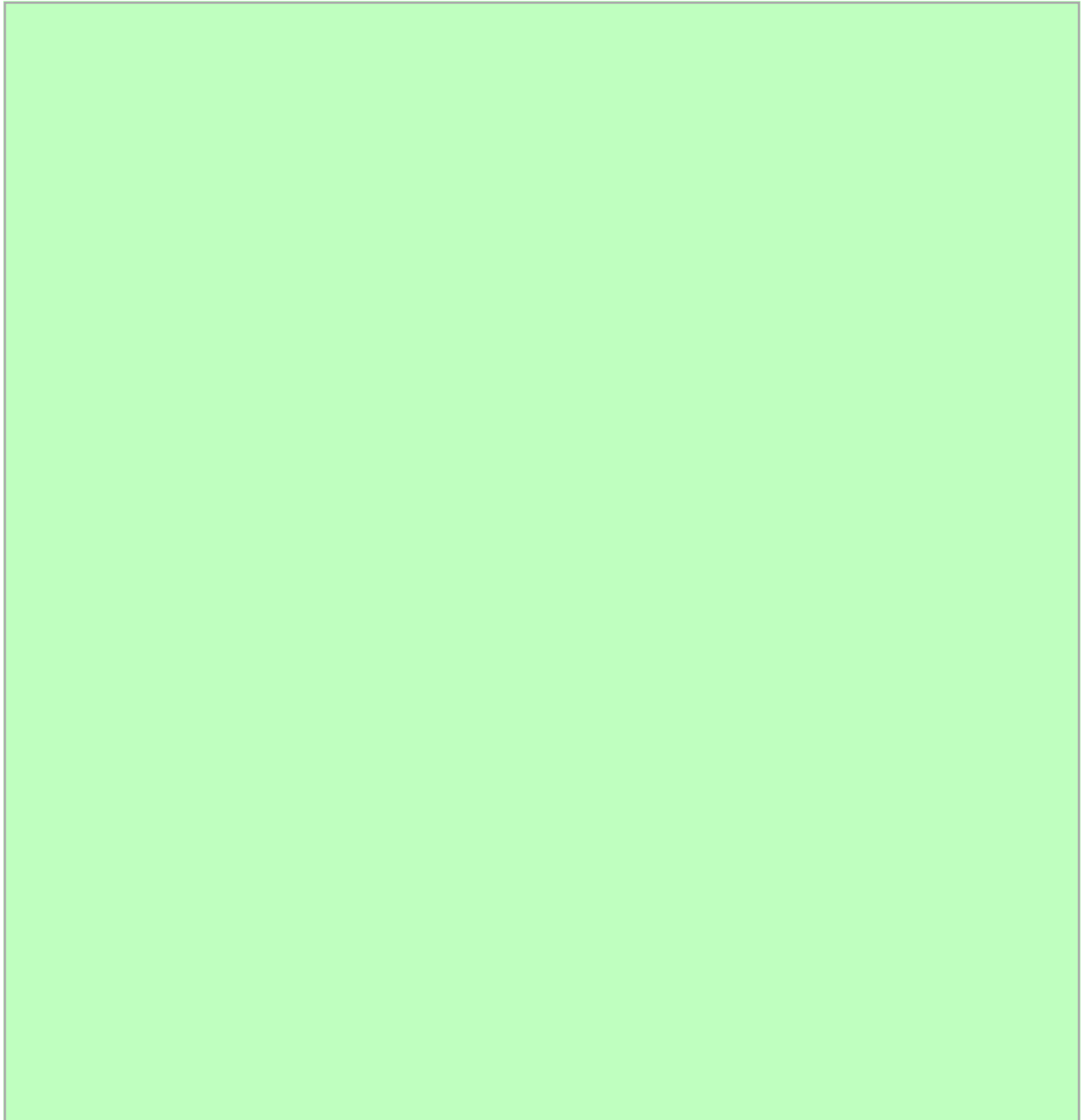


D. Advancement of Soil Health Adoption

A large, empty rectangular box with a light green background, intended for text entry. The box is positioned below the section header and occupies most of the page's vertical space.

5. Nomination Summary

Submit a non-technical statement of 200 words or less supporting the candidate's nomination. Facts presented should include accomplishments in conservation planning, implementation and monitoring/follow up within the last three years. Please define all acronyms and technical terms. To ensure anonymity in the evaluation process please do not mention candidate's name in the statement.



Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence

1. Conservation Planner Award Nominee's Personal Information

Name

Agency/Organization

Address

Town State Zip Code

Telephone

Email

2. Nominator Information

Name

Title

Agency/Organization (if it applies)

Address

Town State Zip Code

Telephone

Email

3. Recognition Information:

In the event your nominee is selected, please provide this additional information:

A. Plaque Information

Print the recipient's name exactly as it should appear on the plaque:

2020 Conservation Planner Award Nomination Form

- B. For publicity, please provide the name and contact information for one or two publications in the nominee's hometown.

#1 Publication Name

Publication Article Submission Email Address

#2 Publication Name

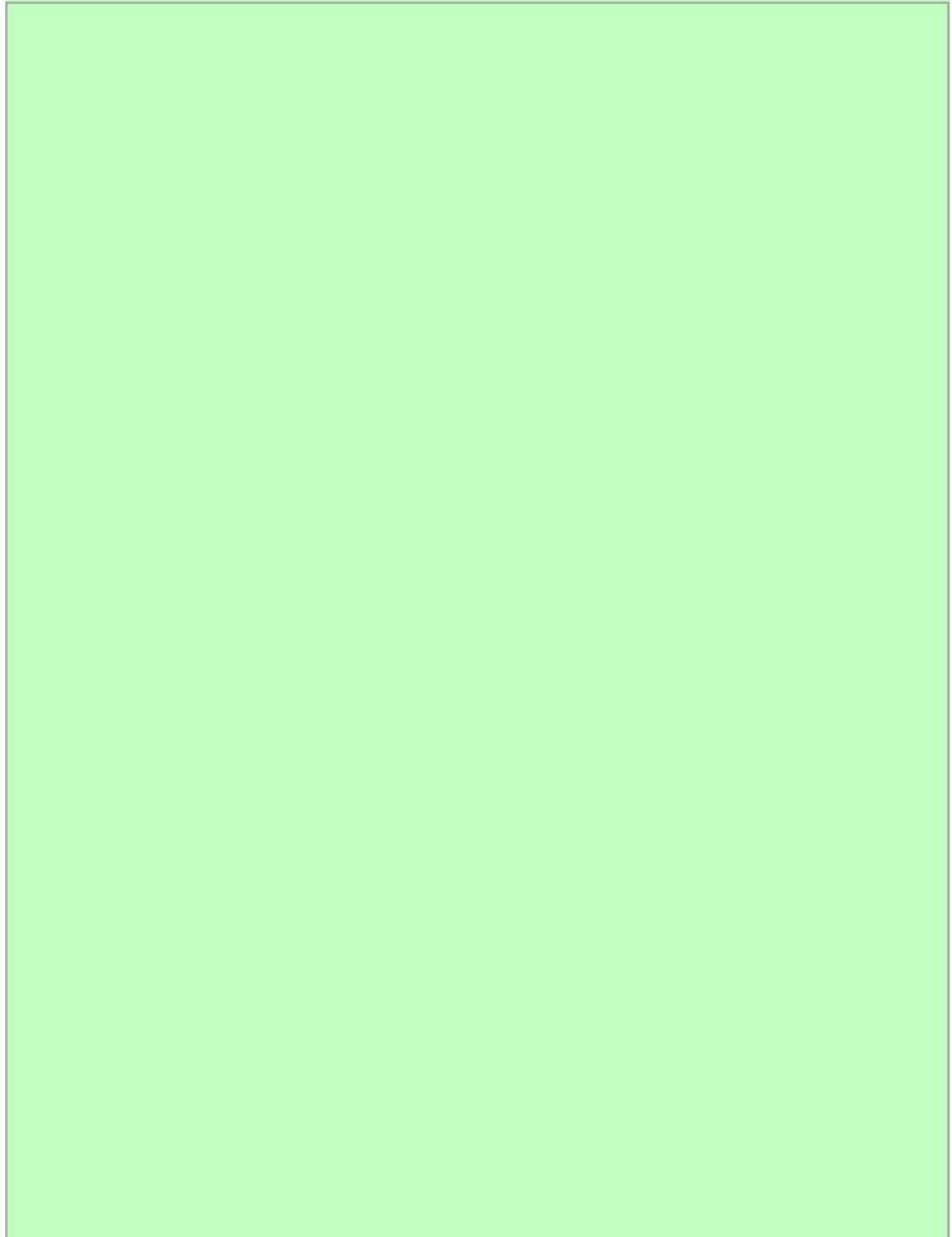
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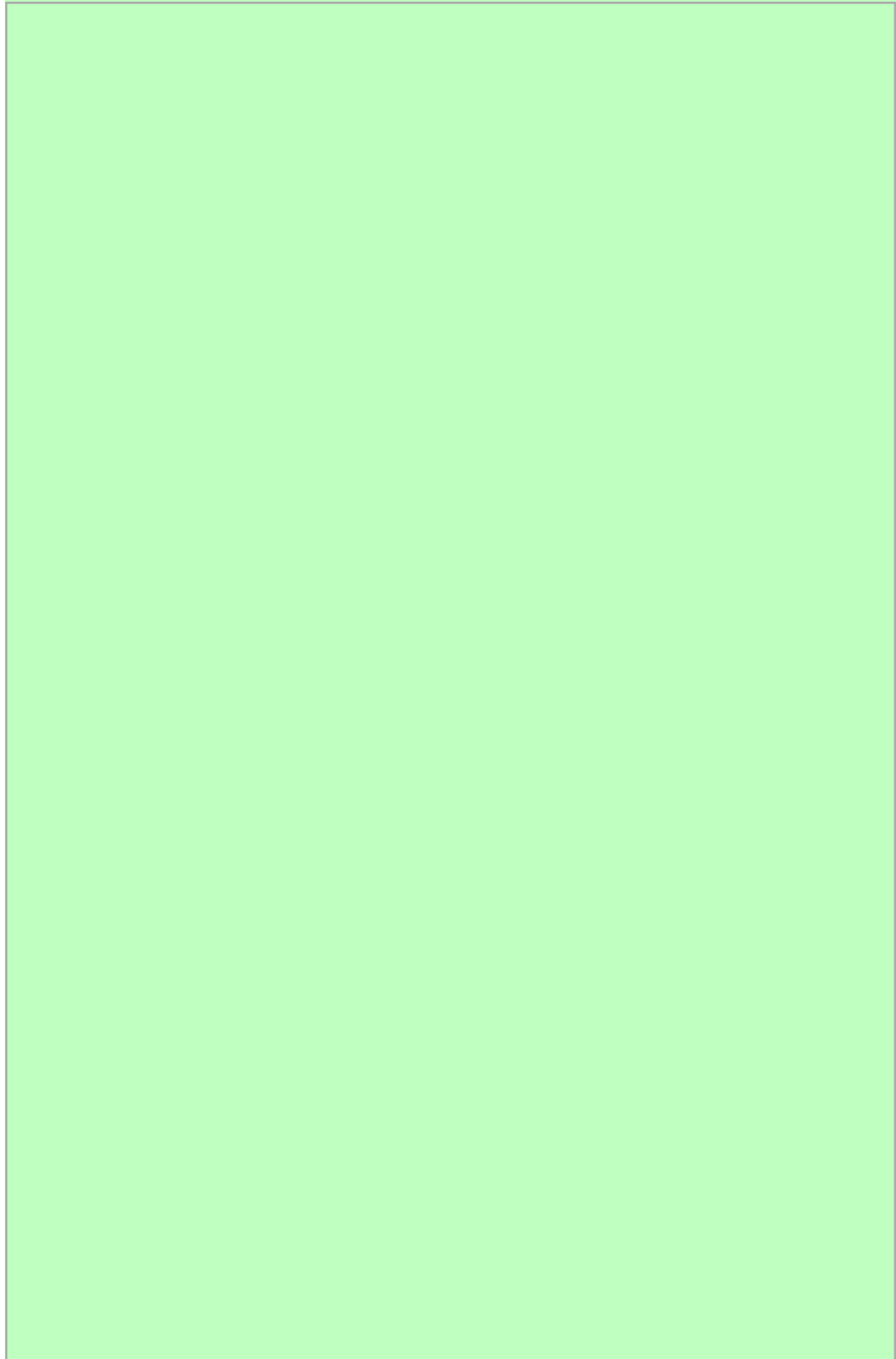
A. Communication



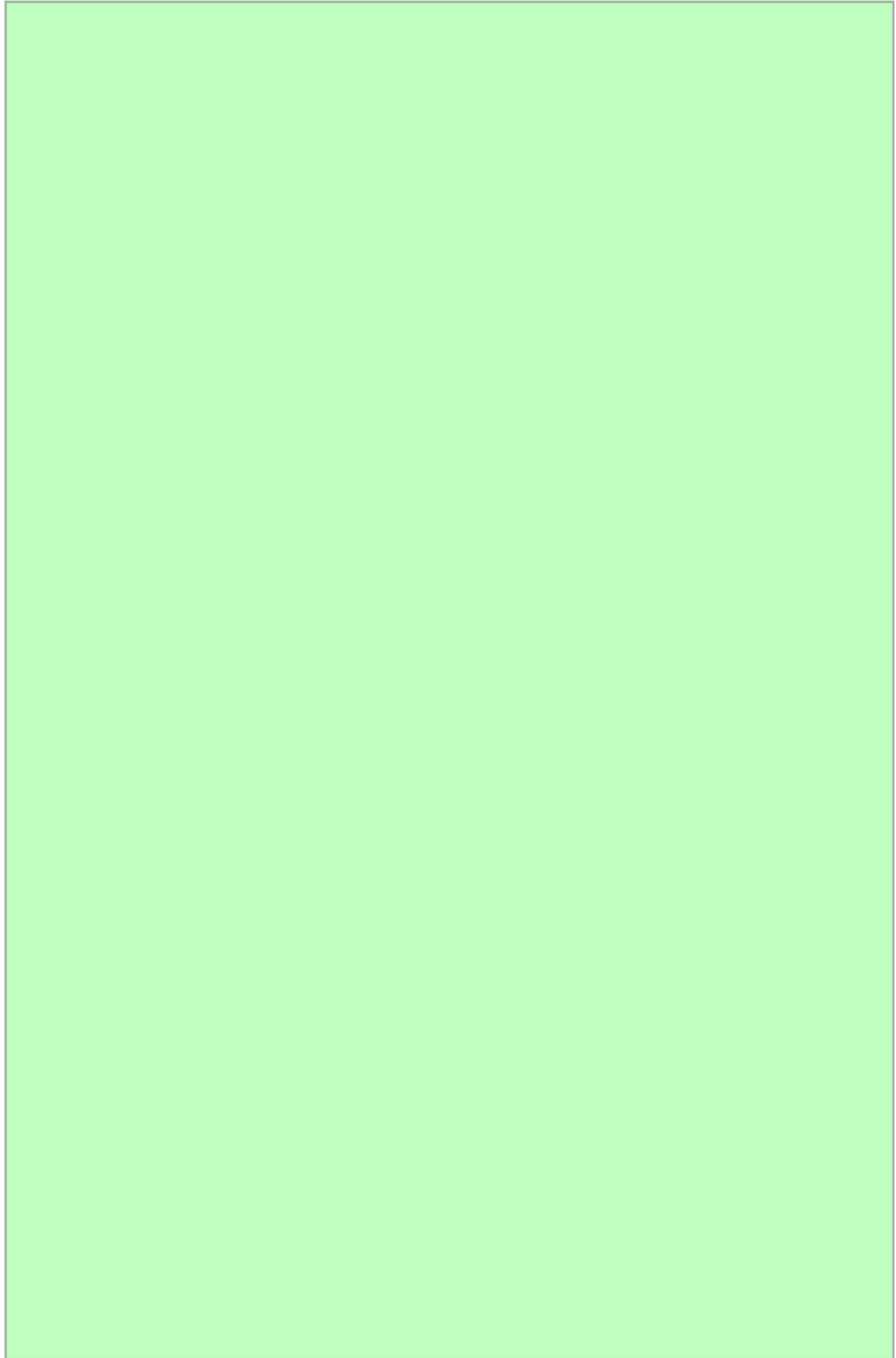
B. Relations

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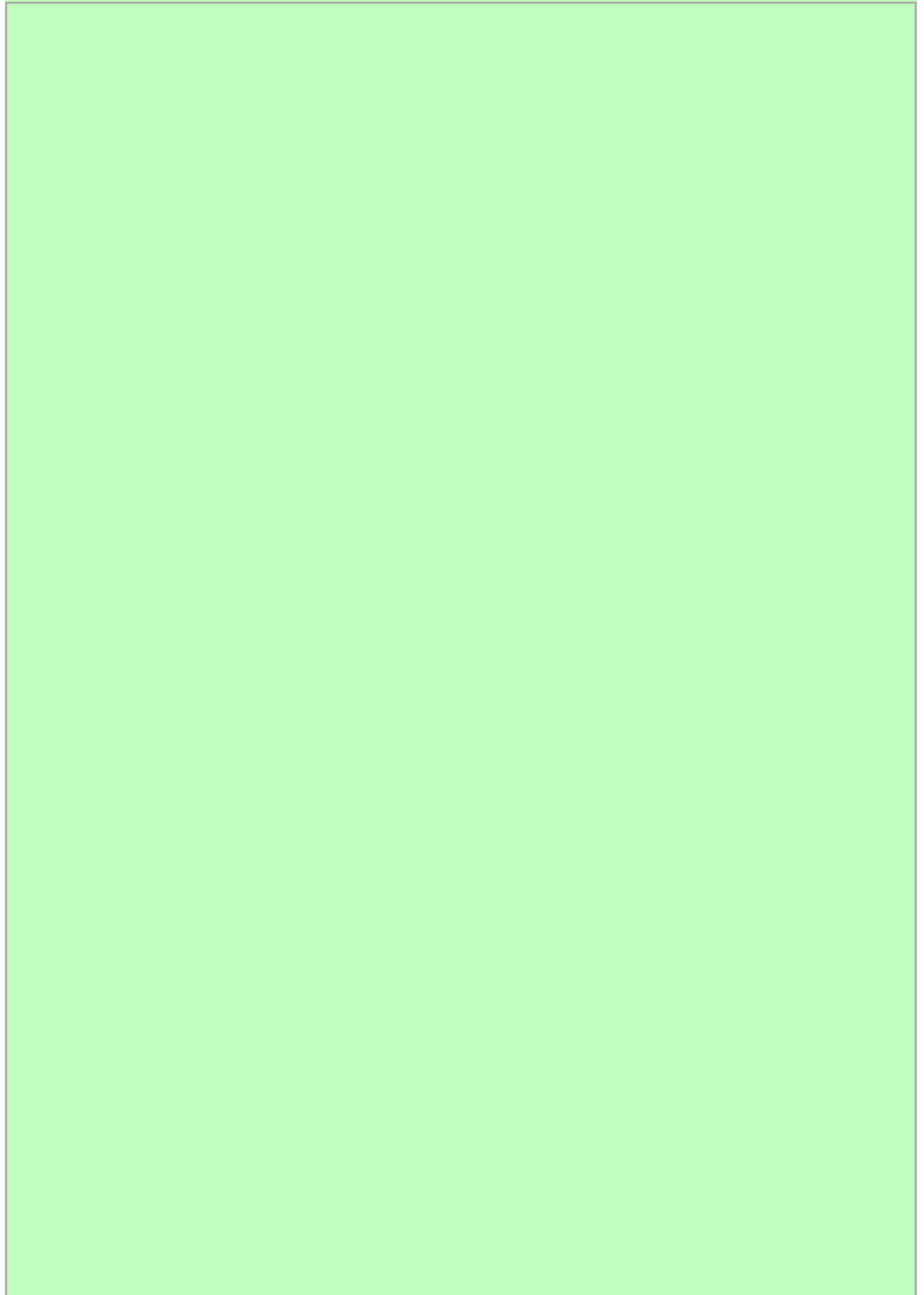
C. Education and Training



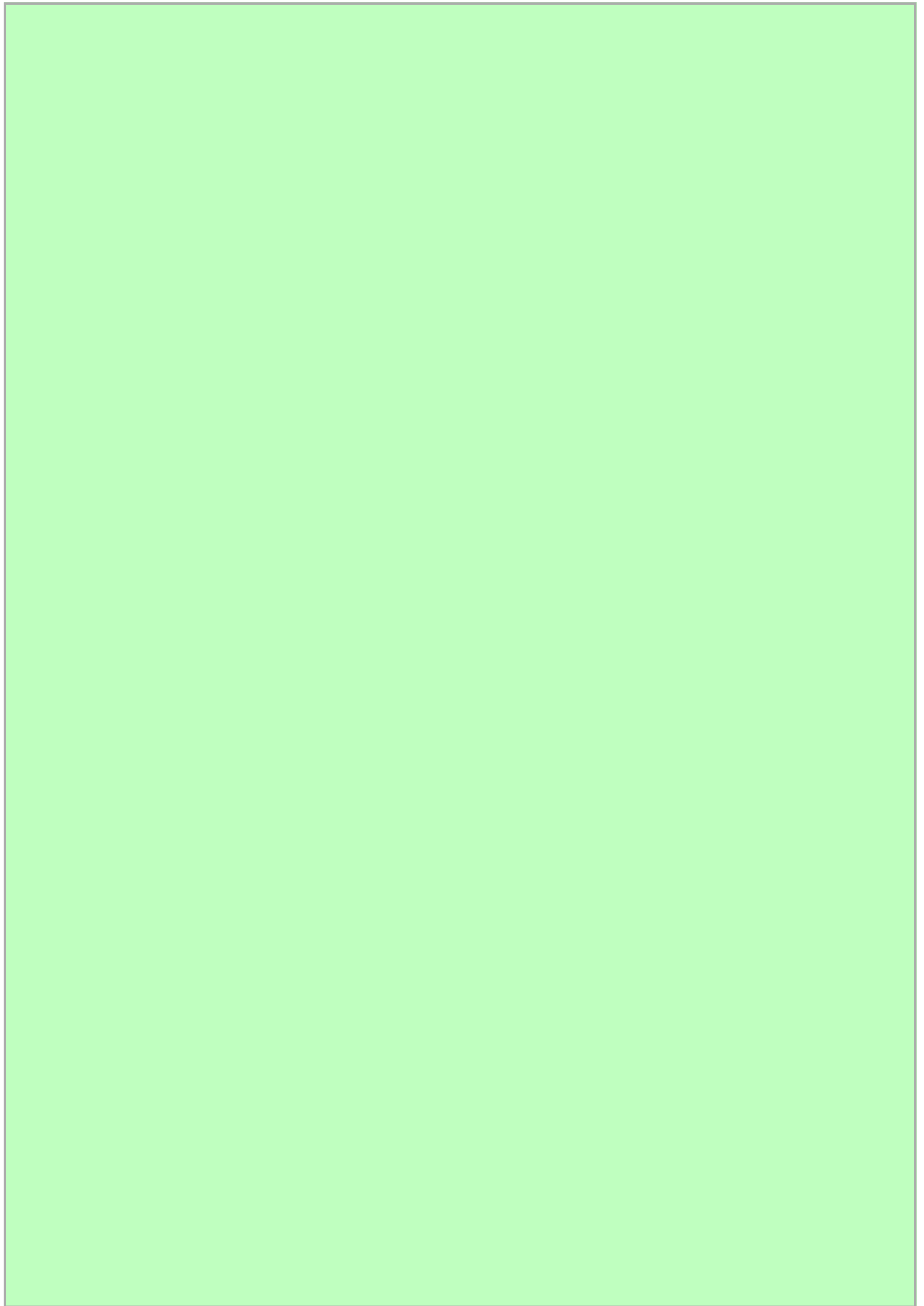
D. Application of Conservation Planning and Implementation



E. Complexity of Work and Mix of Achievements



F. Professional Activities



5. Nomination Summary

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