2007 Tom & Beth Award Recipient Dr. Michael Miller.

Dr. Michael W. Miller of the Colorado Division of Wildlife. Mike holds a BS in Zoology (1980), DVM (1985), and PhD in Wildlife Biology (1989), all from Colorado State University and was the first recipient of the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Memorial Award. In part supported by the mentoring that he received from Tom Thorne & Beth Williams, Mike became the first veterinarian for the Colorado Division of Wildlife—a position he has now held for over 20 years. Mike has authored numerous papers in scientific journals, the majority of those focusing on chronic wasting disease or the bighorn sheep pneumonia complex. He has served as an Assistant Editor for the Journal of Wildlife Diseases, as a council member and current vice-president of the Wildlife Disease Association, and as chair of the United States Animal Health Association’s Wildlife Disease Committee. Mike is looked to as a leader in wildlife health in Colorado and beyond. He has worked to improve understanding of the ecology and management of diseases affecting free-ranging wildlife populations and to affect development of policy for sustaining wildlife resources worldwide. He has helped to craft wildlife disease policy in Colorado and throughout North America; he has testified before Wildlife Commissions and legislative oversight boards in over 10 states and provinces, and has been a leader in disease management for various international organizations such as the Association for Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). Much of what we currently understand about the ecology of chronic wasting disease comes from the rigorous and innovative research and observations made by Mike and his collaborators. Significant findings include elucidating the importance of carcasses in CWD transmission, modeling effects of the disease on cervid populations, and on-the-ground evaluation of management techniques. Perhaps equally important is Mike’s exemplary ability to communicate these findings to scientists and policy makers alike. This has been paramount in influencing wildlife management policy in Colorado and other states. Mike is recognized internationally as a leading expert on wildlife health issues, particularly chronic wasting disease (CWD). Although Mike held this distinction for some years, since the loss of Beth Williams and Tom Thorne, Mike has been called upon even more heavily to contribute to research, consultation, and policy development concerning CWD, and he has made significant contributions toward completing some of Beth’s ongoing research and carrying forward policy leadership that was paved by Tom.