

Joel Pedersen is President and CEO of the Mule Deer Foundation, the world's premier organization for conserving mule deer, black-tailed deer, and their habitat. Prior to joining MDF, Joel worked for more than two decades at the National Wild Turkey Federation. At the NWTF, Joel served in a number of leadership positions including directing western conservation programs and ultimately overseeing all federal and state policy for the organization. While at the NWTF, Joel also was elected to serve as the vice chair and chairman of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners.

Joel earned his BS in Wildlife Biology from the University of Nebraska-Kearney, and his master's degree in Wildlife Science from the University of Tennessee. A Nebraska native, Joel has two daughters and is an avid outdoorsman.