

**National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA) Board of Directors  
announces the retirement of Executive Director Randy Welsh.**

There is never a good time to say farewell to a trusted and amazing leader, but Randy Welsh is ready to pass the NWSA executive director baton. He will be able to spend more time with family and dial in his already impressive golf tournament play! Randy certainly deserves to relax a bit more, leaving NWSA after a successful six-year tenure in a strong position and with an exciting new strategic vision. Randy will officially leave his position in February 2023 upon the hiring of the new director.

Since 2016, Randy has been instrumental in building NWSA's capacity to provide wilderness stewardship organizations with the resources necessary to support their important work across the nation. Joining NWSA after a long career spent with the US Forest Service in the management of wilderness and wild & scenic rivers, Randy became our part-time executive director in 2016 bringing with him a wealth of experience and knowledge that he competently applied within NWSA. Randy's steady hand and his optimistic "sky is the limit" philosophy propelled NWSA's program delivery in multiple areas. Randy is credited in helping to strengthen NWSA's national webinars series, coordinating multiple National Wilderness Workshops, and expanding NWSA's annual funding programs for wilderness stewardship performance and trail maintenance grants program to support volunteer stewardship programs throughout our national forests. Randy's passion, dedication, and our resulting growth has enabled the organization to carry out – and grow – NWSA's important mission of serving wilderness stewardship organizations.

We plan on celebrating Randy's tremendous accomplishments and leadership at the forthcoming National Wilderness Workshop to be held April 25-28, 2023, in Missoula, Montana. Stay tuned for details. We hope you will join us in congratulating Randy now and in Missoula.

NWSA's search for a new executive director will launch on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, and applications will be reviewed beginning on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The job description and instructions on how to apply will be posted at <http://www.wildernessalliance.org>. I encourage you to share this announcement throughout your networks.

Please join NWSA in raising a glass to toast the many important accomplishments of Randy Welsh.

Randy Rasmussen  
Chair  
NWSA Board of Directors