



# NATIONAL WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE

NWSA NEWSLETTER • FALL 2020

Building a  
wilderness  
stewardship  
community

**2020 Memberships end  
December 31, 2020.**

**Remember to renew your  
NWSA Membership for 2020  
and extend into 2021.  
[wildernessalliance.org/donate](http://wildernessalliance.org/donate)**

## Join the NWSA!

Membership in the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance comes in two forms: individual or organization memberships.

**Individual memberships** show your support for the mission and purpose of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and association with the greatest people on earth - wilderness stewards. Any donation over \$25 per year qualifies you as an NWSA member for Workshop and Symposium discounts.

**Organization memberships** entitle your group to apply for NWSA Grant programs, provide access to toolboxes and educational materials tailored to support wilderness stewardship organizations, and participation in review and comment efforts on industry wide-issues led by NWSA.

All members have access to NWSA services and support, including volunteer workshops, webinars, and Conference/Symposiums, many at no or reduced cost.

A membership in NWSA is a wise investment for the future of wilderness stewardship. Collectively we are stronger than individually.

**[wildernessalliance.org/donate](http://wildernessalliance.org/donate)**

## NWSA/SWS 2020 WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The wilderness stewardship community is filled with ordinary people doing extraordinary work in some of America's most amazing and remote landscapes.

This awards program — launched this year — allows organizations and partners to nominate a steward, organization, or Federal land agency whom they feel has demonstrated outstanding wilderness stewardship. Following are the winners for 2020 in four categories, presented by NWSA Executive Director Randy Welsh during the virtual Wilderness Workshop:



**The Wilderness Stewardship Champion of the Year Award** recognizes an individual wilderness steward that has demonstrated outstanding ability to steward their wilderness areas, complete a needed project, or overcome challenges and obstacles that led to improvements in wilderness stewardship in their areas.

In this category, there are three winners, Fred Allen (above), Poudre Wilderness Volunteers; Nora Richter,

*Continued on page 5*

## FUTURE NWSA WEBINARS: GET YOUR SUGGESTIONS READY

**By Dave Cantrell, NWSA Board**

It's been a good year for NWSA webinars! Our presenters, usually presenting under COVID conditions, have supported volunteer stewardship across many fronts: updates on useful software, volunteer-agency cooperation, Leave No Trace updates, balancing advocacy and stewardship, innovative approaches to Citizen Science, women-led stewardship and conservation,

cooperative relations between riders and other trail users, public lands and climate change.

2020 presentations to come:

**Ethics and Effects of Wilderness  
Digital Media** :Tuesday, October 20  
at 1:00 PM Mountain

The narratives crafted by organizations and individuals about wilderness

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**ALL NWSA WEBINARS, PAST AND FUTURE, ARE  
AVAILABLE AT [WILDERNESSALLIANCE.ORG/WEBINARS](http://WILDERNESSALLIANCE.ORG/WEBINARS)**

## About NWSA

### Our Mission:

The mission of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance is to develop a growing network of volunteer-based organizations to provide stewardship for America's enduring resource of wilderness.

### Our Vision:

Our vision is to see each wilderness area within the National Wilderness Preservation System adopted by a wilderness stewardship organization dedicated to protecting and nurturing the area's character and values. We envision effective partnerships between community-based, non-profit wilderness stewardship organizations and all government agencies charged with the management of our national wilderness areas.

### Our Goal:

Our goal is to improve wilderness stewardship and create an allied constituency for wilderness by connecting stewardship organizations with each other, linking our efforts and experiences, directing groups to resources, and fostering new organizations.

### Our Objectives:

- Identify wilderness stewardship groups nationwide in order to determine the present level of support.
- Through our website and other resources, share knowledge, experience and expertise among local, regional and national stewardship organizations.
- Provide new groups with start-up models of different structures, help them anticipate the questions that typically arise as groups form, and connect them with people who have built successful organizations.
- Sponsor national and regional gatherings of stewardship groups.
- Provide grants to help stewardship groups accomplish on-the-ground projects benefiting wilderness
- Help foster a culture within governing agencies that values volunteer-based wilderness stewardship organizations and has the means to give them effective support.

## FROM THE CHAIR

Andrew Downs

Greetings from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. After 10 years, to look back on NWSA's work is to see the strength of a Nation of Wilderness lovers to come together to cultivate stewardship in every corner of the Wilderness preservation system.

Looking forward, I see an organization well suited to continue to support organizations of all sizes as they take on the ever increasing challenges maintaining healthy and publicly valuable Wilderness areas. I also see an organization, early in its life-span that must ensure that all communities have equal and equitable access to the values of Wilderness so that they might join us in the important work preserving these places. To do so, NWSA will engage new partners, but also look at ourselves and hold ourselves accountable to the expectation that our leadership, our partnerships and our work bring a diversity of voices and communities to bear as we learn what Wilderness means to everyone, not just those within the current network of Wilderness stewards and advocates.

*Continued, Page 8*



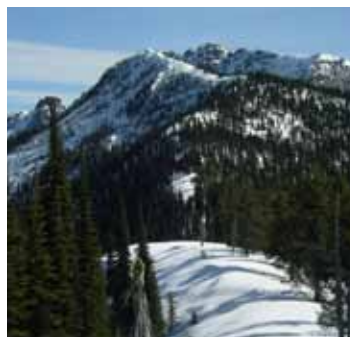
## NWSA MEMBER ORGANIZATION PROFILE

### FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAKS

From the first Wilderness Workshop in Las Vegas in March of 2011, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (FSPW) has been part of

NWSA. Executive Director Phil Hough attended the first, and FSPW staff and volunteers have been at each Workshop since.

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, formed in 2005, is committed to connecting the people of North Idaho and Northwest Montana with their wild backyard. Situated near the Idaho-Montana border, Scotchman Peak is the highest point in Bonner County, Idaho, at 7,009 feet. The Friends' mission is to make sure this rugged land is saved for our children and grandchildren.



The Scotchman Peaks are in North Idaho and western Montana



That means making the area accessible with well-maintained trails. It means educating the public about what wilderness is and why it matters. And it means advocating for laws and public policy that keeps wild places undeveloped and untamed.

For almost 16 years, Friends of Scotchman Peaks have been focused on saving the wild Scotchman Peaks for future generations.



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

RANDY WELSH

Over the last 10 years the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance has grown from the dream of a connected wilderness stewardship community to a reality. As I write this article, the National Wilderness Workshop kicks off with over 400 participants bringing wilderness stewards, volunteers, agency wilderness managers, rangers and academics together to share and discuss the latest issues in wilderness management in a virtual format. The Workshop is but one of many activities sponsored by NWSA which brings the wilderness stewardship community together. Next year we look forward to hosting the Workshop in Roanoke, Virginia.

In any given year there are 50-60 member organizations of NWSA. These local stewardship groups understand the value of connecting to broaden the outreach and the power of wilderness stewardship. They also share in the collective benefits of networking, learning, and sharing resources. This was very evident in the effort to create a unified cross cut saw program for volunteers and working with other national groups to fight misguided legislation to allow mountain bikes in wilderness.

NWSA has been instrumental in developing funding programs that the wilderness and trails communities can participate in. Since 2016 over \$1,000,000 in Wilderness Stewardship Performance funding has been spread around the stewardship community contributing to many more wilderness areas managed to agency standards. And since 2017 the National Forest System Trail Stewardship Partner

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## NWSA FUND ESTABLISHED WITH HELP FROM THE DERMODY FAMILY AND DAVID BEROLZHEIMER FOUNDATION

By Randy Welsh

The vision of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance is to help support the formation of a wilderness stewardship group for every wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System. We are one step closer to that reality thanks to the generosity this summer of long-time wilderness volunteers and supporters Elaine and Win Dermody, from Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

I am pleased to officially announce the formation of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Fund. This fund was established by a generous donation provided by The David Berolzheimer Foundation to honor life-long friend and wilderness champion, Elaine Dermody, who is a Founding Member of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. The proceeds from this endowment will be used to support the creation of wilderness stewardship groups for every wilderness area in the National Wilderness



Left to right are Win Dermody, Kevin Cannon, Dave Cantrell and Elaine Dermody. Chris Brown is in background. Photo was taken about 2010 during the early formation of NWSA.

Preservation System. You will be seeing more about the Fund and opportunities to participate in it this fall.

NWSA has established the Fund at the Oregon Community Foundation where it can grow to support a program of active creation of new stewardship organizations. NWSA will solicit proposals from groups starting to form or in the initial stages of their existence. We hope to be able to help defray some of the start-

up costs and provide mentoring and advice to improve organization success. This is an exciting new offering for NWSA thanks to the foresight of Elaine and Win Dermody, and the generosity of the David Berolzheimer Foundation.

If you'd like to contribute to the Fund you can do so on the NWSA website starting in November. A new webpage and payment processing for the Fund is in the works. All contributions to the Fund will be deposited in the Oregon Community Foundation for the Fund to increase the endowment and to allow NWSA to help more stewardship groups form.

I'm personally grateful to the Elaine and Win for the trust they have placed in NWSA and for their vision of wilderness stewardship for all areas of the Wilderness Preservation System.

Thank you Elaine and Win!

*Read more about the grant on Page 5.*





Pioneers of NWSA at the formative meeting in 2010

# **NWSA: CELEBRATING A DECADE OF DEDICATED WILDERNESS LOVERS MEETING FOR THE COMMON GOOD**



Doug Scott takes us through the Wilderness Act, Las Vegas, 2011



SAWS Field Trip, Tellico Wilderness, 2012 Inset: SAWS fringe benefits



Bob Hazelton welcomes the conference to Big Bear, 2013



Connie Myers instructs at the 2014 Workshop in Albuquerque



Arkansas Wilderness field trip in 2017



Jimmy Gaudrey and Hawk Metheny at the 2015 Workshop in Missoula



Andrew Schurr weighs in on the cross-cut competition at the Wilderness Olympics in Missoula, 2016



Opening Session, Gunnison, 2018



Bill Hodge on Wilderness, Bend, 2019

**Awards, from page 1:**

Friends of Nevada Wilderness; and Steve West, Friends of Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness.

**Fred Allen** has a long history of stewardship with PWV. Fred has been a tireless fundraiser to successfully solicit vital funding and corporate partnerships from the early days of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers until the present. As one supporter said, "Fred is a master at building and maintaining relationships within PWV's community."

As special needs arise, Fred has risen to the challenge to find the resources to repair trails, replant areas, and rebuild campgrounds from fire damages.

He has served in several leadership positions on the Poudre Wilderness volunteer Board, its Advisory Board, and its Stock Committee. He has served many years as the caterer for Spring training and End of Year events so critical to the functioning of PWV.

This past year he led the effort to improve the Stub Creek stock camp trailhead into the Rawah Wilderness which is essential for stewardship operations in the area.

**Nora Richter** (at right) is the leader of the northern Nevada volunteer stewardship program, which generates over \$100,000 of in-kind labor annually. Nora works with both the BLM and the Forest Service to pinpoint projects and secure over \$160,000 in agency, corporate, and foundation funding to execute these deliverables. These projects range from single-day weed pulls with the local Patagonia store employees to multi-night campouts with the local Back Country Horsemen to remove old developments and abandoned camps.



Nora doesn't just ensure volunteers are completing good work on our public lands, she helps foster a sense of home and belonging, and ensures they are cared for throughout their time with Friends of Nevada Wilderness. She is known for early morning coffee at the ready, fabulous dutch oven meals for volunteers, and a "24/7" policy of caring for her workers.

Nora is also leading our latest and most innovative type of public lands stewardship program – dark sky stewardship. By preserving and caring for the land below, high-quality darkness and stargazing are preserved, benefiting both wildlife and humans. Nora was integral in the multi-year process of securing Dark Sky Sanctuary status for Massacre Rim Wilderness Study. This fall, under Nora's leadership, Friends of Nevada Wilderness will begin collecting dark sky data in all priority National Conservation Lands within Nevada to create a dark sky map, a project funded by a statewide agreement from the BLM.

Nora's love of public lands and love of her job inspires others to love Wilderness and love our stewardship program, in turn creating a diverse, inter-generational team of Wilderness volunteers. By teaching others to care for the public lands we love, Nora Richter is a true Wilderness Stewardship Champion.

**Steve West** (at left) deserves this award based on his years-long contributions to trail maintenance in the Mount Evans and Lost Creek Wilderness areas, both as an individual volunteer contributor on trail maintenance

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## BOARD AND STAFF OF NWSA

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## THE EVOLUTION OF THE DERMODY/BEROLZHEIMER GRANT

By Elaine Dermody

Win Dermody first met David Berolzheimer at an army reserve meeting in Clearwater Florida in 1958. There, a friendship began that would span 61 years and soon include Elaine Dermody and the Dermody children. David and Bonnie Starr, his sweetheart of 45 years, became part of the Dermody family and had a close relationship with their children and grandchildren which continues now with Bonnie.

After the Dermody's retired to Steamboat Springs, David and Bonnie bought a condo there as well, and enjoyed spending part of their time in Colorado. They participated fully in community life during part of every season.

Fast forward to March of 2020. After David's untimely passing in the spring of 2019, Bonnie came to Steamboat and visited with us. Before leaving she handed Win an

envelope and said, "This is something David wanted you and Elaine to have." Upon opening it we were shocked to learn that David had established the David Berolzheimer Foundation and left \$500,000 to donate to five local non-profit organizations of our choosing!

What an incredible gift! We were so honored. With so many incredible non—profits in Steamboat, we immediately realized it was going to be a difficult choice. As it was, it turned out to be a very challenging and time consuming experience, but definitely a labor of love.

We first discussed which non—profits David had been involved with and which he would feel good about. Then we each made a list of non—profits to consider. Fortunately, we listed the same non—profits, but narrowing the list down to

*Continued, Page 7*

### Webinars, from page 1

issues and experiences have great power to influence public opinion as well as wilderness stewardship. However, technologies, like cell phones, that are increasingly used to craft these wilderness narratives also affect the wilderness experience itself.

#### Shared Stewardship — Building Wilderness Partnerships Through Empathy:

Tuesday, November 10 at  
1:00 PM Mountain

Shared goals and understanding will help us successfully steward wild lands into the future and build strong and empathetic connections. Data collected during a session on shared stewardship and empathy at the 2019 National Wilderness Workshop will deepen our understanding of the challenges and potential solutions to build strong, empathetic alliances.

#### National Trails: A look at Trail Designations within the National Trail System:

Tuesday, December 8  
at 1:00 PM Mountain

The National Trail System Act established three categories of National

Trails: National Scenic Trails, National Historic Trails and National Recreation Trails. A panel will discuss the attributes of each designation including the purpose of the designation, the designation process, protections afforded thru designation and opportunities for volunteer stewards and advocates.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2021, WE  
PLAN TO FOCUS MOST OF OUR  
WEBINARS ON ONE QUESTION:  
**WHAT ARE THE GREATEST  
CHALLENGES TO VOLUNTEER-  
BASED WILDERNESS  
STEWARDSHIP TODAY?**

From your perspective, as you look at your organization in the coming years, what worries you most? What's going to be most difficult to deal with? How can NWSA help you meet that challenge?

How do we do our work within the pandemic environment? That tough question jumps to the front for immediacy, and NWSA is working hard to help us all think about how we do our work in a dramatically different environment. But other long-noticed matters become more and more criti-

cal to address (and often interact with the pandemic environment): overuse, diversity, climate change's impact, wildfire impacts and on and on.

**A personal example:** The Cameron Peak fire has burned out much of the area where my home organization patrols. We don't know how much, and it will be a long time before teams can get in to evaluate the level of destruction.

It's one thing to say "that beetle kill was going to burn, and at least now it's gone." But where will we patrol next year? What trails are left? How do we talk to the public about our ravaged landscapes? How do we keep our organization vital with perhaps a majority of our trails unavailable? That's the kind of question I'd like to see webinar panels address.

We plan to approach each topic with a spotlight directed at the impact for wilderness volunteer stewards — and how we can meet the challenge in our individual settings. Rather than one person delivering expert knowledge, we look to form panels to bring a range of perspectives, but always with strong volunteer voices.

*Please send your thoughts to [dave@wildernessalliance.org](mailto:dave@wildernessalliance.org).*

**Dermody, from page 6**

an appropriate number was difficult. We eventually settled on the final six. We decided to have our chosen organizations apply for a grant from David's Foundation as they would any other grant. Their executive directors and staff pitched in, worked together and created impressive grant application packages.

Our last requirement was that each organization have an existing Endowment Fund so that David's gifts would grow over time and contribute to the stability of the organization. We worked with the Yampa Valley Community Foundation which man-

ages all but one of the endowment funds. The helpfulness and professionalism of their staff along with that of David's Foundation during this process was above and beyond.

The David Berolzheimer Foundation Grants to honor Elaine and Win Dermody are as follows:

**The Steamboat Art Museum** — added to their Endowment Fund.

**Steamboat Creates** (Arts Council) — an additional Endowment Fund.

**Court Sports 4 Life** — to build a new multi-use Pickleball Center.

**Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC)** — added to a previously established Endowment Fund in honor of

Elaine and Win Dermody recognizing their many years of volunteering with the US Forest Service. These funds are to be used primarily to enable future joint projects with the RMYC and Friends of Wilderness.

**Friends of Wilderness\*** — to be added to their Endowment Fund.

**National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA)\*** — an Endowment Fund to help establish new wilderness volunteer organizations throughout the US.

\*Elaine is the founder of FOW and one of the founders of NWSA. David Berolzheimer was one of the early contributors to both organizations.

**THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS  
STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE  
EXISTS FOR ITS MEMBERS  
AND THROUGH THEIR  
SUPPORT. NWSA  
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES  
THESE GROUPS, WHO HAVE  
SUPPORTED US SINCE 2016.**

Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation  
AIM for Wilderness Stewardship  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
Arizona Wilderness Coalition  
Ascend Wilderness Experience  
BCHA National  
BCHA-California Motherlode Chapter  
BCHA-Colorado Pagosa Springs  
BCHA-Oregon High Desert Trail Riders  
BCHA-Washington  
Bend Park and Recreation, Bend OR  
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation  
Colorado Fourteeners Initiative  
Colorado Mountain Club  
Common Ground  
Condor Trail Association  
Continental Divide Trail Coalition  
Cottonwood Canyons Foundation  
Del Norte Trails  
Discovery Southeast  
Friends of Boundary Waters  
Friends of Central Cascades Wilderness  
Friends of Kings Peak  
Friends of Mt Evans and Lost Creek  
Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Friends of Northern Arizona Forests  
Friends of Panthertown  
Friends of Plumas Wilderness  
Friends of Scotchman Peaks  
Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness  
Friends of the Dillon Ranger District  
Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness  
Friends of the Inyo  
Friends of Wilderness, Routt NF  
Gila Trout Unlimited  
Grand County Wilderness Group  
Great Basin Institute  
Great Old Broads - Bitterbrush Chapter  
Great Old Broads - National (all Chapters)  
Great Old Broads - Volcano Chapter  
Idaho Conservation League  
Idaho Trails Association  
Idaho Youth Employment - Salmon  
Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance  
Kaiser Wilderness Foundation  
LaVeta Trails  
Los Padres Forest Association  
Los Padres Forest Watch  
Mammoth Lakes Recreation  
Mountain Bike Missoula  
National Smokejumper Association  
New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors  
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance  
Northwoods Volunteer Connection  
Okefenokee Wildlife  
Oregon Natural Desert Association  
Pacific Crest Trail Association  
Partners of Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock  
Phoenix School  
Poudre Wilderness Volunteers  
Rocky Mountain Field Institute  
Save Our Canyons

Sawtooth Society  
Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation  
Siskiyou Mountain Club  
Sitka Conservation Society  
Sky Island Alliance  
Southeast Alaska Conservation Stewards  
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance  
Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers  
Student Conservation Association  
Superior Hiking Club  
The Conservation Center  
The Wilderness Land Trust  
Truckee Trails  
Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers  
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance  
Upper Gila Wilderness Coalition  
Ventana Wilderness Alliance  
Verde Valley Cyclist Coalition  
Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado  
Wallowa Mountain Hells Canyon Alliance  
West Slope Conservation Center  
Wild Places - Monarch Wilderness  
Wild South  
Wilderness Corps  
Wilderness Institute  
Wilderness Next Corp  
Wilderness Workshop  
Wyoming Wilderness Association  
Yavapai Trails

**NWSA has also re-  
ceived donations from  
60-plus individuals.  
We are grateful to all.**

### Awards, from page 5

projects, and as a leader and instructor for trail maintenance training courses, including sawyer certification, crew leader training, and general trail maintenance training for over 20 years.

One of Steve's biggest impacts has been organizing All Hands' Days each summer for FOMELC volunteers typically involving 20-30 FOMELC volunteers.

Steve is a certified C level crosscut sawyer and has trained and certified 25-30 crosscut sawyers.

Steve is responsible for a tremendous amount of person trail work, but his impact is far broader through his project organization and training efforts where he has provided large numbers of volunteers the skills to undertake trail maintenance on their own.

**Wilderness Stewardship Organization of the Year Award** recognizes a wilderness stewardship organization that has demonstrated outstanding ability to steward their wilderness areas, be a valuable partner with the Federal agencies, and complete many needed accomplishments.

**The winner in this category is Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS)**

SAWS has become a force for wilderness stewardship in the Southern Region and beyond. Currently, they are active partners for 68 wilderness areas across nine National Forests. These wilderness areas and their stewardship provide many critical functions and roles in the Southern Appalachians. SAWS programming has grown to include a broad spectrum of wilderness stewardship, including:

- Wilderness Rangers doing on the ground wilderness field work.
- Wilderness Specialists doing Wilderness Character Monitoring tasks often working shoulder-to-shoulder with agency staff, a true model of shared stewardship.
- Trail Crews



SAWS staff and volunteers work in 68 Wilderness areas.

- Hosting the Wilderness Skills Institute. It is estimated Wilderness Skills Institute has trained over 1000 individuals during its operation.
  - SAWS partnership with the U.S. Naval Academy to be provide for professional military leadership development.
- In the 10 years of SAWS existence 2010 - 2020:
- 124,000 hours of wilderness stewardship service
  - 50,000+ members of the public educated about wilderness and leave no trace
  - 300 individuals serving
  - ~ \$3 Million in stewardship value and capacity added

The SAWS – Forest Service partnership is often described as transformational, rather than transactional. They have helped to reinvigorate the Wilderness community in the south-east by inspiring new wilderness stewards, raising wilderness awareness and

forging lasting connections across the southern Appalachian landscape.

**Wilderness Rising Leader Award** recognizes young stewards who have demonstrated outstanding potential to lead the stewardship community into the future. We typically give awards

to those who are later in their career for outstanding projects or career long accomplishments. This award is to recognize a newcomer to wilderness stewardship, who through their dedication and passion shows outstanding leadership potential, dedication to wilderness, and the ability to accomplish important tasks early in their

careers. This award is intended to recognize an individual who will one day become a future leader for the wilderness community.



**The 2020 winner is Jesse Furr.**

Jesse has been a Wilderness Ranger with New Mexico Wilderness Alliance (NM Wild) since the Spring of 2019. Jesse is noted for his willingness to go the extra mile, whether it was bush-wacking through gambel oak and

*Continued, next page*

### From the Chair, from page 2

The National Wilderness Workshop will play a particularly important role in our future as we continue to broaden and strengthen the partnership. I will miss seeing everyone in person this year and can't help but reflect how important it will be to reconnect, share stories by the campfire, and

invite new partners to sit down and tell us their thoughts on the future of Wilderness stewardship.

I look forward to the next ten years of work with the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and encourage you to hit the trails this fall, find some quiet place, and as the old saying goes: "Don't just do something, sit there".



### **Awards, from previous page**

locust to find a long lost trail, or finishing out an 18 mile day hike in the dark. He was instrumental in completing wilderness character monitoring and wilderness assessments in several wilderness areas.

In his first year, he stepped up to the challenge of conducting a Wilderness Character Workshop in Silver City, NM for the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wildernesses. He combined the feedback from this as well as research and field experiences to write the Wilderness Character Narratives for both areas.

Even with COVID-19 creating setbacks in planned activities, he completed an amazing amount of work on the Santa Fe, primarily in the San Pedro Parks and Chama River Canyon Wilderness areas. He also organized and trained volunteers to conduct Solitude Monitoring in the Dome Wilderness. He was instrumental in completing the Baseline Assessments, and Wilderness Character Narratives for the four Wilderness areas on the Santa Fe National Forest.

When he's not Rangering, Jesse may be found using his amazing artistic skills to promote Wilderness and public lands. His work has been

featured on NM Wild's social media, as well as for Latino Conservation Week.

It's inspiring to know that he represents the next generation of stewards, and that Wilderness will benefit from his efforts.

**The Agency Partner of the Year Award** recognizes an agency employee or unit which has demonstrated outstanding ability to work with wilderness stewardship organizations to improve the stewardship of their wilderness areas, complete a needed project, or overcome challenges and obstacles that led to improvements in wilderness stewardship in their areas.



**The 2020 winner is Beth Boyst** (above, center), Administrator of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Beth

has gone above and beyond to gather wilderness managers from across Central Sierra to better steward the John Muir Trail section of the Pacific Crest Trail, which traverses 210 miles across four wilderness areas (Yosemite, Sequoia-Kings Canyon, Ansel Adams, and John Muir), and across five direct units (Yosemite NP, Devils Postpile NM, Sierra NF, Inyo NF, Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP), and at least four adjacent units also issuing permits for the Trail (Tahoe NF, Stanislaus NF, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF). Beth has managed to bring wilderness managers from all of these units together, as well as researchers from Virginia Tech, Penn State, Humboldt State, and California-Merced to ensure science-based decisions on transboundary patrols (agency staff and volunteers), monitoring, mapping, educational efforts, and a far better understanding of how permits are allotted across unit boundaries.

Beth also brought the Pacific Crest Trail Association to better coordinate the PCT Long-Distance Permit, which PCTA issues on behalf of the government. One of our most exceptional, and most emblematic, wilderness trails, has been made better by Beth's vision of partnership.

### **The Director, from page 3**

Funding, which NWSA manages through a partnership with the Forest Service and national trail groups, has given \$900,000 to support over 100 different trail projects. Our outreach has grown and our impact on wilderness stewardship has been tremendous, all while strengthening local wilderness stewardship groups.

And let's not forget the value of NWSA webinars which for the last three years have brought the wilderness community together for learning and educational sessions that advance wilderness stewardship. These thoughtful and provocative sessions

have built a steady audience and are retained for future learning opportunities on our website.

One final and most important thing to share about NWSA's growth is the creation of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Fund. This fund was established by a generous donation provided by The David Berolzheimer Foundation to honor life-long friend and wilderness champion, Elaine Dermody, who is a Founding Member of the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. The proceeds from this endowment will be used to support the creation of wilderness stewardship groups for every wilderness area in the National

Wilderness Preservation System. You will be seeing more about the Fund and opportunities to participate in it this fall.

NWSA has a bright future because of the dedication of wilderness stewardship groups and the importance of our mission protecting wilderness areas. If you have an interest in expanding your participation in wilderness stewardship consider serving on the NWSA Board or volunteering for a committee assignment. It's only through the commitment of dedicated volunteers like yourself that we can achieve great things for wilderness.

For Wilderness Stewardship  
**Randy Welsh, Executive Director**