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| NWSA Chair  Andrew Downs  Appalachian Trail Conservancy  NWSA Vice Chair  Katie Currier  Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards  NWSA Secretary  Anne Sentz  Appalachian Trail Conservancy  NWSA Treasurer  Vacant  NWSA Directors  Dave Cantrell  Poudre Wilderness Volunteers  Sandy Compton  Friends of Scotchman Peaks  Randy Rasmussen  Back Country Horsemen of America  Ian Nelson  Pacific Crest Trail Association  Zack Bumgarner  New Mexico Wilderness Alliance  Ann Baker-Easley  Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado  David Kallenbach  Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation  Chelsea Phillippe  Michael Splain  Ventana Wilderness Alliance  NWSA Executive Director  Randy Welsh  NWSA  PO Box 752  Bend OR 97709 | 8.21.2020  For Immediate Release:  **The National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance in partnership with the Society of Wilderness Stewardship is pleased to announce the creation of the National Wilderness Stewardship Awards.**  The wilderness stewardship community is filled with ordinary people doing extraordinary work in some of America’s most amazing and remote landscapes. Unfortunately, their work often goes unnoticed, leaving Wilderness to suffer as a result. By showing people their work is important now, we can build a more sustainable wilderness stewardship community for the future.  This awards program will allow organizations and partners to nominate a steward, organization, or Federal land agency whom they feel has demonstrated outstanding ability in the following categories:   * **Wilderness Rising Leader Award**   + To recognize young wilderness stewards who have demonstrated outstanding potential to lead the stewardship community into the future. * **Wilderness Stewardship Champion of the Year Award**   + To recognize an individual wilderness steward that has demonstrated outstanding ability to steward their wilderness areas. * **Wilderness Stewardship Organization of the Year Award**   + To recognize a wilderness stewardship organization that has demonstrated outstanding ability to steward their wilderness areas. * **Wilderness Agency Partner of the Year Award**   + To recognize an agency employee or unit which has demonstrated outstanding ability to work with wilderness stewardship organizations to improve the stewardship of their wilderness areas.   Nominations will be accepted August 21st through September 30th, with the awards being presented at the National Wilderness Workshop this October.  Additional information about these awards, including application materials, may be found on the NWSA website at <http://www.wildernessalliance.org/awards>.  Questions about the awards program may be addressed to Randy Welsh, Executive Director, NWSA at [randy@wildernessalliance.org](mailto:randy@wildernessalliance.org) or by calling 801-808-2167. |