**5.1.2021 – For Immediate Release**

**National Forest Wilderness Stewardship Performance Partner Funding**

**Selections Announced**

Executive Director Randy Welsh, National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance announced today the selections for the National Forest Wilderness Stewardship Performance Partner Funding Program. “We are pleased to be able to fund all the project proposals that were submitted this year”, said Welsh. “These projects will substantially contribute to wilderness stewardship efforts in the wilderness areas they occur. Nearly 1,000 volunteers will be engaged and over 35,000 volunteer hours are expected to be completed during this field season.” The application period for this program ended April 9, 2021. The review took place between April 10th and April 27th. A summary of key program statistics for the proposed and selected submittals includes:

Total Number of Funding Proposals Received: **25**

Total Organizations Requesting Funds: **25**

Total Amount Requested: **$ 242,610.74**

Total Funds to Be Distributed: approximately **$200,000, plus $40,000 carry over from 2020; $242,000**

Number of Proposals and Selections by Region:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Region | Proposed/Selected | Region | Proposed/Selected | Region | Proposed/Selected |
| Region 1 | 3 | Region 2 | 6 | Region 3 | 3 |
| Region 4 | 6 | Region 5 | 6 | Region 6 | 1 |
| Region 8 | 0 | Region 9 | 1 | Region 10 | 1 |

* 1 project each in two Regions (4,5) and (2,4)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Total from Projects Proposed |
| Cash Match (dollars) | **$240,089.93** |
| In Kind Match (dollars) | **$567,535.82** |
| Number of Volunteers | **873** |
| Number of Volunteer Hours | **21,441** |
| Number of Staff | **94** |
| Number of Staff Hours | **14,185** |
| Number of Crew/Interns | **3** |
| Number of Crew/Intern Hours | **750** |

Types of WSP Work to be Completed: **Recreation Site Inventory, Solitude Monitoring, Invasive Species Inventory and eradication, Livestock Grazing, Agency Actions, Water Monitoring, Trail Assessment, and Wilderness Education. All contribute to Workforce Capacity WSP Element.**

Proposed Timeline: **Work to be Completed between May and December, 2021**

Organizations Receiving Funding in 2021 Include:

Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation

Arizona Wild

Ascend Wilderness Experience

BCHA Motherlode Chapter

Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation

Del Norte Trails

Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Friends of the Inyo

Great Old Broads - Cascade Volcano Chapter

Idaho Conservation League

Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance

John Muir Trail Wilderness Conservancy

New Mexico Wild

Roaring Fork Outdoors Volunteers

Save Our Canyons

Selway-Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation

Sitka Conservation Society

Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards

Upper Gila Watershed

Ventana Wilderness Alliance

Western Colorado University

Western Slope Conservation Center

Wilderness Institute

Wilderness Workshop

Wyoming Wilderness Association

Questions can be addressed to Randy Welsh, Executive Director, National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, at [randy@wildernessalliance.org](mailto:randy@wildernessalliance.org) or at 801-808-2167.