



# NATIONAL WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE

Building a Wilderness  
Stewardship  
Community

## 2011 Annual Report

### Off and Running: serving the Wilderness community

Responding to a critical need – to care for America’s 110 million-acre wilderness resource – NWSA launched in 2010 and has much to report. A national conference of 125 attendees in March 2011 underscored both the needs of wilderness and the power of what NWSA has to offer: a nationwide forum where volunteers can interact with each other and federal agency staff to enhance wilderness stewardship.

NWSA connects its members with each other and the broader wilderness community through its website -- [www.wildernessalliance.org](http://www.wildernessalliance.org) -- a toolkit, resource experts, and an interactive map listing information on local stewardship organizations. NWSA's agenda includes increasing support to fledgling and established wilderness groups alike.

NWSA made great strides in its first year to build a solid foundation, establishing bylaws and a Board of Directors, gaining 501(c)(3) status, launching a successful membership and fundraising campaign, and solidifying partnerships with all four federal wilderness agencies.

Looking ahead, NWSA's mission will ensure an enduring resource of wilderness which can fulfill its crucial ecological role as well as do what it does best: renew the human spirit.



- National Wilderness Preservation System: **110 million acres in 757 units**
- Number of wilderness areas currently covered by groups: **over 200**
- Number of “friends” groups\*: **over 100**
- NWSA Vision: **Every one of 757 wilderness areas has a “friends” group**

*\*Note: many local “friends” groups tend more than one wilderness area. Sources: Wilderness.net, US Forest Service, preliminary research by NWSA*

**Hold  
the  
Date**

**The 2012 NWSA Annual Conference** will be held in the beautiful Smoky Mountains close to Asheville, North Carolina at the Montreat Conference Center November 1st – 4th. There will be two opportunities for attendees to share in the stewardship work on two of the original wilderness areas designated in 1964, Shining Rock and Linville Gorge! Set your calendar for the first weekend in November to experience spectacular fall color and fellowship in vibrant Western North Carolina.