

2012 Successes and Highlights



NATIONAL WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE

Building a Wilderness Stewardship Community
www.wildernessalliance.org

Launched in 2010 and incorporated in 2011, NWSA has much to be proud of as it continues growing as an organization, supporting and bringing together wilderness stewards at the national level – all in support of caring for our 110 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System.

Our 2012 accomplishments include:

Stewardship Program and Outreach

- Produced a step-by-step manual for fledgling groups on “How to Start a Wilderness Stewardship Group.”
- Conducted a start-up workshop that led to the creation of a new stewardship group – The Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers.
- Organized and conducted an outstanding second annual NWSA National Conference in Asheville, NC, bringing in new NWSA partners from the Southeast.
- Conducted a national survey of wilderness stewardship groups, identifying nearly 100

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At the 2012 NWSA Annual Conference, chaired by NWSA Director Bill Hodge and Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards, 75 participants from 23 states congregated to take part in workshops, participate in panel discussions, view presentations, and network with fellow wilderness stewards from all of the nation.

Hold the Date

The 2013 NWSA Annual Conference will be held in the picturesque San Bernardino Mountains of southern California at the Northwoods Resort from October 24th-27th. The conference site is located in Big Bear Lake, CA surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest. There will be time to get outdoors and enjoy the cool, crisp autumn air as we do some trail projects in the San Geronio Wilderness or along the Pacific Crest Trail. In addition to the awesome vistas, we will have dynamic speakers, substantive discussions and informative presentations that will be valuable to you in your role as a wilderness steward. Mark your calendars for the end of October and plan to join us to learn, renew old friendships and meet new friends in the mountains of southern California. Registration is available online at wildernessalliance.org.



NATIONAL WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE

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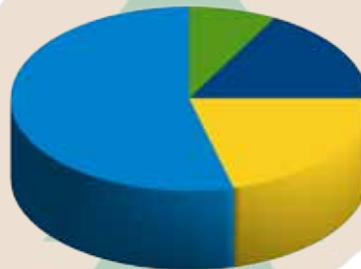
Message from the Chair



Dear Friends,

What an exciting year for NWSA! The response we've had from the wilderness community has inspired us: increased individual memberships, stewardship organizations nationwide partnering with us to support each other and build new groups, recognition from the federal agencies, generous support from donors, cooperation from an array of non-profits who share our vision — and above all to me, a Board of Directors who has found time when they had none, brought their passion and their dedication to our fledgling organization, and envisioned a future in which we Americans bring our hands to the task of preserving our heritage and passing it to new hands — building a support system for wilderness which involves all Americans.

Dave



2012 Income: \$43,309

- 54% Grants and Agreements
- 17% Individual Donations and Membership
- 8% Organizational Donations and Partnership
- 21% Other (Sales, Matches)



2012 Expense: \$17,660

- 16% Overhead/Fees
- 82% Professional Services
- 2% Conference





Photos contributed by Mal Sillars, Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers.

New Stewards for the Upper Arkansas Wilderness

In April 2012, NWSA, facilitated a day-long workshop in Buena Vista, Colorado resulting in the formation of a new stewardship group -- the Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers (UAWV). With strong support from the Leadville Ranger District, we worked with a core of volunteers, several of whom had been involved in an earlier attempt to start a group in the Upper Arkansas Valley.

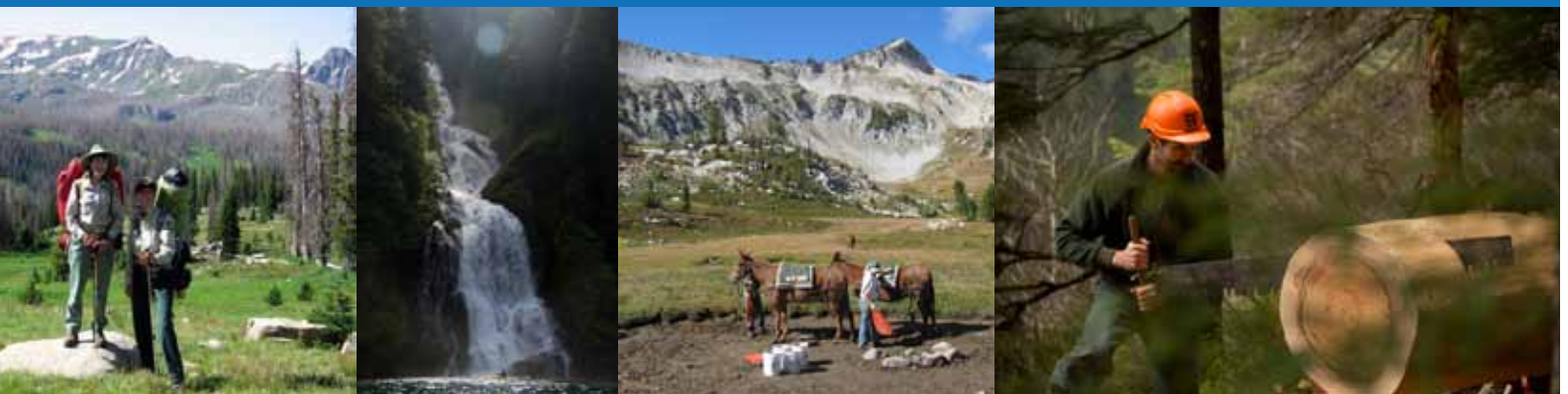
Workshop outcomes included a draft mission statement, identifying training needs, establishing a steering committee, and developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Forest Service. Plans soon materialized to have boots on the ground in

summer 2012 in the Collegiate Peaks, Mount Massive, Buffalo Peaks, and Mount Holy Cross Wilderness Areas. The group formed under the umbrella of the Greater Arkansas River Nature Association (GARNA). "The Forest Service in Leadville approached GARNA and said we can really use some help here," said Mal Sillars, who helped found UAWV and currently serves as chairman of its steering committee. Federal agency budget cuts, combined with the damage caused by devastating windstorms last year, led to an urgent need for assistance. Sillars and about 20 other volunteers got to work clearing trails, and over the summer the group removed about 300 trees from hard-hit and popular trails.

Several other factors contributed to UAWV's successful launch including: a dedicated group of volunteers with the right skills, prior experience and leftover funding from GARNA's Arkansas Headwater Wilderness Partners (the previous attempt to start a local group) and an existing relationship with the Forest Service. We believe the swift move from conceptualization to boots on the ground could make the group a national model for other volunteer organizations. NWSA's work with the UAWV was its first formal attempt to help a startup group, fulfilling a central part of its mission to build a national network of volunteer-based stewardship organizations.

NWSA Chair Honored with Bob Marshall Award

At NWSA's annual conference in October 2012, NWSA Board Chair Dave Cantrell received the Forest Service's 2012 Bob Marshall Award for Individual Champion of Wilderness Stewardship. Leanne Martin, Forest Service Director of Wilderness, presented the award, citing Cantrell's "inspiring leadership and tireless dedication to wilderness." Martin noted, "He has gone the extra mile to make everyone feel wanted and valued in this national effort" and "fostered an esprit de corps... that will stand the test of time."



Supporters of NWSA

Foundations

Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation
MAKI Foundation

Contributing Partners

Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation
Friends of Mt. Evans and Lost Creek
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness
Front Range Backcountry Horsemen of America
Great Burn Study Group
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
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groups working in 351 wilderness areas.

- Partnered with the Society for Wilderness Stewardship on presenting a mutually useful track at the NWSA 2012 Conference.
- Rebuilt the NWSA website to make it more interactive and helpful to members.
- Attended the Conservation Lands Foundation Friends Rendezvous to better coordinate with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) friends groups.
- Launched a monthly e-newsletter to deliver more news to the stewardship community.

Agency Relations

- Signed a Challenge Cost Share master agreement with the Forest Service and Supplemental Project Agreement for 2012.
- Signed Memorandums of Understanding with three of four NWPS agencies (BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service).
- Worked with the 50th Anniversary national team on preparations for the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014.

Fundraising

- Expanded our membership base.
- Received grants from the Munson Foundation and MAKI Foundation.
- Developed materials for solicitation of NWSA corporate sponsors.
- Built relationship with REI across the country through outreach to 117 stores.

Organizational Development

- Drafted "How NWSA Helps" to detail how services are provided under a variety of circumstances, including one-to-one coaching and mentoring.
- Developed formal procedures to identify, recruit, and vet candidates to fill Board and committee chair positions.

