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National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance announces the 2019 National Wilderness Workshop.

Bend, OR, is the site of the 2019 National Wilderness Workshop, October 23 through 26. The annual workshop is co-hosted by National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance (NWSA) and the Society of Wilderness Stewards (SWS). Focus of the workshops is on stewardship of wilderness public lands that are part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Attendees include Federal land managers, their non-profit partners in public land stewardship and wilderness researchers. The US Forest Service, the Oregon Natural Desert Association, Bend Parks and Recreation, The Old Mill District, VisitBend and the Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, East Cascades Chapter are co-sponsors of the Workshop.

“We are bringing the National Wilderness Workshop to Bend because of the proximity to Oregon’s wilderness resource, a spirited wilderness community, and excellent facilities. The Hilton Garden Inn and Hampton Inn and Suites are cores sites for the Workshops,” said NWSA executive director Randy Welsh. “The hotels are about 400 yards apart on opposite sides of the Deschutes River, and the walk between them is easy and beautiful.”

The Old Mill District is Bend's premier shopping and entertainment center along the Deschutes River, only about a mile from downtown. Deschutes Brewery, site of the Friday night social event, is a stone’s throw away.

NWSA is the lead host for this year’s workshops. The theme is “The Path from Recreationist to Steward: Engaging Wilderness Users to Care for the Places They Cherish.” Thursday and Friday will feature sessions focused on the transition of Wilderness users to Wilderness stewards.

A goal of the Workshop is to expand the scope, perspective and community of public lands advocates and stewards. The Workshop registration is closed with over 200 registered but several demonstration events are planned that will be free for the public to attend. The Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, East Cascades Chapter, will provide hands-on demonstrations on horse packing, trail building skills, crosscut saw use and Dutch oven cooking (see separate news release). A complete schedule of events can be found at www.wildernessalliance.org.

NWSA was formed in 2009 by a consortium of Federal land management staff and their volunteer partners. The stated mission of NWSA is to develop a network of volunteer-based organizations to provide stewardship for America's enduring resource of wilderness. with the explicit goal of establishing a stewardship group for every Wilderness Area in the US. The work has been progressing steadily since, with over 130 member organizations in 28 states.

Learn more about NWSA at [www.wildernessalliance.org](http://www.wildernessalliance.org) and SWS at [www.wildernessstewardship.org](http://www.wildernessstewardship.org).