



## Formation of National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance

March 5-7, 2010, Fort Collins, CO

Sixteen wilderness stewardship organizations from around the nation and representatives from six national NGOs, along with wilderness experts and representatives of the next generation of wilderness stewards, met in Fort Collins, CO, March 5-7, 2010 to discuss the value of a national network of wilderness stewardship groups and to outline its functions, initial structure, and mission. The 40 attendees agreed on the strong need to work together and formed the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance.



## A Message from Our Chair

By Jan Creager, Chair, Poudre Wilderness Volunteers

It was a privilege and an honor for Poudre Wilderness Volunteers to host representatives from volunteer-based wilderness stewardship organizations from Alaska to Alabama, New England to California, as well as leaders from half a dozen national organizations -- all of us with the common goal of protecting America's enduring wilderness resource.

Our facilitator, Jeff DeBonis, from TREC, said he had never seen a new group accomplish so much in so little time. Thanks, TREC (Training Resources for the Environmental Community), for generously providing us such an amazing pro!

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers worked hard to make the event a success, and we are enormously proud of our local host committee -- led by Jerry Hanley, Fred Allen, and Bob Manuel. But

above all, credit for the amazing accomplishments of a brief gathering lies with the organizations who found ways to attend with limited budgets, gave so generously of their personal time, and contributed so passionately to the common cause of wilderness stewardship. I hope we all realize how well it reflects on each organization who attended, and who set aside for a few days the dedicated work they do in their own areas, to think how we can all help care for all of our wilderness.



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# Attendees at the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Meeting



# Participants at March 2010 Meeting

Thanks first to the  
Poudre Wilderness Volunteers Host Committee

Jerry Hanley  
Fred Allen  
Bob Manuel

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Friends of Wilderness

Elaine Dermody  
Win Dermody  
Robert Scifres  
Denise Scifres

Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Shaaron Netherton

Poudre Wilderness Volunteers

Dave Cantrell  
Jacques Rieux  
Chuck Bell

Friends of the Inyo

Andrew Schurr

Great Burn Study Group

Beverly Dupree

Sitka Conservation Society

Adam Andis

National Smokejumper Association

Stan Linnertz

Appalachian Mountain Club (and Appalachian  
Trail Conservancy)

Hawk Metheny

Pacific Crest Trail Association

Mike Dawson

Wild South

Mark Kolinski

San Juan Mountains Association

Kathe Hayes

Campaign for America's Wilderness

Doug Scott

Back Country Horsemen of America

Julie Chaney

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado

Rob Santoro

Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness

Currie Craven

San Gorgonio Wilderness Association

Ted Schofield

Jarome Wilson

Christin Wilson

Jeremy Liu

Friends of the Dillon Ranger District

Christiane Hinterman

American Hiking Society

Greg Miller

Wilderness Society

Paul Spittler

Friends of Mount Evans Wilderness

Mike Israel

Grad student, Kansas State U.

Tyra Olstad

Grad Student, U. of Montana- Missoula

Heather Day

Selway-Bitterroot Foundation

Eric Melson

U. of Colo. Wilderness Study Group

Anna Lieb

Volunteer / Wilderness Consultant

Celina Montorfano

USFS

Chris Brown

Ralph Swain

Kevin Cannon

River Network

Pat Muñoz

TREC -- Facilitator

Jeff DeBonis



# National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance

## Need

The National Wilderness Preservation System consists of 756 areas (109,494,500 acres) in 44 states and Puerto Rico. Currently, only a small number of these areas have dedicated volunteer groups. With current economics it is even more critical that volunteers assist agencies charged with caring for our Wilderness.

Wilderness areas are the source of our clean water and clean air as well as habitat for wildlife and places where humans can find solitude and stillness in an increasingly mechanized world. These wild places must be protected and their ecological function preserved. Wilderness is our legacy gift to future generations.

## Mission and Vision

The National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance is a growing network of volunteer-based organizations providing stewardship for America's enduring resource of wilderness.



Our vision is to see each wilderness area within the National Wilderness Preservation System

adopted by a wilderness stewardship organization dedicated to protecting and nurturing the area's wilderness values. We envision effective partnerships between community-based, non-profit wilderness stewardship organizations and all government agencies charged with the management of our national wilderness areas across the country.



## Goals/Objectives

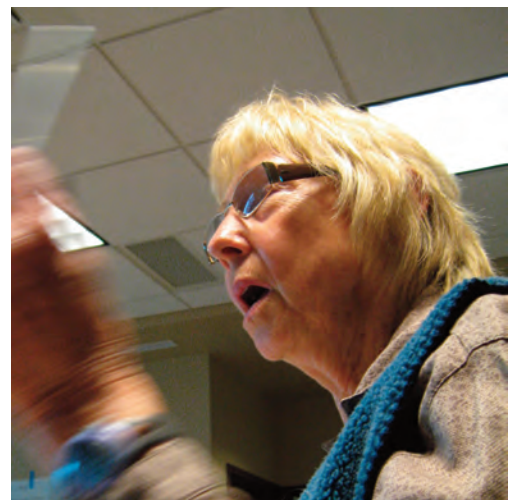
Our goal is to improve wilderness stewardship and create an allied constituency for wilderness by connecting wilderness stewardship organizations with each other, linking our efforts and experiences, directing groups to resources, and fostering new organizations.

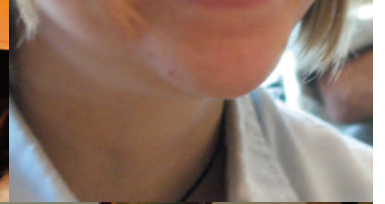
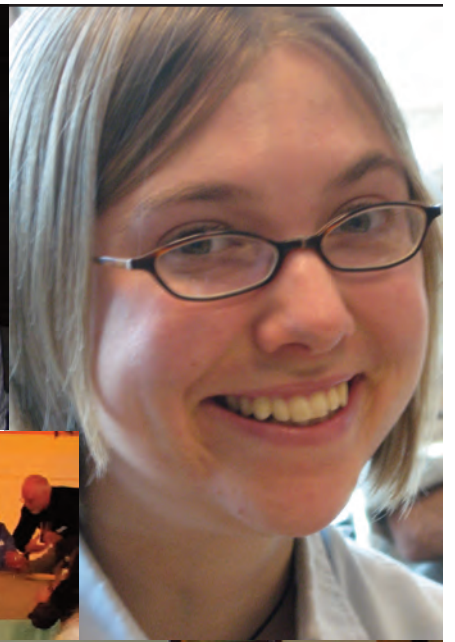
## Our objectives:

- \* Through our website, share knowledge, experience and expertise among local, regional, and national organizations
- \* Provide new groups with start up models of different structures, help them anticipate the questions that typically arise as groups form, and put them in touch with people who have built successful organizations.
- \* Sponsor gatherings of volunteer groups
- \* Help foster an agency-wide culture that values wilderness volunteer organizations and has the means to give them effective support
- \* Expand NWSA capacity initially through a fiscal sponsor while seeking 501(c)(3) status.

## Structure

Currently, the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance is governed by a steering committee, with standing committees and task forces working on website development and content, developing a "toolkit" of useable information for new and existing groups, researching wilderness stewardship organizations around the country, and coordinating agency relations, business and fiscal operations and future event planning. PWV members and local environmentalists, some of whom we may see at next year's spring training.





### Excerpts from a Letter From Chris Brown

"The competence and generosity you all demonstrated speaks volumes about PWV as an outfit. I know I speak for all participants in saying how very grateful we are and how much we admire your group."...

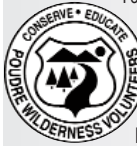
"As I said at the conclusion of the workshop, only time will tell whether this was in fact an historic meeting for wilderness (although my sense is that the arc of wilderness history was at least deflected by the energy and productivity of the meeting). But there is no question that the workshop's success was in many ways attributable to our hosts, Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, so please pass on to your entire organization our enormous gratitude. "



**Chris Brown**  
Director, Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers  
USDA Forest Service



If you'd like to see details about our plans, keep in touch with developments, contribute, or join up, contact us via the web site at <http://nationalwildernessstewardshipalliance.org/> or write Dave Cantrell, 1148 LaPorte Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521.



Poudre Trails is a publication of the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers, a non-profit corporation organized to assist the United States Forest Service in managing and protecting wilderness and other backcountry areas.

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If you like what you see in this newsletter and want to join the Poudre Wilderness Volunteers or support our cause, please mail us at:

P.O. Box 271921,  
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