

National Wilderness Awards Program General Information

Each year nominations for national wilderness award program are solicited in the six categories. The announcement and call for nominations is typically distributed in January with nominations due in April. A brief description of the nominees' contributions along with basic contact information is reviewed by a panel of subject matter experts and selections announced in May. Nominations, when due, and questions may be sent to Terry Knupp, Wilderness Program Manager, WO, at [tknupp @ fs.fed.us](mailto:tknupp@fs.fed.us).

National Wilderness Award Categories:

- Aldo Leopold Award for Overall Wilderness Stewardship Program
- Bob Marshall Award for Individual Champion of Wilderness Stewardship (internal and external awards)
- Wilderness Education Leadership Award (internal and external awards)
- Traditional Skills and Minimum Tool Leadership Award
- Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Research Award
- Line Officer Wilderness Leadership Award

**ALDO LEOPOLD AWARD FOR
OVERALL WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

National forest wilderness stewardship is a challenging job. Sound wilderness stewardship reflects meeting stewardship objectives articulated in the Wilderness Act. Decisions reflect an understanding and appreciation of wilderness values. Careful stewardship of the wilderness resource ensures this ongoing resource for today's public and future generations.

OBJECTIVE:

1. Recognize excellence in overall wilderness stewardship programs.

CRITERIA:

1. Effectiveness in stewardship to protect and improve wilderness character. Decisions reflect analysis based on wilderness values.
2. Wilderness planning, baseline data, and monitoring are in place or ongoing and reflect that wilderness is a full partner in the multiple-use mission.
3. Public involvement and education in wilderness stewardship are present.
4. Research needs are identified and information is being gathered and applied.
5. Field presence is apparent and effective.
6. Where fire is a key component of the ecosystem, fire planning and implementation are a priority.
7. Proactive in accomplishing the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge.

**BOB MARSHALL AWARD FOR
INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION OF WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP**

Individual efforts in promoting the wilderness resource often go unrecognized. Dedicated individuals are working hard to preserve the unique and vital wilderness resource. Today, steadily increasing use and other human influences are impacting wilderness, yet many committed individuals are working hard to provide opportunities for public use and enjoyment while perpetuating a long-lasting system of high quality wilderness. This award is intended to recognize one of those champions.

OBJECTIVE:

1. Recognize an individual who is a champion of wilderness stewardship.

CRITERIA:

1. Has demonstrated dedication and active involvement in wilderness stewardship within or

outside the agency.

2. Effective change agent in improving the stewardship of wilderness.
3. Actively works to perpetuate high-quality wilderness for present and future generations.
4. Has gone the extra mile to preserve the wilderness resource.

WILDERNESS EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AWARD

Creativity, dedication, and commitment have characterized many of the wilderness education efforts since the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964. This award is designed to recognize excellence in these important aspects of wilderness stewardship.

Two awards may be made: the first to recognize a recently implemented creative and influential wilderness education program, and the second to recognize an ongoing educational program demonstrating consistent delivery over time. One award will be made to a Forest Service individual or group and the second to a private individual or a non-governmental organization. Employees and volunteers of the Forest Service, other private or public organizations, and private individuals are eligible.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Recognize creative and influential wilderness education programs.
2. Increase the effectiveness of wilderness education programs in terms of people reached and behavior changed.

CRITERIA:

1. Education efforts, materials, and approach.
2. Size and variety of audiences reached, and appropriateness of message to the audience reached (age, type of user, geographic-urban/rural location).
3. Effectiveness in meeting the goals of the program.

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Fill out the nomination form. Identify the category for which the nomination applies.
2. The sponsor may be a supervisor or person familiar with nominee's efforts.
3. Prepare a nomination narrative that includes a summary of the project, addresses each criterion, and does not exceed two pages in length. Supplementary materials, such as lesson plans, evaluations, photographs, and any other material that illustrate or describe the materials or program may be submitted in addition to the two-page nomination

narrative. Materials will not be returned.

TRADITIONAL SKILLS AND MINIMUM TOOL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The award is to be given to the Forest Service employee (or employees) who demonstrate the greatest initiative, creativity, and commitment to wilderness principles by accomplishing a difficult or challenging wilderness stewardship activity by using traditional skills and primitive tools.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To highlight creative examples of the use of traditional skills and primitive tools in accomplishing wilderness stewardship objectives that will serve as guideposts or challenges to all managers.
2. To perpetuate traditional skills and the use of primitive tools as a significant part of our history and culture.
3. To give public visibility to and appreciation for the kinds of skills employed on a daily basis by Forest Service wilderness managers, and/or decisions which significantly enhance the wilderness resource.
4. To set a positive example for wilderness users.

CRITERIA:

1. Uniqueness or ingenuity displayed in completing the job without the use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport.
2. The resurrection or relearning of skills or tools that have been abandoned or nearly lost.
3. Accomplished a job with traditional skills and tools when approval for motorized equipment could probably have been obtained.
4. Difficulty or challenging nature of the task.

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Fill out the nomination form.
2. The sponsor may be a supervisor or person familiar with the nominee's efforts and is not required to be an agency employee.
3. Prepare a nomination narrative that addresses each criterion and does not exceed two pages in length. Supplemental documentation may be included.

EXCELLENCE IN WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP RESEARCH AWARD

Co-sponsored by the International Journal of Wilderness and the USDA Forest Service

Professional stewardship of wilderness is dependant on a foundation of solid research. Both the natural and social sciences need to be applied to the stewardship of wilderness. Managers need to understand wilderness ecosystems and their dynamics, threats to those ecosystems, and how human impact can be mitigated. They need to understand wilderness users and how best to provide for their needs.

This award recognizes excellent research conducted either by an individual or a team. In addition, it can include research in related fields that has direct application to the wilderness resource. Employees of the Federal and State governments, other private or public organizations, and private individuals are eligible.

OBJECTIVE:

1. Recognize excellence in an individual or team wilderness research accomplishment or research accomplishment in related fields that has direct application to wilderness.

CRITERIA:

1. Ability to identify management implications of the research.
2. Creativity and innovation in scientific method.
3. Effectiveness of research accomplishment(s) in addressing wilderness stewardship issues of critical importance.
4. Effectiveness in communicating research results to management.
5. Where appropriate, an interdisciplinary design of the research project; recognizing the interactions between the physical, biological, and social components of the wilderness resource.

FORMAT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Fill out the nomination form.
2. The sponsor may be a supervisor or a person familiar with the nominee's efforts. Neither the sponsor nor the nominee needs to be an agency employee.
3. Prepare a nomination narrative that describes the research project or series of projects, addresses each criterion, and does not exceed two pages in length. Supplemental documentation may be included. Materials will not be returned.

LINE OFFICER WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Line officer leadership and commitment to wilderness stewardship is essential to the well-being of the National Wilderness Preservation System. While these individuals are constantly being challenged with competing demands for their time and resources, many stand out in an exemplary manner in their ability to provide the public with outstanding opportunities for use and enjoyment of wilderness, while assuring the perpetuation of a high-quality wilderness resource.

OBJECTIVE:

1. This award is presented to recognize a line officer for their outstanding contributions to wilderness stewardship.

CRITERIA:

1. Demonstrates outstanding personal commitment to the perpetuation of high-quality wilderness for present and future generations.
2. Serves as an effective change agent in improving wilderness stewardship.
3. Decisions regarding administrative actions in wilderness reflect the minimum necessary to accomplish wilderness stewardship objectives.
4. Dedicates on-the-ground time to resolution of wilderness stewardship issues.
5. Proactive in accomplishing the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge.

FORMAT REQUIRED:

1. Fill out the nomination form.
2. The sponsor may be a supervisor or a person familiar with the nominee's efforts. Neither the sponsor nor the nominee needs to be an agency employee.
3. Prepare a nomination narrative that addresses each criterion and does not exceed two pages in length. Supplemental documentation may be included.