

**File Code:** 2320**Date:** November 2, 2020**Route To:****Subject:** 2020 Forest Service National Wilderness Awards Recipients**To:** Regional Foresters, Station Directors, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs, and WO Staff Directors

I am pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 National Wilderness Awards! These awards honor individuals and groups for excellence in wilderness education, traditional skills leadership, decision-making and overall wilderness stewardship. The award winners were recently announced and celebrated at the virtual National Wilderness Workshop amongst Forest Service employees and wilderness partners, and the physical awards will be mailed to the respective regional offices.

**Bob Marshall Individual Award**

**Stacy Duke and Rod Fahl**, Recreation and Wilderness Manager and Wilderness Ranger, Hoosier National Forest, Indiana.

Stacy and Rod have worked hard to maintain the character of the only designated wilderness in Indiana by reducing the impacts of visitor use and storms with a full-fledged approach. Stacy is deeply involved in wilderness work at all levels of the system and in an individual capacity as well. At the national level, she serves on the Wilderness Information Management Steering Team, has presented at the National Wilderness Workshop, and prioritizes the Wilderness Stewardship Performance program. She also leads wilderness education activities and is the media representative for the wilderness which speaks to her genuine passion and depth of knowledge on the National Forest.

Rod helps maintain the Charles C. Deam Wilderness by leading the only stock team east of the Mississippi and seasonal crews. This past year, he worked with the crew to clean up a site damaged by a storm over the course of five long days of crosscut saw work. Rod consistently uses his leadership experience to improve wilderness education among his colleagues while working hard right beside them. Together, Rod and Stacy have gone above and beyond to steward the wilderness and strengthen the community's knowledge and investment in the land along the way.

**Bob Marshall Group Award**

**Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS)**, Asheville, North Carolina.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the formation of Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS). Over the past decade, they have reinvigorated the wilderness community in the southeast by unifying a network of wilderness stewards across dozens of wilderness areas in southern Appalachia. They work to meet Wilderness Character Monitoring goals by hiring and training wilderness specialists, working closely with Agency staff and helping to host the annual Wilderness Skills Institute. Overall, they have contributed 124,000 hours of stewardship service in the Region over the past decade and continue to expand their reach and prepare the next generation to engage in wilderness stewardship.



**Wilderness Partnership Champion Award**

**John Campbell**, Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Program Manager, Southern Region, Georgia

John's partnership with the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) has resulted in improved training, shared capacity building, and wilderness character monitoring across dozens of wilderness areas in the Region. He demonstrated his dedication to long standing relationships by supporting SAWS and other partners through the government shutdown last year and adapting to COVID-19 this year. He prioritizes shared stewardship in restoration work after natural disasters, hosts meetings for recreation program managers and SAWS to discuss wilderness best practices and supports partnership with the Job Corps Civilian Conservation Centers in the Region. Overall, John's successful partnerships benefit from his deep involvement in the projects he works on with them.

**Traditional Skills and Minimum Tools Award**

**Cindy Ebbert**, Trails, Wilderness, Dispersed Recreation Manager, Dillon Ranger District, White River National Forest, Colorado

Cindy uses her planning, teaching, and on-the-ground experience to contribute to traditional skills trainings and wilderness partnership projects. She has also worked to address threats to the wilderness areas on her district like visitor use impacts and the Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic through the lens of traditional tool methods. She does this by improving the crosscut saw skills of several partners and providing opportunities for certification. One of the outstanding projects that Cindy applied her expertise was the removal of Rock Creek Cabin in the Eagle's Nest Wilderness which required the removal of several facilities and restoration of a historic wetland. She has developed an outstanding trails program with her creative approaches to accomplishing work with minimum tools.

**Line Officer Wilderness Leadership Award**

**Andy Scott**, District Ranger, Bankhead Ranger District, National Forests in Alabama.

When Andy came to the Bankhead Ranger District, he prioritized communication and education about wilderness character from the start. Faced with historical uses in the community that were not always consistent with wilderness character, he carefully considered the community needs while working towards better wilderness use and education. He has also secured Wilderness Stewardship Performance funding, conducted a successful search and rescue, and addressed feral hog impacts in the Sipsey Wilderness. By facing complex and controversial issues with patience and intention, Andy is charting a new course for the Sipsey Wilderness that will benefit generations to come.

**Please join me in congratulating this year's Wilderness Awards recipients!**

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Signed by: TINA TERRELL

**CHRISTOPHER B. FRENCH**

Deputy Chief, National Forest System