



RESOLUTION #19

A CALL FOR UNITED STATES FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES TO HIRE MORE WILDERNESS STEWARDS

WHEREAS,

Our planet Earth is facing unprecedented challenges including climate change, loss of biodiversity, deforestation, proliferation of invasive species and loss of open spaces;

Wilderness plays a critical role in addressing these challenges, such as by sequestering carbon, preserving biodiversity, protecting our forests, supporting robust native ecosystems and safeguarding wild nature;

The workforce of federal wilderness managers and scientists in the United States is about to lose centuries of experience with substantial numbers of personnel expected to retire over the next few years;

THEREFORE, the 9th World Wilderness Congress

Emphatically stresses that never before has it been so crucial for the United States government to cultivate a cadre of dedicated, passionate, talented professionals to manage and conduct research about wilderness, and hereby

RESOLVES, that

the National Park Service, the United States Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service:

- ensure that current budget, resource and personnel allocations reflect the high priority of successfully managing our scarce wilderness areas;
- develop workforce plans based on sustaining a legacy of stewardship and on preserving wild character for each and every wilderness;
- establish career ladders for young wilderness stewardship professionals to rise to leadership positions, and
- hire more wilderness stewardship professionals.

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