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The WILD Foundation Receives 2011 National Bob Marshall Wilderness Stewardship Award

The US Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USFS) honors The WILD Foundation with this year's national Bob Marshall Award for Group Champion of Wilderness Stewardship. This award recognizes WILD as an organization which has worked to conserve the unique and vital wilderness resources of the United States. This is the highest award that the Forest Service can bestow upon an NGO, and is presented by the Chief.

"We are very pleased to have this opportunity to recognize and thank The WILD Foundation for all of their hard work and contributions to preserving wilderness and protected areas across North America. Their work has been instrumental in facilitating collaborative efforts across the United States, Canada and Mexico. We look forward to continuing to work together in the future."



In the picture - Leanne Marten, USFS Director of Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers; Mary Wagner, USFS Associate Chief; Julie Anton Randall, WILD Vice President for Government Relations; Faye Krueger, USFS Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

The award specifically recognizes WILD for:

- Initiating and facilitating the development of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation for Wilderness Conservation, signed at WILD9, the 9th World Wilderness Congress (Mexico, 2009). This MOU is the first formal agreement between countries on wilderness conservation and resulted in the establishment of an active North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Wilderness and Protected Areas (NAWPA Committee) comprised of the heads of land management agencies in the United States, Mexico and Canada. WILD facilitates the Working Groups that carry out decisions made by the agency heads, who recently extended coverage of the MOU to include all protected areas under the jurisdiction of their agencies. (<http://www.wild.org/main/how-wild-works/policy-research/mou-on-wilderness>)
- Leadership in developing, managing and publishing the *International Journal of Wilderness*. WILD launched the Journal in 1995 and continues to publish this choice tool for wilderness advocates and managers. (<http://ijw.org>)
- Dedication to wilderness stewardship through managing three of the four editions of the *Wilderness Management* textbook, the most comprehensive and up-to-date information available on wilderness management, history, philosophy and policy. (<http://www.wild.org/wild-store/wilderness-management>)
- Exceptional history working to perpetuate quality wilderness for present and future generations through the World Wilderness Congress (WWC). Started in 1974, the WWC is WILD's flagship program. Having now convened nine times in seven different countries, the WWC is the world's longest running public environmental forum and has a long history of practical conservation results. One is the Global Wilderness Forum for Government Agencies, in which the USDA Forest Service takes a lead organizational role (<http://www.wild.org/main/world-wilderness-congress>).

“WILD has a long, continuous, and results-oriented working relationship with the U.S. Forest Service and its professionals that aims to meet Forest Service objectives. We're very honored to receive this recognition, and look forward to further such productive collaboration with this globally outstanding agency,” responded Vance Martin, WILD's President.

As an early head of recreation management with the U.S. Forest Service in the 1930s, Robert (Bob) Marshall was one of the first to suggest that primitive and unconfined lands needed to be protected for the future. Along with other leaders of conservation like Aldo Leopold, he helped found The Wilderness Society, which worked with Congress to create the 1964 Wilderness Act. The award acknowledges wilderness champions who continue in Bob Marshall's footsteps in the modern day.