



“Boots on the Ground”

How New Mexico Wild is using Wilderness Rangers and volunteers to protect sensitive wildlands

FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This past week, our 2024 class of ten Wilderness Rangers took to the mountains and meadows of our most treasured wildlands. These experienced backcountry staff give us a remarkable and immediate insight into how key public lands are being managed. They repair trails and signage and provide input on erosion, fire damage, and misuse of lands and waters for our partners, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Our Rangers also plan and host community events from hikes to volunteer clean-ups. This intrepid group roams the state and are currently deployed in Wilderness areas such as the Gila, San Pedro Parks, and the Cruces Basin. They are also doing post-fire assessment in the Calf Canyon/Hermit Peaks fire zone.

At the same time, we continue to grow our new Dave Forman Wilderness Defenders volunteer program. (Dave was our beloved co-founder and champion of wild places.) This summer, 120 volunteer Defenders will help us with projects such as assessing lands with Wilderness characteristics, ground truthing proposed recreational improvements

proposed by the BLM, and monitoring trespass cattle in protected areas.

These programs and other volunteer opportunities with New Mexico Wild require both staff and funding resources. However, we believe the return on investment is profound by engaging local communities in conservation and by providing real time data to our conservation team. We provide Garmin Inreach devices for each Ranger so they can check in while out in the wild with the most current information. We have also increased our mapping capacity to take advantage of the data our Defenders provide.

Your support makes this possible. Below are several ways you can help. Thank you!



Mark Allison
Executive Director
New Mexico Wild

How you can help



Volunteer as a Wilderness Defender. No prior experience is necessary. Whether you are a seasoned backpacker or just getting started, we'll train you and then match you to the right project.



Provide an equipment stipend to our Wilderness Rangers. We want to give seasonal staff the ability to add to the equipment they need for weeks in the backcountry. (We need \$400 per Ranger for this year and a head start for next year.)



Donate to our volunteer and education program. In addition to Wilderness Defenders, we engaged 6,587 adults and 1,148 youth last year to increase their appreciation for public lands and stewardship. Your contributions can help grow this effort.

If you would like your donation designated for a specific purpose, just let us know.

Rangers and Defenders in the wild



Installing a new informational kiosk celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Gila Wilderness.



Rangers monitor and repair backcountry signs and trail markers in Wilderness areas.



Trash clean-up at the Hummingbird Saddle and cross-cut trail work in the San Pedro Parks.



You can find more information about volunteer opportunities on our website: nmwild.org

Help us put more boots on the ground.

Please use the enclosed donation form and envelope
or donate online at:

nmwild.org/donate

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance / PO Box 25464 / Albuquerque, NM 87125 / 505-843-8696