

Born and raised in Minnesota, Joelle found her first connections with wilderness in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness along Minnesota's Canadian border and has been dedicated to the wild ever since. She joined NWSA as executive director in 2023 after many years spent filling a variety of roles in land conservation with a primary focus on wilderness and public lands.



Before coming to NWSA, Joelle served as associate director of the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust where she managed the operations and finance sides of the organization and completed private land conservation projects. Prior to this, she worked as a grassroots organizer for New Mexico Wild on BLM-focused advocacy campaigns to protect wilderness-quality lands across the state. Here, she also helped to build a new wilderness ranger partnership with the USFS Southwestern Region. She has also served as an interagency wilderness fellow for the National Park Service and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute and spent several seasons on trail crews and as a wilderness ranger for the Forest Service in Montana and New Mexico, in addition to several seasons as a naturalist and backcountry guide in Alaska.

Joelle holds a Graduate Certificate in Geographical Information Systems, a B.A. degree in Environmental Studies, and A.S. degrees in Wilderness Management and Parks & Recreation. She currently resides in Del Norte, Colorado where she enjoys access to several wilderness areas and millions of acres of public lands. She is excited to connect and grow our stewardship community and increase our impact across the nation.