



WILDERNESS RISK MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

March 2009

Dear Conference Participants:

On behalf of the Wilderness Risk Management Conference Steering Committee and the conference co-sponsors-the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and Outward Bound, USA-I invite you to attend the Wilderness Risk Management Conference in Durham, NC from October 14-16, 2009.

This year has been one of insecurity and unpredictability. Enrollment in outdoor adventure programs has decreased significantly in some areas while it has remained steady in others. White House officials are encouraging public service including efforts involving our public lands. Colleges and universities are struggling with budgetary cuts that threaten all but the most core programs. Yet the value of wilderness and our connection to it remains unchanged.

As your program struggles to manage philosophical and fiscal priorities it is imperative that the quality of your risk management does not suffer. Smaller and leaner must not translate to a reduction in preventative practices. At the core of all programs is the ability to offer clients an outstanding experience with a thoughtful approach to mitigation of risks inherent in the exploration of wild places.

Despite the economic environment, the conference is shaping up to be one of the best ever. We received a record number of workshop proposals and firmly believe this year's conference agenda will be exceptional. Regardless of your experience, the conference has something for you. From the variety of pre-conference workshops to excellent networking opportunities with industry leaders and peers, and from the core agenda to emerging issues, I am confident you will return home with practical solutions to challenging issues.

I wish you luck navigating the rocky road ahead and please know that it would be our distinct pleasure to have you join us in Durham this year. Stay committed to managing risk; your stakeholders are counting on it.

Warmest regards,

Shana Tarter

Chair, Wilderness Risk Management Conference Steering Committee



<http://wrmc.nols.edu>