**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR DETERMINING ACCOMPLISHMENT OF
"WILDERNESS AREAS MANAGED TO MINIMUM STEWARDSHIP LEVEL"
FOR FY 2014 REPORTING**

Accomplishment Category: Recreation Management
Measure Name: **Wilderness Areas Managed to a Minimum Stewardship Level**
Measure Code: **WLD-MGD-STD**
Measurement:

> **Each wilderness shall be measured against the accomplishment levels detailed below for all 10 primary output elements. A minimum cumulative score of "60" must be achieved in order for a wilderness to be considered as meeting the "minimum stewardship level."**

For further help refer to the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Guidebook

<u>Element Definitions & Scoring</u>:

(1) Fire Management direction exists in the Forest Land Management Plan (LMP), or an amendment to the LMP, and information is contained in the Fire Management Plan (FMP) or the Fire Management References System (FMRS) which address the natural role of fire in wilderness and informs the full range of management responses to wildland fire.

<u>Key Definitions</u>:

- "fire management direction": strategic direction that defines a forest's or grassland's program to manage fire. The fire management direction is supplemented by individual operational plans that detail procedures and provide additional information for specific fire management activities, such as preparedness, preplanned dispatching, planned ignitions (prescribed fire), and unplanned ignitions (suppression and wildland fire use).

- "Fire Management Plan" (FMP): a compilation of guidance and direction from the LMP and other sources including recovery plans, national policy, and national and regional directives. No new guidance or decisions are included in the FMP but it reflects guidance for the Fire Management Program from the forest land management plan (LMP) or a supplemental decision. The FMP contains information useful for choosing a management response to an unplanned ignition, describes Fire Management Unit (FMU) descriptions, and interagency coordination.

- "full range of management responses": these include direct, perimeter and prescription management responses to unplanned ignitions (wildfire). After evaluating the full range of responses the LMP direction and existing conditions guide the response to unplanned ignitions. For the purposes of the 10YWSC, those areas where not all

responses are available should document that decision using a statement to that effect including the evaluation that occurred.

▪ "Wilderness Fire Management Checklist": a "tickler list" of items that should be included in the forest LMP and the FMP to ensure the wilderness resource is adequately protected. Local staff may select the items which are locally meaningful and appropriate for inclusion in the LMP or FMP.

Counting Instructions:

Score	Accomplishment Level
3	Forest Land Management Plan (LMP) fire management direction addresses the natural role of fire in wilderness
6	Forest Land Management Plan (LMP) addresses the natural role of fire in wilderness and provides objectives, guidelines, or standards for the full range of management responses for the entire wilderness
8	Forest Land Management Plan (LMP) addresses the natural role of fire in wilderness and provides objectives and guidelines for the full range of management responses. The LMP and the Fire Management Plan (FMP) incorporate the appropriate items from the "Wilderness Fire Management Checklist"[1]
10	Fire Management Plan (FMP) is implemented and evaluated for effectiveness and modifications are made as needed

Notes:
[1] The most recent version of the Wilderness Checklist for Fire Management may be found at →
http://www.wilderness.net/toolboxes/documents/fire/Wilderness%20Fire%20Management%20Planning%20Checklist.doc

The Technical Guide (TG-09): Integrating Fire into Land and Resource Management Plans (1/22/09) is available on the Forest Service intranet in the Technical Information for Planning (TIPS) section.

Current guidance on development of forest Fire Management Plans, including templates, examples, and directions for the Fire Management References System is found at: http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/fire/fmp/

Link to 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Guidebook (Element 1)

(2) This wilderness was successfully treated for invasive plants.[1]

<u>Key Definitions</u>:

- "invasive plants": a plant, including its seeds, spores or other biological material that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm.

- "invasive species management plan": an integrated plan developed to address the control or eradication of non-native, invasive plants and/or animals on a national forest or other land unit.

- "successfully treated": the treatment was part of an invasive species management plan and the treatment met the objectives in the plan, whether it be eradication or control. This includes direct management actions in the field.

<u>Counting Instructions</u>:

Score	Accomplishment Level
2	An invasive species survey[2] is completed in wilderness and/or a prevention program and targeted management actions have been implemented without an invasive species management plan
3	An invasive species management plan has been prepared, or direction is provided in the forest plan or supplemental direction, and includes direction for addressing invasive plants in wilderness
5	Management actions have been implemented (e.g., treatments, regulations, education, etc.) in highest priority areas
6	Management actions taken in highest priority areas have been evaluated and determined to be successful

Score	Accomplishment Level (cont.)
10	Management actions for all invasive plants inventoried in wilderness have been implemented and these actions have been evaluated for effectiveness and treatments adjusted as necessary.

Notes:

[1] This element specifically addresses invasive plants. However, if invasive plants are not of issue in this wilderness, and other invasive species are (wildlife, insects, disease, etc.), you may substitute efforts to address these concerns under this element.

[2] If the survey is current and no invasive plants are found, count 10.

Link to 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Guidebook (Element 2)

(3) Monitoring of wilderness air quality values is conducted and a baseline is established for this wilderness.

Key Definitions:

- "baseline": enough data has been collected to characterize the condition of the wilderness air quality value.

- "sensitive receptors": specific types of features or properties within a wilderness that can be negatively impacted by air pollutants (e.g. high-altitude lakes, lichens, scenic vistas).

- "wilderness air quality values": general categories of features or properties of wilderness that are affected in some way by air pollution. Identified values are: visibility, odor, flora, fauna, soil, water, geologic features and cultural resources. This includes Air Quality Related Values in Class I Areas, as well as other similar features and properties in wildernesses designated as Class II.

Counting Instructions:

Score	Accomplishment Level
2	Development of a wilderness air quality value plan, including identification of wilderness air quality values, sensitive receptors & indicators
4	Conduct inventory for a priority sensitive receptor (in addition to IMPROVE visibility monitoring) [1,2]
6	Establish baseline for a priority sensitive receptor (in addition to IMPROVE visibility monitoring) [1,2]
10	Monitor a priority sensitive receptor for trends from baseline (in addition to IMPROVE visibility monitoring) [1,2]

Notes:

¹ The IMPROVE network provides valuable information for characterizing visibility conditions in NF wilderness areas. The intent of this element, however, is to extend the monitoring beyond the general nationwide visibility information provided by the IMPROVE visibility monitoring. This element is intended to evaluate other important wilderness air quality values, such as lake water sampling and lichen monitoring.

² Forests which have developed a wilderness air quality plan and have identified visibility as the primary wilderness air quality value will be able to claim credit for IMPROVE monitoring providing an IMPROVE monitoring station is operated for the specific purpose of visibility monitoring in that wilderness area.

Link to 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Guidebook (Element 3)

(4) Priority actions identified in a wilderness education plan are implemented.

Key Definitions:

- "implementation": activities identified in the education plan were funded and successfully delivered to the target audience.

- "wilderness education plans": a planning document developed to improve wilderness education efforts, including the definition of key messages, the identification of target audiences and messages, monitoring & evaluation, and a schedule/action plan and budget for implementation, which includes a prioritization of activities.

Counting Instructions:

Score	Accomplishment Level
2	Conduct wilderness education activities without the benefit of a wilderness education plan
4	Develop wilderness education plan, or if existing, review and make necessary modifications
6	Implement priorities identified in wilderness education plan
10	Fully implement wilderness education plan, including an evaluation to determine effectiveness of activities. The plan is modified as needed.

[Link to 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Guidebook (Element 4)](#)

(5) This wilderness has adequate direction, monitoring, and management actions to protect opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.

<u>Key Definitions</u>:

- "adequate direction": goals, objectives, guidelines or standards are present in the forest plan, or supplemental direction, sufficient to protect opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Direction may include, but is not limited to:
    - Group size
    - Encounters
    - Carrying capacity (i.e. PAOT's or campsite density)
    - Access management direction such as trail classes and management objectives
    - Wilderness recreation opportunity classes
    - Presence of permanent improvements or evidence of modern human occupation.
    - Length of stay limits
    - Campsite location (i.e. distance from lakeshore, trail, etc.)
    - Quotas/permit requirements

- "management actions": actions implemented to protect opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, such as group size limits or use limiting permit systems.

- "monitoring": a systematic process of collecting information to evaluate changes in conditions over time and space relative to a predetermined standard or expected norm. Examples of monitoring conducted to evaluate solitude and a primitive or unconfined recreation include: wilderness use levels and patterns (for both the general public and outfitter & guides), trail encounters and campsite occupancy/ encounters.

<u>Counting Instructions</u>:

Score	Accomplishment Level
2	A *protocol* is in place to inventory conditions relative to opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation experiences.

Score	Accomplishment Level (cont.)
4	Current conditions relative to the opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation experiences are *inventoried and evaluated* to develop direction.
6	The Forest Plan contains the needed components to provide *adequate direction* on management of opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation specific to this wilderness. *Conditions are monitored* on the ground and evaluated for compliance with forest plan direction. If monitoring shows that unacceptable levels of degradation exist, appropriate *management actions* are taken. If conditions are stable or improving, no further actions are needed.
8	For areas where current conditions or trends dictate more *specific direction*, indicators are identified and adequate standards or guidelines are developed in a wilderness management plan, in the forest plan, or supplemental direction to protect opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.
10	*Monitoring* provides systematic feedback on how well management actions are working and identifies trends in conditions which may require changes in management actions.

Notes:

1 Units may decide to use the "National Minimum Protocol for Monitoring Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude", updated in May 2014, but they are not required to do so. (http://www.wilderness.net/toolboxes/documents/vum/Minimum%20Protocol%20For%20Monitoring%20Solitude.docx)

2 Other materials supporting the national protocol can be found in the Visitor Use Management Toolbox on Wilderness.net (http://www.wilderness.net/visitoruse)

Link to 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Guidebook (Element 5)

(6) This wilderness has a completed recreation site inventory.

Key Definitions:

- "national site monitoring protocol": a nationally developed protocol which defines the minimally acceptable protocol for accomplishment of this element, as documented in "Recreation Site Monitoring Procedures for Element 6 of the Chief's 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge: Minimum Recreation Site Monitoring Protocol.[1]" This protocol includes a census of sites in all likely locations, and the collection of site coordinates, a condition class rating and recording of the number of administrative developments.

- "recreation site inventory plan": a plan which develops a wilderness-wide strategy for completing an inventory of recreation sites, including documentation of areas without established sites or areas where sites show only very light evidence of use.

- "recreation sites": sites demonstrating observable impacts from repeated wilderness visitation, including campsites and day use sites.

Counting Instructions:

Score	Accomplishment Level
2	A recreation site inventory plan is in place along with a recreation site monitoring protocol – which conforms to the national site monitoring protocol as a minimum
4	A recreation site inventory has been conducted in a portion of the wilderness. The inventory uses a protocol which conforms to the national site monitoring protocol as a minimum – with the exception that all likely sites have not yet been assessed
6	A recreation site inventory has been completed for this wilderness using the recreation site monitoring protocol which conforms to the national site monitoring protocol as a minimum

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Score	Accomplishment Level (cont.)
8	Data collected from the recreation site inventory are entered into Infra-WILD or are in another type of format, such as a database or spreadsheet, which supports subsequent analysis
10	Information generated from the analysis of recreation site inventory data are used routinely to support the local decision making process

Notes:

3   The most recent version of the *Recreation Site Monitoring Procedures for Element 6 of the Chief's 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge: Minimum Recreation Site Monitoring Protocol* may be found at -->
http://www.wilderness.net/toolboxes/documents/recsitemonitor/Element%206F%20guidebook.pdf

Link to 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Guidebook (Element 6)

(7) Existing outfitter & guide operating plans for this wilderness direct outfitters to model appropriate wilderness practices and incorporate awareness for wilderness values in their interaction with clients and others. Needs assessments are completed for new operations or for major changes to existing outfitter programs.

Key Definitions:

- "appropriate wilderness practices": practical conservation techniques designed to minimize impacts of visitors on the wilderness resource.

- "awareness for wilderness values": building an understanding of the need for the preservation of unimpaired conditions, and an awareness of ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value.

- "extent necessary": the extent to which activities may be authorized consistent with maintaining the wilderness character of the area, including whether authorizing the activities would impede the Forest Service's ability to carry out the recreational and other goals of the Wilderness Act. Based on the recent 9th Circuit Court decision, determining the "extent necessary" includes addressing details such as numbers, locations, seasons of use and types of activities.

- "needs assessments": a methodology for determining if, in fact, there is a "need" for private enterprise to assist the Agency in providing access, services and/or other assistance for the recreating public to safely and properly enjoy National Forest wilderness.

Counting Instructions:

Score	Accomplishment Level
4	50% of existing outfitter & guide operating plans for this wilderness direct outfitters to model appropriate wilderness practices and incorporate awareness for wilderness values in their interaction with clients and others.

Score	Accomplishment Level (cont.)
6	All existing outfitter & guide operating plans for this wilderness direct outfitters to model appropriate wilderness practices and incorporate awareness for wilderness values in their interaction with clients and others. New proposals or major changes in existing operations are supported by a current needs assessment that includes an analysis of the extent necessary.
8	Monitoring is conducted on at least 25% of outfitter & guide permittees annually to evaluate if they are implementing appropriate wilderness practices and awareness of wilderness values in their operating plans. Any non-compliance issues are noted in the performance rating and discussed with the outfitter.
10	Monitoring is conducted on all outfitter & guide permittees annually to evaluate if they are implementing appropriate wilderness practices and awareness of wilderness values in their operating plans. Any non-compliance issues are noted in the performance rating and discussed with the outfitter. OR Analysis is completed to determine capacity and allocations for outfitter and guide operations.

Notes:

1. Wildernesses without outfitter & guide permittees explicitly state this by clicking the button on Element 7 of the 10YWSC reporting form in Infra-WILD for "This Wilderness does not have any outfitter and guide permits." These wildernesses are automatically awarded 6-points, which is considered "fully meeting" the element.

Link to 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Guidebook (Element 7)

(8) This wilderness has adequate direction in the Forest Plan to prevent degradation of the wilderness resource.

Key Definitions:

- "adequate direction": goals, objectives, guidelines or standards are present in the forest plan, or supplemental direction, sufficient to protect the wilderness resource. Direction may include, but is not limited to:
    ° Ecological—use of fire, measuring air quality, fish stocking, transplanting wildlife, controlling or preventing invasives, restoring impacted sties, etc.
    ° Public Use—managing recreation use
    ° Wilderness values—educating visitors, interpreting wilderness
    ° Special Provisions—management of structures, permitting outfitters and guides, access to inholdings, etc.
  Type of direction will vary to address specific resource concerns in a particular wilderness. Extent of direction will depend on such things as existing and projected uses, existing conditions and potential threats.

- "degradation of the wilderness resource": the combined effects of actions, or lack of actions, that result in a loss of wilderness character.

- "monitoring": A systematic process of collecting information to evaluate changes in conditions over time and space relative to a predetermined standard or expected norm.

Counting Instructions:

Score	Accomplishment Level
2	A *protocol* is in place to inventory conditions relative to preventing degradation of the wilderness resource.
4	Current conditions relative to degradation of the wilderness resource are *inventoried* and *evaluated* to develop direction.
6	*Adequate direction* exists in the forest plan, or supplemental direction, sufficient to prevent degradation of the wilderness resource.

Score	Accomplishment Level (cont.)
8	Conditions are *monitored* for changes to the resource according to the schedule described in the forest plan monitoring section.
10	If monitoring shows that unacceptable levels of degradation exist, appropriate *management actions* are taken. If conditions are stable or improving, no further actions are needed.

Link to 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Guidebook (Element 8)

(9) The priority information needs for this wilderness have been addressed through field data collection, storage and analysis.

Key Definitions:

- "data collection protocol": the documentation of a standardized approach to field data collection aimed at meeting a specific information need. A data collection protocol typically: prescribes the methods used to collect data; identifies standard field definitions and codes; and addresses data quality assurance procedures. The protocol is written in enough detail that someone unfamiliar with the procedure could repeat the process.

- "priority information needs": a local determination of the most pressing information needed to support effective, long-term wilderness stewardship.

- "information needs assessment": a structured approach for determining data collection, storage and analysis needs by first identifying and prioritizing local management requirements.

Counting Instructions:

Score	Accomplishment Level
2	Inventory and/or monitoring data are collected in the field to address priority management issues, according to methods prescribed in a documented data collection protocol.
4	Data collected from inventory and/or monitoring activities are entered into a database, or other suitable analytical tool (such as a spreadsheet), and analyses are conducted.
6	Information generated from the analysis of field collected data are used routinely to support local decision making

Add 2-points if either the following are applicable or 4-points if both apply:

- Mandatory upward reporting data are entered completely and accurately into Infra-WILD by the mandatory due date.

▪ A structured information needs assessment is completed and is being used to provide direction to local data collection, storage and analysis activities.

Link to 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Guidebook (Element 9)

(10) The wilderness has a baseline workforce in place.[1]

Key Definitions:

- "baseline workforce": the staffing level required to accomplish the tasks necessary for effective wilderness stewardship.

Counting Instructions:

Score	Accomplishment Level
2	Unit meets 50% of the baseline workforce target
4	Unit meets 70% or more of the baseline workforce target
6	Unit meets 100% of the baseline workforce target
8	Unit meets 125% of the baseline workforce target

Add 2-points if the following is applicable:

- Volunteers are used effectively to accomplish "significant work." This is a local determination and should be based on a "more than incidental" commitment of non-paid labor resources to supplement the paid workforce.

Notes:

1. The baseline workforce targets for each wilderness are posted on the 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge website at: http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/rhwr/wilderness/10ywsc/resources/baseline_workforce_targets.xlsx

2. The staffing used in this calculation should include:

   A. All paid Forest Service staff regardless of fund code, including both field-going and office staff. This includes all BLI's (NFRW, CMTL, NFIM), fee funds (FDAS) and any other sources of revenue for funding Forest Service employees. It

includes all types of appointments (PFT, seasonal, etc.) but does not include volunteer (non-paid) resources.

B. The staff that should be counted as part of the baseline workforce are those engaged in "traditional wilderness tasks." These tasks are often documented in a Wilderness Implementation Schedule (FSM 2320.5, #19 and 2322.1) or a similar local program of work. What work counts and what work does not can be reduced down by asking the simple question: is this work being done *for wilderness* or just *in wilderness*?

3. When determining the workforce that should be counted as contributing to "traditional wilderness tasks," consider the following guidelines:

A. Count those staff that we typically think of as wilderness staff, both those that are field-going and office-bound. These staff have wilderness as a part of their job description, even if only as a collateral duty – and they form the core of our "baseline workforce."

B. In addition, count those staff, regardless of their fund source, that are engaged in tasks related to accomplishment of the various elements for the 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge, such as the monitoring of air quality values and treating invasive plants. These staff help manage wilderness to standard.

C. Do not count staff engaged on tasks inside wilderness not on the local program of work, such as fire suppression teams and FIA crews. While this work may well contribute to wilderness stewardship, these staff are not part of the baseline workforce.

4. Two staffing areas likely to cause confusion need to be addressed explicitly:
   o Trail crews – count as part of the baseline workforce. These staff are often the only field wilderness presence we have and typically engage in tasks other than just trail construction and maintenance, such as doing routine monitoring and conducting visitor contacts.
   o Fire-related staff – count only those staff working on tasks on the planned program of work, such as those conducting a prescribed burn. Do not count those responding to an incident, such as a fire suppression effort or wildland fire use event. While wilderness benefits may accrue from these activities, these staff, often from off forest, do not constitute part of the baseline workforce.

Link to 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Guidebook (Element 10)