Strategy I. Reduce Use of the Entire Wilderness

TACTIC 6: MAKE ACCESS MORE DIFFICULT THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE WILDERNESS

PURPOSE
Use levels throughout the wilderness could be reduced if it was more difficult to either reach the wilderness or move about within the wilderness.

DESCRIPTION
Access could be made more difficult by closing some of the access roads and trails, by maintaining them to a lower standard, or by removing bridges. Selective changes in the difficulty of access will also alter internal use distributions (tactic 11).

CURRENT USAGE
Unknown. It is doubtful that access is being made more difficult for this purpose in many areas. Usually access becomes more difficult either because there are insufficient funds to maintain road or trail systems or because access to selected places, rather than to the entire wilderness, is made more difficult.

COSTS TO VISITORS
Low to high. Visitors retain freedom of choice about where they can go, and management presence is subtle. Visitors who are not informed of difficult access may be exposed to undesirable hazards, however. Costs can be high for those visitors who cannot reach the area or desired destinations within the area. Visitors who have been to the area before may be bothered by the changes they encounter.

COSTS TO MANAGEMENT
Low to moderate. The major costs would be information dissemination and, in some cases, road closure, trail reconstruction, etc. In the long run, reduced maintenance could create problems that would be costly to correct.

EFFECTIVENESS
This technique could be effective in reducing use and, therefore, reducing problems, particularly with crowding, human waste, and wildlife disturbance.

COMMENTS
Visitor dissatisfaction should not be severe if there are other areas in the vicinity in which access is easier. Visitor acceptance of this technique is divided.

SOURCES