Strategy VIII. Maintain or Rehabilitate the Resource

**TACTIC 37: MAINTAIN OR REHABILITATE IMPACTED LOCATIONS**

**PURPOSE**
To maintain or rehabilitate places that have been damaged by human use.

**DESCRIPTION**
Both trails and campsites can either be maintained and improved while in use or closed and rehabilitated. Trails can be rebuilt, drainage improved, eroded material replaced, etc. Campsites can be seeded or receive transplants, have rocks and logs replaced, soil added or organic material restored, and so on.

**CURRENT USAGE**
Common. Trails are maintained in essentially all wildernesses. Few areas maintain campsites, other than to clean up and dismantle fire rings—a very common practice—or to remove litter (tactic 36). Assisted rehabilitation of closed trails and campsites is infrequent, but becoming increasingly common.

**COSTS TO VISITORS**
Low. Costs are incurred only when a favorite site is closed. This cost can be offset by providing attractive alternative sites that can readily be found and by providing clear reasons for the closures.

**COSTS TO MANAGEMENT**
Moderate to high. Costs depend on the number of trails or sites that must be maintained or rehabilitated. Many areas have used volunteers to reduce costs.

**EFFECTIVENESS**
This technique can be effective, at least in the long term, but problems will recur unless the causes of problems are also dealt with. In many situations rehabilitation will require very long periods of time.

**COMMENTS**
Ongoing maintenance of both trails and campsites may be necessary, particularly where use levels are high. It would be best to develop a strategy for avoiding trail and campsite deterioration problems before investing in a program of closure and rehabilitation (refer to other tactics for dealing with trail and campsite deterioration problems).

**SOURCES**