

WILDERNESS QUIZ for 2014



1. On Sept 3, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act. What other landmark bill for American culture did he sign that same summer, just a little earlier, of which we'll also celebrate the 50th anniversary this year--bigtime?
 2. On the same day – at the same session in the Rose Garden – that he signed the Wilderness Act, President Lyndon Johnson signed one other bill that has proved important for preserving lands—what was this other legislation?
 3. Who introduced the first Wilderness bill into the U.S. Congress, and what year?
 4. What is the only wilderness area in our country that is not in any state?
 5. How many different states achieved some wilderness in the original act in 1964 and how many different areas, in total, were then established?
 6. Of the states that got wilderness in the original act, how many are not in the “West”, and which are they?
 7. What state got the most wilderness areas in the original act signed in 1964?
 8. What state has the largest number of wilderness areas now?
 9. Which state has the second highest number of wilderness areas?
 10. What state has the most actual wilderness, by acreage, rather than number of different areas?
 11. How many states in our country now have wilderness?
 12. Which are the states that have NO federal wilderness now?
 13. How many different federal agencies manage wilderness, and what are they?
 14. Which is the only Lower-48 *Western* state that did not get any wilderness in 1964?
 15. Of the states which have wilderness now, which was the LAST to get any?
 16. Only five states have wilderness managed by each of the 4 agencies -- which are they? (hint, they must be in the West since the East does not have BLM lands.) And--in those five states, only TWO counties seem to contain lands managed by all four—which are these counties? Of those states that now have wilderness, which was the last to achieve any?
 17. Which four states have only ONE wilderness area each, and what is the (coincidental) similarity among three of these four wilderness areas?
 18. Which is the largest wilderness area in our country, about how big, and in which state?
 19. Which is the smallest wilderness area in our country, about how big, and in which state?
 20. California is one of very few states that, inspired by the federal system, established its own STATE wilderness system. How many state wildernesses do we have in California, and can you name three?
 21. In California, so far (by May 1) how many cities and counties have passed resolutions or issued proclamations honoring the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, and which are they?
 22. Which was the first state to issue a proclamation honoring the Wilderness Act anniversary?
 23. Who chiefly wrote the Wilderness Act?
 24. What is the oddest, least understood, and possibly most significant word in the Wilderness Act? Why?
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Answers to Quiz Questions:

1. The Civil Rights Act, signed in July, 1964
2. The bill establishing the Land and Water Conservation Fund—that has enabled public acquisition of many key lands important to protecting wilderness, watersheds, and wildlife.
3. Senator Hubert Humphrey, D-MN, in 1956.
4. The El Toro Wilderness in El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico
5. 13 states, and there was a total of 54 areas..
6. Three states were not in the west: Minnesota, New Hampshire, and North Carolina.
7. California – with 13 areas
8. California—which now has 149 areas
9. Arizona—with 90 areas.
10. Alaska—by far
11. Forty-four.
12. Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Iowa, and Kansas.
13. Four agencies—Forest Service, National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management.
14. Utah
15. Pennsylvania. (Not till 1984)
16. (Pima County in Arizona (around Tucson) and San Bernardino County in California are likely the only two counties in the entire nation that have wilderness areas managed by each of the four federal wilderness agencies. [There appear to be only 5 states - WA, CA, AZ, NM and CO - so to have a county with all 4, it would have to be in one of those states.]
17. Ohio, Massachusetts, and New York each have only one wilderness area -- which is an island—in Ohio's case, a small island in Lake Erie. For New York, it's a barrier island off the Long Island coast; for Massachusetts it's a barrier island just off Cape Cod—in the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge. Indiana also has one wilderness area only, the Charles C. Deam, south of Indianapolis.
18. The Wrangell-Saint Elias Wilderness in Alaska has a total of 9,078,675 acres.
19. The Pelican Island Wilderness in Florida has a total of 6 acres (5.5 acres, technically).
20. There are 12 state wildernesses in California: Anza Borrego Desert, Boney Mountain, Bull Creek, Cuyamaca Mountain, Henry W. Coe (Orestimba), Limekiln, Mount San Jacinto, Murrelet, Redwood Heritage, Santa Rosa Mountains, Sinkyone, West Waddell Creek.
21. Four counties plus five cities— Counties: Lake, Sonoma, Kern, San Luis Obispo. Cities: Bakersfield, Vallejo, Berkeley, Los Angeles, San Francisco. (But, San Francisco is a city and county all in one.)
22. Nevada, in 2013—as their state legislature meets only every other year. Their proclamation interestingly combined honor to the Wilderness Act with honor to the Civil Rights Act.
23. Howard Zahniser, longtime Executive Secretary of The Wilderness Society. (who dedicated his life to this project but unfortunately died several months before the Act was signed.)
24. Untrammeled. It conveys the essence of wilderness character—self-willed, uncontrolled land. Too many people think the word means untrampled, untrodden. It does not. It means uncontrolled or unmanipulated, unrestrained, from the original meaning of a trammel, as a kind of hobble for a horse or a net to confine fish. ##