Wilderness Character Monitoring
Wilderness Character Monitoring in the FS

• **Background on WCM in the FS:**
  - Conducted pilot testing in every FS Region (2006)
  - Developed proposal for nationwide implementation (2007)
  - Published **Technical Guide for Monitoring Selected Conditions Related to Wilderness Character** (2009)
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- **Recent National Activities:**
  - “Top down” approach to WCM deferred – agency focus put into 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge
  - Developed *Applying the Concept of Wilderness Character to National Forest Planning, Monitoring and Management*
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• **Recent Regional & Forest Activities:**
  - **Region 1 (Northern Region)**
    • Have developed assessment for Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn WSA and currently applying protocol in Selway-Bitterroot & Mission Mountains Wildernesses
  - **Region 2 (Rocky Mountain Region)**
    • Have established trends in Holy Cross Wilderness
  - **Region 10 (Alaska Region)**
    • Currently developing regionally consistent protocol for application across 19 wildernesses in Region
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• **Looking Ahead:**
  - WCM Team met in Missoula last week to develop recommendations for revisions to FS protocol
  - Plan to revise FS Technical Guide in FY 2013
  - Will start discussion group on Wilderness.Connect
  - Anticipate phased roll-out in FY 2014 - with national implementation in FY 2015
  - Establishment of WC baseline will likely become one element in new performance measure
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Questions?

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