

# National Park Service Wilderness Planning Policy

Excerpts from Management Policy 2006, Director's Order 41, and Reference Manual 41

## NPS Management Policy 2006

### 6.3.4.2 Wilderness Management Planning

The superintendent of each park containing wilderness resources will develop and maintain a wilderness management plan or equivalent planning document to guide the preservation, management, and use of these resources. The wilderness management plan will identify desired future conditions, as well as establish indicators, standards, conditions, and thresholds beyond which management actions will be taken to reduce human impacts on wilderness resources.

The park's wilderness management plan may be developed as a separate document or as an action component of another planning document. Whether prepared as a stand-alone plan or as part of another planning document, all wilderness management plans must meet the same standards for process and content as specified in this section 6.3.4. Wilderness management plans will be supported by appropriate documentation of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. The plan will be developed with public involvement and will contain specific, measurable management objectives that address the preservation and management of natural and cultural resources within wilderness as appropriate to achieve the purposes of the Wilderness Act and other legislative requirements.

## Director's Order 41: Wilderness Stewardship

### 6.3 Wilderness Planning

For every designated Wilderness, a Wilderness Stewardship Plan will guide management actions to preserve wilderness character. Parks should notify the WASO Wilderness Stewardship Division Chief and work with their Regional Wilderness Coordinator during the Wilderness Stewardship Planning process. Parks with lands determined to be eligible, proposed, or recommended should also develop plans to preserve wilderness character. Wilderness Stewardship Plans should be completed within two years of designation, subject to funding. Preservation of wilderness character will be incorporated into appropriate sections of park planning and management documents. Also see *Management Policies 2006*, Section 6.3.4.2.

## Reference Manual 41: Wilderness Stewardship

### 6. Wilderness Stewardship

6.3 – Keeping It Wild in the NPS: Integrating Wilderness Character into Park Planning, Management, & Monitoring (2014) [*pending accessibility remediation*]

6.4 – National Park Service Wilderness Stewardship Plan Handbook (2014) [*pending accessibility remediation*]