Wilderness America’s Enduring Resource

WILDERNESS PLANNING
Interagency Regional Wilderness Stewardship Training
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Suzanne Stutzman
Lead Planner/Wilderness Coordinator
National Park Service, Intermountain Region

Peter Landres
Ecologist
Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute
OVERVIEW

• Why do we plan?
• Principles of wilderness planning
• Main ingredients
• Planning process
• Assessing the outcome (monitoring wilderness character)
WHY DO WE PLAN?

Change is inevitable
WHY DO WE PLAN?

2006

2026 and beyond

Protect wilderness character
WHY DO WE PLAN?

Public participation
Build advocates
WHY DO WE PLAN?

A. Future?

B. Existing condition

C. Roadmap to achieve vision
**PRINCIPLES OF WILDERNESS PLANNING**

1. Plan comprehensively

2. A spectrum of settings serves the widest array of interests
PRINCIPLES OF WILDERNESS PLANNING

3. Human activities – primary cause of change, target of planning

4. Wilderness areas affected by humans aren’t self-limiting – action is required
PRINCIPLES OF WILDERNESS PLANNING

5. Plan early – hard to fix problems later

6. Apply minimum requirements thought process to proposed actions

7. Involve the public
MAIN INGREDIENTS OF A PLAN

- Overall goals and objectives
- Desired conditions (prescriptive zones)
- Indicators and standards
- Monitoring protocol
- Management actions
  - Now
  - Future
**FRAMEWORK**

**Desired Character**
What are we trying to protect? What is significant about the area?

**Establish Indicators & Standards**
What is acceptable versus unacceptable impact? What conditions would trigger corrective management action?

**Monitoring**
How will change be measured? What is the status and trend of conditions?

**Management Actions**
What will be done to maintain acceptable conditions and correct unacceptable conditions?
SET OVERALL OBJECTIVES

• Identify what is most significant about THIS wilderness

• Set overall objectives
  – Wilderness Act
  – Overall agency policy
  – Apply law and policy to a broad vision for THIS wilderness
**PRESCRIPTIONS OR ZONES**

Management Area Prescriptions (USFS)
- Desired conditions for natural environment, human environment, management actions
- Standards for infrastructure, management
- Indicators such as capacity (people at one time), campsite conditions, campsite density, encounters, crowding, dogs under control, soils/vegetation condition

Types (USFS):
- Pristine wilderness
- Primitive wilderness
- Semi-primitive wilderness

NPS does not have standardized zones – custom – similarly address resource conditions, visitor experience conditions, and administrative and management activities
**MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

**NOW** – actions that are already or will be put into place upon approval of the plan

**FUTURE** – actions that may be taken if monitoring shows that indicators and standards have been exceeded

**Management Topics**
- Interpretation and Education
- Permits
- Trails
- Signs
- Dogs
- Camping
- Fires
- Human waste
- Climbing
- Research
- Noxious weeds
- Stock
- Wildfire
- Grazing
- Fish stocking
- Commercial use...etc.

Note: Monitoring will be more fully addressed at the end of this presentation
PLANNING PROCESS

1. Establish relationship with other plans

**BLM** – Resource Management Plan

**NPS** – General Management Plan, management plans for fire, resources, visitor use

**USFS** – Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

**USFWS** – Comprehensive Conservation Plan, management plans for public use, fire, grasslands
PLANNING PROCESS

2. Assemble interdisciplinary team

3. Internal scoping – identify
   - Preliminary issues and opportunities
   - Agencies, American Indian tribes, stakeholders, public
   - Data needs
   - Work plan
PLANNING PROCESS

4. Collect critical data
   - Campsite inventories
   - Conditions assessments
   - Visitor surveys
   - Visitation numbers
   - Etc.

5. Scope with the public
   - Gather ideas and concerns
   - newsletters, public meetings
PLANNING PROCESS

6. Set overall goals and objectives
   - significance of THIS wilderness and its character
   - vision for the future

7. Select/develop prescriptions or zones

8. Develop alternatives – apply zones

9. Analyze Impacts
PLANNING PROCESS

10. Draft plan/EA or EIS with public involvement

11. Final plan/EA or EIS

12. Implement and assess the outcome
HOW TO ASSESS THE OUTCOMES OF WILDERNESS PLANNING?

BY MONITORING TRENDS IN WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Forest Health

Recreation

Ecological Restoration
WHY MONITOR WILDERNESS CHARACTER?

Wilderness Act of 1964

• Statement of Policy, Section 2(a):
  “a National Wilderness Preservation System...shall be administered...so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character”

• Use of Wilderness Areas, Section 4(b):
  “each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area”
THE WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT MODEL
FS Wilderness Management Policy – FSM 2320.6

“...protect and perpetuate wilderness character...”

Wilderness Character

Pristine - Absolute wilderness

Wilderness “X” at time of designation

Human Influence
STATEMENT OF NEED

• The phrase “wilderness character” has never been sufficiently defined to monitor management success at preserving it

• Many wilderness managers sense that wilderness character is degrading in the areas they manage

• Managers and line officers need a tool to assess their accomplishments in fulfilling agency policy and planning to preserve wilderness character

• Need an integrated view of how what is unique about wilderness is changing over time
Wilderness America’s Enduring Resource

PURPOSE OF THIS MONITORING:

Improve wilderness stewardship by providing information on trends in key national indicators that tie directly to the statutory requirements of the 1964 Wilderness Act, subsequent wilderness legislation, and agency wilderness policy to “preserve wilderness character.”
OVERVIEW:

Monitoring Selected Conditions Related to Wilderness Character: A National Framework

Peter Landres, Steve Boucher, Linda Merigilano, Chris Bars, Denis Davis, Troy Hall, Steve Henry, Brad Hunter, Patrice Janiga, Mark Laker, Al McPherson, Douglas S. Powell, Mike Rowan, Susan Sater
QUALITIES OF WILDERNESS CHARACTER

• “Untrammeled”

“...an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man...”

and

“...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.”

Wilderness is essentially unhindered and free from modern human control or manipulation
QUALITIES OF WILDERNESS CHARACTER

• “Untrammeled”

• “Natural”

“...is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions.”

Wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization
QUALITIES OF WILDERNESS CHARACTER

• “Untrammeled”
• “Natural”
• “Undeveloped”

“...an area of undeveloped Federal land...without permanent improvement or human habitation”

and

“...where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

Wilderness is essentially without permanent improvements or modern occupation
QUALITIES OF WILDERNESS CHARACTER

• “Untrammeled”
• “Natural”
• “Undeveloped”

• “Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation”

Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for people to experience solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, including the values of inspiration and physical and mental challenge.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wilderness Character</th>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Measure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural</td>
<td>Untrammeled</td>
<td>Manipulations</td>
<td>Actions</td>
<td># management actions that manipulate</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td># fires suppressed</td>
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<td></td>
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<td># lakes stocked</td>
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<td>Threats</td>
<td>Air pollutants</td>
<td>N100 ozone concentration</td>
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<td>W126 ozone concentration</td>
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<td>mg/l sulfur concentration</td>
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<td>mg/l nitrogen concentration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dams</td>
<td># dams</td>
<td># dams</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non-indigenous species</td>
<td>% acres non-indigenous invasive plants</td>
<td># non-indigenous species</td>
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<td>Biophysical conditions</td>
<td>Visual air quality</td>
<td>μm fine nitrate and sulfate</td>
<td>Deciview</td>
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<td>Undeveloped</td>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Physical evidence</td>
<td>Index of physical evidence</td>
<td># mechanical transport use days</td>
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<td>Motorized and mechanical uses</td>
<td>Use authorizations</td>
<td># motorized equipment use days</td>
<td># acres inholdings</td>
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<td># acres away from travel routes</td>
<td># acres inholdings</td>
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<td>Outstanding Opportunities</td>
<td>Solitude</td>
<td>Remoteness</td>
<td># visiting parties (Option 1a)</td>
<td># NVUM visits per wilderness</td>
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<td>Visitors</td>
<td># users residing in service area (Option 1b)</td>
<td># NVUM visits per wilderness</td>
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<td># developed trail miles</td>
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<td>Index of visitor restrictions</td>
<td>Index of visitor restrictions</td>
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Monitoring Framework - GO TO:

• http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=WC

• http://leopold.wilderness.net/research/fprojects/F014.htm
  • National Framework Publication
  • Executive Summary
  • Frequently Asked Questions
  • Table of Qualities, Questions, Indicators, Measures
  • Technical Guide (when completed)
  • Pilot Testing Results
  • Implementation Plan
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wilderness Management
Wilderness Management: Stewardship and Protection of Resources and Values, by J. C. Hendee, Chad P. Dawson

Look for training
http://carhart.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=courses
WHY DO WE PLAN?

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Protect wilderness character

2026 and beyond