



**Wilderness**



**America's  
Enduring  
Resource**



# ***WILDERNESS PLANNING***

**Interagency Regional Wilderness Stewardship Training  
Alamosa, Colorado - March 26-29, 2007**

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## ***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**



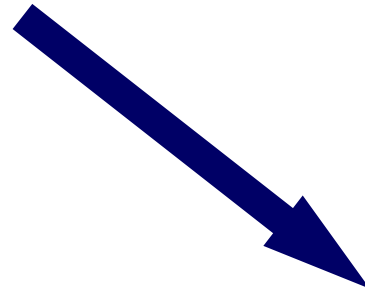
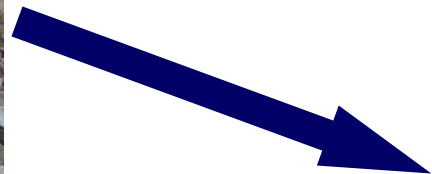
## WHY DO WE PLAN?



Existing condition



Future?



Roadmap to achieve vision

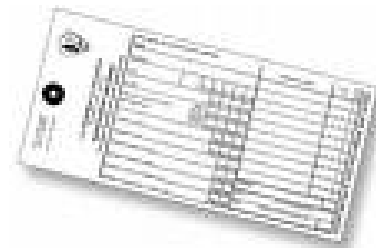
A.



B.



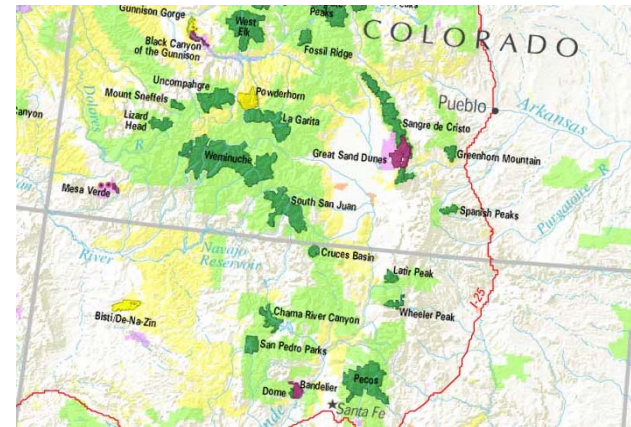
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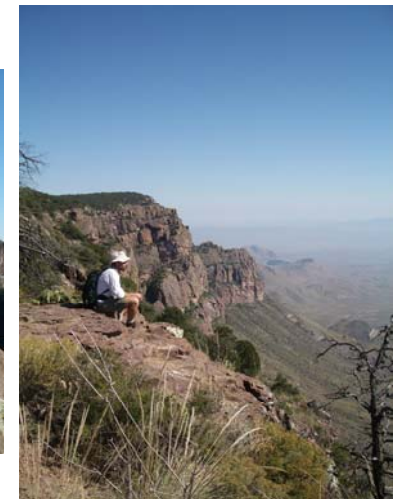


## ***PRINCIPLES OF WILDERNESS PLANNING***

### 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?



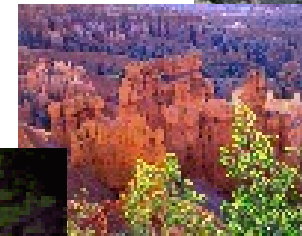
### **Management Actions**

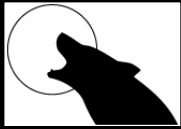
What will be done to maintain acceptable conditions  
and correct unacceptable conditions?



## 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

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

### **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.



## PLANNING PROCESS

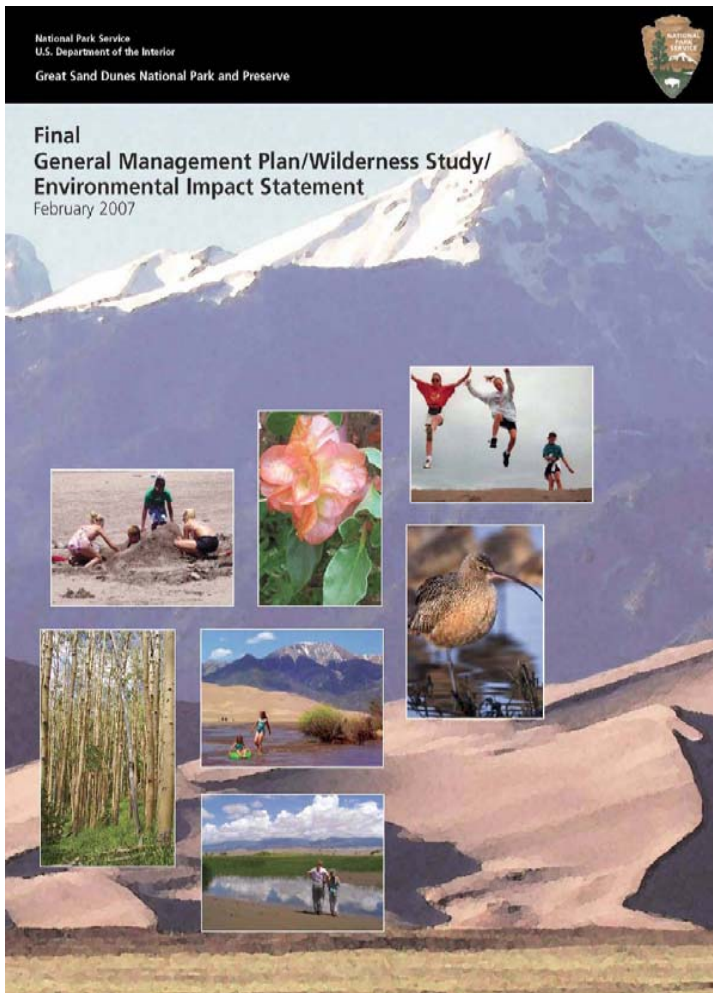
### 1. Establish relationship with other plans

**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***

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rocky Mountain National Park  
Colorado



### **Backcountry/Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment**

July 2001



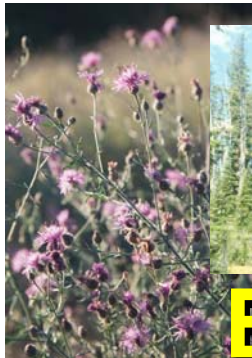
10. Draft plan/EA or EIS  
with public involvement

11. Final plan/EA or EIS

**12. Implement and  
assess the outcome**



## HOW TO ASSESS THE OUTCOMES OF WILDERNESS PLANNING?



Forest Health



Inholdings

# BY MONITORING TRENDS IN WILDERNESS CHARACTER



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*”

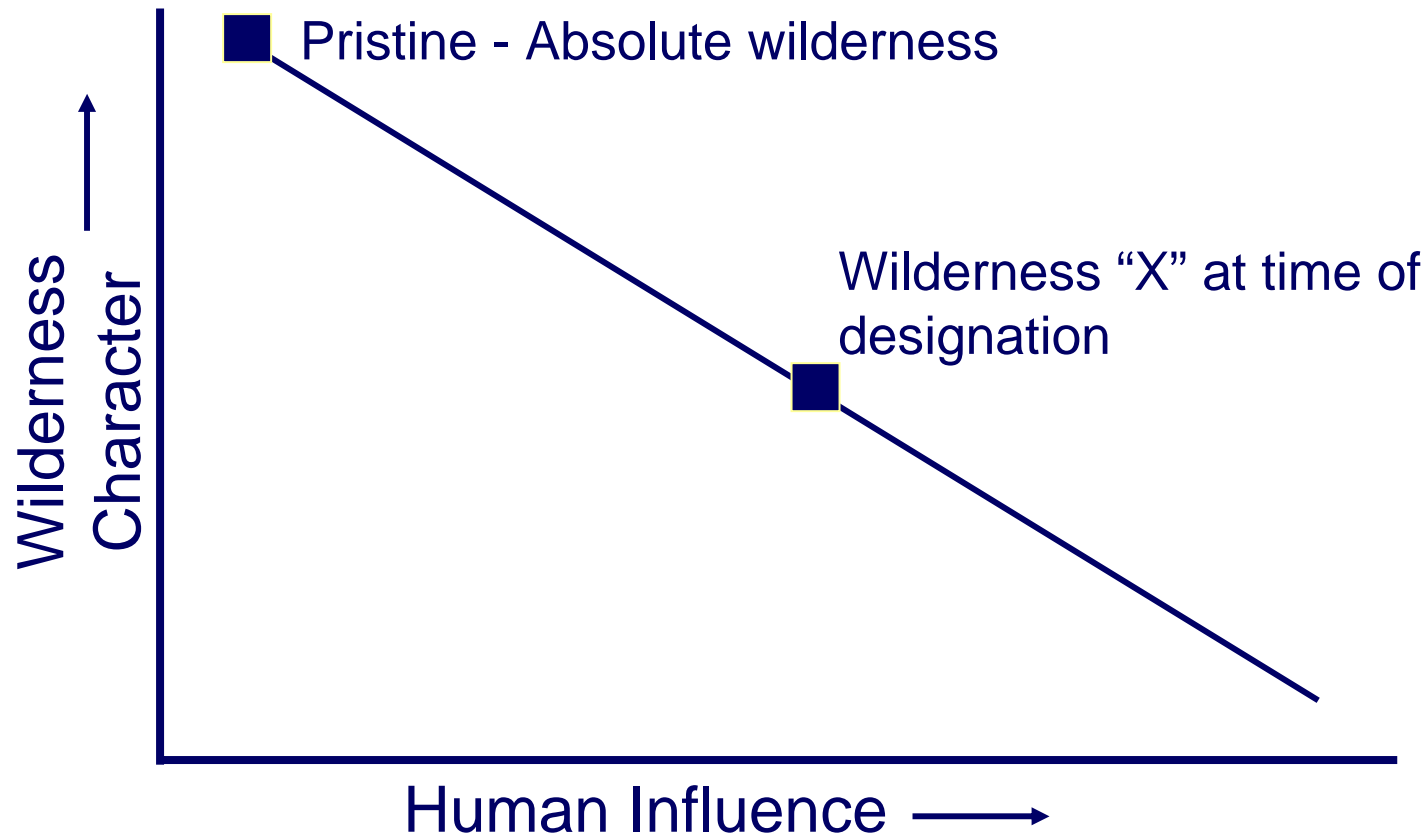
- Use of Wilderness Areas, Section 4(b):

“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...”**





## ***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



## ***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.”**



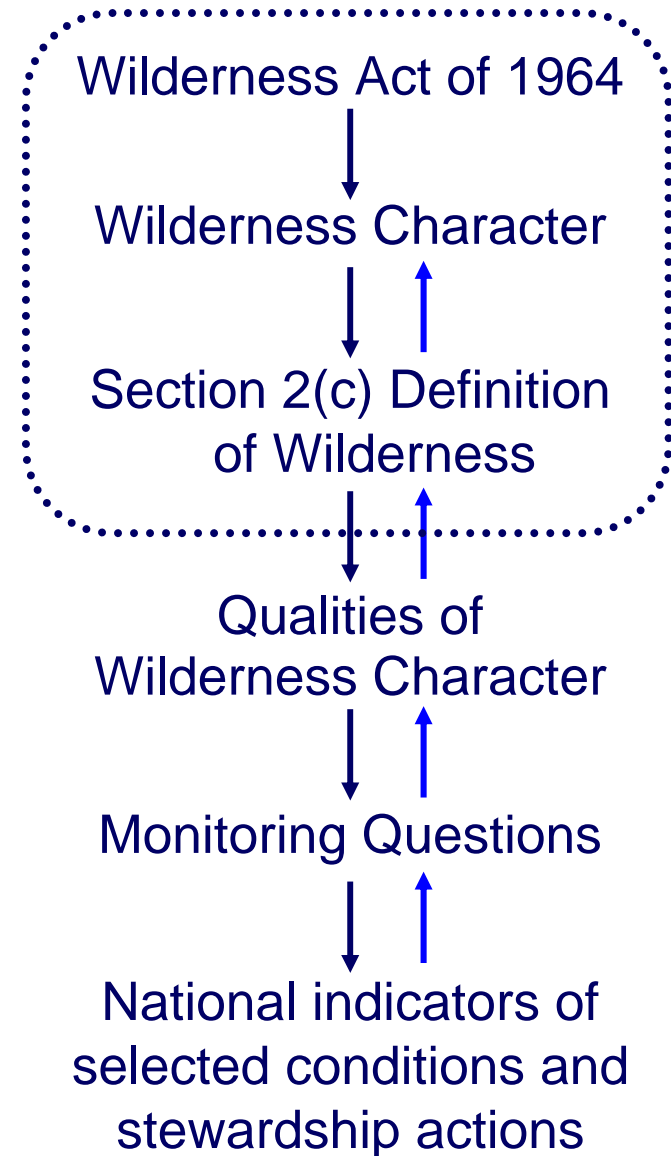


## OVERVIEW:

**USDA** United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Rocky Mountain Research Station  
General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-151  
April 2005

**Monitoring Selected Conditions Related to Wilderness Character: A National Framework**

Peter Landres, Steve Boutcher, Linda Merigliano, Chris Barns, 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.”

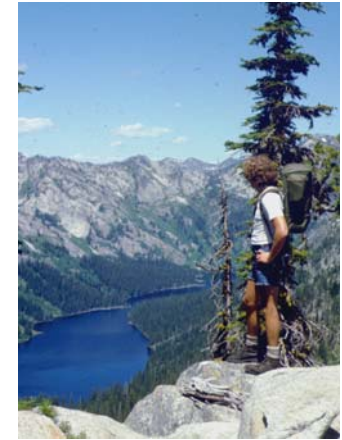


**Wilderness is essentially without permanent improvements or modern occupation**



## 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**





# Wilderness



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## QUALITIES, QUESTIONS, INDICATORS, MEASURES

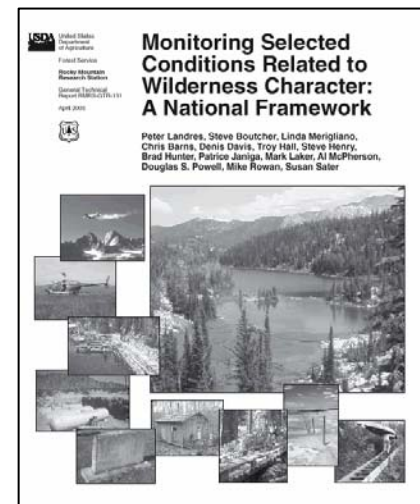
	Quality	Question	Indicator	Measure
Wilderness Character	Untrammeled	Manipulations	Actions	# management actions that manipulate
				# fires suppressed
				# lakes stocked
	Natural	Threats	Air pollutants	N100 ozone concentration
				W126 ozone concentration
				mg/l sulfur concentration
				mg/l nitrogen concentration
		Dams	# dams	
		Non-indigenous species	% acres non-indigenous invasive plants	
			# other non-indigenous species	
	Biophysical conditions	Visual air quality	# grazing allotments	
			µm fine nitrate and sulfate	
			Deciview	
	Undeveloped	Occupation	Physical evidence	# extirpated species
		Motorized and mechanical uses	Use authorizations	Index of physical evidence
				# mechanical transport use days
	Inholdings	Inholdings	# motorized equipment use days	
Outstanding Opportunities	Solitude	Remoteness	# acres inholdings	
			Visitors	# acres away from travel routes
				# visiting parties (Option 1a)
	Primitive	Facilities		# users residing in service area (Option 1b)
			Trails	# NVUM visits per wilderness
		Unconfined	Restrictions	Index of recreation facilities
			# developed trail miles	
			Index of visitor restrictions	



## ***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

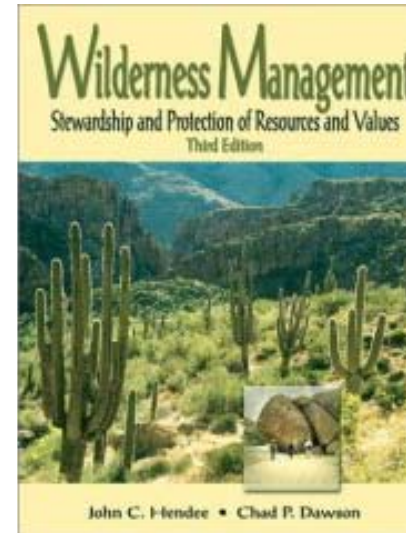




## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### 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?***



**2006**



**2026 and beyond**

**Protect wilderness character**