

# Visitor Use Management in Wilderness: Indirect and Direct Methods

## Visitor Use Management in Wilderness

### Indirect and Direct Methods

**INDIRECT** – Emphasis on influencing or modifying use and/or behavior. Individual retains freedom to choose. Control less complete, more variation in use possible.

1. Physical design and alterations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve, maintain, or neglect access roads.</li><li>• Improve, maintain, or neglect campsites.</li><li>• Make trails more or less difficult.</li><li>• Build trails or leave areas trail-less.</li><li>• Improve fish or wildlife populations or take no action (stock, allow depletion, or elimination)</li></ul>
2. Information and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information to redistribute use.</li><li>• Advertise recreation opportunities in surrounding areas, outside wilderness.</li><li>• Leave No Trace education programs.</li><li>• Advertise underused areas and patterns of use.</li></ul>
3. Entry and eligibility requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Charge constant visitor fee.</li><li>• Charge different fees by trail zones, season, and entry points.</li><li>• Require proof of wilderness knowledge and/or skills (or group permits).</li></ul>

DIRECT – Emphasis on regulation of behavior. Individual choice restricted.  
High in degree of control.

1. Increased enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impose fines.</li> <li>• Increase surveillance of area (wilderness ranger presence).</li> </ul>
2. Zoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate incompatible uses (hiker only zones, areas with stock use).</li> <li>• Prohibit use at times of high damage potential (ex. No stock use in high meadows until dry, approx. July 1).</li> <li>• Limit camping with setbacks from water or other features.</li> </ul>
3. Rationing Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotate use (open or close access points, trails, campsites).</li> <li>• Require reservations.</li> <li>• Assign campsites and/or travel routes to each camper group.</li> <li>• Limit usage via access points.</li> <li>• Group or party size limits.</li> <li>• Limit camping to designated campsites only.</li> <li>• Limit length of stay in area (max./min.).</li> </ul>
4. Restrictions on activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibit certain types of use.</li> <li>• Restrict building campfires.</li> <li>• Restrict certain recreation activities.</li> </ul>
<p>Source: <u>Wilderness Management</u>, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Hende and Dawson, 2002.</p>	