

WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP
Wilderness Research Center
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INTRODUCTION

Please read over these issues and potential management actions. As you do this, please develop one question that you would like to ask the Chief of the Forest Service during the final session. Remember, the Chief will respond and then any participant may respond to the Chief's comments. Here is a great opportunity for dialogue.

In keeping with the conference's goal, here is one more opportunity to participate. Thank you for your efforts.

YOUR QUESTION:

CRITICAL WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

ISSUE: Conflicts with legal commodity uses in Wilderness (mining, oil & gas leasing, grazing)

- Oil and gas applications submitted prior to 12/31/83 within Wilderness areas will be issued with no surface occupancy stipulations or denied, assuring that all interested parties are thoroughly informed.
- Utilize all forms of involvement to achieve high level of public involvement and education, assuring that all interested and potentially interested parties are contacted and involved.
- Accelerate validations on all claims of record as of 1/1/84 and utilize NEPA process to determine reasonable access, site protection and adequate monitoring. Objective will be to emphasize short term occupancy and minimal space occupied and disturbed.
- Allow no expansion into areas now ungrazed and outside existing allotments, assure livestock operations are in balance with range forage capabilities, and work with permittees to achieve cooperative Wilderness protection.

ISSUE: Developing qualified Wilderness management professionals

- Have O.P.M. broaden a professional series (e.g. 012, outdoor recreational planner) to include Wilderness management and ensure entry level and a career ladder to upper level management. Encourage universities to develop Wilderness management curricula.
- Support legislation to fund training in Wilderness management.
- Add Wilderness management into all position descriptions of all personnel involved in Wilderness management. Develop internal training program in-house personnel and evaluate performance.
- Encourage broad-based workshops in Wilderness management to involve all users of the resource.

ISSUE: Providing adequate buffers for wilderness areas

- Incorporate through the land management planning process direction toward managing those lands and activities adjacent to the Wilderness boundaries to protect, enhance and/or blend the two management concepts where the need exists.
- The Wilderness is zoned with the buffer being provided inside the Wilderness boundary.
- No action.

ISSUE: Keeping Wilderness Act philosophy in governmental policy and regulations.

- Create a national interagency steering committee for clarifying and interpreting policy (includes representation from user interest areas).
- Training on implementation of policy regulations as established by steering committee.
- Research to identify patterns in Wilderness policy interpretation between Wilderness areas.
- Workshops, seminars on key policy issues to identify actions, communicate needs upward (local/regional levels).

ISSUE: The lack of established baseline data on key social and biological indicators and the lack of monitoring social and biological change over time has resulted in poor management action.

- Public involvement and continuing information and education to develop a plan to inventory social and biological data to develop management direction.
- Develop a comprehensive management plan for each Wilderness area, including national guidelines for data collection.
- Develop creative methods of data collection, including input from users, special interest groups and publics using the wilderness.
- Establish monitoring process for the key social and biological elements.

ISSUE: Obtaining recognition that recreation is not the only reason for Wilderness

- Make Wilderness resource a separate administrative category from recreation (write as on guidelines and regulations and wilderness management plan and make it a separate element in the budgeting planning and programming process; i.e., in various agency situations develop a budget process allowing acres of successfully managed Wilderness as an output.
- Develop interpretive programs for the various publics to gain understanding of Wilderness as a resource.
- In-service education (agency-wide) program on the values of Wilderness as a resource.
- Support the development of a specific professional Civil Service series for Wilderness managers.

ISSUE: Maintaining Wilderness values as visitor use increases

- Determining carrying capacity and/or limits of acceptable change accompanied by a responsive monitoring system, in the management plan.
- Public and staff education on and off site, i.e. (a) No-trace camping, (b) policy, (c) management plans.
- Redistributing or limiting use — by quantity, length of stay, season & area. Reservation system, closures and additional trails are some means.

-Coordination between agencies within a regional area.

ISSUE: Implementing biocentric emphasis in Wilderness management

- Develop national Wilderness policy statement with preservation as top priority.
- Direct managers to accept Wilderness as a valuable resource (i.e., performance ratings, targets).
- Preservation: Visitor education vs. Berlin Wall approach.
- Review existing management to determine degree of biocentricity.

ISSUE: Identifying and prioritizing premier Wilderness values

- Limit actions (activities) to those which ensure the long term perpetuation of Wilderness attributes (recognizing that use or impacts may occur which affect these attributes but can be limited before they cause irreversible or significant effect).
- Develop a framework for planning using a local task force made up of concerned agencies and user groups to identify premier values based on constituencies and resource values for each specific area or block of areas.
- Zone for people uses to show, and thus limit use, for portal, transition and pristine situations so managers will not allow incremental changes as a result of growing use pressures of reaction to minority or short sighted desires.
- Monitor to determine changing condition caused by man's activities which would incrementally alter Wilderness values or attributes.

ISSUE: Managing user impacts adjacent to water bodies

- Increase the interdisciplinary capabilities of resource managers by requiring additional education and training in the ecology of riparian zones.
- Manage sites and access to and through riparian zones via permit systems, closures, relocation and experience level of trails and camping areas, reorientation of external access and facilities, designation of campsites, revegetation of impacted areas and rotation of campsites.
- Educate the public to understand the sensitivity and importance of riparian areas through the use of brochures, on and off-site presentations, national media, signing at the trailheads and ranger contacts.

ISSUE: Developing consistent management philosophy and Wilderness concept between agencies with different backgrounds and perspectives as well as user groups with different perspectives and philosophies.

- Public education by agencies explaining differences in enabling legislation.
- Modification of regulations/policies and joint management plans, utilizing Wilderness workshops to set goals and objectives.
- Establish a national policy for Wilderness coordination meetings among the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Park Service, Fish and Wild Life Service. The meeting will be conducted on national, regional, and local levels at least once a year, with more frequent meetings as necessary.
- Establish an interagency Wilderness management training program, similar to the interagency fire management training at Marana, AZ.

ISSUE: Standardizing classification of Wilderness areas along a management continuum.

- No standardization — continue with individual management plans (allows flexibility for local manager).
- Manage all Wilderness areas to one standard as prescribed under the Wilderness Act (establish one national policy).
- Establish an interagency/interdiscipline study group to formulate a proposed national policy using the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.
- Make an interagency decision and begin implementation.

ISSUE: Controlling entry into Wilderness area

- Fees for Wilderness access
- Resource manipulation (access modification opportunities).
- Restrict use (season, type, methods, quotas).
- Develop a national environmental awareness through educational institutions.

ISSUE: Overuse of key attractions within Wilderness

- Implement fees for Wilderness to make Wilderness more competitive in the budgeting process, i.e., differential pricing within Wilderness (distributer use) by area, site, season, etc.; and no charge for adjoining non-Wilderness public lands with similar attributes.
- Implement a permit system, i.e., entry, destination.
- Promote similar attractions outside Wilderness.
- Influence destination, i.e. public education, signing, access, commodity distribution (ex.: fish stocking).

ISSUE: Determining physical, biological and social carrying capacity and managing for that capacity

- National direction to reemphasize the need to determine carrying capacity as an integral component of Wilderness management plan.
- Establish a national task force to develop a flexible, interagency model for collecting and analysing information to determine carrying capacity that recognizes local variation.
- Determine guidelines to define limits of acceptable change for each area in the NWPS.
- A special clearinghouse on current management plans and research on carrying capacity using existing information dispersal systems.

ISSUE: Educating the public to understand the concepts of Wilderness and proper use of Wilderness

- To develop a national interagency policy and public education plan on the Wilderness concept and the proper use thereof. (Policy and plan will be prepared by an interagency coordinating group and a representative Wilderness citizens' group.)
- To develop an interagency coordinated training program at the national level to teach Wilderness managers, public affairs personnel, and others to disseminate and prepare information for the public. The program is to include creation of regional interagency Wilderness ranger academies.