

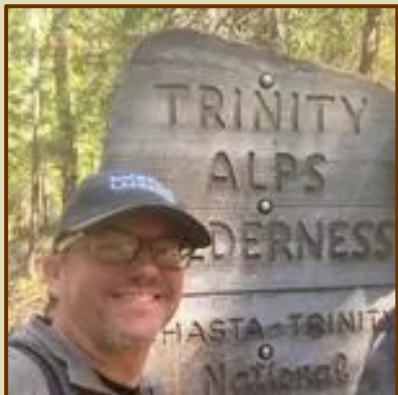
Wilderness Trails: *Special Places,* *Special Considerations*



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inelson@pcta.org p: 541-778-3252

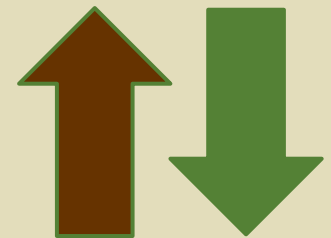
OBJECTIVES:

- Provide some basic Wilderness information, including:
 - Wilderness Act, NWPS, stats then-and-now, designation;
 - priorities for Wilderness stewards (agencies, partners, volunteers).
- Provide basic information & considerations for trails in Wilderness.
- Provide information on learning resources for Wilderness & Wilderness trails.
- Provide some recent, real-life examples of Wilderness trail-work: maintenance, management, (re)construction, and administration.
- Respond to participant questions. *(Q&A at the End, Feel Free to Use CHAT Anytime)*

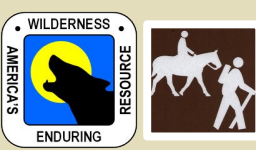


ASSUMPTIONS:

- ➔ Most participants are here because they have an interest in TRAILS, and a curiosity about WILDERNESS ...
- ➔ Most participants would rate their own knowledge of TRAILS higher than their knowledge of WILDERNESS



Wilderness Trails: Special Places, Special Considerations



TODAY Is:

*x-TODAY is **NOT**:*

An Overview

x-Comprehensive

Wz-Trails Connection

x-A Deep Dive

Some Basics (< 101)

x-Advanced (501)

Some Resources

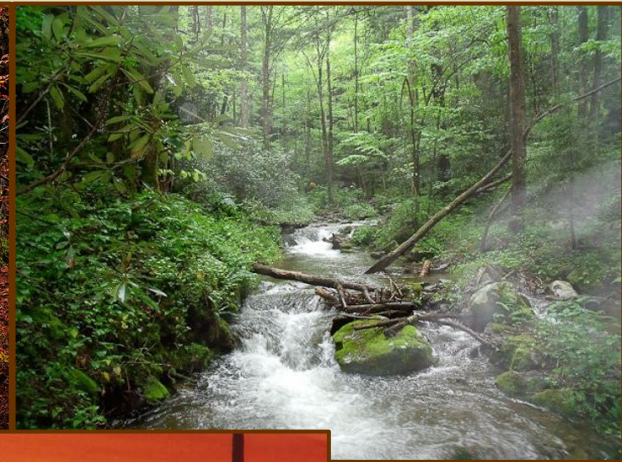
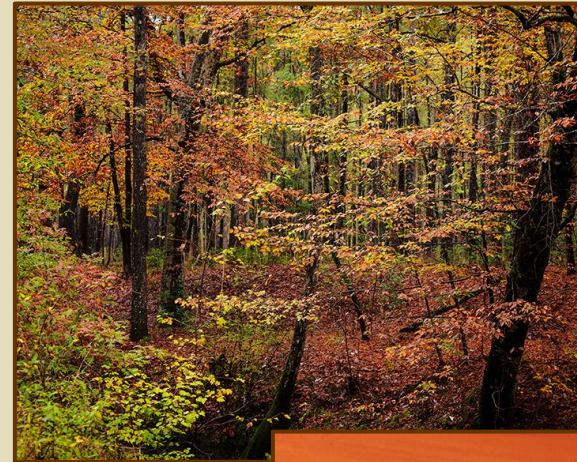
x-All You Need To Know

Some Examples

x-An Encyclopedia

Some Tips

x-A Full Toolkit



Wilderness Trails: *Special Places,* *Special Considerations*



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Why Wilderness is Important



LEGAL:

It's the **LAW**

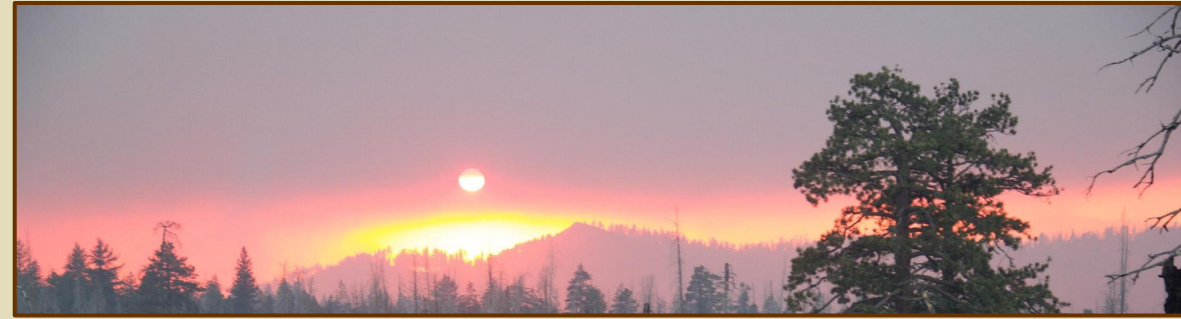
& Policy
& Regulation

and it
**PROTECTS
SPECIAL
PLACES**

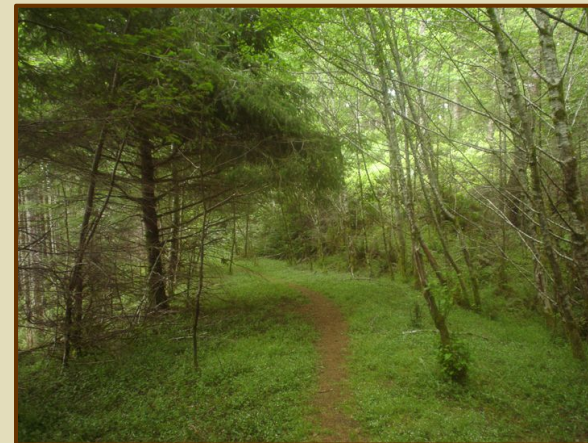


Public Law 88-577 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136)
88th Congress, Second Session
September 3, 1964
AN ACT
To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System
for the permanent good of the whole people,
and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
United States of America in Congress assembled,
SHORT TITLE
SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Wilderness Act".
**WILDERNESS SYSTEM ESTABLISHED STATEMENT
OF POLICY**
SECTION 2. (a) In order to assure that an increasing
population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing
mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the
United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated
for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it
is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure

- 1964
- 1968
- 1969
- 1970
- 1972
- 1974
- 1975
- 1976
- 1978
- 1980
- 1982
- 1983
- 1984
- 1985
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- 1994
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- 2014
- 2015
- 2017
- 2018
- 2019



?next?

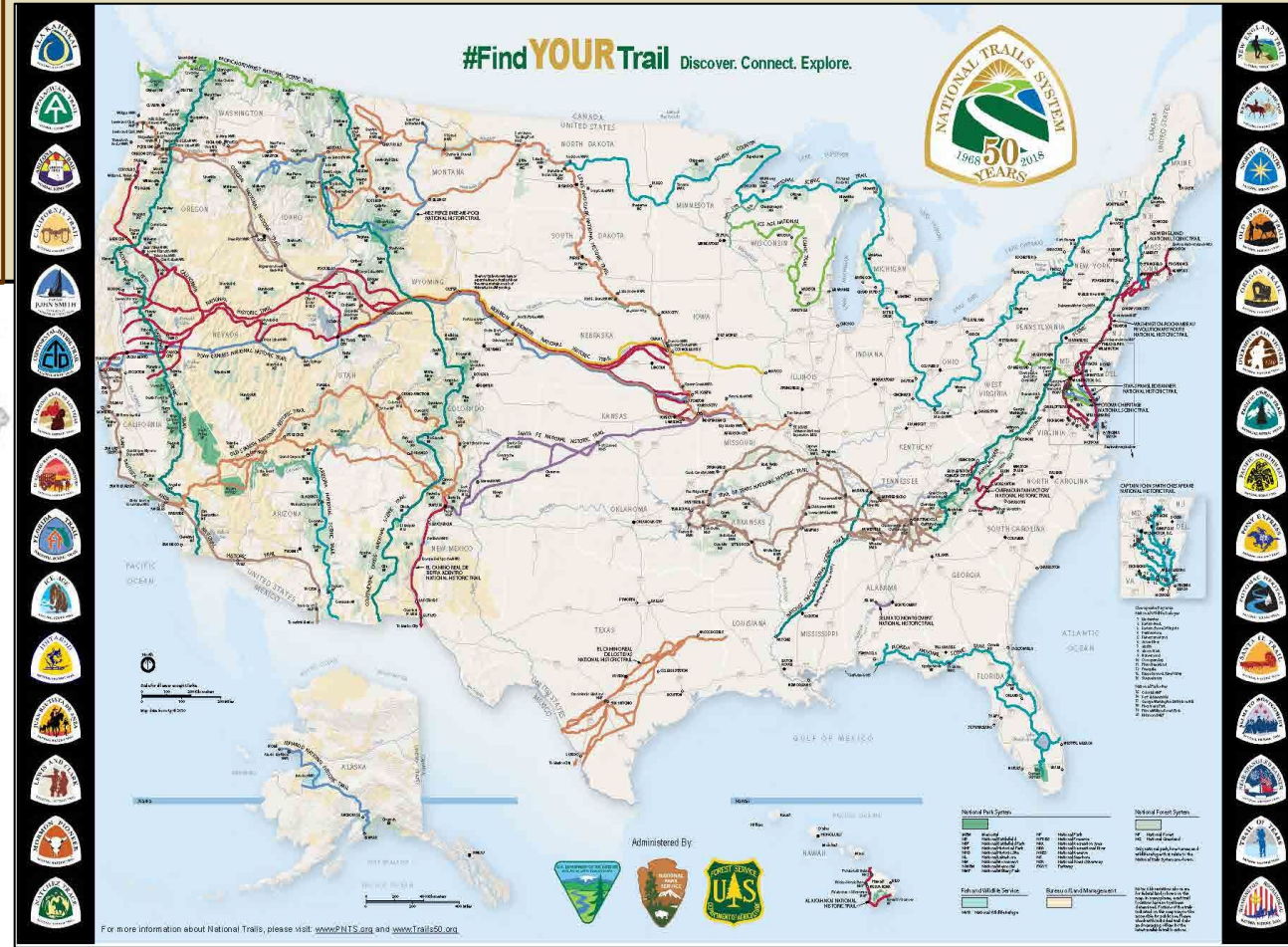
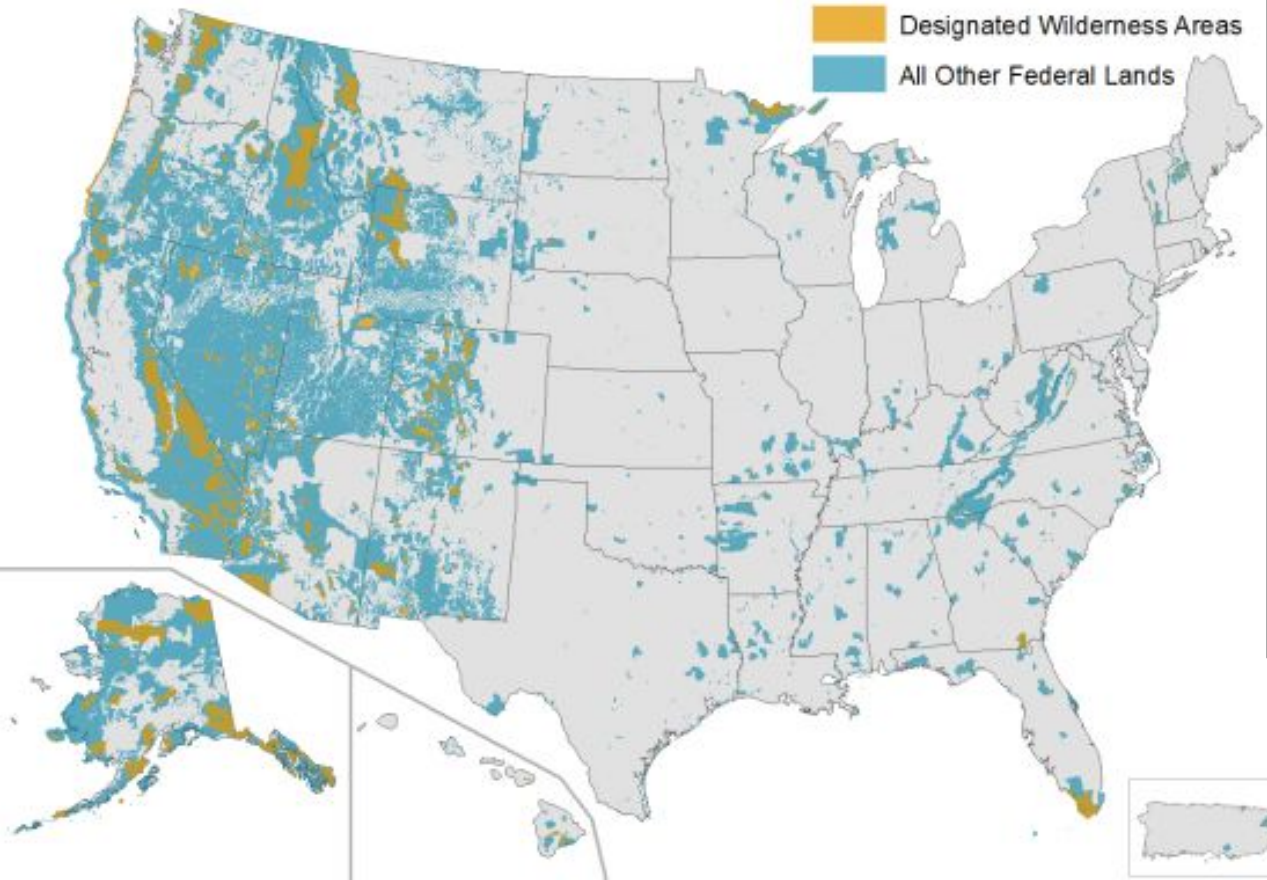
Why Wilderness is Important



LOCATION: *(18% of federal lands*)*

Wilderness Is Where The Trails Are ↔

<i>4% of BLM lands</i>	<i>22% of FWS lands</i>
<i>55% of NPS lands</i>	<i>19% of USFS lands</i>



Why Wilderness is Important



LOVE:

Americans Value Wilderness



Do you think that the amount of land the Congress has designated as Wilderness is not enough, about the right amount, or too much ?

Not Enough: 50.7%

About Right Amount: 35.0

Too Much: 4.1

Don't Know: 10.2

Attitudes About Designating More of the Federal Lands as Wilderness in the Respondent's Home State:

Strongly Favor 39.8%

Somewhat Favor 27.4

Neither 17.1

Somewhat Oppose 8.2

Strongly Oppose 4.6

Don't Know 3.0

Why Wilderness is Important



... LOVE, continued: Ranking of Wilderness Values:

What do Americans think is Most Important about Wilderness?

	<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>
<u>PROTECTING AIR QUALITY</u>	<u>93.0</u>	Having Option To Visit Wilderness	
<u>PROTECTING WATER QUALITY</u>	<u>90.3</u>	Areas in the Future	76.2
Protecting Wildlife Habitat	87.7	Knowing That Wilderness	
Knowing Future Generations		Areas Exist	75.7
will have Wilderness Areas	85.6	<u>PROVIDING RECREATION</u>	
Preserving Unique Wild		<u>OPPORTUNITIES</u>	<u>71.3</u>
Plants & Animals	83.0	Preserving Natural Areas for Science	64.3
Protecting Rare &		Providing Spiritual Inspiration	57.8
Endangered Species	82.7	Providing Income For	
Providing Scenic Beauty	76.5	Tourist Industry	39.6

Why Wilderness and Wilderness Trails are Important



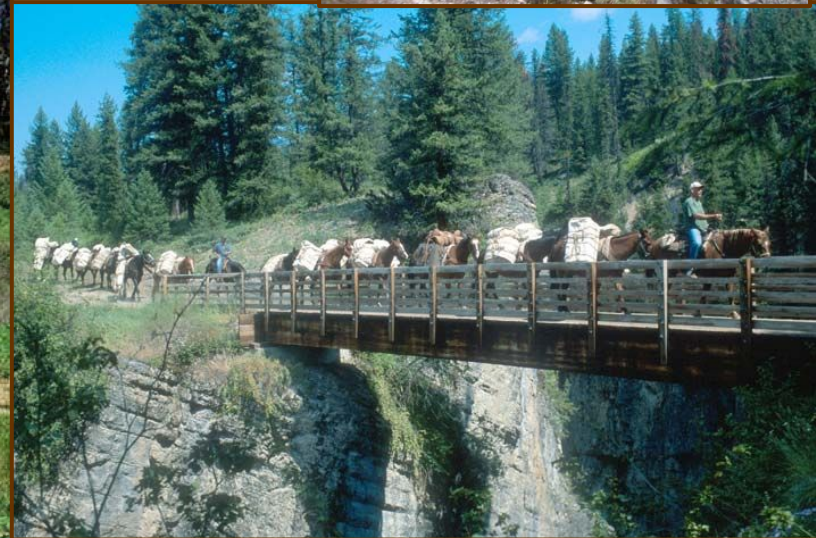
The NEXUS,
The CONNECTION:

TRAILS are a primary way
(...maybe THE primary way...)
that humans access and
experience Wilderness.

~160-mi of BLM-NSHTs in Wz 

~32k-mi (20%) of all USFS Trails in Wz 

(...TRAILS are also a primary vector for
introducing NNIS into Wilderness)



What Wilderness Is: “w” vs. “W”



wilderness, n. an uninhabited and uncultivated region.
- Random House Dictionary.

“...wilderness is a dark and dismal place where all manner of wild beasts dash about uncooked...”
- Diary of a European settler, early 1600s.

“...I really look forward to getting away from my house and job, and enjoying the wilderness in my RV (or: on my quad, ...bicycle, ...)
- countless public lands visitors, every year.

When *wilderness* is spelled with a lower-case “w”, a “*Small-w*”; multiple and different and varied personal definitions of “wilderness” are reasonable and acceptable.

When *Wilderness* is spelled with an upper-case “W”, a “*Capital-W*”; it is federally-designated Wilderness; with a single, official, legal definition.



Definition of Wilderness



“A wilderness, in contrast to those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which

- (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable;**
- (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive & unconfined type of recreation;**
- (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and**
- (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.” - Sec 2(c), Wilderness Act, 1964.**

What Wilderness Is

The Wilderness Act of 1964

(Public Law 88-577)



- Defines federal Wilderness,
- Established the National Wilderness Preservation System *(from existing federal lands, every Wz is a part of NWPS),*
- Designated the first 54 Wildernesses of the NWPS *(~9.1 mill ac, all USFS; now ~112 mill ac, 4 agencies),*
- Established the process for Wildernesses to be added to NWPS via future legislation,
- Provides the overall management *(stewardship)* direction for Wilderness *(preserve Wilderness character),*
- Directed agencies to assess their lands for Wilderness potential. *(originally FWS, NPS, USFS; BLM added in 1976)*



Public Law 88-577 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136)
88th Congress, Second Session
September 3, 1964
AN ACT

To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System
for the permanent good of the whole people,
and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
United States of America in Congress assembled,

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Wilderness Act".

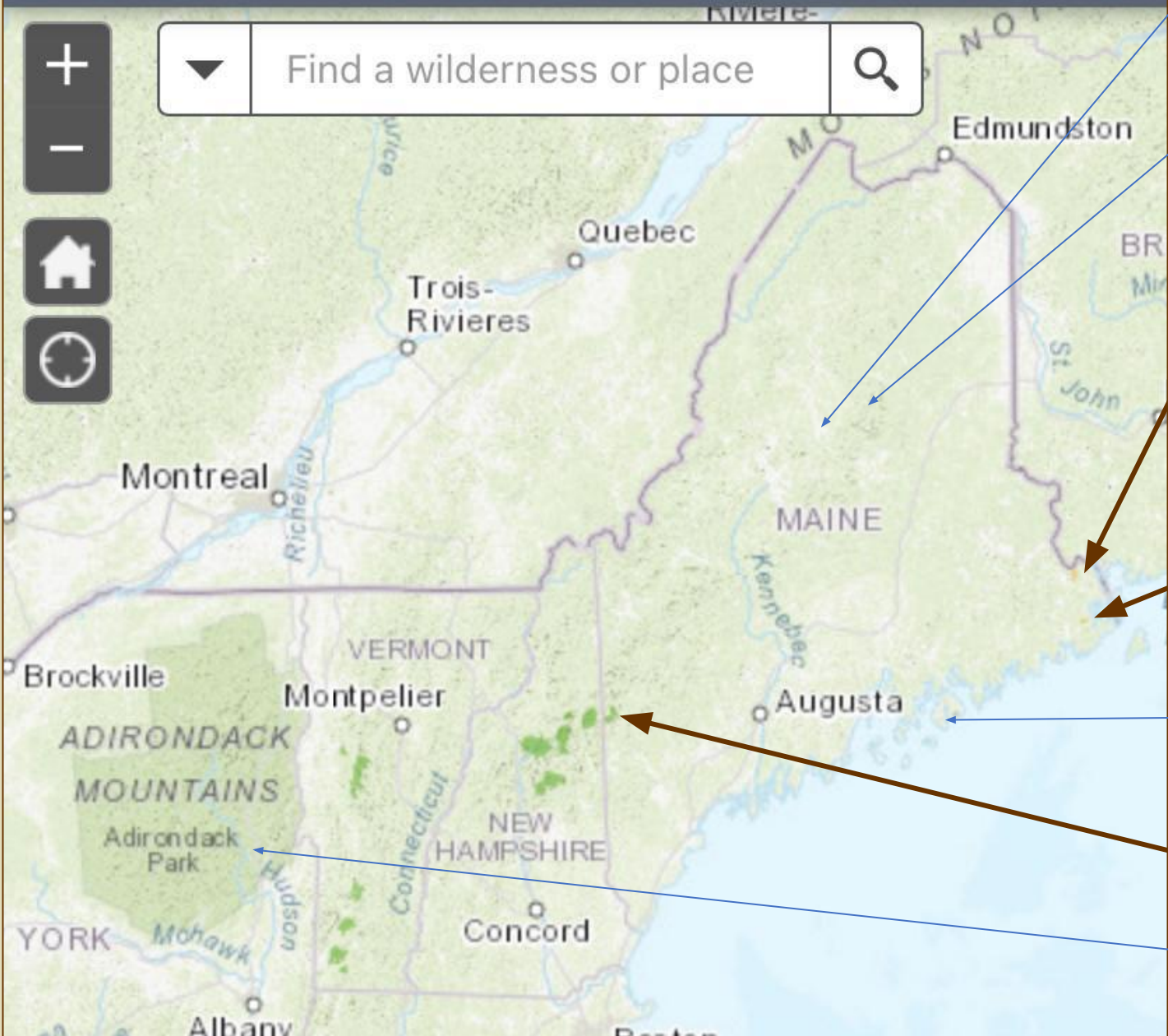
WILDERNESS SYSTEM ESTABLISHED STATEMENT OF POLICY

SECTION 2. (a) In order to assure that an increasing
population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing
mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the
United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated
for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it
is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure

Wilderness Areas of the United States



Find a wilderness or place



"100-Mile Wilderness"

Baxter State Park / Katahdin

MOOSEHORN (BARING UNIT) WILDERNESS
FWS; 1975; 4,680ac

MOOSEHORN WILDERNESS
FWS; 1970; 2,712ac

Acadia National Park

CARIBOU-SPECKLED MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS
USFS; 1990; 11,236ac

Adirondack Park (NY, state)

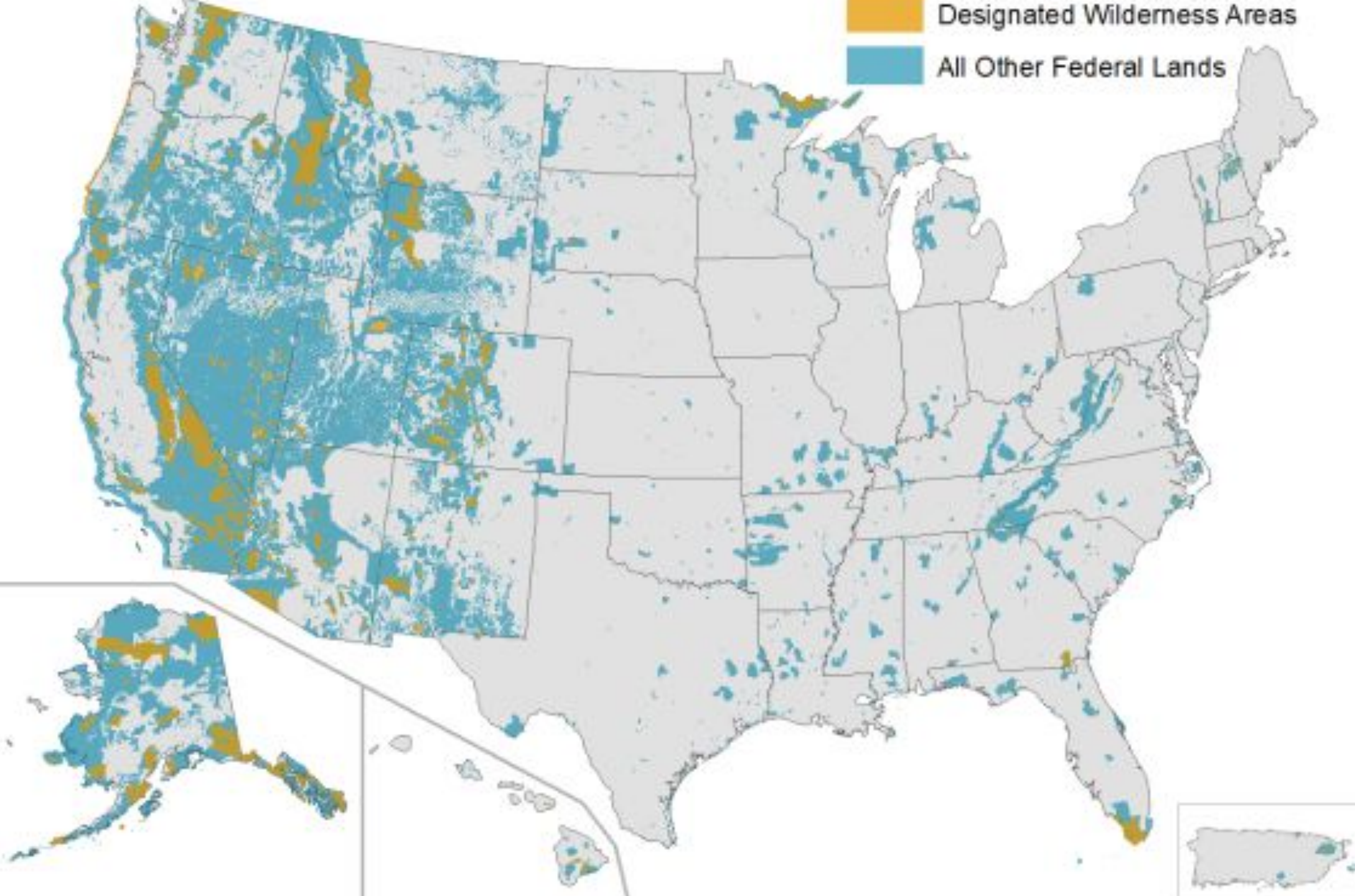
Summary: MAINE

- 3 Wildernesses
- ~18,600 acres
- 0.09% all lands



Designated Wilderness Areas

All Other Federal Lands



~112m ac
(~58m=AK)
(~54m=rUS)

803 areas

4 agencies,
1 NWPS

4.5% of all
US land
(2.7% of land
in Lower-49)

18% of all fed
lands
(~1 ac of
every 5 ac)

NWPS - By The Numbers



	% NWPS Acres	Total NWPS Acres	Total Agency Acres	Wz-% Agency Acres	Total NWPS AREAS	% NWPS AREAS
BLM	8%	10m	245m	4%	260	31%
FWS	19%	20.7m	95m	22%	71	9%
NPS	40%	44.3m	80m	55%	61	7%
USFS	33%	36.7m	193m	19%	448	53%
		111.7m	613m	18%	803*	

(All US= ~2,174m acres. Wz/All US= ~4.5% All Agency Lands/All US= ~28%)

** Some Wz are managed by >1 agency **

National Wilderness Preservation System



Wz % Of All Agency Lands (18%)

USFS

19.0%

BLM

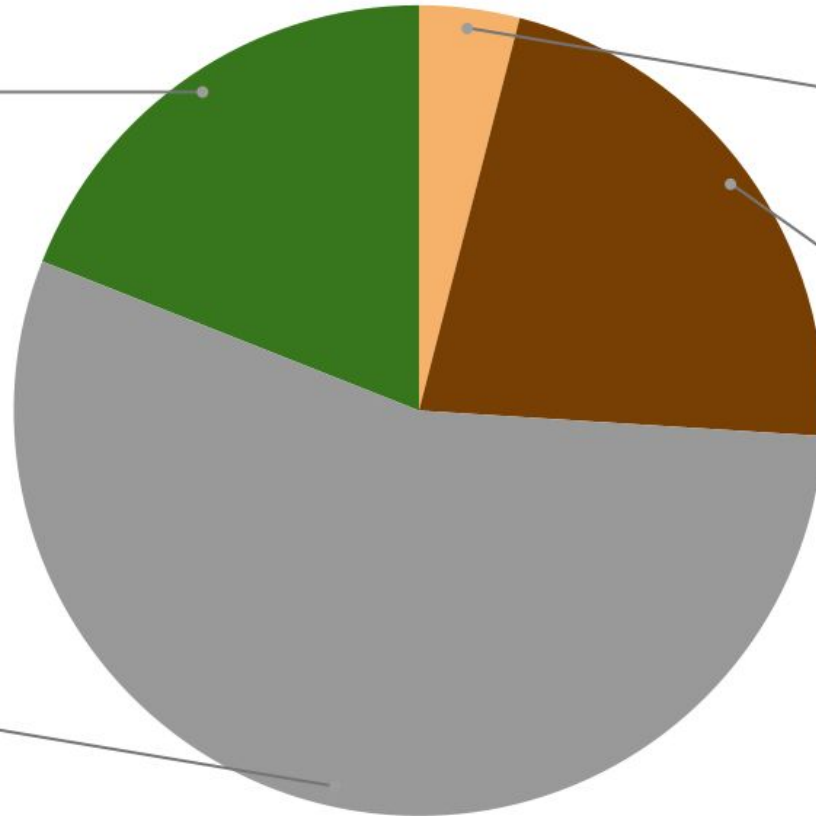
4.0%

FWS

22.0%

NPS

55.0%

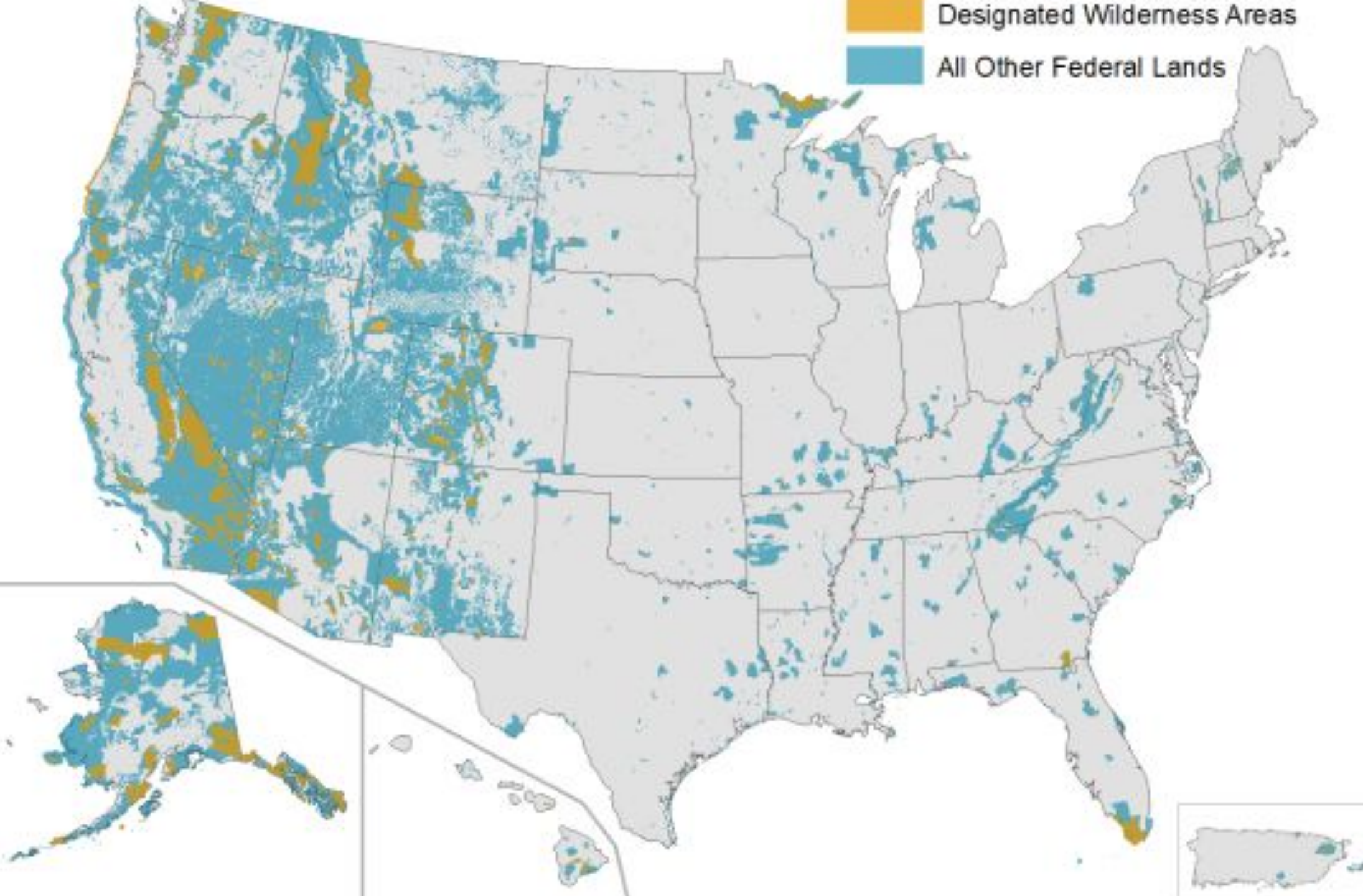


Roughly:
1 of every 5
acres
of
federal land
is
Wilderness !

(~111.7m acres
of ~613m acres)

Designated Wilderness Areas

All Other Federal Lands



~112m ac
(~58m=AK)
(~54m=rUS)
803 areas
4 agencies,
1 NWPS
4.5% of all
US land
(2.7% of land
in Lower-49)
18% of all fed
lands
(~1 ac of
every 5 ac)

Wilderness Act



Statement of PURPOSE [Sec.2(a)]

*“In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, **does not occupy and modify all areas** within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated **for preservation and protection in their natural condition...**”*

Statement of POLICY [Sec.2(a)]



*“...it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress **to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.**”*

Wilderness IS The RESOURCE, It Is > The Sum Of Its Parts!

Wilderness Act

“PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN USES”

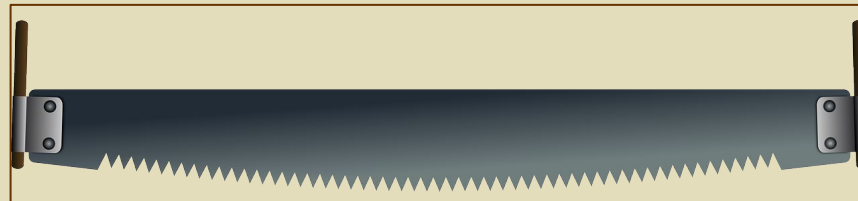
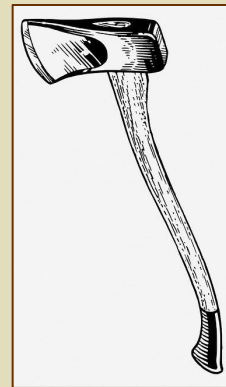
[Sec.4(c)]



No Commercial Enterprise.
No Permanent Roads.

*Except as specifically provided for in this Act,
and subject to existing rights.*

No Temporary Roads.
No Use of Motor Vehicles.
No Use of Motorized Equipment.
No Use of Motorboats.
No Landing of Aircraft.
No Other Form of Mechanical Transport.
No Structure.
No Installation.



*Except as necessary to meet
minimum requirements
for the administration of the
area for the purpose of this
Act (including measures required
in emergencies involving the
health and safety of persons
within the area).*

Wilderness Act



SPECIAL PROVISIONS

[Sec.4(d)]

- use of aircraft or motorboats where already established (may)...*
- measures to control fire, insects and diseases (may)...*
- prospecting (for information purposes)...*
- mining and mineral leasing laws in USFS Wilderness thru 1983...*
- water resources in USFS Wilderness, the President (may, if) ...*
- established grazing in USFS Wilderness (shall) continue...*
- commercial services (not commercial enterprises) may...*
- State water laws still apply...*
- States still have same jurisdiction re wildlife and fish...*

.....8 years of Congressional compromises, 66 rewrites.....

Wilderness Act

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES



*“...these areas shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, (and) the **preservation of their wilderness character...**”*

[Sec.2(a)]

*“...each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for **preserving the wilderness character** of the area and shall so administer such area for such other purposes for which it may have been established as also to **preserve its wilderness character.**”*

[Sec.4(b)]

Wilderness Act: "...wilderness character..."



NOT
wilderness
CHARACTERS



Definition of Wilderness *(Qualities of Wilderness Character)*



“A wilderness, in contrast to those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which

- (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable;
- (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;
- (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and
- (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.” - Sec 2(c), Wilderness Act, 1964.

There is ONE (1) NWPS,
based on ONE (1) foundational law:
the Wilderness Act of 1964.



WILDERNESS is INTERAGENCY;
the 4 AGENCIES have developed ways to Cooperate and Coordinate:



www.wilderness.net



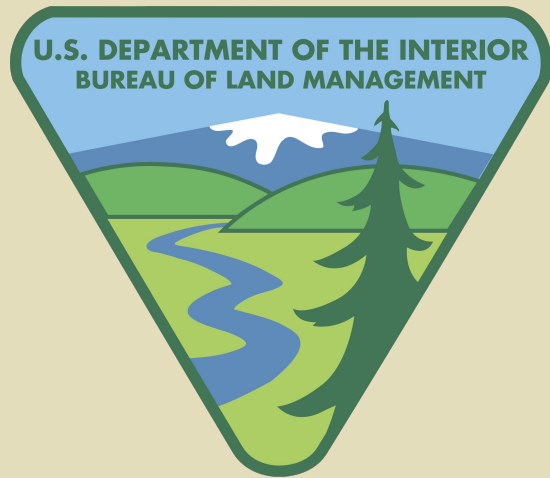
The public & lawmakers expect, and the agencies strive for, **CONSISTENCY**
in stewarding these special places

Wilderness Trails: Special Places, Special Considerations



AGENCY POLICY / POLICIES of AGENCIES

Consistency, but not Uniformity



The Wilderness Act (*the Law*) does NOT explicitly mention TRAILS;
the Wilderness policies of the 4 agencies do explicitly discuss TRAILS.



U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

- an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior (1940),
- manages 95 million acres of federal public land, *and 706 million acres of submerged lands and waters,*
- manages 20.7 million acres of Wilderness (71 Wildernesses),
- Wilderness makes up 22% of all USFWS lands,
- USFWS lands make up 19% of the NWPS,
- Wildernesses range from 5.5 acres - 8 million acres,
- Joined the NWPS in 1964,
- First Wilderness Designated: 1968.



(Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness in NJ)



Service Manual Series 600, Part 610, Wilderness Stewardship (2008)

2.6 May the Service allow roads and trails in wilderness?

Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act prohibits permanent roads in Wilderness. We will inventory and evaluate all roads, vehicle routes, and trails in existence at the time of wilderness designation in the unit's comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) or WSP.

- A. we may convert roads or vehicle routes within wilderness to trails for walking or nonmotorized, nonmechanized transportation or allow them to return to natural conditions
- B. We may provide trails, but only where they are essential for resource protection or where significant safety hazards exist during normal use periods. We determine the need for trails, trail improvements, and maintenance through Minimum Requirement Analyses and include them in the unit's WSP. We manage historic trails according to approved cultural resource plan requirements.**

Service Manual Series 600, Part 610, Wilderness Stewardship,



4.9 How does the Service evaluate the naturalness criteria to identify a WSA (Wilderness Study Area) during inventory?

C. We use caution in assessing the effects on naturalness that relatively minor human impacts create. Examples of manmade features that would not disqualify an area for consideration as a WSA include: trails, trail signs, bridges, *(16 others listed)* Even with these features, an area may express wilderness character and values.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

- an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior (1916),
- manages 80 million acres of federal public land,
- manages 44.3 million acres of Wilderness (61 Wildernesses),
- Wilderness makes up 55% of all NPS lands,
- NPS lands make up 40% of the NWPS
- Wildernesses range from 1,380 acres - 9.4 million acres,
- Joined the NWPS in 1964,
- **First Wilderness Designated: 1970.**

*(Craters of the Moon National Wilderness Area in ID, and
Petrified Forest National Wilderness Area in AZ)*



Management Policies 2006, 6.3.10.2 Trails in Wilderness



Trails will be permitted within wilderness when they are determined to be necessary for resource protection and/or for providing for visitor use for the purposes of wilderness. The identification and inventory of the wilderness trail system will be included as an integral part of the wilderness management plan or other appropriate planning document. Trails will be maintained at levels and conditions identified within the approved wilderness management plan or other planning document. **Trail maintenance structures (such as water bars, gabions) may be provided, under minimum requirement protocols, where they are essential for resource preservation or where significant safety hazards exist during normal use periods.** Historic and/or prehistoric trails will be administered in keeping with approved cultural resource & wilderness mgt plan requirements.

Borrow pits are not permitted in wilderness areas, with the exception of small-quantity use of borrow material for trails, which must be in accordance with an approved **minimum requirements analysis.**

USDA FOREST SERVICE



- an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (1905),
- manages 193 million acres of federal public land,
- manages 36.7 million acres of Wilderness (448 Wildernesses),
- Wilderness makes up 19% of all USFS lands,
- USFS lands make up 33% of the NWPS,
- Wildernesses range from 372 acres - 2.4 million acres,
- Joined the NWPS in 1964,
- **First Wilderness Designated: 1964.**
(54 in 13 states: AZ, CA, CO, ID, MN, MT, NC, NH, NM, NV, OR, WA, WY)
- 158,600 trail miles; 31,900 mi are in Wilderness (20%).



Forest Service Manual 2300 - Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Mgt; Chapter 2320 - Wilderness Management (2021)



2320.5 - Definitions: 5. Permanent Improvement.

A structural or nonstructural improvement that is to remain at a particular location for more than one field season. **Permanent improvements include such items as trails,**

2322.03 - Policy: 2b. The wilderness component of the forest plan shall include, as a minimum, the following Display of the relationships and coordination between the wilderness resource and **other resources and activities present in the wilderness, ... (including) the trail system (and 17 other elements).**

2323.04c,e - (summary, partial) (The Regional Forester is responsible for approving the construction of trails in wilderness with tread more than 24 inches in width. The Forest Supervisor may approve the construction and reconstruction of trails with treads less than 24 inches in width. The District Ranger is responsible for approving trail management schedules and sign mtnce)

Forest Service Manual 2300 - Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management; Chapter 2320 - Wilderness Management



2321.13f - Transportation System

Design, construct, and maintain the transportation system in wilderness to provide access to and within a wilderness that meets the wilderness objectives described in the forest plan.

- 1. Trails. Trails are an acceptable improvement.** Construct and maintain trails to standards described in FSH 2309.18, Trails Management Handbook. National Recreation Trails are generally not designated within wilderness.
 - a. Design and locate trails so that nonmotorized and nonmechanical equipment can be used for construction and management.**
 - b. Design and locate trails to fit into the natural landscape as unobtrusively as possible.**
 - c. Maintain trails by nonmotorized methods** except for situations described in section 2326.

Forest Service Manual 2300 - Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management; Chapter 2320 - Wilderness Management



2321.13f - Transportation System, *continued*

2. Bridges. Design bridges to minimize the impact on the wilderness. Select locations that minimize the size and complexity of the structure. Provide or replace bridges only:

- a. When no other route or crossing is **reasonably available**.
- b. Where the crossing, during the primary season of public use, cannot be negotiated afoot **safely**, or cannot be forded by horses **safely**.
- c. Where unacceptable bank **damage** will occur from visitors seeking a crossing.
- d. Where flood waters frequently **destroy or damage** less sturdy structures.

Forest Service Manual 2300 - Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management; Chapter 2320 - Wilderness Management



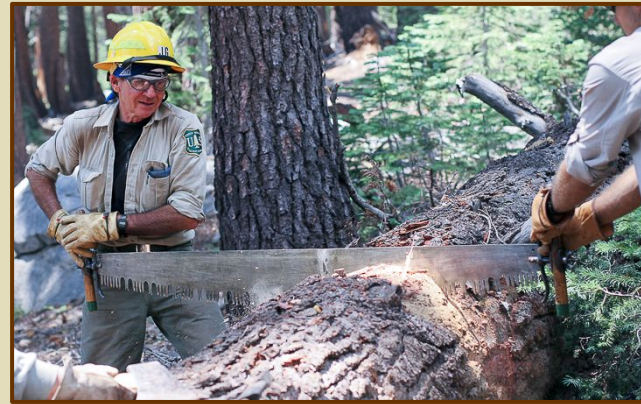
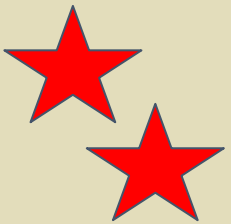
2326 - Use of Motorized Equipment or Mechanical Transport in Wilderness.

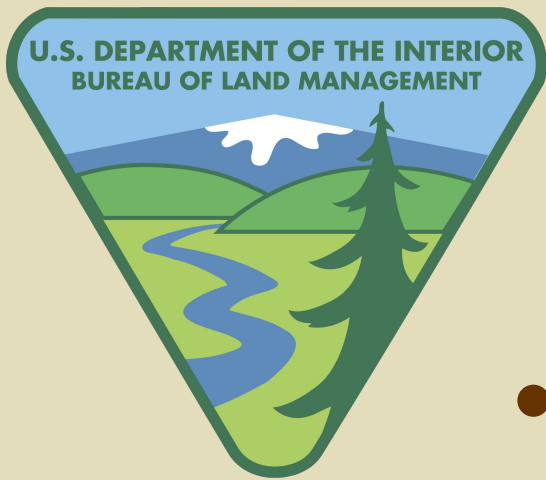
2326.02 - Objectives

1. Accomplish management activities with **nonmotorized equipment and nonmechanical transport** of supplies and personnel.

2326.03 - Policy

1. Ensure that Forest Service employees acquire and maintain necessary skills for primitive travel by foot, horse, canoe, or other nonmechanical means and the use of hand tools. *(traditional tools and skills)*





BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT

- an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior (1946),
- manages 245 million acres of federal public land, *and*
700 million acres of federal mineral estate,
- manages 10 million acres of Wilderness (260 Wildernesses),
- Wilderness makes up 4% of all BLM lands,
- BLM lands make up 9% of the NWPS,
- Wildernesses range from 6 acres - 315,000 acres,
- Joined the NWPS in 1976,
- First Wilderness Designated: 1978.

(Santa Lucia Wilderness in CA & Wild Rogue Wilderness in OR)



BLM Manual 6340—Management of BLM Wilderness (2012):



"Trails and trail systems. Existing trails must be evaluated to determine if they are the minimum necessary to preserve wilderness character. Trails may be relocated or closed and restored as a result of the evaluation. The evaluation should include closure or consideration of conversion to hiking trails of any existing motorized routes, abandoned logging roads, old firebreaks, etc.

A. New trails may be constructed only if they are needed to preserve wilderness values and resources and will not significantly impair the degree of naturalness or solitude in the area. Trails must not be constructed with treads of more than 24 inches in width except where a wider trail is justified to protect the wilderness resource. Trails should follow natural contours where possible and result in minimum disturbance to soil and ground cover. Trail location and design standards should **minimize the need for trail installations** such as water bars. →



Management of BLM Wilderness (page 1-41), continued:

B. Where possible, trailhead/access points should be located well outside the wilderness boundary to reduce their impact upon the wilderness area.

C. Construction techniques should always give first consideration to using **native materials found within the wilderness** (e.g. logs, rocks, etc.) **A minimum requirements analysis will be used to determine the necessity of using any non-natural materials** for trail construction (e.g. sawn lumber, plastic pipe, landscape fabric etc.) (See Appendix B).”



AGENCY POLICY-Determining the “Minimum Required”



- The 4 NWPS agencies each recognize the requirement to conduct a “Minimum Requirements Analysis” (*MRA*) for most proposed actions in Wilderness. (*not only actions involving prohibited uses*)
- The Carhart Center has developed the tool for the agencies to use to do MRAs: the Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (*MRDG*)*.

The Minimum Requirements Analysis is a Two-Step Process:

Step 1: Is Any Action Necessary? Do we truly need to take action ?

To do something ? Why ? What Values are At Risk ?

Step 2: If Yes, What is the Minimum Necessary Management Action?

If it is necessary to take some action, what is the minimum method, tool, or tactic that will have the least impact on the Wilderness resource ?

AGENCY POLICY-Determining the “Minimum Required”



MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS ANALYSIS-continued

- for administrative proposed actions, a formal, written, reviewed and approved Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG) is used to document the Minimum Requirements Analysis (MRA) process and decision;

- for emergency proposed actions, the MRA process can be less formal; a written Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG) is not mandatory. Written documentation is.

- in both cases, the decision is made by a specific Authorized Agency Official.

ARTHUR CARHART NATIONAL WILDERNESS TRAINING CENTER
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS DECISION GUIDE
WORKBOOK

Project Title: A.T. Relocation - War Spur Area

MRDG Step 1: Determination
Determine if Administrative Action is Necessary

Description of the Situation
What is the situation that may prompt administrative action?

The current location of a section of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (FT #1), totaling approximately 0.50 miles of trail, is steep and eroded, causing resource damage, erosion, and degradation. This trail section is in the vicinity of War Spur Branch and Lone Pine Peak within the Mountain Lake Wilderness on the Eastern Divide Ranger District (EDRD) of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests (GWJEFNFs). The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club (RATC) has proposed relocating this trail section onto a more sustainable location, and decommissioning and restoring the replaced trail segment. The proposed new trail relocation will total approximately 1.0 mile of less steep, more sustainable and maintainable trail.

The proposed trail relocation and decommissioning/naturalization sites are shown on a map titled "War Spur Relocation" which is part of the project file for the NEPA analysis for this proposal.

Options Outside of Wilderness
Can action be taken outside of wilderness that adequately addresses the situation?

MRDG 12/15/16
Step 1: Determination

Criteria for Determining Necessity
Is action necessary to meet any of the criteria below?

A. Valid Existing Rights or Special Provisions of Wilderness
Is action necessary to satisfy valid existing rights or a special legislation (the Wilderness Act of 1964 or subsequent wild action)? Cite law and section.

YES NO

Explain:
There are no valid existing rights or special provisions.

B. Requirements of Other Legislation
Is action necessary to meet the requirements of other laws?

YES NO

Explain:
There are no other federal laws that require it.

C. Wilderness Character
Is action necessary to preserve one or more of the following characteristics?

YES NO

Explain:
This action is not necessary to preserve any of the characteristics.

Approvals
Which of the prohibited uses found in Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act are selected alternative and for what quantity?

Prohibited Use

Prohibited Use	Quantity
<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Transport:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Motorized Equipment:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicles:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Motorboats:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Landing of Aircraft:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Roads:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Structures:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Installations:	

Record and report any authorizations of Wilderness Act Section 4(c) prohibited uses according to agency policies or guidance. Refer to agency policies for the following signature authority.

Name	Position	Date
Prepared: SHERYL MILLS (2/16) & PETE IRVINE		
Signature: /s/ Peter B. Irvine	Wilderness Pgm Mgrs, EDRD & GWJEFNF	3-26-2019
Recommended: PETER B. IRVINE	Position: GWJEFNF Wilderness Program Manager	Date: 3-26-2019
Signature: /s/ Peter B. Irvine		
Recommended: DANIEL W. McKEAGUE	Position: District Ranger, EDRD	Date: 3-26-2019
Signature: /s/ Daniel W. McKeague		
Approved: JOBY P. TIMM	Position: Forest Supervisor, GWJEFNFs	Date: 3-31-2019
Signature: /s/ Joby P. Timm		

MRDG 12/15/16
Step 2: Determination
Date: 4/2/19

Some Key Points from PPP*:

(* = Pete's Personal Perspective)

- **“Wilderness”** is different from “wilderness”
- **Wildernesses** are managed by 4 federal agencies as 1 system
- **Wilderness** (legal, formal, federal, Big-W) is relatively new
- **Wilderness** is what Congress (*and the President*) says that it is
- **Wilderness** is **NOT** all about recreation
- **Visitor safety** is **NOT** guaranteed in Wilderness
- The Wilderness Act does **NOT** explicitly mention **TRAILS**
- **Trails in Wz** are allowed/authorized by agencies policies (not law)
- **Wilderness Trails** are, and should be, different than non-Wilderness agency trails.
- **Wilderness Trails** are for resource protection and minimal visitor safety; **NOT** for visitor comfort or convenience.
- **Policies vary on: Trail Signs, Blazes, Group Size Limits, O/G, I&E, & more**



Wilderness Trails: *Special Places,* *Special Considerations*



DAN ABBE



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Wilderness Trails: *Special Places,* *Special Considerations*

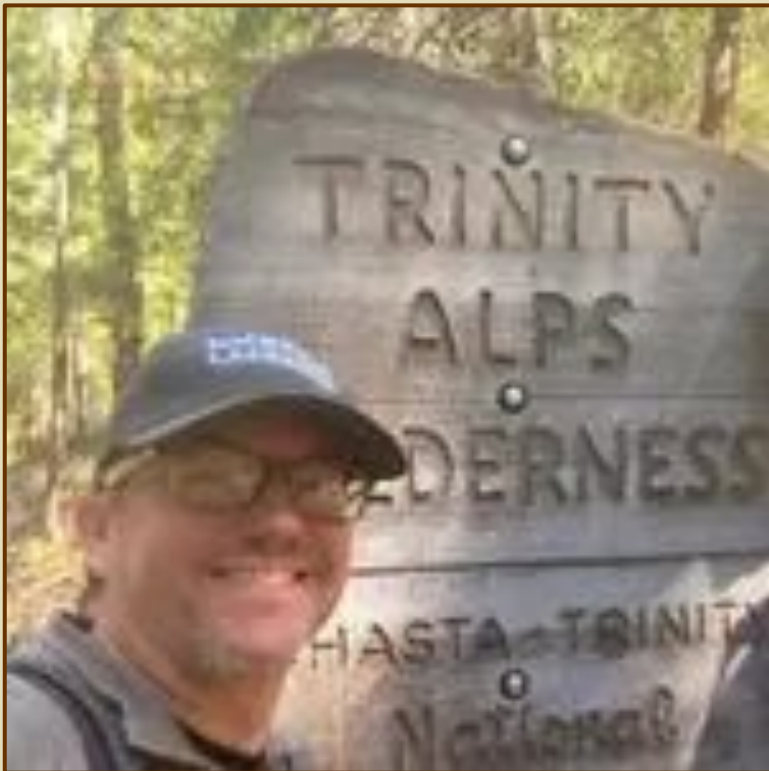


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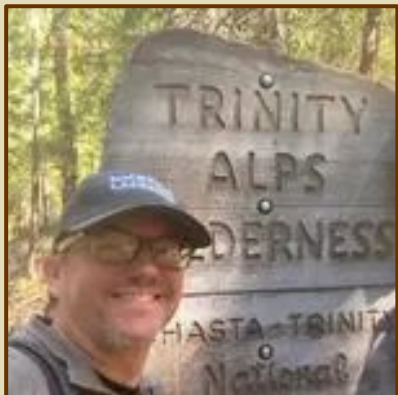
Wilderness Trails: *Special Places,* *Special Considerations*



PETE IRVINE USFS-*Retired*. GWJeffNFs, Roanoke, Virginia.
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DUMMY SLIDE



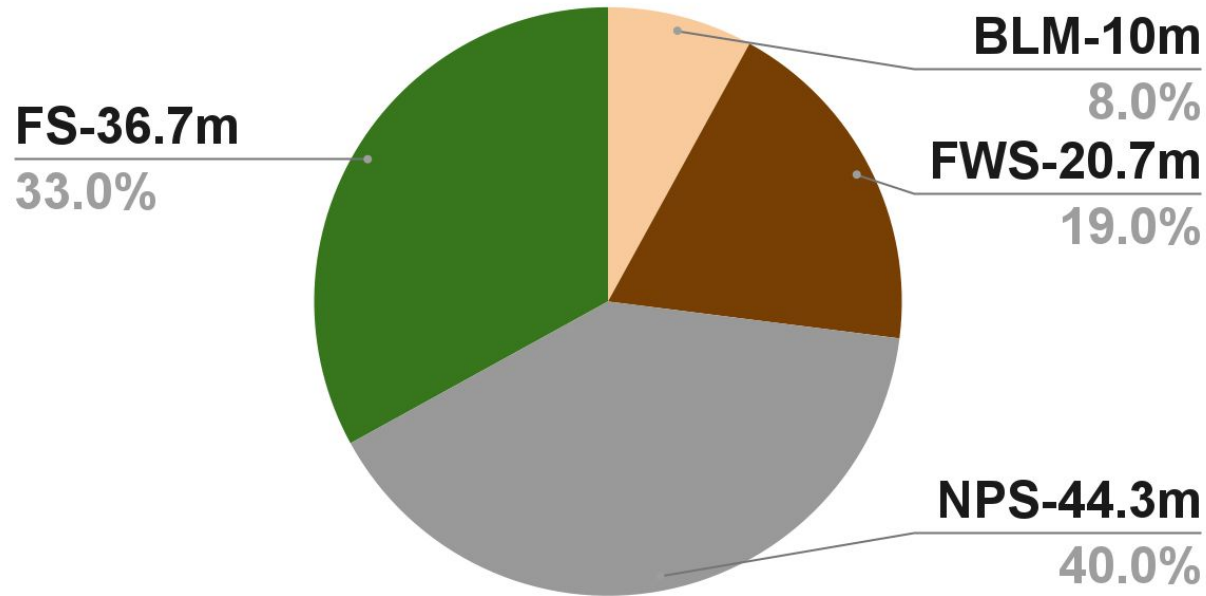
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- Text = Calibri 28 Bold (and other sizes)
- Text Colors: BROWN #663300, Dark Green #548135



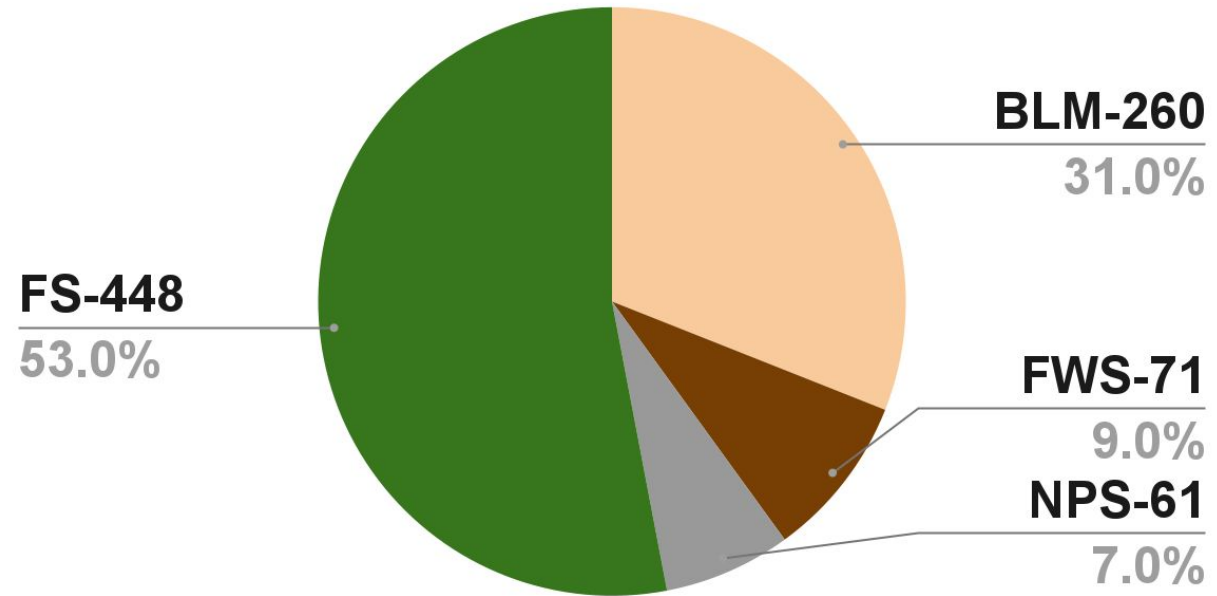
National Wilderness Preservation System



ACRES by AGENCY (111.7m total)



AREAS by AGENCY (803 total)



The Wilderness Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-577)



- Culmination of a Long-Running Citizen-Led Effort
- 30+ years of lobbying by The Wilderness Society
- Spearheaded by HOWARD ZAHNISER of TWS
- 66 Re-Writes, Many Compromises
- 18 Congressional Hearings, 6,000 pages of testimony
- 8 years of debate in Congress (1956-1964)
- Overwhelming bipartisan support
 - (Senate: 73-12, House: 374-1)

The Wilderness Act:

- Defines federal Wilderness,
- Established the National Wilderness Preservation System (*from existing federal lands*),
- Designated the first 54 Wildernesses of the NWPS (~9.1 million ac, all USFS),
- Established the process for Wildernesses to be added to NWPS via future legislation,
- Provides the overall management (*stewardship*) direction for Wilderness,
- Directed agencies to assess their lands for Wilderness potential.

Item #1: This session is NOT all about "Wilderness Character"...



- NOT an EXPERT.
- a Practitioner, a Learner, a Student.
- USFS Retired, >37 years, most in SE US.
- Forester by Education (UVM) and early Experience with pvt industry and USFS.
- 4 Regions & 1 Research Station, District-, Forest-, and Regional- levels.
- District-level Wilderness Mgr (TN),
- USFS ANST Coordinator, (24 Wildernesses, 7 states, 7% of AT),
- Forest-level Wilderness Mgr (VA,WV), (23 Wildernesses, 8% of GWJeffNFs).
- Always militia Wildland Fire, 1978-now, in OPS, up to DIVS, SAIMT Blue Team; and READ, REAF, PIO2-t, SOFR-t. Now as AD.
- Darn Few Wilderness Fire Experts, More are Needed; by default, YOU are ONE !!

Objectives: *(This is an INTRODUCTION and an OVERVIEW...)*

1. Wilderness law and policy as they relate to wildfires and wildland fire management. (not prescribed fire)
2. How Wilderness fire management decisions are made.
3. AADM, AREP, THSP, READ/F considerations in Wilderness.



“WILDERNESS CHARACTER”



- Agencies are still working to fully define and describe Wilderness Character, 58 years after the Wilderness Act.
- All four NWPS agencies agree that Wilderness Character is specific for each Wilderness (within the sideboards of the Wilderness Act and their specific designating legislation), and that Wilderness Character is based on five “QUALITIES”, namely:
 - Untrammeled
 - Undeveloped
 - Natural
 - Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation
 - Other Features of Value



Trails: Issues and Challenges

Common to lose structures, have tread damage, and concern about hazard trees

Can you simply close a trail for a year or more post-fire? Or is there pressure to reopen quickly?

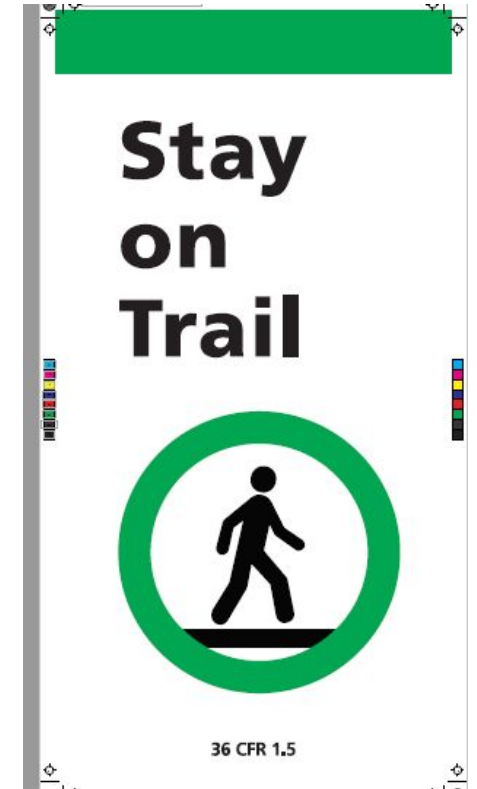
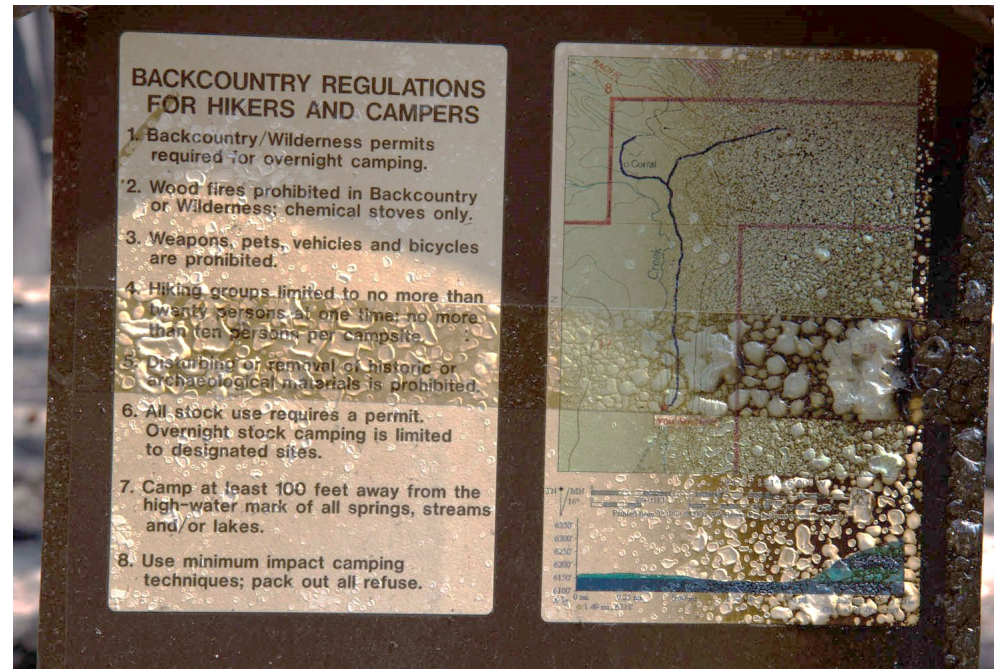
Can you use onsite native materials or should you consider bringing in steel stringers/plastics/milled lumber?

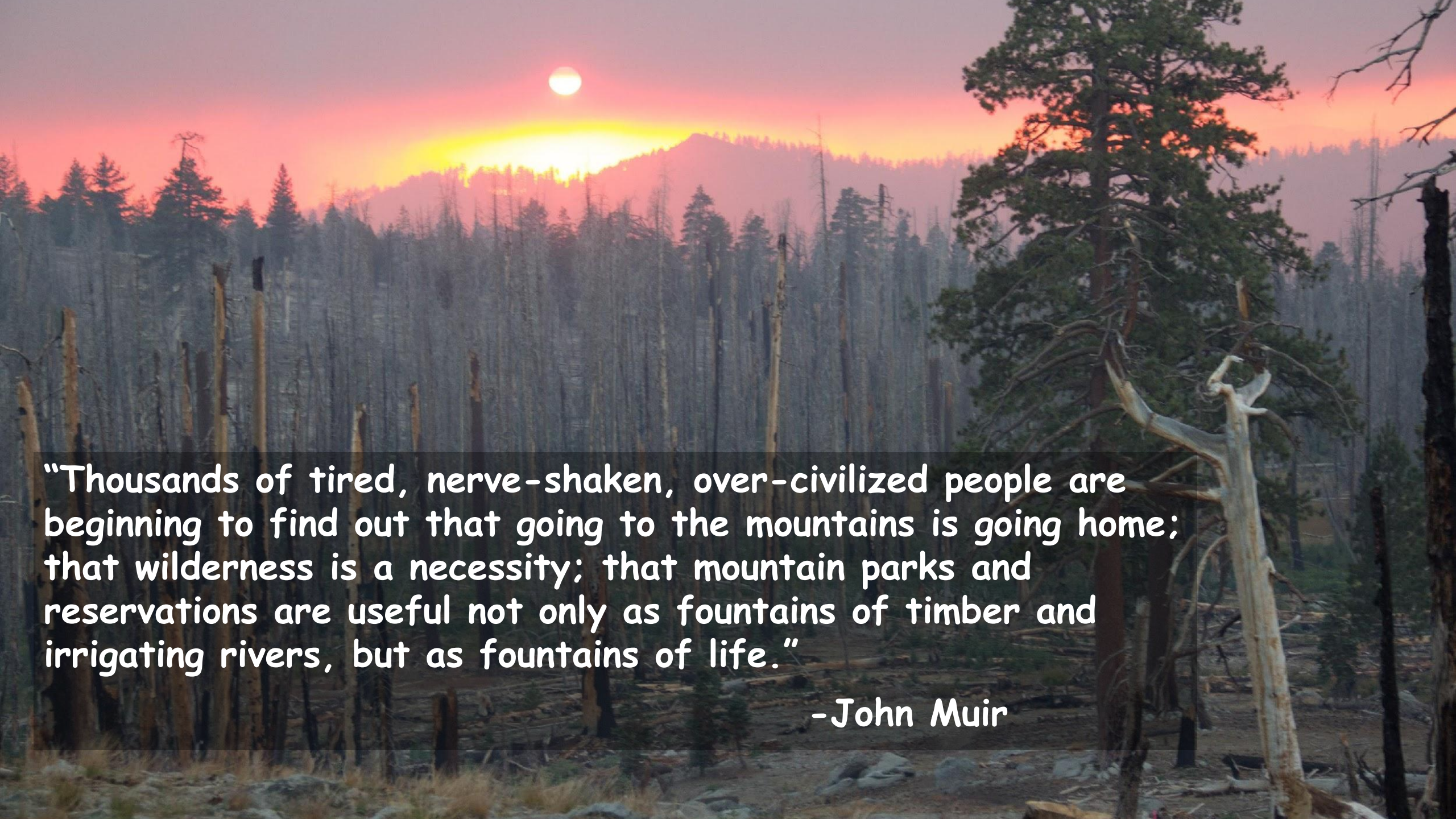


Replace stringers with on-site old growth trees or bring in steel stringers, likely via a helicopter?

Visitor management

A burned area often can pose significant hazards to visitors in terms of flash flooding/debris flows, falling rocks, and falling trees....and signs in Wilderness are often a prescribed mitigation





“Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity; that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.”

-John Muir