

Wilderness Awareness Workshops - Overview

1) What are they?

A concise, forest level workshop designed to increase the knowledge and skills of any employee working in wilderness and help build interdisciplinary relationships between wilderness and non-wilderness staff.

The workshops can also be focused to address specific current wilderness management topics and serve as a working session to explore issues and identify barriers and solutions.

2) How does it work?

Prior to the session, the workshop coordinator works with a steering committee of forest staff and the Regional Wilderness Specialist to identify local issues and areas of concern that are suitable for case studies

During the session, all participants are provided with a basic understanding of The Wilderness Act of 1964, relevant subsequent wilderness legislation, agency policy, the wilderness resource and values, and unit management plans for wilderness. In addition, The Minimum Requirements decision process is explained and provided as a means for addressing wilderness issues.

If desired, local forest issues are identified and addressed. Case studies are assigned to working groups and time is provided for interdisciplinary discussion of the issues. Working groups present the results of their discussions.

3) Who should attend?

Wilderness managers and resource specialists including botanists, soil scientists, hydrologists, biologists, planners, engineers, archaeologists, fire management staff, visitor information staff, and any others with potential responsibilities for the wilderness resource.

Experienced and knowledgeable wilderness staff should attend the session along with resource specialists to add depth to the discussion and help build interdisciplinary working relationships.

Line officer attendance is optional but extremely beneficial and, in some cases, essential for a successful course.

4) How long is it?

The workshops can be a single 8 hour day, a day and a half, or two days depending on the level of detail desired for the presentations, working group discussions.

5) Where is it?

The forest and region determine the best location to facilitate attendance and minimize travel.

6) What is the cost?

The only cost to the forest is for the participants' time and travel, local staff time to help plan the session, and any local meeting room charges. There is no charge for the materials provided by the Carhart Center available from the Training Materials Section of the Wilderness Awareness Toolbox at:
www.wilderness.net/toolboxes.