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NATIONAL WILDERNESS TRAINING CENTER

“Fostering interagency excellence in wilderness stewardship.”



MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS DECISION GUIDE

Process Outline

Step 1: Determine if administrative action is necessary.

First, provide a **Description of the Situation** that may prompt action and describe why it is a problem or issue.

Next, address **Options Outside of Wilderness** – Can action be taken outside of wilderness that adequately addresses the situation?

Finally, look at the **Criteria for Determining Necessity** – Is action necessary to meet any of the criteria below?

- A. Valid Existing Rights or Special Provisions of Wilderness Legislation** – Is action necessary to satisfy valid existing rights or a special provision in wilderness legislation (the Wilderness Act of 1964 or subsequent wilderness laws) that requires action?
- B. Requirements of Other Legislation** – Is action necessary to meet the requirements of other federal laws?
- C. Wilderness Character** – Is action necessary to preserve one or more of the qualities of wilderness character: **Untrammelled, Undeveloped, Natural, Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, or Other Features of Value** that reflect the character of this area?

Step 1 Determination: Is administrative action necessary in wilderness?

If action is necessary, proceed to Step 2 to determine the minimum activity which least impacts the wilderness resource and wilderness character.



Step 2: Determine the *minimum* activity.

Other Direction

Is there “special provisions” language in legislation (or other Congressional direction) that explicitly **allows** consideration of a use otherwise prohibited by Section 4(c), **AND/OR** has the issue been addressed in agency policy, state law, management plans, species recovery plans, or agreements with other agencies or partners?

Time Constraints

What, if any, are the material time constraints that may affect the action?

Components of the Action

Break the action down into discrete components or phases to be analyzed in each alternative.

Description of Alternatives

For each alternative, describe what methods and techniques will be used, when and where the action will take place, and what mitigation measures are necessary.

Alternatives considered should include the following:

- Use of any suggested prohibited equipment or facilities.
- None of the Section 4(c) prohibited uses.
- If appropriate, a mix of prohibited and non-prohibited uses.

Component Activities

Identify how each of the components of the action would be performed under this alternative.

Wilderness Character

For each alternative, describe the effect of each component activity on the qualities of wilderness character and what mitigation measures will be taken:

- Untrammelled
- Undeveloped
- Natural
- Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation
- Other Features of Value

Alternatives Not Analyzed

What alternatives were considered but not analyzed? Why were they not analyzed?

Alternative Comparison

Compare the positive and negative effects of each alternative on each quality of wilderness character.

Step 2 Determination: What is the minimum activity?

- Identify the **Selected Alternative**.
- Describe the rationale for selecting this alternative.
- Describe any associated monitoring and reporting requirements.

Approvals

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

Reporting and NEPA Analysis – Follow agency requirements.

Additional Resources:

Refer to the MRDG **Overview**, **Instructions**, and **Workbook** for more information in the Management Tools/Minimum Requirements Analysis section at: www.wilderness.net.