

# SUMMARY OF QUALITIES, INDICATORS, AND IMPACT EXAMPLES FOR WILDERNESS CHARACTER

UNTRAMMELED	NATURAL	UNDEVELOPED	SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION	OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE
<p><b>Wilderness is essentially free from the intentional <u>actions</u> of modern human control or manipulation.</b></p> <p>“...an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man...” and “...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.” Wilderness Act, Section 2(c)</p> <p>Preserved when... actions are <i>not</i> taken to manipulate or control ecological systems and its components.</p> <p>Degraded by... actions that intentionally control or manipulate the flora, fauna, or natural processes.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suppressing or lighting fire</li> <li>• Spraying weeds</li> <li>• Predator control</li> <li>• Translocating wildlife</li> <li>• Damming streams</li> </ul> <p><i>Actions may be agency authorized actions or unauthorized public actions and are trammeling while the actions are ongoing.</i></p>	<p><b>Wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the <u>effects</u> of modern civilization.</b></p> <p>“...is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions.” Wilderness Act, Section 2(c)</p> <p>Preserved when... indigenous species and ecological processes are intact and functional.</p> <p>Degraded by... effects (intended or unintended) of modern civilization on the biophysical environment.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of non-native species</li> <li>• Extirpation of native species</li> <li>• Degradation of air quality</li> <li>• Degradation of water quality and quantity</li> </ul> <p><i>Effects may be the result of actions outside the wilderness boundary, and/or occurred prior to wilderness designation and still persist today.</i></p>	<p><b>Wilderness retains its primeval character and influence and is essentially without permanent improvement or modern human occupation.</b></p> <p>“...an area of undeveloped Federal land...without permanent improvement or human habitation” and “...where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” Wilderness Act, Section 2(c)</p> <p>Preserved when... human-made features are not located in, and motors or mechanical transport are not used in, the wilderness area.</p> <p>Degraded by... structures or installations, or the use of motors or mechanical transport.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presence of buildings</li> <li>• Presence of radio repeaters</li> <li>• Presence of wildlife radio collars and tags</li> <li>• Use of chainsaws</li> <li>• Use of wheelbarrows</li> </ul> <p><i>Development-related degradations focus on those used for administrative purposes - not recreation.</i></p>	<p><b>Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.</b></p> <p>“...has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.” Wilderness Act, Section 2(c)</p> <p>Preserved when... visitors experience minimal encounters, observe landscapes without modern human effects, are not encumbered by regulatory restrictions, etc.</p> <p>Degraded by... encounters, indications of civilization, or restrictions on visitor behavior.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sights and sounds indicating other visitors</li> <li>• Infrastructure for visitor support</li> <li>• Access restricted by permits</li> <li>• Designated campsites</li> </ul> <p><i>Degradations include recreational purposes - not administrative.</i></p>	<p><b>Wilderness preserves other features that are of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.</b></p> <p>“...may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.” Wilderness Act, Section 2(c)</p> <p>Preserved when... each identified feature unique to the wilderness area is protected.</p> <p>Degraded by... partial or total loss of the feature.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vandalism of cultural resources</li> <li>• Destruction of paleontological resources</li> <li>• Scenic quality lost to air pollution</li> <li>• Loss of unique habitats</li> </ul> <p><i>Features may be degraded from activities within or outside the wilderness area, or when they are not protected consistent with a wilderness context.</i></p>