

Selected Undesirable Behaviors for Wilderness

Behavior	Undesirable Effects Produced in Nature or Visitor Experience	Desired Behavior	Actions for Added Effectiveness (props, body language, things in nature)
Campsite too close to water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Blocking animal travel/drinking corridor 2) Visual impact to other visitors 3) Stream bank erosion – changes in water composition 4) Increased potential to pollute water 	Move campsite at least 100 feet from water	Show eroded site
Dog off leash	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) May chase wildlife 2) Intimidates other hikers 3) Porcupine/mountain lion hazard for dog 4) Other people want to see wildlife 5) Dog-dog conflicts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Dog on leash 2) Leave dog home 3) Walk dog in other areas 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Suggest and know other areas 2) Carry leashes 3) Educational cards
Fire too close to water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Fire scars, tree damage, trash 2) Cumulative impacts of many people having fires in same area 3) Effects of run-off 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) No fire 2) Move back 3) Clean area 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Show impacts from fires (trees, soil scars, lack of dead wood) 2) Benefits of no fire at night(stars) 3) Show them a lightweight stove
Feeding wildlife	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Dependence on humans 2) Habituation 3) Poor diet for wildlife 4) Disturb natural process 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Good food packing and preparation 2) Avoid food with strong odors 3) Increased caution when eating 	Discuss examples where animals have been fed.

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Cutting switchbacks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Erosion, vegetation damage, social trails 2) Danger to party (slopes too steep) 3) “Trail rage” from other visitors 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Stay on trail 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Discuss trail design 2) Switch backs are easier on hiker 3) Show erosion/waterbar
Camping too close to trail	Social impact to other visitors	Increase distance from trail	Ask how they would feel coming upon a camp right near the trail
Bathing or washing dishes in stream/lake	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Phosphates in water hurts fish 2) Eutrophication 3) Food goes to fish 4) Distracting to others’ experience 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) One night = don’t wash 2) Wash far from water 3) No soap 4) Strainer 	Show them what you do
Large group size	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Social impact = lack of solitude 2) Possible noise 3) Compounded physical impacts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Split group up 2) Plan ahead – know group size 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Show them some physical impacts 2) Split them up 3) Spend more time with them
Improper disposal of human waste	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Animals may dig up 2) Toilet paper may become visible 3) Pollution of water 4) Social impacts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Properly bury 2) Pack out 3) Make sure to keep waste away from lakes/streams 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Show physical depth – hand is about 7” 2) Discuss/show used site

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Riding bikes in Wilderness	1) Peer pressure = Wilderness Act 2) 20% Forest Service land in Wilderness 3) 4% Federal land is Wilderness	Don't ride in Wilderness, use other areas	1) Suggest maps in bike shops 2) Know of other areas to ride
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