

## Natural and Cultural Resource Management in Wilderness

### **Wilderness Stewardship Principles** (Wilderness Management, Hende, Dawson 2002)

The Wilderness Stewardship Principles highlighted in **BLUE** are particularly relevant to management of fish and wildlife in wilderness.

1. Manage wilderness as the most pristine extreme on the environmental modification spectrum. Maintain the distinctive qualities that define and separate wilderness from other land uses—the relative naturalness and solitude (the wildness) of designated wilderness compared to adjacent lands.
2. As wilderness is a composite resource with interrelated parts (natural relationship among all its ecosystem parts: vegetation, water, forage, wildlife, and geology), its management must be focused on the whole, comprehensively not on its component parts.
3. Manage wilderness, and sites within, under a non-degradation concept. Prevent the degradation of current naturalness and solitude in each wilderness and restore substandard naturalness and solitude to minimum levels.
4. Manage human influences, a key to wilderness protection.
5. Manage wilderness biocentrically to produce human values and benefits.
6. Favor wilderness-dependent activities.
7. Guide wilderness management using written plans with specific area objectives.
8. Set carrying capacities as necessary to prevent unnatural change.
9. Focus management on threatened sites and damaging activities.
10. Apply only the minimum tools, regulations, or force to achieve wilderness area objectives. When management seeks to restore wilderness conditions, the focus must be on wilderness, allowing natural forces and processes to freely operate, thus protecting naturalness as a defining quality of wilderness.
11. Involve the public as a key to the success of wilderness management.
12. Monitor wilderness conditions and experience opportunities to guide long-term wilderness stewardship.
13. Manage wilderness in relation to management of adjacent lands.

### **Wildlife Management Objectives** (Wilderness Management, Hende, Dawson 2002)

1. See natural distribution, numbers, population composition, and interaction of indigenous species of wildlife.
2. Allow natural processes, as far as possible, to control wilderness ecosystems and their wildlife.
3. Keep wildlife wild, with its behavior altered as little as possible by human influence.
4. Permit viewing, hunting, and fishing where such activities are (a) biologically sound, (b) legal, and (c) carried out in the spirit of a wilderness experience.
5. Favor the protection and restoration of threatened and endangered species and wildlife dependent on or associated with wilderness conditions.

6. Minimize degradation of wilderness qualities, naturalness, solitude, absence of permanent, visible evidence of human activity—while managing wildlife in wilderness.

**Key Guidelines** (Wilderness Management, Hende, Dawson 2002)

1. Recognize wildlife as an inseparable part of the wilderness resource. It plays a vital role in the development, maintenance, and modification of soil, vegetation, and ecosystems that cover wilderness topography; in dispersal, planting, and germination of seeds; in pollination; in fertilization; in distribution of nutrients; and in conversion of dead plants into organic matter that is more usable by living plants.
2. Recognize that, by definition, wilderness is critical to the survival of wilderness dependant wildlife and a major factor in the conservation of wilderness-associated species.
3. Monitor distribution, numbers, diversity, and behavior of wildlife to help measure the naturalness and solitude of a wilderness. Wildlife reflects ecological conditions and their changes over time, so wildlife can serve as indicators of wilderness character and quality. Wide-ranging wilderness-dependent species potentially serve as an indicator of wilderness conditions, and can have umbrella effects, that is, the protection of natural process and non-target organisms as a consequence of managing for a few, “featured” species.

**Four Cornerstones of Wilderness Stewardship** (Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, 2003)

All of the Four Cornerstones of Wilderness Stewardship are relevant for management of fish and wildlife resources in wilderness.

1. Manage wilderness as a whole.
2. Preserve wildness and natural conditions.
3. Protect wilderness benefits.
4. Provide and use the minimum necessary.