



Wilderness Non-Native Invasive Species Management

The Wilderness Stewardship Principles highlighted in **BLUE** and *Italics* are particularly relevant to Non-Native Invasive Species planning and operations in wilderness.

Wilderness Stewardship Principles (Wilderness Management, Hende 1990)

- Manage wilderness as one extreme on the environmental modification spectrum
- Manage wilderness as a composite resource, not as separate parts
- *Manage wilderness, and sites within, under a non-degradation concept*
- *Manage human influences, a key to wilderness protection*
- Manage wilderness to produce human values and benefits
- Favor wilderness-dependent activities
- *Guide management with written plans that state objectives for specific areas*
- Set carrying capacities as necessary
- *Focus on threatened sites and damaging activities*
- *Apply only minimum regulations and tools necessary to achieve objectives*
- *Involve the public as a key to acceptance and success of wilderness management*
- *Monitor conditions and experience opportunities for the long-term*
- *Manage in conjunction with adjacent lands*

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

The Second and Fourth Cornerstone of Wilderness Stewardship are particularly relevant for Non-Native Invasive Species Management in wilderness.

1. **Manage wilderness as a whole.**
The wilderness is a 'resource' and though it has many components, it is managed to not emphasize or favor any one value over another.
2. *Preserve wildness and natural conditions.*
Wildness is a factor of how we manage wilderness and leave it 'untrammelled' (uncontrolled) by human influences. Naturalness results from wildness. NNIP are not a part of the natural, native ecosystems and processes but manipulating and controlling them in wilderness is potentially a threat to the wildness of wilderness also. There are many challenges in determining what the 'natural' condition is that managers are trying to re-create through control of NNIP.
3. *Protect wilderness benefits.*
The benefits of wilderness are many and include both social and biophysical elements. NNIP can affect both the visitors experience in wilderness and also the benefits that occur due to clean water, and native plant, fish, and wildlife habitat.
4. *Provide and use the minimum necessary.*
Exceptions to use motorized equipment or take any action that is potentially intrusive on the wilderness resource should be screened to determine if it is both necessary and the minimum necessary. Any decision to utilize control methods for NNIP must adhere to the minimum requirements concept so that treatment is safe and effective but not more adversely impacting to the social and biophysical values of wilderness than is necessary.