

Operating Plan Language – R6

This example was developed by the Wilderness Information Management Steering Group based on review of language currently in use in Operating Plans in several regions.

As Forests develop and review their wilderness outfitter and guide operating plans, this language has been approved by Region 6 for inclusion. Similar language may also be used.

Operating plans are reviewed annually and should be updated at this time if needed. Confer with your special use permit administrator to determine the appropriate method for incorporating these requirements.

By reporting time in 2009, all wildernesses in Region 6 should have this language or similar language integrated into 100% outfitter and guide operating plans functioning within wilderness.

Language:

(Optional) Your special use permit authorizes you to operate a portion of your business in the _____ Wilderness.

It is the responsibility of professional outfitters to set the example for other Forest users regarding Leave No Trace Practices, backcountry ethics, and caring for the land and other users. Outfitters are expected to foster awareness knowledge and understanding of designated wilderness, the wilderness preservation system, basic principles of wilderness management and the unique ecosystem characteristics of the _____ Wilderness.

As a wilderness outfitter you have a responsibility to preserve and protect the wilderness resource. Listed below are the characteristics and performance expectations of wilderness outfitters:

- 1) Has an understanding of the Wilderness Act, and the law, policies and local special provisions of the wilderness in which they operate.
- 2) Places the wilderness resource above the ease and convenience of himself/herself and his/her clients.
- 3) Does not sacrifice the wilderness resource for economic gain.
- 4) Has the ability to interpret natural processes, and communicate to their clients.
- 5) Shares with clients wilderness history, cultural background, ethics and values.
- 6) Continually applies and improves on "light-on-the-land" techniques.
- 7) Communicates with clients that natural processes like fire are a part of the wilderness ecosystem, and that natural processes will be allowed to operate freely and that they will change over time

- 8) Emphasizes the value of opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation in the wilderness.
- 9) In his/her advertising, represents the experience as primitive and unconfined recreation, and prepares clients in advance for a "wilderness" experience in contrast with their daily life.
- 10) Ability to practice and teach traditional/primitive skills. (Add local examples like: camping and travel skill, appropriate survival skills).

Describe below how you will inform your clients about wilderness values, low impact/leave no trace skills, and backcountry etiquette:
