



## Summary of Wilderness Management Plan Requirements from NPS Management Policies, RM 41

### NPS Management Policies

6.3.3 Consistency – NPS will seek consistency (agency and interagency) in

- Wilderness management objectives
- Techniques
- Practices

6.3.4.2 Wilderness Management Planning – supt. of each park with wilderness resources will develop and maintain WMP or equivalent to guide preservation, management, and use

- Establish desired future conditions
- Establish indicators, standards, conditions and thresholds beyond which management actions will be taken to reduce human impacts
- Separate document or action component of another planning document
- NEPA and 106 compliance
- Public involvement
- Specific, measurable management objectives that address preservation and management of natural and cultural resources ... and achieve purposes of Wilderness Act
- Cross reference to carrying capacity 8.2.1

Management policies go into detail about wilderness resource management:

- Minimum requirement
- Scientific activities
- Monitoring wilderness resources
- Natural resources management
- Cultural resources
- Fire management
- Management facilities
- Administrative facilities
- Trails
- Shelters and campsites
- Signs
- Wilderness boundaries
- Leal descriptions and boundary maps
- Caves
- Waters
- Wilderness use management
- Interpretation and education
- Recreational use management
- Recreation use evaluation
- Leave no trace

- Use of motorized equipment
- Commercial services
- Special events
- Existing private rights
- Grazing and livestock driveways
- Rights-of-way
- Mineral development
- Accessibility for persons with disabilities

### **Reference Manual RM 41: Wilderness Preservation and Management**

Re-state NPS management policies on wilderness management

#### Appendix D – Wilderness Management Plans – Recommended Content

- I. Introduction
    - a. Goals and objective of plan
    - b. Identification of wilderness area
    - c. Legislation and pre-existing conditions
    - d. Relationship of WMP and other plans
  - II. Wilderness Management Proposed Goals and Actions
    - a. Inventory of administrative facilities
    - b. Establish desired future conditions
    - c. Establish monitoring indicators
    - d. Establish standards for indicators
    - e. Establish visitor use levels
    - f. Staff organization and accountability
    - g. Application of minimum requirement concept
    - h. Access by persons with disabilities
    - i. Stock use
    - j. Fire management
    - k. Cultural resources
    - l. Climbing and mountaineering
    - m. Interpretation and education
    - n. Management of valid existing rights and Congressionally authorized uses
    - o. Interaction with other federal land managing agencies
    - p. Scientific activities
    - q. Additional items as needed
  - III. Environmental Compliance: EA or EIS
- Appendices (as needed)

#### Appendix F – Examples of Minimum Requirement Decision Trees

## **Common NPS Wilderness Management Planning Goals**

These goals are likely common to most parks with wilderness resources and may be included / adapted into the individual wilderness management plans.

- Maintain wilderness in a natural and untrammeled condition while accommodating human uses.
- Provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined recreation experience.
- Sustain wilderness as a place of peace, solitude and sanctuary.
- Preserve natural resources for their inherent ecosystem and biological diversity values and for scientific research purposes.
- Provide the opportunity for challenge and risk.
- Minimize long-term impacts caused by human uses.
- Sustain natural and indigenous life forms.
- Protect and preserve historic and cultural resources found in wilderness.
- Manage wilderness so that changes in the ecosystem are primarily a consequence of natural forces, or within a range of natural variability and succession.