



Wilderness Ranger Annual Training Plan

Background Reading: (prior to season, if possible; **comp time?**)

-- "About Wilderness"

<http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS&sec=aboutWild> especially, "What is Wilderness"

-- Wilderness Ranger Tool Box

<http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=toolboxes&sec=ranger>

-- Wilderness Fundamentals Toolbox

<http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=toolboxes&sec=awareness> Review: Goal, Achieving Wilderness Awareness, What is Wilderness? Historical Context for Wilderness, Wilderness Perspectives, Wilderness Values, Benefits & Threats.

-- The Wilderness Act: <http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS&sec=legisact>

-- Core Competencies for Entry Level Wilderness Employees

<http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS&sec=competenciesEntry>

-- 1993 Wilderness Ranger Field Guide (note: this is out of date; a new edition is due out soon). Just skim to familiarize.

<http://www.wilderness.net/toolboxes/documents/ranger/Wilderness%20Ranger%20Field%20Guide.pdf> **JS & JE also have a word file that can be edited**

View: (ideally as a group to discuss after watching; or pre-season at home)

America's Wilderness (3 minutes) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-xBeYyc-IR0>

USFS MTDC DVD: *Wilderness Rangers: Keeping it Wild*

USFS DVD: *The Four Cornerstones of Wilderness Stewardship* (**needs to be evaluated**)

USFS MTDC CD: *Wilderness & Backcountry Site Restoration Guide*; Ch. 1.1-1.2 (view on CD or print out just these sections)

"Two other DVD resources to investigate. One is a series of DVDs that I think are pretty new that our district is having everyone watch regarding safety when confronting the public, especially when you're alone. They've been pretty good so far. The safety officer on your forest should know how to get a hold of them. The other is a program that was put together in R10 Alaska for people in public contact roles. It was very well done - I don't know if it was distributed out of the region, but you could ask. Kristi Kantola was the person who developed the program, and she's still up there."

Recommended by: Steve Robertsen <srobertsen@fs.fed.us> District Interpreter Tofte Ranger District, Superior National Forest, MN

Read & Discuss as a group: (in office, warehouse, or field)

-- Jon Erickson's "Wilderness Ranger Professional Conduct and Expectations"

-- "Authority of the Resource" article by George Wallace (**JS & JE have a pdf**)

-- DNF Guide to Wilderness CFR Education & Enforcement, by John Schubert

-- JHAs relevant to wilderness work; all sign.

-- Tailgate Safety Session form (do one together to set standards)

-- Other forms to be used for the season (O/G, LAC, Fire, etc)

-- Protocols for utilizing volunteers

Practical Hands On Field Training:

- Radio use
- GPS use
- Other field technology devices to be used
- Servicing Wilderness Trailheads Protocol
- Clean fire pit & Rehab firepit (establish standards expected of all rangers)
- Practice Writing Incident Reports
- No Trace Fires (mound, pan,..)
- Clearing trails to spec (discuss need to keep trails narrow)
- XC Saw Certification, if needed
- Cleaning drainages to spec
- Reducing campsite size techniques
- Practice Writing Citations for FPOs
- LAC and other field data collection.
- Horse Management: Highlines, pickets, etc.
- Weed Recognition and removal.
- Putting out & reporting unattended & escaped camp fires
- Installing and loosening signs
- Attend LNT Trainer course
- Attend Wilderness First Aid course
- Discuss and Practice Search and Rescue procedures

Roll Play and Discuss:

- Authority of the Resource Scenarios **JS & JE have pdf**
Commonly Violated CFR Scenarios: No Permit; Fire < 100' From Water or Trail; Sanitation; dog off leash; poor horse camp, soap in lake; etc.
- Citable CFR Scenarios: Exceeding Group Size; Fire in Closed Area; Camping Outside Designated Site; bike or motor;)
- Non Offenses, but undesirable behavior: poor campsite location; fire too large; messy camp; noisy group; etc
- Outfitter/Guide contact
- Every Ranger should have their basic public contact dialogues down cold: concise, clear, confident, and friendly.

Early Season in Field: Pair up with a variety of rangers to observe one another's public contacts and discuss. This should help us be somewhat consistent, though development of a personal style is encouraged.