

Forest Service Information and References

Visitor Safety:

FSM 2320.3 – Policy

10. Inform wilderness visitors that they face inherent risks of adverse weather conditions, isolation, physical hazards, and lack of rapid communications, and that search and rescue may not be as rapid as expected in an urban setting in all publications and personal contacts.

2323.13 - Improvements and Nonconforming Facilities and Activities.

Provide facilities and improvements only for protection of the wilderness resource.

2323.13c - Water Sources.

Where necessary for wilderness purposes, developed enclosed springs and hand pumps may be maintained to a minimum potable standard in wilderness. Potability of open water sources shall not be guaranteed. Inform visitors through literature and trailhead notices outside of wilderness of the existence of raw water, the probability of contamination, and that water should be boiled, treated with chemicals, or filtered before using. Do not install warning signs in wilderness unless a specific hazard is known to exist and cannot be corrected.

2323.13f - Transportation System.

2. Bridges. Design bridges to minimize the impact on the wilderness. Select locations that minimize the size and complexity of the structure. Provide or replace bridges only:

- a. When no other route or crossing is reasonably available.
- b. Where the crossing, during the primary season of public use, cannot be negotiated afoot safely, or cannot be forded by horses *safely*.
- c. Where unacceptable bank damage will occur from visitors seeking a crossing.
- d. Where flood waters frequently destroy or damage less sturdy structures.