

Wenatchee National Forest Wilderness Steward Duties

TRIP PREPAREDNESS / SIGN-OUT

- Double check gear list
- Pick up Wilderness Steward Packet with tools/radio/trip report
- Make sure Lisa has your trip itinerary
- Call trip itinerary into "Wenatchee" on the radio. Continue to check in by radio once a day until your trip is complete. Leave radio on during day; turn off once dark.
- Make sure you have a Northwest Forest Pass from Lisa or Denny

TRAILHEAD CHECKLIST

- Do not leave valuables in your car! Especially not your wallet!
- Quickly glance at trailhead conditions for break-ins, trash, toilet condition, anything out of order.
- Make sure wilderness regulation signs are posted on bulletin board and either permits or registration clipboard is in the box.

WHILE TRAVELING

- Pick up all trash, even the little itty bitsy things like candy wrappers. If too much trash to pack out, then bag it up and leave along trail with a note asking users to help out. They will.
- Note whether wilderness boundary sign is in place (see boundary on your map).
- Make sure each trail junction has at least 2 signs-- one for each trail. Note if missing. Loosen bolts on signs until head is about 1/16th inch from board so trees can grow!
- Be friendly and courteous to everyone on the trail. Note group size, and whether they are day hikers or overnight. Keep track of stock groups separately.
- Note snow conditions, fording conditions, etc. Also flowers, berries, bugs.
- Note trail maintenance needed.
 - Logs-- note what section of trail and log diameters
 - Brush-- note where, what type of brush (ie shrubs or trees), and the distance of brushing (feet or miles). Note how bad it is getting. Is it just beginning to encroach on the trail, or are you pushing through it? We brush ten feet up to accommodate stock on most trails.
 - Drainage-- If water is running down trail, note location and length of trail.
 - Treadwork-- Describe problem and location.

AT CAMPSITES

- Pick up all trash. Trash often ends up in bushes at edge of site, in the water nearby, or stuffed under rocks! Fish heads and entrails can be fished out of lake and buried.

- Destroy firerings if prohibited. Here's how-- Remove all rocks by throwing in water or scattering out of view in bushes. Pick out ALL trash including little bits of foil. Use shovel and trash bags to remove all ash, scaping it down to where no charcoal is left. Scatter lightly in bushes well away from site (or dump into deep holes in talus!). Figure out how to disguise the fire scar by matching the same type of leaf litter, soil, or even dry grass. Very carefully "steal" the litter or soil by scraping small amounts away from other areas where it won't be noticeable. Sometimes I gather LOTS of duff, and scatter it over a large area if a site is a dust bowl.
- Where fires are allowed, maintain the firering, so that folks will continue to use the same ring. Here's how-- Pick out ALL trash including little bits of foil. Use shovel and trash bags to remove excess ash, leaving a little bit in the bottom of the ring.. Scatter lightly in bushes well away from site (or dump into deep holes in talus!). If the firering is huge, make it a little bit smaller to encourage smaller fires. If too small, then people just make them bigger.
- Dismantle campcraft, like structures, filling in trenches, etc. If a camp was "really bad" make a note of the location in your trip report (maybe even show on a map).
- Abandoned Gear-- Gear can be cached for up to 48 hours. If you find old gear, and there is more than you can pack out comfortably, collect it into a pile, and note the exact location on a map with any additional instructions so we can get it out. Estimate quantity (weight and type of items) so we can decide how many people or stock are needed.

TOILETS

- Check all toilets for condition. If a toilet hole is almost full (6 or less inches from the top), take the time to dig a new hole. This is a big project that is likely to take a couple hours.
- The new hole should be located the shortest possible distance from the old toilet in order to cause the least impact and back strain! Try hard to avoid building a new trail. All toilets should be at least 200 feet from water. Views are good. Vegetative screening for privacy is a must. By popular vote, it is better to position the toilet so that as a person is walking toward it the back of the toilet faces the trail. This way if someone is on it, less surface area of flesh is exposed to public view.
- Make the hole opening slightly smaller than the platform at the base of the toilet. Dig until you can dig no more, or the hole is at least three feet deep. Rocks that seem firmly stuck eventually work loose by digging around them.
- Once the toilet is moved, cover the old hole with dirt from the new hole. Seal the edges of the toilet base with dirt. If your hole gets a little to big, use rocks then dirt to seal off any "open air".
- If a toilet is falling apart, try to do field repairs. If you can't fix it, note the exact problem and tools needed for the next person. If the toilet appears beyond repair, note this in your report.

END OF TRIP

- Fill out a new ranger report at trailhead bulletin board to update conditions. Repeat any "low impact" or regulatory messages from previous edition.
- Return Wilderness Steward kit, tools, etc.
- Check-in with "Wenatchee" on the radio. Leave Lisa a voice mail at Ext. 233 saying you are in.

TRIP REPORT

- Visitor encounters, work accomplished, and work needed are noted in the trip report. Fill out the trip report ASAP at the end of the trip, and turn in to Lisa at the Ranger Station.

GETTING QUESTIONS ANSWERED OR GETTING HELP

- **For any emergency (fires, accidents, law enforcement problems, etc)** immediately call "Wenatchee". Tell them that you are a volunteer and that you need coaching on what to do. Be prepared to tell exact location including Township, Range, Section, and Quarter Section. Be able to describe exact problem, names of people, etc. Stay with accident victims if you can do so safely. Offer any first aid assistance within the scope of your training, and keep the channel of communication open. Wenatchee will arrange for any support needed such as Search and Rescue, fire fighters, or law enforcement personnel. Try getting ahold of Lisa by radio as well. I can offer additional coaching if needed.
- If you aren't sure what to do on a work task, use your best judgment and save your questions for when you get back in. It is better to do SOMETHING to fix something rather than nothing. Even if you did the "wrong" thing, no big deal, we can fix it later! You can try to get Lisa Therrell or Denny McMillin via radio if it seems really urgent.