Visitor Use Management in Wilderness: Indirect and Direct Methods

INDIRECT – Emphasis on influencing or modifying use and/or behavior. Individual retains freedom to choose. Control less complete, more variation in use possible.

| 1. Physical design and alterations | • Improve, maintain, or neglect access roads.  
|                                 | • Improve, maintain, or neglect campsites.  
|                                 | • Make trails more or less difficult.  
|                                 | • Build trails or leave areas trail-less.  
|                                 | • Improve fish or wildlife populations or take no action (stock, allow depletion, or elimination)  
| 2. Information and Education     | • Information to redistribute use.  
|                                 | • Advertise recreation opportunities in surrounding areas, outside wilderness.  
|                                 | • Leave No Trace education programs.  
|                                 | • Advertise underused areas and patterns of use.  
| 3. Entry and eligibility requirements | • Charge constant visitor fee.  
|                                 | • Charge different fees by trail zones, season, and entry points.  
|                                 | • Require proof of wilderness knowledge and/or skills (or group permits).  |
**DIRECT** – Emphasis on regulation of behavior. Individual choice restricted. High in degree of control.

| 1. Increased enforcement | • Impose fines.  
|                          | • Increase surveillance of area (wilderness ranger presence). |
| 2. Zoning               | • Separate incompatible uses (hiker only zones, areas with stock use).  
|                          | • Prohibit use at times of high damage potential (ex. No stock use in high meadows until dry, approx. July 1).  
|                          | • Limit camping with setbacks from water or other features. |
| 3. Rationing Use        | • Rotate use (open or close access points, trails, campsites).  
|                          | • Require reservations.  
|                          | • Assign campsites and/or travel routes to each camper group.  
|                          | • Limit usage via access points.  
|                          | • Group or party size limits.  
|                          | • Limit camping to designated campsites only.  
|                          | • Limit length of stay in area (max./min.). |
| 4. Restrictions on activities. | • Prohibit certain types of use.  
|                          | • Restrict building campfires.  
|                          | • Restrict certain recreation activities. |