



12/06/2010

Wilderness Hot Spring Management

Stewardship Practices and Problems at Unique High-Use Destinations

Dear Wilderness Stewards,

My name is Andrew Larson and I am contacting you in regards to the management of hot springs within Wilderness areas. For my final project in the Masters of Natural Resources program at the University of Idaho I conducted a case study analysis of the management strategies at three hot spring sites and the context within which these approaches have been applied.

The purpose of this study is to enable the managers of these problematic hot spring sites to profit from the shared experience of managers facing similar resource concerns elsewhere in the Wilderness Preservation System. Preserving the wilderness character of recreationally accessed hot spring sites is a persistent and problematic managerial challenge wherever they occur. This study addresses the management plans, impact mitigation projects, special regulations, specific resource concerns and the manager's perceptions of site issues for three unique hot springs. A presentation of the results of this study can be accessed at:

<http://mediasite.for.uidaho.edu/mediasite5/SilverlightPlayer/Default.aspx?peid=ee1c64a4a0fa4884a020799f87a4ca4d>

Managers of these sites may benefit from expanded communication and collaboration among the community of professional wilderness stewards who are tasked with the challenge of protecting the rare and unique values of these high value resources. To this end, this email has been addressed to the managers of every wilderness hot spring site in the system so that a dialogue among colleagues is now possible with this list serve.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about the topic or the results of this study. I am a big believer in abolishing managerial isolation on these specialized resource concerns and hope that the communication this study represents will help improve the wilderness stewardship of these sites.

Sincerely,

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Hot Springs in the Wilderness Preservation System

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