

# Capacity Determination for Visitor Use in Wilderness

## Examples

The Toolbox section at: <http://www.wilderness.net> provides examples of wilderness planning, visitor use management, and capacity determination for visitor use in wilderness.

To find the examples of wilderness planning including indicators and standards for conditions of visitor use and resource protection go to the wilderness.net Home Page and click on 'Toolboxes'. From the toolbox list select Visitor Use Management or Resource Protection and look for the examples section.

To find the examples of capacity calculation listed below, go to the wilderness.net Home Page and click on 'Toolboxes'. From the toolbox list select Commercial Services (Outfitter-Guides).

Outfitter-Guide Needs Assessment Checklist – formula based method  
Determining the Capacity of an Area Using ROS – formula based method  
Bighorn NF Needs Analysis and Allocation – formula based method  
San Juan NF Needs Analysis – formula and limiting factor methods

## Current examples of numeric capacity determination using standards-based method -

Many attempts have been made to locate and make available current examples of the application of this methodology. Previous needs to determine numeric visitor use capacity have typically been done during wilderness planning by:

- Capping use at current levels
- Identifying Limits due to by physical setting or facility (parking spaces, camping areas, anchorages, etc.)
- Setting standards and calculating the capacity in PAOTs based on the number of trail encounters, occupied sites, launches, landings, etc.)

Unfortunately there are a lack of good examples readily available because:

- Many examples date back to the time before electronic files
- In many cases the wilderness plan is available but the actual process and calculations were not documented in the plans
- Many areas determined that there was no need to limit use and managed for conditions
- Staff changes and other priorities make it difficult for managers to respond to requests for examples.