

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wilderness Stewardship Division



2013-2014 Wilderness Report

WASO Wilderness Stewardship Program



The mission of the National Park Service (NPS) Wilderness Stewardship Program is to identify and advance park lands to become part of the National Wilderness Preservation System and to steward those lands at the highest level of wilderness protection. The program trains NPS staff and educates the public about wilderness character, values, and ethics. Further, the program works closely with its sister agencies and external partners to enhance capacity and engage stakeholders in becoming global stewards of our remaining wild landscapes.

Save wild places. Inspire generations. Foster stewardship. Offer hope.

Table of Contents

Message from Division Chief 4

STEWARDSHIP + SCIENCE 5

Director's Order + Reference Manual 41

Wilderness Stewardship Database

Wilderness Character User Guide +
Stewardship Plan Handbook

Interagency Keeping It Wild 2

Ecological Restoration Framework

Interagency Wilderness Character
Monitoring Database

Wilderness GIS Data Standards

Regional Highlights 12

Wilderness Leadership Council 13

Interagency Wilderness Advisory Groups .. 14

CAPACITY BUILDING 7

Park-Specific Wilderness Workshops

Interagency Wilderness Training + Workshops

Online Training Courses, Blended Learning,
+ Webinars

Wes Henry Recipients

Service First Partnership with Leopold Institute

OUTREACH + COLLABORATION 9

Wilderness Act 50th

Interagency 2020 Vision

Quarterly Newsletters

NPS.gov Website Development

Wilderness Basics Collaboration

Wilderness + Fire Programs Collaboration

Leave No Trace Reinvigorated

APPENDICES

Wilderness Stewardship Division Org Chart + Staff Info 16

Designated Wilderness Areas Summary Table 17

MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP

It is an honor to return to the National Park Service (NPS) as the Chief of Wilderness Stewardship and a privilege to work in a discipline that is guided by two of our nation's most meaningful laws, the Organic Act and the Wilderness Act.

This is a special time for NPS wilderness, as we conclude our celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and prepare to celebrate the NPS Centennial. Approximately 80 percent of all NPS lands are managed as wilderness and 40 percent of the National Wilderness Preservation System is comprised of NPS designated wilderness. These lands represent the best of the best of our nation's conservation and outdoor recreation heritage and deserve the highest standard of protection and stewardship.

Many programs and individuals deserve special recognition for their contribution to NPS wilderness stewardship in 2013-2014, including those who participated in the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act; past and present members of the National Wilderness Leadership Council; regional and park wilderness coordinators; senior leadership personnel with a demonstrated passion for wilderness; and the small, but highly dedicated, staff of the Wilderness Stewardship Division.

The highest priority of the Wilderness Stewardship Division during the next five years will be to support the implementation of the interagency *2020 Vision* for the National Wilderness Preservation System. The highest priority for the NPS, in my view, is to complete wilderness character assessments for all wilderness parks, which will help inform park planning and ensure that the qualities of wilderness character are not degraded.

It is a personal goal to integrate wilderness stewardship into interdisciplinary programs throughout the NPS and to serve as a trusted source of wilderness stewardship expertise. A sign posted in the Visitor and Resource Protection office here in Washington, DC states, "What have we done for parks today?" I think it is important that the Wilderness Stewardship Division live by that mantra.

I sincerely hope that during my tenure I can foster continued excellence in wilderness stewardship and inspire the next generation of NPS wilderness champions. As we embark on the second 50 years of the Wilderness Act, I'd like to extend my encouragement to all NPS personnel to join in a service-wide commitment to "keep it wild."

Sincerely,
Roger Semler



Stewardship + Science

Release of Revised Director's Order + Reference Manual 41

After a multi-year review, the Director signed the revised [Director's Order 41](#) (DO) and [Reference Manual 41](#) (RM) for Wilderness Stewardship in May 2013. The revised DO provides clarity on wilderness preservation and management policies included in NPS Management Policies 2006, Chapter 6. Replacing a 1999 version, the 2013 revisions to DO41 include seven key thematic changes:

1. Clarification on eligibility determinations and wilderness studies
2. Consistent direction on identifying wilderness boundaries
3. Emphasis on the importance of wilderness character preservation
4. Consistent language with respect to fire management in wilderness
5. Updated language for the management of climbing activities in wilderness
6. Guidance on commercial services related to "extent necessary," filming, and air tours
7. Wilderness stewardship training for superintendents and deputies

RM41 provides practical guidance, examples, and templates that supplement the contents of DO41.

Release of Wilderness Character User Guide + Stewardship Plan Handbook

To kickstart 2014 and the year of the Wilderness Act 50th, the Wilderness Stewardship Program released two national guidance documents:

- *Keeping It Wild in the National Park Service: A User Guide to Integrating Wilderness Character into Park Planning, Management, & Monitoring*
- *Wilderness Stewardship Plan Handbook: Planning to Preserve Wilderness Character*

The [User Guide](#) provides succinct guidance, templates, and examples geared toward integrating wilderness character in the field. This document also aids staff in making responsible, transparent decisions that are consistent with NPS policy. Direction in the [Handbook](#) ensures that Wilderness Stewardship Plans are rooted in wilderness character preservation.

Together, these documents create a structure for park-to-park sharing of experiences, ideas, and best practices to reach wilderness stewardship goals as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Interagency Teams Begins Work on Keeping It Wild 2

Keeping It Wild 2 is an interagency strategy to monitor trends in selected attributes of wilderness character based on lessons learned from 15 years of developing and implementing wilderness character monitoring across the National Wilderness Preservation System. This document updates and will eventually replace the 2008 [Keeping It Wild: An Interagency Strategy for Monitoring Wilderness Character across the National Wilderness Preservation System](#), and provides a foundation for agencies to develop a nationally consistent approach to implement this monitoring protocol.

This interagency strategy is designed to be nationally consistent, locally relevant, and cost-effective. At the time of this report's publication (July 2015), *Keeping It Wild 2* was nearing completion and will be posted on wilderness.net.

The Wilderness Stewardship Program is responsible for the stewardship of NPS wilderness lands. Using the best available science to make sound decisions, staff strive to preserve wilderness character and ensure the protection of the wilderness resource for current and future generations.

In 2013-2014, the program revised Director's Order and Reference Manual 41, initiated efforts to assess ecological restoration proposals in wilderness, made wilderness stewardship database advancements, and implemented national planning efforts to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

2015 Preview: Ecological Restoration Framework Pilot Sites

Confirmed pilot sites for 2015 include:

- Crater Lake NP - Whitebark Pine restoration
- Pictured Rocks NL - Beech restoration
- Wupatki NM - Tamarisk removal
- Glacier NP - Vegetation management
- Channel Islands NP - Invasives management

Additional pilot sites will be identified later in 2015.

Framework Development for Ecological Intervention + Restoration in Wilderness

Every year, the four federal agencies that manage wilderness - the NPS, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish + Wildlife Service, and US Forest Service - receive hundreds of proposals to implement ecological restoration actions within the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The NWPS protects ~110 million acres of designated wilderness; the NPS manages nearly 44 million acres or 40 percent of the NWPS. The combination of climate change with other landscape stressors is driving ecological restoration to be one of the single most important, challenging, and potentially litigious wilderness stewardship issues because decisions need to incorporate diverse considerations in the context of uncertainty and risk.

With the help of an interagency working group, in 2014, the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute developed a draft framework to evaluate proposed ecological restoration actions with policy and law, science and technology, and values criteria. Frank Hays (formerly at Western Arctic National Parklands) and Jack Oelfke (North Cascades NP) represented the NPS on this effort. Pilot testing and finalizing the evaluation framework will occur in 2015.

NPS Wilderness Stewardship Database Now Available to Populate + Use

The Wilderness Stewardship Program [Wilderness Database](#), released in late 2014, is a comprehensive, centralized repository for vital wilderness stewardship baseline and status information. Intended to serve as a useful resource for Regional Wilderness Coordinators, Park Wilderness Managers, and WASO program staff, the database allows for easy archiving and retrieval of current wilderness stewardship information including: designation status, acreages, data sources (legislation, memos, etc.), stewardship information and wilderness contacts.

Interagency Wilderness Character Monitoring Database is Created

The [Interagency Wilderness Character Monitoring Database](#) was developed to provide a platform for wilderness parks to monitor and assess long-term trends in wilderness character in 2014. As the single interagency location for wilderness character monitoring data, the database supports continuity and information exchange across the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The database is managed via an online platform where users can strategically select monitoring measures and indicators most relevant to the resources managed within a given park wilderness area. These measures include indicators for monitoring the five biophysical wilderness character qualities.

Wilderness GIS Data Standards Now Available

In 2010, the [NPS Legislated Wilderness GIS Data Standards](#) were developed to provide wilderness managers with mapping standards for identifying Congressionally-designated wilderness boundaries. In 2014, recognizing the importance of monitoring *all* lands managed as wilderness, an interdisciplinary team with representatives from the NPS GIS Council, Wilderness Stewardship Division, Division of Fire + Aviation Management, and the Lands Resources Division worked together to develop the [Other Categories of Wilderness GIS Standards](#).

With the goal of continuing to facilitate the integration of spatial data depicting lands managed as wilderness while providing a framework for creating park-specific wilderness mapping layers, this 2014 data standard joins the 2010 standards to provide managers with mapping standards for all lands managed as wilderness within the national parks system.

Capacity Building

Training Offerings

The [Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center](#) (Carhart) provides a variety of interagency wilderness trainings, including face-to-face classroom instruction, online courses, blended learning opportunities, and webinars. In 2013-2014, nearly 50 percent of people taking advantage of Carhart offerings were NPS staff. All Carhart training opportunities are posted on [wilderness.net](#).

Carhart Wilderness Training	# of NPS Staff Trained in 2013-2014
Park Wilderness Workshops	331
Interagency Wilderness Trainings	89
Online Offerings	818

Park-Specific Wilderness Workshops:

8 park-specific wilderness workshops were conducted in 2013-2014: Pinnacles NM (2013), Yosemite NP (2013), the Denver Service Center (2013), Wupatki NM (2014), Craters of the Moon NM (2014), Capitol Reef NP (2014), Shenandoah NP (2014), and Haleakala NP (2014).

Interagency Wilderness Training + Workshops:

2013 Regional wilderness trainings were offered in Wyoming, New Mexico, California and 2014 regional trainings in Montana, North Carolina, Vermont, and Alaska. Interpretation and Education trainings were offered in Colorado (2013), Florida (2013), California (2013), New Mexico (2014), and West Virginia (2014). The National Wilderness Leadership Course was offered both years in Missoula, MT.

Online Training Courses, Blended Learning, + Webinars:

Carhart offered a variety of digital learning tools, including the Minimum Requirements Analysis Live course (2013), 31 online courses - including three new "Managing for Special Provisions in Wilderness" training courses (Fire, Insects + Disease, and Fish + Wildlife) (2014), and webinars on wildlife management case studies, ecological restoration in wilderness, and evaluating proposals for scientific activities in wilderness (2014).

Wes Henry National Award Recipients

The Director's Wes Henry National Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Award recognizes excellence in the Service. Since 1993, this award has celebrated the efforts of an individual NPS employee, group of employees, and/or park or central office.



2013 Individual Award: Kelly Bush

Kelly Bush, Wilderness District Ranger at North Cascades NP*, was a wilderness champion long before the park's formal wilderness designation. From seasonal ranger to patrol and district ranger, Kelly was critical to the development and implementation of the park's wilderness management policies and ethics. She was instrumental in the designation of the Stephen Mather Wilderness in 1988 and had a significant role in writing the park's first Wilderness Management Plan in 1989. For seven years, Kelly served as co-chair on North

Wilderness stewardship and management is highly dynamic and always evolving. In order to ensure that wilderness practitioners and interdisciplinary partners are managing most effectively, the Wilderness Stewardship Program facilitates opportunities for wilderness training, relationship building, and recognition of outstanding performance.

In 2013-2014, the program offered both in-person and online wilderness trainings, promoted the use of interagency wilderness networking tools, and awarded NPS staff with the Wes Henry Wilderness award.

2015 Preview: Submitting nominations for 2015 Wes Henry Awardees

Do you know a dedicated, passionate wilderness practitioner or group deserving of recognition? Nominate them for the 2015 National Wes Henry Award! Nominations will be accepted in January 2016 during the national consolidated call for awards.

Learn more at <http://share.inside.nps.gov/sites/WFM/Awards/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Cascades' Wilderness + Aviation Committee, and as a field representative for three years on the NPS National Wilderness Leadership Council.

**Kelly has since retired from North Cascades NP. Thank you Kelly, for your leadership and love of wilderness - enjoy retirement!*



2014 Individual Award: Ray O'Neil

Since his arrival to Zion NP in 1999 and through to his current position as Plateau District Ranger*, Ray O'Neil has done an outstanding job promoting wilderness accountability, consistency, and continuity at the local, regional, and national levels. Ray's creative and effective management of the unique Plateau District, with significant off-trail and technical slot canyon visitation, is a shining example of the intentionality and collaboration needed to be an effective wilderness manager today.

Ray pioneered an efficient online wilderness permitting system, implemented the park's Wilderness Stewardship Plan, and improved visitor experiences to wilderness while reducing visitor impacts through collaborative issue identification and monitoring. He also served as chair of the Intermountain Region's Wilderness Executive Committee and as park wilderness manager representative on the NPS National Wilderness Leadership Council in 2013.

**Ray has since moved to Saguaro NP, where he is the Chief Ranger.*

2014 Group Award: Concrete to Canyons Partnership

The Concrete to Canyons Partnership hosted by Lake Mead NRA (LAKE), Parashant NM (PARA), and Zion NP (ZION) connected 100 underserved fifth graders and their families from Las Vegas with ZION and the Zion wilderness. Fostering

life-long connections to national parks and their wilderness areas, this three day, two night wilderness camping experience included ecology lessons, wildlife observations, and a night sky program where students used telescopes to view the Milky Way.

Partners included Rainbow Dreams Academy, Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy, Zion Natural History Association, Zion National Park Foundation, National Park Foundation, Clark County Parks and Recreation, and local outfitters. The NPS Core Team included:

- LAKE - Kevin Turner, Amanda Dworak Roland, + Thomas Valencia
- PARA - Rosie Pepito, Amber Franklin, + Chelsea Moody
- ZION - Alyssa Baltrus, Barb Graves, Eleanor Hodak, Billie Rayford, Bryanna Plog, Kimberly Diamond, + Cheryl Leonard-Buick

Service First Partnership Between Wilderness Stewardship Division and Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute

Service First is a permanent legal authority available for use by all agencies in the Departments of Interior and Agriculture to facilitate improved resource stewardship, operational efficiency, and customer service. In 2013, the Wilderness Stewardship Division initiated an agreement to partially fund a Branch Chief of Wilderness Science position, in residence at the interagency [Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute](#) in Missoula, MT. NPS funds were matched by funds from the other wilderness agencies, and priority projects are collaboratively identified on an annual basis. This partnership extends through FY2015.

Outreach + Collaboration

NPS Commemorates 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act

The 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act was on September 3, 2014. Parks, regions, and programs hosted events for staff and the public throughout the year to commemorate this historic act. Planning efforts began well before 2014 and demonstrated the enthusiasm, passion, and collaborative nature of NPS staff across the country.

2013 PLANNING EFFORTS

Planning for the Wilderness Act 50th involved staff at all levels of the NPS and partnership with other agencies and non-government organizations (NGO). The coordinated interagency-NGO national planning efforts included the implementation of six national committees, focusing on everything from local events to large-scale media and publicity efforts.

Additionally, the NPS formed a servicewide working group to coordinate the development of [guidance](#) and [commemorative products](#). The NPS working group was supported by leadership from the NPS Wilderness Act 50th Executive Committee, who funded the products and ensured interdisciplinary involvement. Parks, regions, and programs initiated planning for site-specific events and collectively, the NPS and its partners made preparations for the National Wilderness Conference - the single largest national event honoring the anniversary.

2014 COMMEMORATION

Each of the seven NPS regions offered [public events](#) to honor the Wilderness Act 50th in 2014. These events served as opportunities to cultivate public awareness and understanding of wilderness through innovative and inclusive outreach.

11 parks received National Wilderness 50th Mini Grants - a servicewide competitive grant program where parks proposed wilderness and anniversary-related projects for up to \$2500 in project support funding. Grant recipients included:

- Canyonlands NP - Walking with Thoreau: A Place-Based Literary Wilderness Experience
- Capitol Reef NP - Guest Speaker + Ranger-Led Wilderness Hikes
- Glacier NP - Leave No Trace/Bear Aware Safety Trash Bags
- Grand Canyon NP - Wilderness 50th Speaking Event
- Gulf Island NS - Wilderness + You: A Facilitated Overnight Experience
- Isle Royale NP - Wild Stewards: Connecting Youth to a Wilderness Archipelago
- Joshua Tree NP - Find Your Wild in Joshua Tree (interactive exhibit)
- Lake Mead NRA - 50/50 Lake Mead Wilderness Explorers Bigfoot Challenge
- Lassen Volcanic NP - Wilderness 50th Interactive Interpretive Exhibit
- Olympic NP - Wilderness 50th Commemorative Community Weekend
- Sleeping Bear Dunes NL - Interactive Wilderness Weekend

The [National Wilderness Conference](#) served as the national culminating event for the anniversary. 33 NPS staff joined over 1100 fellow wilderness practitioners in Albuquerque, NM to take part in interactive presentations, keynote panels, and discussion about historical and contemporary wilderness issues.

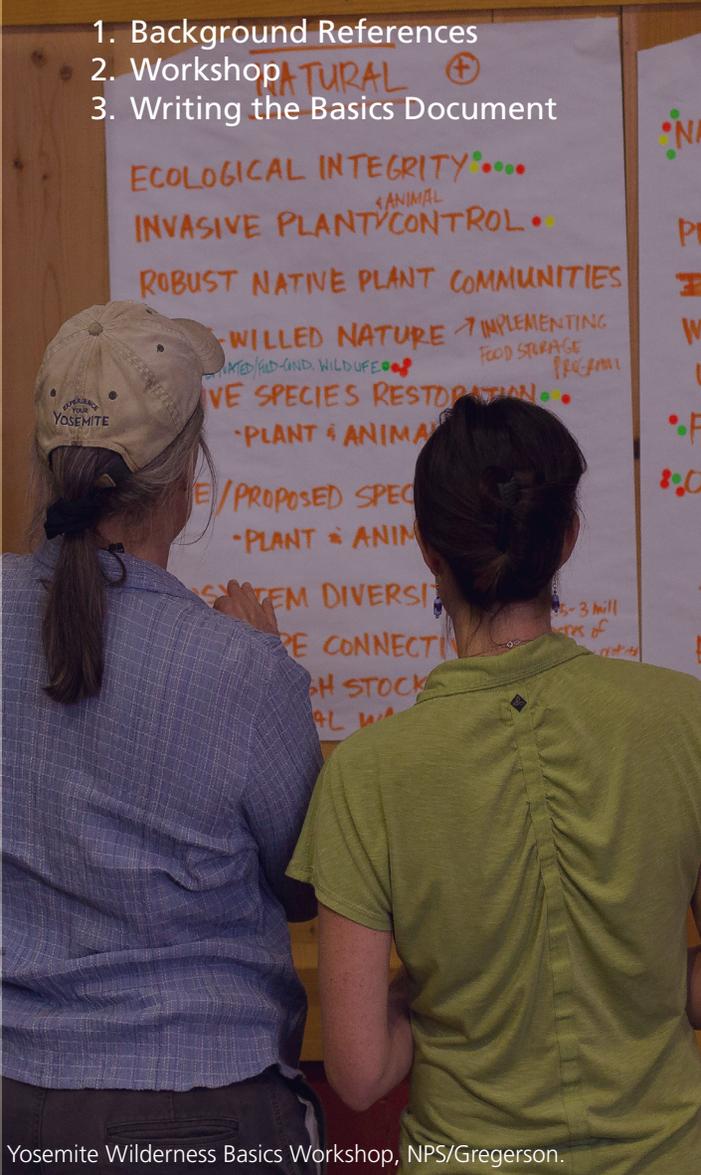
The National Park Service Wilderness Stewardship Program is comprised of the Wilderness Stewardship Division, Regional Wilderness Coordinators, Park Wilderness Managers, the Wilderness Leadership Council, and other park/program partners. The inherently interdisciplinary nature of wilderness stewardship requires ongoing collaboration and dialogue with these different stakeholders. Additionally, outreach to diverse public audiences ensures that wilderness will remain relevant in the 21st Century.

In 2013-2014, the program led NPS efforts to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act nationwide, collaborated with other NPS and non-government programs on various projects, developed internal and external communication tools,

2015 Preview: Sneak-peak at upcoming Wilderness Basics Toolkit

The Wilderness Basics Toolkit will be a digital collection of templates, examples, and guidance. The toolkit, which will be released in Summer 2015, is comprised of three components:

1. Background References
2. Workshop
3. Writing the Basics Document



Agencies Sign Interagency 2020 Vision

During the 2014 National Wilderness Conference, interagency leaders from the NPS, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish + Wildlife Service, and US Forest Service - the federal agencies that make up the National Wilderness Preservation System - along with the US Geological Survey signed into action the **2020 Vision**. The *Vision* provides broad guidance on three themes to serve as common priorities amongst the agencies for the next five years:

1. Protect wilderness resources
2. Connect people to their wilderness heritage
3. Foster excellence in wilderness leadership and coordination

With the *2020 Vision* signed, agencies will begin to develop an implementation plan in 2015.

Quarterly National Wilderness Newsletters Now Offered

In the summer of 2013, the Wilderness Stewardship Division initiated a quarterly national **newsletter** called the "National Wilderness Update." The newsletter series was created in response to field requests for a brief, periodic publication that gives readers up-to-date information about wilderness at the national, regional, and park levels. Core components of each newsletter include: a national policy/guidance feature, regional highlights, newly developed resources and online tools, and upcoming training announcements. 250+ NPS staff and partners receive the quarterly update.

Wilderness Subject Website for NPS.gov Coming Soon

With the migration of former NPS.gov sites to the new content management system, a subject site for wilderness was initiated by the Wilderness Stewardship Division in 2014. This new site will

replace wilderness.nps.gov, the current but very outdated public site for wilderness. In 2014, training, site content proposals, and web council approval were completed. Site components will include an interactive, scrollable web feature, shared content with other NPS parks and programs, and rotating digital media (videos, photographs, and other art). This site will serve as a portal for viewers to get connected with wilderness parks online. The new site is projected to be completed by Fall 2015.

Programs Collaborate on Wilderness Basics Workshops + Toolkit

In 2014, the Wilderness Stewardship Division partnered with the Denver Service Center's Planning Division and the Midwest Regional Office to assist parks in completing their Wilderness Basics prior to the development of a park foundation document. The Wilderness Basics, established in *Keeping It Wild In the NPS*, are comprised of a park's legislative history, Wilderness Character Narrative, and anticipated future planning needs. Collectively, the Wilderness Basics serve as both the underpinnings for conducting a wilderness character baseline assessment (and eventual monitoring strategy) as well as material to populate wilderness within the Fundamental Resource Values within the foundation document.

The team's first Wilderness Basics Workshop took place at Pictured Rocks NL, about nine months prior to the park's scheduled foundation workshop. Following additional workshops, the team will refine their process/tools to develop a digital Wilderness Basics Toolkit available to any park needing to create their Wilderness Basics, before or after the foundation document has been completed.

Wilderness + Wildland Fire Programs Collaborate on Assessment

In late 2013 through 2014, the WASO Division of Fire + Aviation and Wilderness Stewardship Division collaborated on an assessment of contemporary wilderness fire management in NPS wilderness. Exploring the interplay between policy, management actions, and challenges that impact the role of fire in wilderness, staff assessed initial indicators and reasons for suppression versus resource benefit fire management. Together with staff from Everglades NP, Grand Canyon NP, Sequoia-Kings Canyon NPs, and the US Forest Service's Region 2, the team presented their initial findings at the National Wilderness Conference. Additional research, analysis, (and possible publications) will be completed in 2015.

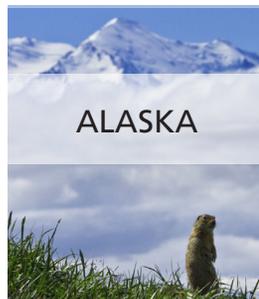
Leave No Trace Program is Reinvigorated

Beginning in 2013, the Wilderness Stewardship Division reengaged with more formal involvement in the national [Leave No Trace](#) (LNT) program. A servicewide memo from the Associate Director for Visitor and Resource Protection was sent to each region indicating the reinvigoration of LNT and the opportunity to get involved with the program. The Wilderness Stewardship Division participated in the LNT board meetings, attended the Boys Scouts of America national jamboree, and distributed LNT educational materials to parks throughout the country. LNT continues to serve as the national standard for responsible recreational use in NPS wilderness.



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Six of the seven NPS regions have designated wilderness and other lands managed as wilderness. Each region's appointed Regional Wilderness Coordinator assists parks with wilderness stewardship issues and landscape-scale coordination.



Region develops commercial filming + photography evaluation framework: Framework provides objective lens through which to examine the appropriateness of related proposals.

Denali NP&Pr completes Wilderness Character Spatial Model: Model depicts how wilderness character varies across a wilderness landscape.

Underwater acoustic monitoring commences in Glacier Bay NP&Pr: Scripps Institute installed underwater microphone in wilderness waters of park.



Commercial shellfish operation closes in Drakes Estero, Point Reyes NS: By way of a settlement agreement, the Drakes Bay Oyster Company shut down operations in the seashore's Drakes Estero (potential wilderness) in December 2014. Restoration efforts will commence in early 2015.

Several parks make progress on Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) efforts: Lake Mead NRA and Sequoia-Kings Canyon NPs released final EIS's for proposed WSPs. Olympic NP hosted several public and staff scoping meetings, resulting in the development of 4 draft alternatives.



Region continues legacy of Wilderness Fellows Program: To help ensure that wilderness character is preserved and addressed in park planning and management, the Intermountain Regional Office funded Wilderness Fellows for six parks in 2013-2014. In 2013, Kelly Pippins completed the Wilderness Building Blocks for Glen Canyon NRA, Arches NP, Canyonlands NP and in 2014, Joelle Marier and Sue Booth-Binczik completed the Wilderness Building Blocks for Colorado NM, Cedar Breaks NM, and Mesa Verde NP.

Pictured Rocks NL conducts Wilderness Character Narrative Workshop: Facilitated by an interdisciplinary team of regional and WASO staff, the park hosted a Wilderness Basics workshop for the Beaver Basin Wilderness - the first step in the development of an eventual Wilderness Stewardship Plan and upcoming 2015 foundation document.

Sleeping Bear Dunes NL is the 50th designated wilderness park: On March 13, 2014, 71K acres of the national lakeshore were designated wilderness. This was the first wilderness designation since 2009.



Fire Island NS initiates potential wilderness conversion: The park's 1,380 acre wilderness is about to grow by one acre. The last remaining acre of potential wilderness is now eligible for conversion to designated.

Fire Island NS + Shenandoah NP commemorate Wilderness Act 50th: Fire Island hosted mixed media artist David Adams' "Songs of Wilderness" exhibit + hosted several public outreach activities. Shenandoah hosted their first Artists-in-Residence program (focusing on wilderness) + their various outreach efforts reached over 3K park visitors.



REGIONAL WILDERNESS COORDINATORS

- Alaska Region: Adrienne Lindholm
- Pacific West Region: Alan Schmierer
- Intermountain Region: Melissa Trenchik
- Midwest Region: Chris Holbeck
- Northeast Region: Mike Bilecki
- Southeast Region: Mark Kinzer

Congaree NP converts potential wilderness to designated: The Congaree National Park Wilderness expanded by 6,690 acres after the potential wilderness was converted to designated wilderness. Now, 82 percent of the park is designated wilderness, totaling 21,700 acres.

Big Cypress NPr prepares for assessment: A Federal Register Notice for the preparation of a Backcountry Access Plan invoked public request for a new wilderness eligibility assessment for the original part of the preserve to also be included in the planning process. This assessment will occur in 2015.



WILDERNESS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The NPS [Wilderness Leadership Council](#) serves an advisory council to the Director on all matters pertaining to wilderness. The council strives to enhance the agency's ability to address critical wilderness stewardship issues. Comprised of park, regional, and national staff, this interdisciplinary council represents perspectives from a variety of positions and management levels. Each council member serves a three-year term, with staggered rotation occurring each year.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Collaborating with the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, this work group assisted in the development of a decision guide to inform wilderness climate change adaptation actions. In addition, the work group provided input to the NPS Climate Change Response Program on issues for which management or planning lacks clear guidance. The working group intends to develop an overall summary paper of climate change adaptation efforts for wilderness.

CULTURAL RESOURCES + WILDERNESS

This work group made advancements on developing guidance to assist parks in determining:

- When should a particular historic structure/installation remain in wilderness?
- When/how do cultural resources contribute to wilderness character?
- What treatments for historic structures/installations are appropriate?

The guidance will be crafted in light of recent court decisions, relevant statutes, and NPS policy. These efforts continue into 2015.

EXTENT NECESSARY DETERMINATIONS

Working with the Solicitor's Office, this work group developed a set of guidance documents to help determine the extent necessary for commercial services in wilderness. The guidance facilitates a deliberative process to analyze what is appropriate and necessary and helps determine allocations for commercial services in NPS wilderness areas. It can be used in developing a Wilderness Stewardship Plan or within a larger NEPA planning process. The guidance is part of [Reference Manual 41](#), Section 7: Wilderness Use Management.

DEFINITIONS + PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS

This work group seeks to develop consistent definitions for common or high profile terms used in wilderness management. Additionally, the work group is developing wilderness-related language for Superintendent's Compendiums, with an emphasis on explanations of "what" an action or guidance does. Disconnects between current issues and existing CFRs are also being explored.

2013-2014 COUNCIL

Superintendent:

Kayci Cook, Flagstaff Area NM
Sarah Craighead, Mammoth Cave NP
Sarah Creachbaum, Olympic NP (2014 Chair)

Visitor + Resource Protection:

Kevin Hendricks, Sequoia-Kings Canyon NPs (2013 Chair)

Cultural Resources:

Laura Kirn, Yosemite NP

Natural Resources:

Jack Oelfke, North Cascades NP

Intepretation + Education:

Sandy Snell-Dobert, Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP

Facilities Management/Trails:

Jeff Doryland, Olympic NP

Park Wilderness Manager:

Ray O'Neil, Zion NP (2013)
Monica Patel, Gulf Islands NP (2014)

Alaska Region/Park:

Carin Farley, Sitka NHP

Regional Wilderness Coordinator:

Chris Holbeck, Midwest Region

Wilderness Stewardship Division:

Garry Oye, Division Chief
Tim Devine, Training + Development Branch Chief

Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center:

Connie Myers, Interagency Liaison

Aldo Leopold Wildernes Research Institute:

Susan Fox (2013), Director
Beth Hahn (2014), Researcher

Natural Sounds + Night Skies:

Karen Trevino

Fire + Aviation:

Jeff Manley (2013)

Park Planning + Special Studies:

Patrick Gregerson, Division Chief

INTERAGENCY WILDERNESS ADVISORY GROUPS

The interagency Wilderness Steering Committee and Wilderness Policy Council provide coordinated, national level guidance for the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish + Wildlife Service, and US Forest Service, with support from the US Geological Survey.

The Wilderness Steering Committee, comprised of wilderness program leads, meets monthly to discuss high priority issues and initiatives across the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Wilderness Policy Council, comprised of Associate/Assistant Directors, meets periodically to identify common policy and guidance to be implemented across the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Many thanks to committee and council members of current and past years. Your commitment and investment in wilderness is much appreciated.

WILDERNESS STEERING COMMITTEE

US Fish + Wildlife Service

Nancy Roeper (Chair) - National Wilderness Coordinator

National Park Service

Garry Oye - Wilderness Stewardship Division Chief
John Dennis - Deputy Chief Scientist

Bureau of Land Management

Joe Ashor - Senior Wilderness Specialist (2013)
Bob Wick - Senior Wilderness Specialist (2014)

US Forest Service

Elwood York - National Wilderness Program Leader
Randy Welsh - National Wild + Scenic Rivers Program Leader

US Geological Survey

Sarah Gerould - Scientist, Ecosystems Mission Area

Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center

Connie Myers - Director

Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Center

Susan Fox - Director

Wilderness Institute + wilderness.net

Lisa Ronald - Wilderness Information Specialist +
Webmaster

WILDERNESS POLICY COUNCIL

US Fish + Wildlife Service

Jim Kurth (Chair) - Assistant Director, National Wildlife
Refuge System

National Park Service

Bert Frost (2013) - Associate Director, Natural Resource
Stewardship + Science
Ray Sauvajot (2014) - Associate Director, Natural
Resource Stewardship + Science
Cam Sholly - Associate Director, Visitor + Resource
Protection

Bureau of Land Management

Carl Rountree (2013) - Assistant Director, National
Landscape Conservation System
Nikki Moore (2014) - Acting Assistant Director, National
Landscape Conservation System

US Forest Service

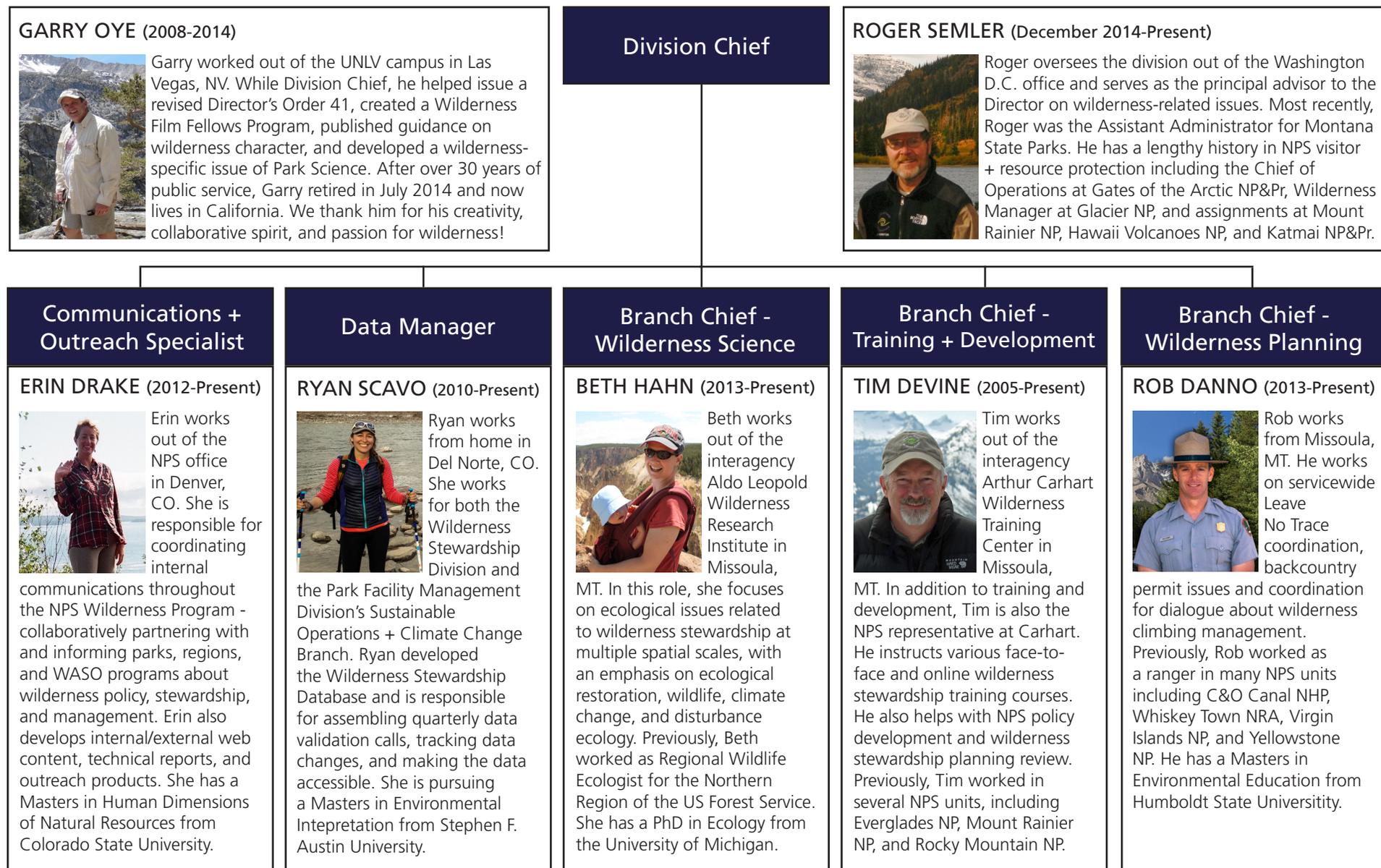
Leanne Martin (2013 Vice Chair) - Director, Wilderness
and Wild + Scenic Rivers
Liz Close (2014) - Acting Director, Wilderness and Wild +
Scenic Rivers
Cynthia West - Associate Deputy Chief, Research +
Development

US Geological Survey

Anne Kinsinger - Associate Director for Ecosystems

APPENDIX A: ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Wilderness Stewardship Division, Visitor + Resource Protection Directorate



APPENDIX B: DESIGNATED* WILDERNESS SUMMARY TABLE

REGION	PARK	WILDERNESS AREA	ACRES
Alaska	Denali NP&Pr	Denali Wilderness	2,124,783
	Gates of the Arctic NP&Pr	Gates of the Arctic Wilderness	7,167,192
	Glacier Bay NP&Pr	Glacier Bay Wilderness	2,664,876
	Katmai NP&Pr	Katmai Wilderness	3,384,358
	Kobuk Valley NP	Kobuk Valley Wilderness	174,545
	Lake Clark NP&Pr	Lake Clark Wilderness	2,619,550
	Noatak NPr	Noatak Wilderness	5,765,427
	Wrangel-St. Elias NP&Pr	Wrangell-St. Elias Wilderness	9,078,675
Pacific West	Craters of the Moon NM	Craters of the Moon Wilderness	43,243
	Death Valley NP	Death Valley Wilderness	3,102,456
	Devils Postpile NM	Ansel Adams Wilderness	747
	Haleakala NP	Haleakala Wilderness	24,719
	Hawai'i Volcanoes NP	Hawai'i Volcanoes Wilderness	130,790
	Joshua Tree NP	Joshua Tree Wilderness	594,502
	Lake Mead NRA	Black Canyon Wilderness	17,220
		Bridge Canyon Wilderness	7,761
		Eldorado Wilderness	26,250
		Ireteba Peaks Wilderness	29,299
		Jimbilinan Wilderness	18,879
		Muddy Mountains Wilderness	3,521
		Nellis Wash Wilderness	16,423
		Pinto Valley Wilderness	39,173
	Spirit Mountain Wilderness	32,913	
	Lassen Volcanic NP	Lassen Volcanic Wilderness	78,982
	Lava Beds NM	Lava Beds Wilderness	28,460
	Mojave NPr	Mojave Wilderness	695,200
	Mount Rainier NP	Mount Rainier Wilderness	228,480
	North Cascades NP	Stephen Mather Wilderness	638,173
	Olympic NP	Olympic Wilderness	876,447
	Pinnacles NP	Hain Wilderness	15,985
	Point Reyes NS	Philip Burton Wilderness	27,315
	Sequoia + Kings Canyon NPs	John Krebs Wilderness	39,740
		Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness	768,222
		Yosemite NP	Yosemite Wilderness

REGION	PARK	WILDERNESS AREA	ACRES
Inter - mountain	Bandelier NM	Bandelier Wilderness	23,267
	Black Canyon of the Gunnison NP	Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness	15,599
	Carlsbad Caverns NP	Carlsbad Caverns Wilderness	33,125
	Chiricahua NM	Chiricahua Wilderness	10,290
	Great Sand Dunes NP&Pr	Great Sand Dunes Wilderness	32,643
		Sangre de Cristo Wilderness	40,595
	Guadalupe Mountains NP	Guadalupe Mountains Wilderness	46,850
	Mesa Verde NP	Mesa Verde Wilderness	8,500
	Organ Pipe Cactus NM	Organ Pipe Cactus Wilderness	312,600
	Petrified Forest NP	Petrified Forest National Wilderness Area	50,260
	Rocky Mountain NP	Indian Peaks Wilderness	2,959
		Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness	249,126
Saguaro NP	Saguaro Wilderness	70,905	
Zion NP	Zion Wilderness	124,406	
Midwest	Apostle Islands NL	Gaylor Nelson Wilderness	33,500
	Badlands NP	Badlands Wilderness	64,144
	Buffalo NRI	Buffalo National River Wilderness	34,933
	Isle Royale NP	Isle Royale Wilderness	132,018
	Pictured Rocks NL	Beaver Basin Wilderness	11,740
	Sleeping Bear Dunes NL	Sleeping Bear Dunes Wilderness	32,556
	Theodore Roosevelt NP	Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness	29,920
	Northeast	Fire Island NS	Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness
Shenandoah NP		Shenandoah Wilderness	79,579
Southeast	Congaree NP	Congaree National Park Wilderness	21,700
	Cumberland Island NS	Cumberland Island Wilderness	9,906
	Everglades NP	Marjory Stonemead Douglas Wilderness	1,296,500
	Gulf Islands NS	Gulf Islands Wilderness	4,630

*The Wilderness Stewardship Division is developing a database that will include information regarding other categories of wilderness (eligible, proposed, recommended, potential). Acreages associated with these categories will be printed in the 2015 Wilderness Report.