

Wilderness Report

2006 - 2007

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Wilderness

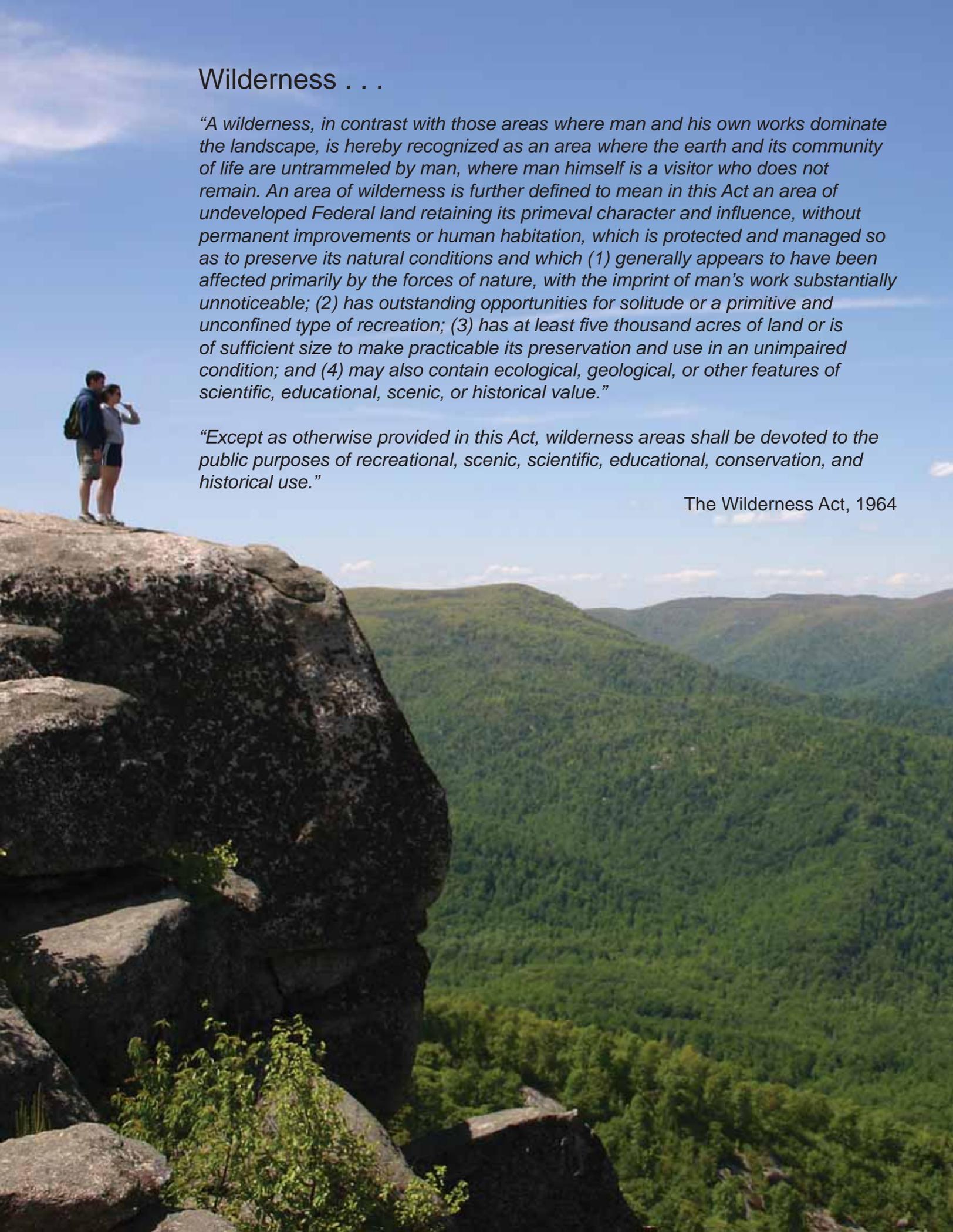


Wilderness . . .

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.”

“Except as otherwise provided in this Act, wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.”

The Wilderness Act, 1964





Wilderness – An Enduring Legacy

*Message from Karen Taylor-Goodrich
Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection*

Wilderness designation strengthens the National Park Service (NPS) mission to preserve America's natural and cultural resources unimpaired for future generations. Present generations of Americans value wilderness for many reasons, especially for the clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreation, inspiration, and escape from our increasingly industrialized world that wilderness provides. Since the NPS protects more wilderness than any other land management agency, we have a responsibility to make significant contributions to national wilderness stewardship. Our contributions are many, though there is always more work to do.

I am pleased to be able to share the 2006-2007 accomplishments of the NPS Wilderness Stewardship Program. While the national program office is small, the decentralized NPS Wilderness Stewardship Program is expansive. The national program includes the interdisciplinary National Wilderness Steering Committee, regional and park wilderness coordinators, and a multitude of field employees. These employees share their dedication to not only preserve wilderness for future generations, but to invite all Americans to learn about and enjoy their wilderness. The NPS wilderness program strives to engage an increasingly diverse public in wilderness stewardship. We continue to partner with recreation groups, service providers and the public to broaden awareness, understanding and appreciation for the National Wilderness Preservation System. The NPS has guided policy and management decisions through presence and leadership on the Interagency Wilderness Policy Council and steering committee. As you will see in this report, the Service continues to work hard to ensure that wilderness is an enduring legacy for future generations.

Thank you for your support, and for your important work to preserve wilderness!

National Park Service Mission Statement: The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and intrinsic values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The Significance of Wilderness in the National Parks

Wilderness is a special portion of the National Park System that American citizens and the U.S. Congress have jointly declared will be kept as wild and natural as possible. Wilderness designation is a declaration of people's care and desire to protect special areas in the National Park System. As a result of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and subsequent legislation, 47 national parks contain more than 43 million acres of designated wilderness – over 50% of all National Park Service (NPS) lands.

As expressed through the Wilderness Act, Congress intended that wilderness areas be places where natural processes are the primary influences and the imprint of human impacts is largely unnoticeable. Human activity and management are conducted with humility and restraint. As a result of the act, current and future generations of Americans have the opportunity to experience, study, and enjoy wild places.

Although national parks already are protected areas, Congress applied the Wilderness Act to the NPS to augment preservation of certain areas of parks as wilderness. The act supplements the NPS basic statutory authority and requires it to evaluate many of its lands for wilderness designation and to manage those wilderness areas to preserve their wilderness character for present and future generations.

Wilderness is complex as both a concept and a place. This is reflected in its breadth of significance and value to diverse people.

- Wilderness provides extraordinary and challenging recreational opportunities, allowing present and future generations the opportunity to experience risk, reward, and self-reliance.
- Wilderness contains exceptional qualities such as scenic beauty, natural sounds, and opportunities for reflection and solitude that are important for human inspiration and rejuvenation.
- Wilderness provides a unique learning laboratory for scientific activities and lessons that address natural systems and their preservation, ecosystem management, and stewardship.
- Wilderness provides critical habitat for rare and endangered species of plants and animals as well as protection of other vital components of healthy and diverse ecosystems such as air quality, watersheds, and natural soundscapes.
- Wilderness provides opportunities for the preservation, study, and further understanding of cultures and cultural resources, including those related to indigenous peoples and traditional and sacred places.
- Wilderness provides the opportunity to explore societal

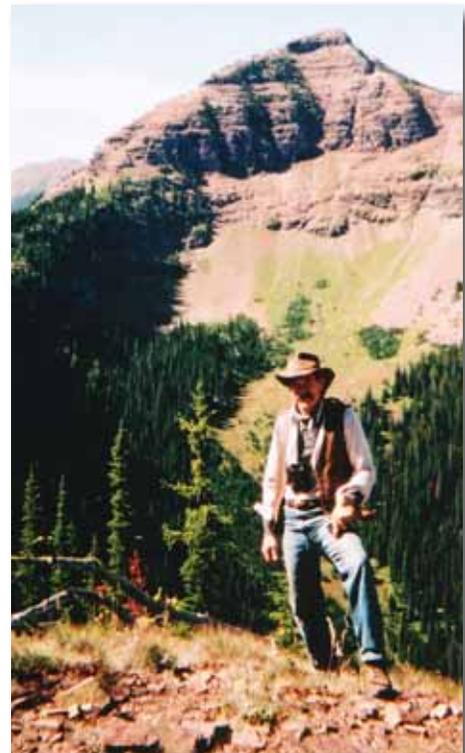
In Recognition of Rick Potts

Routinely in an organization such as this, you encounter good people – good employees with whom you are proud to serve. Occasionally, you encounter an extraordinary individual who embodies all the qualities we have come to admire in public service. Fairness, honesty, strength of character and conviction, knowledge, the common sense of a well-founded and well-rounded individual and the stability and compassion that engenders loyalty in those with whom he or she works. Rick Potts is just such a person.

As chief, Rick's quiet competence led the NPS Wilderness Stewardship and Recreation Management Program through difficult issues and circumstances at a time when wilderness needed nurturing in an organization challenged by many other issues and priorities. Rick brought broad wilderness experience and understanding from other parts of the country to Washington, DC, through himself and others he selected for the National Wilderness Steering Committee. He understood the importance of this committee to institutionalizing a reasoned, well articulated philosophy for NPS wilderness stewardship.

Good people in large organizations do not often stay in one place; Rick has moved on to different and important challenges as the Chief of Conservation and Outdoor Recreation. Though Rick has left the wilderness program, he will continue the work of ensuring an enduring resource of wilderness.

We are very grateful, Rick, for your leadership and wish you the very best.



and personal values as they relate to the use and appreciation of wildlands where humans are temporary visitors, not permanent residents.

- The designation and management of wilderness affords opportunities to explore such concepts as preservation, development, history, freedom, interdependence, ingenuity, and land ethics.
- Wilderness provides a sense of wildness that can be valuable to people whether or not those individuals actually visit wilderness. Just knowing that wilderness exists can produce a sense of curiosity, inspiration, renewal, imagination, hope, and potential.

A variety of uses, management actions, and even facilities are permitted in wilderness areas under the Wilderness Act and NPS policies. The act declares that wilderness areas will be devoted to the “public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.” These include such uses as:

- Non-motorized recreation (e.g., hiking, backpacking, camping, picnicking, rafting, climbing, horse packing);
- Development and maintenance of trails and primitive campsites that may include some minor improvements;
- Hunting and trapping (where permitted in authorizing legislation), and fishing;
- Guided interpretive walks and onsite talks, presentations, and related activities;
- Signs necessary for visitor safety or to protect wilderness resources;
- Use of wheelchairs, service animals, and reasonable

accommodations for the disabled that are not in conflict with the Wilderness Act (e.g., barrier-free trails and accessible campsites);

- Scientific activities, research, and monitoring programs;
- Management actions taken to correct past mistakes or impacts of human use, including restoration of extirpated species, controlling invasive alien species, endangered species management, and protection of air and water quality;
- Fire management activities, including fire suppression;
- Protection and maintenance of historic properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- Certain administrative facilities if necessary to carry out wilderness management objectives;
- Native American religious activities and other actions recognized under treaty-reserved rights; and
- Uses and facilities permitted for landowners with valid property rights within a wilderness area.

In addition to affirming the importance of keeping parts of parks in a wild and undeveloped condition, the Wilderness Act specifically has the following legal effects on administrative discretion available under the 1916 Organic Act:

- Permanent roads are not allowed in wilderness except those necessary to honor vested private rights.
- Commercial enterprises are not allowed; however, commercial services (e.g., outfitters and guides) are permitted where needed to realize the purposes of wilderness as defined in the Wilderness Act.
- Temporary roads are not allowed except those authorized



Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness (Everglades National Park).



for emergencies or to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purposes of the Wilderness Act.

- With the same minimum requirements exceptions, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats, landing of aircraft, mechanical transport, structures, or installations are allowed. Treatment of historic properties is guided by a variety of NPS preservation statutes.

Congress often adds specific legislative provisions to wilderness area enabling legislation. The most notable example is the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act that in 1980 added eight large wilderness areas and made significant modifications to the Wilderness Act for Alaska wilderness. Some of these modifications include allowing motorized access (motorboats, snow machines, and airplanes) for traditional activities; access for subsistence purposes by snow machine and motorboat; the gathering of firewood and logs for cabins by local, rural residents; temporary structures for taking of fish and wildlife in preserve units; provisions for adequate and feasible access across wilderness to private and State land including mining claims; and provisions for installations such as air and water navigation aids, communications sites, and facilities for weather, climate, and fisheries research and monitoring.

While more than 50% of NPS lands are designated by Congress as wilderness, another 30% also are managed as wilderness under the classification of potential, recommended, proposed, study, or eligible wilderness. These additional

lands are managed to preserve their wilderness qualities while awaiting Department of the Interior (DOI) or congressional action. The NPS works cooperatively with the three other wilderness management bureaus – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service – to protect and preserve more than 107 million acres of America’s wilderness for future generations.

In 2007, President Bush challenged the National Park Service and the American people to work together over the next 10 years to strengthen the parks and prepare them for another century of conservation, preservation, and public enjoyment. This Centennial Challenge has a direct connection to wilderness. The NPS Wilderness Stewardship Program embraces this challenge as it develops a meaningful vision for a second century of wilderness preservation and enjoyment. Only through the ongoing work of the agency, its partners, and the American public will the special qualities and connection of these extraordinary landscapes endure for future generations.

The National Wilderness Steering Committee

The National Wilderness Steering Committee (NWSC) is dedicated to inspiring stewardship of America’s enduring wilderness through engagement, education, and leadership. The committee’s work is based on the understanding that wilderness stewardship is an integral part of the NPS mission. Comprised of park superintendents and multidisciplinary staff, the committee demonstrates that wilderness is interwoven within all NPS disciplines.

The NWSC was established in 1996 to serve as an advisory body to the NPS Director on all matters pertaining to wilderness and to enhance the ability of the agency to address critical wilderness stewardship issues. The committee has become an effective organization for improving wilderness stewardship in the National Park System and supporting the NPS as a strong leader within the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS).

The committee's primary focus continues to be field guidance and assistance. On-going training, information, and education are high priorities, though the committee also is responsive to immediate and newly surfacing field issues.

Accomplishments in 2006-2007 include the following:

- Developed guidance for evaluating science in wilderness
- Contributed funding and NWSC support to development of Interagency Wilderness Character Monitoring guidelines
- Presented several sessions highlighting wilderness issues at the George Wright Society Conference (April 2007) including Cultural Resources, Science in Wilderness, New Technology, Trails Mapping, Planning, Wilderness Character Monitoring, and Education
- Engaged other NPS programs in wilderness discussions, including fire and natural soundscapes, resulting in a Wilderness Fire Resource Advisor Train the Trainer course and other programmatic integration of wilderness
- Partnered in developing a Spanish translation of Wilderness Views multimedia wilderness education module
- Completed Servicewide guidance on the Minimum Requirements Decision Process
- Published the NPS Wilderness Report
- Articulated a vision statement and revised charter as part of long-range planning

As the NPS prepares to celebrate both the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014 and the 100th anniversary of the NPS in 2016, the NWSC continues to make progress expanding wilderness awareness within the NPS and engaging a diverse public to connect with their wilderness.

2005-2007 Wilderness Awards

The Director's Wes Henry National Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Award has been presented annually or biannually since 1993. The award was established to recognize and foster excellence in the agency's wilderness stewardship efforts by an individual NPS employee, group of employees, and/or park or central office organization.

Management of NPS wilderness areas requires both a passion for the benefits of wild areas as well as the ability to work



in an interdisciplinary manner to achieve integration of wilderness ethics and understanding into all fields of park operations. Wilderness champions are committed to promoting and enhancing the unique combination of ecological and experiential qualities of wilderness through conscientious stewardship, management, and planning.



2005 Wilderness Awards

The recipient of the individual Wilderness Champion award is Don Neubacher, superintendent of Point Reyes National Seashore. Don chaired the NWSC from 2001 through 2006. During his tenure, he kept the committee focused and moving forward with an impressive series of achievements for wilderness stewardship. His achievements include: directing committee review and comment on the Pinchot Institute for Conservation report "Ensuring the Stewardship of the National Wilderness Preservation System"; leading committee review of NPS Management Policies Chapter 6: Wilderness Management; guiding development and approval of the NPS Wilderness Education and Partnership Plan and the Wilderness Action Plan; facilitating involvement of the NPS Director and Deputy Director through briefings and meetings; and coordinating wilderness presentations at several national and international conferences. Wilderness stewardship in the NPS has been dramatically advanced because of Don's leadership.

The staff at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore received the group award for their accomplishments leading to the designation of the Gaylord A. Nelson Wilderness in 2004. A wilderness study planning team completed the Service's first stand-alone wilderness suitability study in more than 20 years. Through diligent civic engagement and relentless commitment to public involvement, the staff generated overwhelming public and bipartisan support for wilderness. The open process also strengthened relationships that will enhance NPS partnerships well beyond the study. Lakeshore staff demonstrated that the NPS can honor both wilderness and cultural resources concurrently, and in the process, interpret the "rewilding" of the park more effectively. Apostle Islands has embraced wilderness stewardship in all park operations and planning, institutionalizing wilderness values into daily operations.

2006 Wilderness Awards

The recipient of the individual Wilderness Champion award is Jan van Wagtenonk. Dr. van Wagtenonk is a research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey at Yosemite

National Park. His work in the backcountry of Yosemite, with conceptualizing and implementing carrying capacity, has been used not only to minimize resource impacts and redistribute visitor use, but by other interagency wilderness managers as well. He almost single handedly drew the Yosemite Wilderness boundary in anticipation of the legislative proposal for wilderness designation, highlighting his foresight and recognition of the value and significance of that designation by Congress. His study of fire helped lead the way to interagency application of fire in areas of heavy fuel accumulation and allowed naturally caused fires to burn under prescribed conditions in wilderness areas. The steadfast advocacy he has shown for maintaining the wilderness character in Yosemite has been, and is, an inspiration for all park staff and other research scientists.

The planning team at Denali National Park received the group award. Members include Mike Tranel, Charlie Loeb, Joe Van Horn, Steve Carwile, and Adrienne Lindholm. The nearly 7-year planning process resulted in the final Backcountry Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Denali, and included an unprecedented level of public and agency participation for an Alaska Region planning document. It successfully solidified the park's working relationship



with the State of Alaska that will facilitate plan development for other parks as well. In addressing wilderness management, access, backcountry activities (including mountain climbing, backpacking, and dog sledding), and commercial services, this plan sets multiple precedents for future backcountry plans in Alaska parks. The plan provides key guidance and new direction for the management of the park and establishment of new regulations.

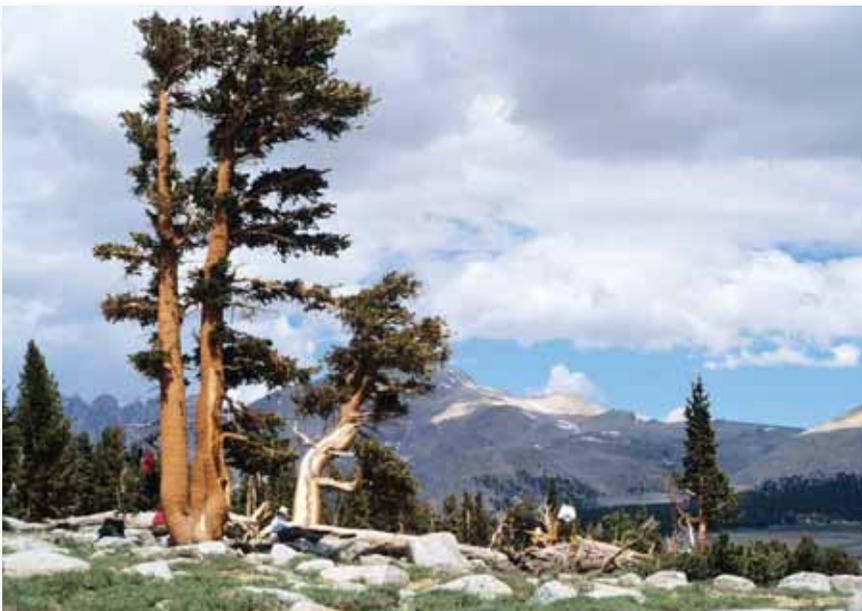
2007 Wilderness Awards

The recipient of the individual Wilderness Champion award is Judy Alderson, Alaska Region environmental specialist. For many of her colleagues, Judy is the role model for national excellence in wilderness stewardship. Her unwavering spirit of service for wilderness over several decades is an inspiration and has helped ensure that wilderness in Alaska and throughout the United States is valued and protected. Judy's dedication to the idea and value of wilderness is clearly reflected in her abundant contributions to protection and thoughtful stewardship of wilderness. She has served in many national roles, including Alaska Regional Wilderness Coordinator, National Park Service Wilderness Task Force, and initial member of the NPS NWSC. From November 2007 into 2008, Judy served as acting chief of the NPS National Wilderness Stewardship and Recreation Program. Judy has coordinated and instructed many wilderness courses, training and mentoring interagency employees in wilderness meaning, significance, and management. Her dynamic and effective contributions have been integral in moving the NPS and



interagency wilderness management programs into the 21st century with a guarantee of success.

The recipient of the group award is the Military Overflight Management and Education Program Team of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. In the mid-1990s, the park began developing a plan to systematically work to reduce low-level military overflights. This long-term program of Overflight Management and Education aims to deal with a very difficult issue, consists of multiple elements, and is an active, ongoing effort with day-to-day and long-term strategic components. The effort encompasses a strong education emphasis, educating military personnel about wilderness, the NPS mission and goals, and the public's related expectations. For example, the parks developed an annual Wilderness Overflight Orientation Packtrip for influential military commanders and decision makers. This week-long trip into the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness allows for significant dialogue and empathy building among the military personnel and NPS staff regarding to the value of a high quality wilderness experience. The Overflight Management and Education Program is thoroughly incorporated into park operations, from the wilderness rangers all the way up to the superintendent. The bottom-line positive result of this program is that low-level overflights of these parks have decreased significantly over the past decade. This is obviously a significant and notable improvement that is directly attributable to these parks' aggressive efforts to communicate and manage for wilderness stewardship. It is an improvement that directly correlates with higher quality wilderness character and higher quality wilderness experiences for the visitors of the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness.



Wilderness Planning

Wilderness planning is an essential component of wilderness stewardship, ensuring that NPS fulfills its responsibility to identify and manage wilderness resources. Planning provides an opportunity to directly engage and educate the public. While wilderness planning is an on-going process, the two primary methods of wilderness planning are General Management Plans (GMP) and Wilderness Management Plans (WMP). Several national parks recently completed or are currently involved in both levels of planning.

A WMP, increasingly referred to as a Wilderness Stewardship Plan, is a detailed implementation plan that provides direction on protecting wilderness resources, managing visitor use, and general administration of a wilderness area. In 2007, two national parks completed plans directing management of their wilderness resources. Lava Beds National Monument released their WMP. Zion National Park completed a Backcountry Management Plan that provides direction for managing over 145,000 acres of backcountry, including recommended wilderness. More information about these plans can be found on the corresponding park websites at www.nps.gov/labe and www.nps.gov/zion. Other parks, such as Lake Mead National Recreation Area, are currently working on WMPs.

Some requirements of wilderness management planning can be met during the development of a park GMP. A wilderness plan developed along with a GMP would address zoning and desired conditions and establish indicators and standards for achieving the desired conditions – all requirements of a GMP.

An example is the Final Backcountry Management Plan, General Management Plan Amendment, and Environmental Impact Statement for Denali National Park and Preserve completed in 2006. While prepared as an amendment to the existing 1986 GMP, the document addressed several management components relevant to wilderness management. Along with the 1986 GMP and other park planning documents, it established the wilderness management framework for Denali's designated wilderness and lands determined eligible for wilderness designation. Denali's Backcountry Management Plan is available at www.nps.gov/dena/parkmgmt/backcountryplan.htm.

The GMP process also presents an opportunity to analyze whether the potential exists in a park for wilderness designation. The analysis can be either eligibility assessments, which examine park lands to determine if they meet the minimum requirements for designation, or formal wilderness studies. The formal study process is required to develop a proposal for legislative designation. When a study is prepared in conjunction with a GMP, it can take advantage of the public involvement and environmental compliance already occurring. The GMP may encompass a wilderness eligibility assessment only or an eligibility assessment and a study. More detailed information about the wilderness eligibility process is outlined in NPS Management Policies chapter 6.2. Several parks were involved in GMPs or GMP amendments with a wilderness planning component during 2006-2007.

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve completed its GMP/Wilderness Study/EIS in 2007. The park and preserve



Great Sand Dunes Wilderness (Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve).

has about 75,000 acres of designated wilderness, some of which was designated within the former national monument. The rest is a portion of the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness added as a result of the Great Sand Dunes Act of 2000. That act also significantly expanded park boundaries, and the new lands were studied as part of the general management planning process. Most of the undeveloped new lands, about 53,000 acres, were proposed for wilderness designation, largely in the category of "potential" because of outstanding subsurface mineral ownership. The public overwhelmingly supported this wilderness proposal.

In the Midwest Region, wilderness studies are being done in conjunction with the GMP and EIS documents for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and the Ozarks National Scenic Riverways. At Sleeping Bear Dunes, the wilderness study was included in the general management planning project because of public interest and efficiencies in time and expense gained in combining the two study processes. Both projects have similar environmental compliance and public involvement needs. Currently, the park manages as wilderness the lands comprising 30,903 acres (43% of the park) proposed in the 1981 "Wilderness Recommendation." The draft GMP/Wilderness Study/EIS document, planned for public distribution in spring 2008, identified a preferred alternative that proposes increasing the acreage under wilderness protection to 32,200 acres, or 46% of the park. For the Ozarks National Scenic Riverways, the project will identify and evaluate alternatives for possible designation of the Big Spring tract, approximately 3,400 acres adjacent to the

Mark Twain National Forest, in the southeastern section of the park. The alternatives will look at ways to protect the tract's primitive qualities and opportunities for solitude. A wilderness management plan for the recently designated Gaylord A. Nelson Wilderness is being incorporated into the GMP at Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. The final document will be a GMP/WMP/EIS.

Fire Island National Seashore contains the 1,363-acre Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness, established by Public Law 96-585 in December 1980. The wilderness area is unique in its location within one of the most populous metropolitan areas in the United States, offering a rare opportunity for a broad spectrum of the American public to experience wilderness. In 2006, NPS began updating and integrating the 1983 Wilderness Management Plan into the GMP. Public access, universal accessibility, carrying capacity, the intrusion of sounds from personal watercraft, overhead banner planes, and off-highway vehicle use in the vicinity of the wilderness area, and signage are all elements that will be considered in the plan.

A Wilderness Eligibility Assessment was initiated in conjunction with the general management planning process at New River Gorge National River. The park staff identified three areas for consideration, using the primary eligibility criteria: Glade Creek (4,542 acres), Dowdy Creek (4,241 acres), and Backus Mountain (2,509 acres). The West Virginia Wilderness Coalition and Highlands Conservancy put forward a citizen's proposal calling for consideration of similar areas. The wilderness designation proposals and potential GMP alternatives were discussed at three public meetings in



Bridge Canyon Wilderness (Lake Mead National Recreation Area).



November 2007; feedback ranged from full support to full opposition.

Olympic National Park is 95% wilderness, with 876,669 acres of wilderness and 378 acres of potential wilderness designated in 1988. Much of park management is focused on wilderness; this is reflected in the final GMP that was completed in 2007. Specific parkwide policies for wilderness management and some preliminary strategies were identified for the plan, and wilderness has played a role in defining non-development zone directions and strategies, from cultural resources management to river management. Definitions for wilderness zones (wilderness trail, primitive wilderness, and primeval wilderness) were developed, with on-the-ground zone delineations to be provided in a subsequent Wilderness Management Plan. The GMP proposed the completion of wilderness eligibility assessments for those areas within the park that have not yet been studied and for any lands acquired through the boundary adjustment process. It also proposed minor wilderness boundary adjustments mainly for the purpose of moving roads if shown to be feasible, resulting in no overall net loss in wilderness acreage.

Other Pacific West Region parks are undertaking, or have recently completed, GMPs with wilderness components. Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument recently completed its GMP in conjunction with the Lake Mead National Recreation Area GMP Amendment. The plan reiterates wilderness recommendations to encompass a proposal for the designation of 190,478 acres outlined in the Lake Mead GMP (1986). The GMP project just beginning at Pinnacles National Monument

will likely address the potential for additional wilderness designation. Congress originally designated over 13,000 acres as the Pinnacles Wilderness in 1976, though an additional 2,778 acres of designated wilderness held by the Bureau of Land Management were added to the park in 2002.

In the Southeast Region, the GMP for Everglades National Park encompasses the existing Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness. However, the planning effort also includes a wilderness study of the park's East Everglades section, which was included in the park boundary in 1989. The Cumberland Gap National Historical Park GMP will include a proposal for wilderness designation. In the original Big Cypress National Preserve and the contiguous addition lands included in the boundary in 1988, there is no designated or proposed wilderness. The ongoing GMP effort has identified areas eligible for wilderness designation in the addition lands; the planning project includes a wilderness study of these eligible areas and an off-road vehicle plan for the addition lands. The GMP will propose various alternatives for identifying off-road vehicle trails and for the designation of wilderness in the addition lands.

Interagency Wilderness News

Wilderness Policy Council and Wilderness Steering Committee

The NPS continues its leadership role in the National Wilderness Preservation System by chairing the Interagency Wilderness Policy Council (WPC). The council was established in 1999 to improve interagency coordination



in administering the Wilderness Act, thereby enhancing protection and management of the nation's wilderness resource to benefit current and future generations. The WPC consists of senior executives from the NPS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Forest Service, and works cooperatively in addressing and resolving common issues and policy concerns related to wilderness and related protected area management. The current chair is Karen Taylor-Goodrich, NPS Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection.

The council's goals are to:

1. Identify and clarify issues of national significance concerning preservation and management of the National Wilderness Preservation System and wilderness study areas in order to recommend and advocate coordinated agency actions;
2. Provide a national interagency forum to coordinate and improve consistency in the interpretation and implementation of the Wilderness Act to the fullest extent practicable;
3. Increase internal and external awareness, understanding, and support for the National Wilderness Preservation System; and
4. Review and evaluate the effectiveness of agency efforts to improve preservation, management, and support for the NWPS.

The Interagency Wilderness Steering Committee (WSC) consists of representatives of the NPS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Forest Service. The committee was

formed to help coordinate the administration of the NWPS. The goal of the committee is to support the interagency WPC by: identifying and clarifying issues of national significance concerning preservation and management of the NWPS and wilderness study areas in order to recommend and advocate coordinated agency actions; providing a national interagency forum to coordinate and improve consistency in the interpretation and implementation of the Wilderness Act to the fullest extent practicable; increasing internal and external awareness, understanding, and support for the National Wilderness Preservation System; and reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of agency efforts to improve preservation, management, and support for the NWPS.

Both the WPC and the WSC are focused on several issues of national and international importance, including preparations for the 9th World Wilderness Congress. Organized by the International WILD Foundation, WILD9 will be held in November 2009 in Mexico.

Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute

The Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, established as an interagency program in 1993 and located in Missoula, MT, continues to be a valuable partner in providing the scientific knowledge and expertise to help managers protect national park wilderness. Leopold Institute scientists work on a broad range of issues (<http://leopold.wilderness.net/resprg.htm>) to help improve wilderness stewardship. In 2006-2007, these projects included the following:

- Organized and chaired an interagency



team tasked with developing an interagency strategy for monitoring trends in wilderness character. Considering NPS manages more wilderness acreage (56%) than any other Federal agency, and that wilderness makes up a greater percentage of NPS administered lands (44%) than in any other agency, this strategy to monitor trends in wilderness character may have a large impact on NPS wilderness stewardship.

- Organized and chaired a workshop to develop new approaches to managing areas protected for their natural values in an era of rapid climate change. The “Beyond Naturalness” workshop with prominent national and international ecologists (including David Graber and Kathy Tonnessen of the NPS) offered the opportunity to openly discuss alternative approaches for managing many NPS units. A book is being written by participants of this workshop and will be published by Island Press.
- Organized and chaired sessions at the 2007 George Wright Society Meeting in St. Paul, MN. These sessions included one that focused on the factors that influence changing relationships between people and wilderness, such as intergenerational differences in attitudes toward protected nature and the effects of changing demographics and technology on wilderness visitation and values. Another session focused on a new tool to evaluate proposals for scientific activities to be conducted inside designated wilderness.
- Developed new tools to quantify the cumulative consequences of fire suppression. The results of this research will help managers refine their priorities for restoring fire, and help them communicate both internally and externally about the long-term tradeoffs such restoration would likely require. This research was conducted in Yosemite and Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks.
- Compiled and published the Science and Stewardship to Protect and Sustain Wilderness Values, Proceedings of the 8th World Wilderness Congress Symposium held in Anchorage, AK, available as RMRS-P-49 from the U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station in Fort Collins, CO.
- Continued research in Rocky Mountain and other continental divide NPS parks on amphibian declines. This research is showing that the chytrid fungus is likely responsible for the collapse of boreal toad populations in Rocky Mountain National Park, but does not seem to have caused declines in Grand Teton National Park; that recent wildland fires in Glacier National Park have either neutral or beneficial effects on the occurrence of most amphibians; and that increasing UV radiation is likely not a cause of amphibian declines and has had little effect on distribution of amphibians in western national parks.

Reports, publications, and other summaries of Leopold Institute activities can be found at <http://leopold.wilderness.net>.



Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center

The mission of the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center is to preserve the values and benefits of wilderness for present and future generations by connecting agency employees and the public with their wilderness heritage through training, information, and education. Located in Missoula, MT, the Carhart Center is an interagency center, cooperatively operating with representatives from each of the four agencies that manage wilderness. Tim Devine is the current NPS National Wilderness Training Manager and NPS representative at the center.

To better identify and meet the needs of wilderness managers in the wilderness land management agencies, the Carhart Center developed six wilderness technical core competency areas. The center focuses its training, education, and information priorities on gaps between existing information and training resources and resources needed in each of the six competencies. This has proved very successful in addressing current and critical wilderness and wildland area stewardship issues.

The Carhart Center provided a variety of interagency wilderness face-to-face training courses across the country in 2006 and 2007 including one Natural and Cultural Resources Monitoring course, three Wilderness Fire Resource Advisor courses, seven Regional Wilderness Stewardship courses, and

Wilderness Technical Core Competencies

These include the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) that people with wilderness management responsibilities need in six different areas:

1. Wilderness History, Law, Regulation and Policy
2. Managing Special Provisions
3. Wilderness Planning
4. Wilderness Field Skills
5. Visitor Use Management & Monitoring
6. Natural and Cultural Resources Management and Monitoring

Competencies are used to help employees and supervisors develop and prioritize Individual Training and Development Plans; ensure development and delivery of priority, competency based training; and professionalize the discipline of wilderness stewardship.

Wilderness Unit Training Courses

Since 1993, 54 unit courses have been conducted at national park units, reaching nearly 2,300 employees. For more information about unit courses, contact Tim Devine, NPS representative at the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center. tim_devine@nps.gov

Courses conducted in 2006-2007:

- Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (February 2006)
- Haleakala National Park (February 2006)
- Western Arctic Areas (March 2006)
- Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (May 2006)
- Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks (May 2006)
- Mount Rainier National Park (June 2006)
- Bryce Canyon National Park (February 2007)
- Chiricahua National Monument (February 2007)
- Yosemite National Park, April 2007
- Grand Teton National Park, November 2007
- Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks, May 2006
- Mount Rainier National Park, June 2006
- Bryce Canyon National Park, February 2007
- Chiricahua National Monument, February 2007
- Yosemite National Park, April 2007
- Grand Teton National Park, November 2007

two National Wilderness Stewardship training courses.

In addition, 10 park specific Wilderness Unit Training courses were conducted. Once again, superintendents and park staff praised the training, noting the huge advantage of holding the training locally. The superintendents mentioned that this approach enabled a large portion of their staff to attend the training and thereby gain a better understanding of the role of wilderness in their day-to-day management activities. Park staff said it gave them an opportunity to interact with different work units on how to better work together for the common good of their wilderness resource.

The Carhart Center is working diligently to deliver more training to more people at less cost. One way to do this is through online training. Two online courses, The 1964 Wilderness Act, and Minimum Requirements Decision Process, were developed and offered in 2006 and 2007. They were used as pre-work for the National and Regional Wilderness Stewardship Training courses, as well as standalone online courses. Center staff is developing additional online courses for the future. As a compliment to the online courses, the center continues to work in conjunction with the University of Montana to update and offer the Wilderness Management Distance Education Program for undergraduate and graduate credit. Those courses are: Wilderness in the American Context, Management of the Wilderness Resource, Wilderness Management Planning, and Managing Recreation Resources.

Progress continues in providing information about America's wilderness areas, research, and critical stewardship issues



Wilderness Online Training

Offered in 2006-07:

- 1964 Wilderness Act: Accurately interpret and apply the Wilderness Act and its management requirements to wilderness stewardship issues.
- Minimum Requirements Decision Process: Ensure successful application of the minimum requirements decision process to wilderness stewardship issues.

To be delivered in 2008:

- Wilderness Stewardship Planning Framework
- Visitor Use Management

In development for future delivery:

- Natural and Cultural Resources Management and Monitoring
- Managing Special Provisions
- Law Enforcement & Border Patrol

Check out Carhart's full training calendar at <http://carhart.wilderness.net>

electronically to managers, scientists, educators, and the public via Wilderness.net. This dynamic website, a partnership between the Carhart Center, the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, and the University of Montana's Wilderness Institute, is continually updated and is a valuable resource providing increased access to and uniformity of wilderness information. Visit the website at www.wilderness.net.

In the educational arena, the Carhart Center produced film, American Values: American Wilderness, was edited to create a shorter, 24-minute version to show to the public in visitor contact stations and to staff during local training sessions. Wilderness Views, the interactive wilderness education website for teachers, students, agency employees, and the public, was translated into Spanish and made available online in order to reach our diverse population.

With special funding, and through partnership with North Cascades Institute, Western Washington University, Student



Conservation Association, and North Cascades National Park, the Carhart Center was able to direct and provide wilderness education and stewardship experiences for low income, minority, and underserved youth in the Pacific Northwest in both 2006 and 2007.

The Carhart Center took the lead in establishing a Traditional Skills Development Team. Partners include representatives from wilderness managing agencies, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Backcountry Horsemen of America, Continental Divide Trail Association, Florida Trail Association, National

Trails Training Partnership, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and others. The team is beginning to develop, pilot test, and evaluate a standardized curriculum and national certification program for training agency and non-agency employees in traditional skills.

Information about the Carhart Center, face-to-face and online training opportunities, wilderness information, and education can be found online at <http://carhart.wilderness.net>.

Wilderness Sessions at the 2007 George Wright Society Conference

Wilderness was a prominent topic at the 2007 George Wright Society Biennial Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites in St. Paul, MN. The George Wright Society conferences have become an increasingly important venue for NPS staff to dialog about wilderness issues and management. Within the meeting theme of “Rethinking Protected Areas in a Changing World,” several individual presentations and coordinated sessions focused on wilderness concerns and successes. The NPS NWSC coordinated and participated in several sessions, ensuring wilderness dialogue throughout the conference. Wilderness session topics included research, cultural resources, and education. Two wilderness sessions are highlighted below.

Developing a Framework for Evaluating Proposals for Research in Wilderness

In this time of rapid global change, scientific research is increasingly essential to provide information for prudent management of designated wilderness. Yet the requirements for quality research may conflict with requirements for protecting wilderness resources and values. In response, wilderness managers and scientists from several agencies developed guidelines for evaluating the compatibility of proposed research in wilderness.

There were two goals for this workshop: presenting these guidelines so the workshop attendees would have a better understanding of how to evaluate the impacts and benefits of research proposals and their cumulative effects in wilderness, and getting specific feedback from the participants on those aspects of the guidelines that were not sufficiently or clearly developed, controversial, impractical, or may cause other problems.

During the 4-hour workshop, there were 15-20 participants; 11 people asked to remain in contact with the organizers about future progress of these guidelines. All the comments, suggestions, and concerns about the guidelines from workshop participants were incorporated into revisions. The revised guidelines were subsequently presented to the NPS NWSC in November 2007, who provided further comments. The final guidelines are being published as a General Technical Report



through the U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.

This workshop was led by Susan Boudreau, chief of Resources and Research, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, and member of the NPS National Wilderness Steering Committee, and Peter Landres, ecologist, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute.

Changing Relationships with Wilderness

This session focused on new and changing relationships people have with wilderness. A series of invited speakers included Rick Potts, chief of the NPS Wilderness Stewardship and Recreation Program, and Joe Van Horn, backcountry manager at Denali National Park and Preserve, and member of the NPS NWSC.

Focusing on some of the social and technological changes affecting the relationships people have with wild places, Rick emphasized the danger to wilderness associated with Americans choosing not to visit wilderness. This is a major shift from most common concern in the past about the dangers associated with human impacts from visiting wilderness. Joe explored the need to plan ahead for unexpected use impacts resulting from increasing use of new technology, especially a combination of GPS technology that allows people to go away from trails and internet resources which makes it easier to share new routes with others.

Other presentations also addressed technology, education, and long-term relationships with wilderness. Bob Dvorak, currently writing his dissertation on a visitor study at the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, described the importance of looking beyond recreation experiences in wilderness to understand how management policies affect the long-term relationships people have with wilderness. Dr. Chad Dawson, managing editor of the *International Journal of Wilderness* and a professor at SUNY-Syracuse, described the chasm between many commonly used education techniques and inclinations of

the younger generation toward more efficient yet challenging learning methods.

These papers were published in a special issue of the *International Journal of Wilderness* Volume 13, Number 3 (December 2007).

Advancing Capacity in Traditional Skills

In response to the concern among wilderness management agencies about the decline in workers skilled in the use of traditional tools in wilderness, the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center and the Student Conservation Association signed an agreement to convene agencies and organizations in the development of national skills certification for the use of crosscut saws. The group is addressing the need for program direction required to implement a safe and uniform crosscut saw “certification” program within the U.S. Forest Service, other DOI agencies, and the volunteer organizations that work with all the agencies. There is a particular concern among the volunteer organizations that a standardized curriculum for training will meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements for the use of traditional tools on Federal lands. Representing the NPS on this working group are Kyle Johnson, wilderness coordinator at Glacier National Park, and Dave Schuller, regional safety officer in the Northeast Region. The group met several times; the National Trail Training Partnership posted information about this effort on their website at www.americantrails.org/nttp.

New Course in Wilderness Fire Management

Forty years ago, the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks staff, then superintendent John McLaughlin, and Dr. Bruce Kilgore (research scientist) allowed a lightning fire to burn in a remote section of the Middle Fork of the Kings River rather than suppressing it. This event grew into a new fire management policy that has been implemented in many





areas and agencies throughout the United States. The policy was based on an appreciation that without natural fire, natural resource and wilderness values are impaired. Significant impacts on wilderness can result from fire suppression activities, either ecologically from a lack of fire, or from the physical impacts of firefighters and fire suppression work. It is much more efficient to prevent damage to wilderness values as a result of fire management activities than it is to repair it.

As a result of this philosophy, fire and wilderness managers have combined efforts in the Resource Advisor Program to provide training to employees so they can work with fire managers and incident management teams to mitigate and avoid resource damage. A Wilderness Fire Resource Advisor Train the Trainer course has been developed. It will be offered in April 2008 through the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center.

The exclusion or inclusion of natural fire in wilderness has great effects on the preservation of wildness. Fire and wilderness managers are partnering to ensure that both wildness and naturalness remain vital components of wilderness.

For more information, visit www.nps.gov/fire.

Creating Wilderness Ambassadors

North Cascades Wild – A Partnership for Connecting Underserved Youth with Wilderness

North Cascades Wild is designed as a gateway for young people – especially kids from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds – to jumpstart their lifelong engagement with nature, stewardship, and community through powerful experiences in their national parks, wilderness, and public lands. North Cascades Institute, the Student Conservation Association, NPS, and the Carhart Center partnered to engage America's youth with their wildland

heritage. Pioneered in 2006 and continued in 2007, all partners are dedicated to expanding this successful program in 2008 and beyond.

Highlights of the 2007 program include the following:

- 36 students participated from the Seattle area.
- 67% of participants were minorities.
- Immersion experience consisted of 10-day canoe camping trips on Ross Lake in North Cascades National Park.
- Curriculum included outdoor and leadership skills, Leave No Trace, wilderness and public lands management, careers, and natural and cultural history.
- 1000+ hours of service were contributed (including riparian restoration, seed collection, woody debris gathering, plantings, invasive species control, campsite and trail maintenance and tent pad construction).
- Students' parents and families engaged in post-trip stewardship and outdoor opportunities.

Journal Excerpts

“This program not only showed me another side of the world I have never seen before, but led me to discover who I am and what I stand for. Throughout this trip, I learned a lot about the wilderness and it has impacted me in a way I never knew before. This trip not only got me interested in the wilderness, it made me want to be a part of it. Now I want to volunteer in any part of wilderness...because this is what I learned, to give back. It got me thinking about what I can do to make this world a better place. I decided right then if I wanted to make a difference, I would start now by volunteering in my community.”

“I will never look at the outdoors the same. I'm going to do anything I can to protect what's left of Washington's wilderness. Ten days ago I would have been too scared to sit

out here not in sight. Now it's like a living room. I don't want this feeling to end."

"North Cascades Wild allowed me to learn some of the most important principles in life. This program has altered my perception and is allowing me to change my life. I have learned that stewardship is outwardly helping something you love and show compassion for, and these are my own steps towards changing our fate and preserving these great wild places for generations to come. But, without this program I would not have changed my life or helped to protect anything, just sat at home wasting my summer away."

"Wilderness and wild places mean a lot to me now that I have visited them. I have seen how important wilderness is to this earth...What I hope to do with this experience is to use my knowledge as best as I can to help this environment."

Partners

Partners included North Cascades Institute, Student Conservation Association, North Cascades National Park, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation, and Skagit Valley College's Champions of Diversity Program. For more information, visit www.ncascades.org/programs/youth/north_cascades_wild/index.html.

Wildlink

WildLink's mission is to give underserved teens a series of wilderness- and home-based experiences that will empower them to better their own lives as well as their communities, and to ensure that the diverse California citizenry is informed, invested, and committed to the enduring resource of wilderness.

WildLink is an innovative partnership between the Yosemite Institute, Yosemite and Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks, the Sequoia Natural History Association, and the National Forests of the Sierra. Since 2000, WildLink has worked to open the wild places of the High Sierra Mountains to the multi-cultural population living at its doorstep and demonstrate the relevance and benefits of wilderness and public lands to all Americans. In 2006 and 2007, more than 200 culturally diverse high school students from both agricultural communities and urban areas participated in wilderness backpacking expeditions in the Sierra Mountains. In turn, these WildLink students connected with 1,100 underserved Californians through Wilderness Ambassador Projects.

Wilderness Ambassador Projects take many different forms including presentations to their classes and school boards, or local stewardship projects. Ambassador projects allow WildLink alumni to connect their wilderness experience to stewardship ethics in their home environments. For example,



ambassadors from Crenshaw and Sylmar high schools led 63 of their classmates in a Big Sunday clean up activity where they helped mulch, plant, dig, paint, and clean the school. A little over a week later, the same ambassadors from Sylmar presented their WildLink experience to their faculty advocating for an Eco Club at their school. Due to the success of their clean up project and the impact of their WildLink presentation, the students at Sylmar High School are one step closer to establishing their Eco Club.

Wildlink/Yosemite Bridge 2007 conducted a 2-week hands-on learning experience in Yosemite National Park for six WildLink alumni. Through the efforts of NPS personnel and WildLink staff, the Bridge Program spans the divide between diversity oriented education programs and NPS careers. Participating students gain confidence to commit to future internships and paid positions with the NPS. Diversifying the workforce in Yosemite National Park enhances opportunities to increase the understanding and appreciation of wild lands with diverse park constituents.



Through these programs, WildLink students increase self-reliance, self-confidence, and leadership skills. They also gain a lifelong connection to the recreational, spiritual, and emotional opportunities that can be found in wild places.

For more information and inspiration, visit the WildLink website <http://wildlink.wilderness.net>. The website includes student journal entries, photos, and artwork from wilderness expeditions.

Inviting All Americans to Explore Their Wilderness

Traducción al Español del Sitio de Internet sobre Zonas Naturales Disponible Ahora

Un nuevo sitio de Internet en español lanzado por el Servicio Nacional de Parques presenta la belleza e importancia de las zonas en estado natural de Estados Unidos.

To engage all Americans in wilderness stewardship, NPS launched a Spanish translation of Wilderness Views in 2007. Wilderness Views, a part of the Views of the National Parks web-based educational program, allows people to take virtual tours of areas within the NWPS. Through the program's interactive activities, maps, images, videos, and interviews, NPS hopes to inspire diverse Americans not only to learn more about wilderness, but to visit and enjoy wilderness areas.

Wilderness Views utilizes technology to promote wilderness awareness and appreciation in a way that allows people to think about their connection to and responsibility for public lands. "This website will connect more people to the concept of wilderness," said Roger Rivera, founding president of the National Hispanic Environmental Council. "Wilderness is important for science, for outdoor recreation, and for personal renewal. Wilderness areas are places where we can challenge ourselves, connect with the earth, enjoy the wild, and make memories with our families." Wilderness Views provides an opportunity for diverse Americans to connect with their heritage that is preserved and protected by national parks.

The initial English version of Wilderness Views was developed in 2004, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Led by the NPS Natural Resource Program Center Office of Education and Outreach, Wilderness Views was a partnership effort between several wilderness management agencies and universities. The recent Spanish translation was done by the NPS Spanish Colonial Research Institute in partnership with the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center and the University of Montana's Wilderness Institute.

To explore both the Spanish and English versions of Wilderness Views, visit www.nature.nps.gov/views/index_wilderness_sp.htm.

NPS Wilderness by Congressional Designation

Park Unit	Wilderness Name	Designated
Apostle Islands National Lakeshore	Gaylord A. Nelson	33,500
Badlands National Park	Badlands	64,144
Bandelier National Monument	Bandelier	23,267
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park	Black Canyon of the Gunnison	15,599
Buffalo National River	Buffalo National River	34,933
Carlsbad Caverns National Park	Carlsbad Caverns	33,125
Chiricahua National Monument	Chiricahua National Monument	10,290
Congaree National Park	Congaree National Park	15,010
Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve	Craters of the Moon	43,243
Cumberland Island National Seashore	Cumberland Island	9,886
Death Valley National Park	Death Valley	3,253,028
Denali National Park	Denali	2,124,783
Devils Postpile National Monument	Ansel Adams	747
Everglades National Park	Marjory Stoneman Douglas	1,296,500
Fire Island National Seashore	Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune	1,380
Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve	Gates of the Arctic	7,167,192
Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve	Glacier Bay	2,664,876
Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve	Great Sand Dunes	33,549
Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve	Sangre de Cristo	41,676
Guadalupe Mountains National Park	Guadalupe Mountains	46,850
Gulf Islands National Seashore	Gulf Islands	4,080
Haleakala National Park	Haleakala	24,719
Hawaii Volcanoes National Park	Hawaii Volcanoes	130,790
Isle Royale National Park	Isle Royale	132,018
Joshua Tree National Park	Joshua Tree	557,802
Katmai National Park & Preserve	Katmai	3,384,358
Kobuk Valley National Park	Kobuk Valley	174,545
Lake Clark National Park & Preserve	Lake Clark	2,619,550
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	Black Canyon	17,220
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	Bridge Canyon	7,761
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	Eldorado	26,250
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	Ireteba	29,299
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	Jimbilnan	18,879
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	Muddy Mountains	3,521
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	Nellis Wash	16,423
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	Pinto Valley	39,173
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	Spirit Mountain	32,913
Lassen Volcanic National Park	Lassen Volcanic	78,982
Lava Beds National Monument	Lava Beds	28,460
Mesa Verde National Park	Mesa Verde	8,500
Mojave National Preserve	Mojave	695,200
Mount Rainier National Park	Mount Rainier	228,480
Noatak National Preserve	Noatak	5,765,427
North Cascades National Park	Stephen Mather	634,614
Olympic National Park	Olympic	876,669
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	Organ Pipe Cactus	312,600
Petrified Forest National Park	Petrified Forest	50,260
Pinnacles National Monument	Pinnacles	15,985
Point Reyes National Seashore	Philip Burton	25,952
Rocky Mountain National Park	Indian Peaks	2,917
Saguaro National Park	Saguaro	70,905
Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks	Sequoia-Kings Canyon	723,036
Shenandoah National Park	Shenandoah	79,579
Theodore Roosevelt National Park	Theodore Roosevelt	29,920
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve	Wrangell-Saint Elias	9,078,675
Yosemite National Park	Yosemite	704,624
NPS Designated Wilderness	Total Acreage	43,536,664

NPS Recommended Wilderness Pending Congressional Consideration

Park Unit	Recommended Acreage	Potential Acreage*
Arches National Park	61,547	8,461
Assateague Island National Seashore	440	4,760
Big Bend National Park	538,250	44,750
Bryce Canyon National Park	20,810	0
Canyonlands National Park	260,150	18,270
Capitol Reef National Park	179,815	4,050
Cedar Breaks National Monument	4,830	0
Colorado National Monument	13,842	937
Crater Lake National Park	127,058	0
Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve	396,696	0
Cumberland Gap National Historical Park	12,191	1,900
Dinosaur National Monument	205,672	5,055
El Malpais National Monument	86,267	11,161
Glacier National Park	927,550	3,360
Grand Teton National Park	122,604	20,850
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	390,500	400
Rocky Mountain National Park	240,030	284
Yellowstone National Park	2,032,721	0
Zion National Park	120,620	10,364
Total Acreage	5,741,593	134,602

* Potential wilderness areas possess the characteristics and values of wilderness yet have temporary nonconforming conditions. If authorized by Congress, these areas will become designated at the termination of the nonconforming use.



Lake Clark Wilderness (Lake Clark National Park and Preserve).

NPS Wilderness Steering Committee 2006-2007

Member	Position
<i>2006</i>	
Vaughn Baker	Superintendent, Rocky Mountain National Park (CO)
Susan Boudreau	Chief of Resources and Research, Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve (AK)
Laurel Boyers	Wilderness Manager, Yosemite National Park (CA)
Laura Buchheit	Education Specialist, Shenandoah National Park (VA)
Paul Gleeson	Chief of Cultural Resources Division, Olympic National Park (WA)
Steve Griswold	Landscape Architect & Trails Planner, Golden Gate Recreation Area (CA)
Joel Hard	Superintendent, Lake Clark National Park & Preserve (AK)
Dan Kimball	Superintendent, Everglades National Park (FL)
Marilyn Parris	Superintendent, Haleakala National Park (HI)
Joe Van Horn	Wilderness Program Manager, Denali National Park & Preserve (AK)
Bill Wright	Chief Ranger, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (NC & TN)
<i>2007</i>	
Susan Boudreau	Chief of Resources and Research, Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve (AK)
Laura Buchheit	Education Specialist, Shenandoah National Park (VA)
Laurel Boyers	Wilderness Manager, Yosemite National Park (CA)
Dan Cloud	Facility Manager, Bryce Canyon National Park (UT)
Paul Gleeson	Chief of Cultural Resources Division, Olympic National Park (WA)
Joel Hard	Superintendent, Lake Clark National Park & Preserve (AK)
Dan Kimball	Superintendent, Everglades National Park (FL)
Valerie Naylor	Superintendent, Theodore Roosevelt National Park (ND)
Marilyn Parris	Superintendent, Haleakala National Park (HI)
Dan Reinhart	Resource Management Operations Coordinator, Yellowstone National Park (WY)
Joe Van Horn	Wilderness Program Manager, Denali National Park & Preserve (AK)
Bill Wright	Chief Ranger, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (NC & TN)
<i>Liaisons</i>	
Carol Cook	Park Planning & Special Studies (Washington DC)
Bert Frost	Deputy Associate Director, Natural Resource Stewardship & Science (Washington DC)
Dawn Godwin	Park Planning & Special Studies (Washington DC)
Elaine Leslie	Chief, Native Species and Ecosystems Branch (CO)
Connie Myers	Director, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center (MT)
Tom Nichols	Deputy Fire Program Manager (ID)
David Parsons	Director, Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute (MT)
Karen Trevino	Manager, Natural Sounds Program (CO)
Mike Wallace	NPS Fire Director (ID)
<i>NPS Wilderness Program Staff</i>	
Karen Taylor-Goodrich	Associate Director, Visitor and Resource Protection (Washington DC)
Laura Buchheit	Wilderness Education Specialist (VA)
Tim Devine	Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center (MT)
Rick Potts	Chief of Wilderness Stewardship & Recreation Management Division (Washington DC)



National Wilderness Steering Committee, Badlands Wilderness (Badlands National Park); opposite: Noatak Wilderness (Noatak National Preserve); back cover: Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness (Theodore Roosevelt National Park).



Wilderness . . .

“In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.”

The Wilderness Act, 1964



Learn More About Wilderness

For more information on the entire National Wilderness Preservation System and each of its units, visit www.wilderness.net. This site, the Wilderness Information Network, serves as an “umbrella” site for several wilderness organizations: The Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, and the University of Montana’s Wilderness Institute. Wilderness.net is also a forum for current news, original wilderness publications, information on wilderness distance education opportunities, and a searchable wilderness document library. National Park Service Wilderness Program information is available for park staff at the Wilderness Program site on InsideNPS and for the public at www.wilderness.nps.gov.

