# Wilderness Character Monitoring - Quick Start Guide

## WCM External Pinyon Folder

* [WCM External Pinyon location](https://app.box.com/folder/43439770615)
  + For access, contact Julie King (WCM Program Manager)
* This folder contains the following and more:
  + [Keeping It Wild 2](https://app.box.com/file/293811454702)
  + [FS WCM Technical Guide](https://usfs.box.com/s/hjd5ops2ma6n30qge1sh5il93icnj1g6)
  + [Forest Service Implementation Resources](https://usfs.box.com/s/ptb1gb5cnx8430mjcsv76vzbsenv1tec) including:
    - [WCM Frequently Asked Questions](https://usfs.box.com/s/dlqan0egbdjdopo7wblsf8uvje1ypkoc)
    - [2 and 4 Point Process Guide](https://usfs.box.com/s/ukfnnpt6xavbhr516lrgs4tajwcg27nh)
    - [How to Select Measures Guide](https://usfs.box.com/s/884n7on04e4tvxkqx25cy9nde5xijtsu)
    - [Measures Compiled by the Central Data Analyst](https://usfs.box.com/s/kj78c4d7yss8lcsui6onme9z8re13b2g)
    - [Locally Developed Measures Guide](https://usfs.box.com/s/1j7ww5a40m3vz82gpjvche1nwjtsvc9a)
  + [Templates for the 2, 4, 6, and 8 point documents](https://usfs.box.com/s/mqszjhnf7ombb3lcvkyvfsvc1n73p2bz)
  + Examples of [Baseline Assessments](https://usfs.box.com/s/rmb0ck52w9sqoewxnhby8djviwhl2los), [Measure Selection Forms](https://usfs.box.com/s/q92ysc9gojrxbzqnlhh1w2yta709jtcx), [Narratives](https://usfs.box.com/s/zklmolagfywm1ds0j54s7momfq4caunk), and [2 point File Structures](https://usfs.box.com/s/xvujts0hp661h3w48ju287mjg8oh07gd)
  + How-to guides for [NRM-WCM](https://usfs.box.com/s/9k5lj0xvzgfif2uw121v8fn84951jveh) and [WCMD](https://usfs.box.com/s/12xyqlhkpch2i2jh5b8mtj9ta4fskyjb)
  + [Training Presentations](https://usfs.box.com/s/qbwgk93qseg71f7k0onwrl35bwi97k28)

## WCM Office Hours

* Office hours are held by the FS WCM Central Team every other Wednesday to answer questions about all things WCM. All FS staff and partners are welcome.
  + Dates: 3/25/2020, 4/8/2020, 4/22/2020, etc.
  + Time: 1:00 – 2:00pm Eastern Time
  + Access: Use the Microsoft Teams Meeting link located inside the calendar invites
  + Contact Julie King to be added to the calendar invites

## People Who Can Help

* FS WCM Central Team (group PDL email: [pdl\_wo\_nfs\_WCM\_team@ms.fs.fed.us](mailto:pdl_wo_nfs_WCM_team@ms.fs.fed.us))
  + Team Members:
    - Julie King ([julie.king@usda.gov](mailto:julie.king@usda.gov)) - National WCM Program Manager
      * Coordinates implementation, coordination, and education
      * Liaison between regional offices and implementation team
      * Point of contact for several levels of staff
    - Jim Edmonds ([jim.edmonds@usda.gov](mailto:jim.edmonds@usda.gov)) - Central Data Analyst
      * Gathers data from national-level monitoring programs (e.g., the Forest Service Air Resource Management Program), prepares these data, consults with local staff for validation, and then enters them into the WCMD for each wilderness.
      * Responsible for consulting with a statistician to determine the appropriate type or form of regression used for statistically analyzing trend in the measures.
    - Mike Smith ([michael.smith6@usda.gov](mailto:michael.smith6@usda.gov)) - Core Team Leader
      * WCM technical assistance and document review for narratives, measure selection, and baseline assessment reports
      * FS WCM Technical Guide assistance
      * WCMD assistance
    - Kate de Varona ([katedevarona@wildernessstewards.org](mailto:katedevarona@wildernessstewards.org)) - Core Team Leader
      * WCM technical assistance and document review for narratives, measure selection, and baseline assessment reports
      * FS WCM Technical Guide assistance
      * WCMD assistance
* Portia Jelinek ([portia.jelinek@usda.gov](mailto:portia.jelinek@usda.gov)) - NRM Specialist
  + Particularly knowledgeable with NRM-WCM application and related questions

## Recommended Milestones for a Wildernesses Completing WCM

* Legislative & administrative documents compiled completed by May
* Narrative completed by May
* Measures selected by June
* Baseline assessment report completed by October
* NRM-WCM data reviewed and approved by September 2020
  + NRM-WCM data entry locks November 30th
* WCMD data entry by November
* \*\*To gain points in the Wilderness Character Baseline element within WSP, documents must be completed and signed by October 12th

## Prep Word for Upcoming WCM Wildernesses

* Start compiling relevant documents and data
  + Legislative documents
  + Administrative documents
  + Existing wilderness data
  + Photos
  + Updated GIS maps
* Start thinking about what measures you may want to select
* Check NRM-WCM data and identify discrepancies or data gaps
  + You can check data accuracy in NRM-WCM even if measures aren’t selecte yet.
* Develop a schedule for the year your wilderness will work on WCM
* Involve specialists in discussions early
* For interagency wildernesses, involve local managers from the other agency early
* Apply for WSP/WCM funding to get a head start on narratives and baseline assessment reports
* If a partner will be used to complete WCM work, prep for their arrival
  + What resources do they need to be successful?
  + How will we get them a computer and agency access?
* Coordinate with regional wilderness program managers to ensure success

## Other Helpful Links

* [Wilderness Character Toolbox](https://www.wilderness.net/character)
  + Contains additional information on WCM, background supporting documents, interagency documents, and a few examples.
* [NRM-WCM Application](https://nrmprodb.fs.usda.gov/nrm/wilderness/)
  + Contains information for each measure
  + Visit the [NRM-WCM Quick Start](https://app.box.com/file/367483393852) document located in the WCM External Pinyon folder to find information on how to request access to NRM-WCM and get a basic introduction.