

Preserving Wilderness Character

A Multi-Agency Responsibility

In this session you will:

- ❖ Recognize the Congressional mandate to, and importance of, preserving wilderness character
- ❖ Learn the holistic definition and identify each of the qualities of wilderness character
- ❖ Discuss the qualities, what enhances or degrades them, and recognize the tradeoffs when preserving one quality may degrade another
- ❖ Explore how to integrate wilderness character into all aspects of wilderness stewardship: planning, monitoring, management, and operations

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Katmai Wilderness, AK

Wilderness Stewardship for Practitioners



ARTHUR CARHART NATIONAL WILDERNESS TRAINING CENTER



Tim Devine

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Tim has served as the WSD Branch Chief for Training + Development and the NPS Representative at the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, located in Missoula, MT, since 2004. Tim began his NPS career in 1978 and has worked at a variety of wilderness parks including Shenandoah, Everglades, Big Cypress, Buffalo River, Mount Rainier, Olympic, and Rocky Mountain. Tim coordinates and implements interagency training courses and park specific unit workshops, develops online wilderness stewardship training courses, conducts webinars, responds to wilderness information needs and provides professional advice on wilderness stewardship issues and challenges. Tim is the recipient of the NPS Director's Wes Henry Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Award and the Rocky Mountain National Park Jack Moomaw Award for "Excellence in the Art of Ranging." Tim holds an AAS degree in Recreation and Wildlife from Hocking Technical College and a BS degree in Wildlife Management from The Ohio State University. At home, Tim enjoys being outside with his family, playing with the family cats, dogs, goats and horses, hiking, camping, kayaking, and cross-country skiing.



Erin Drake

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Erin has served as the Communications and Outreach Specialist for the NPS Wilderness Stewardship Divisions since 2012. Working from Seattle, WA, she leads and coordinates communications for the NPS Wilderness Program - collaboratively partnering with parks, regions, national programs, and interagency partners on wilderness law, policy, stewardship, and management. Along with internal communications, Erin also develops content for public outreach for use in websites and at wilderness parks. She has worked as a biotech at Olympic and Mesa Verde National Parks, a wildland firefighter for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, and in NPS communications at the National Interagency Fire Center. Erin has BS in Environmental Science from Western Washington University and a MS in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources from Colorado State University. Off the clock, Erin enjoys taking walks amongst big trees and rocky coastlines.





Wilderness Character Notes





Why Wilderness Character

*Preservation of Wilderness Character
Importance is acknowledged within all Federal branches*

Legislative Branch: [The Wilderness Act](#)

Executive Branch – Policy: [BLM](#), [USFWS](#), [USFS](#), [NPS](#)

Judicial Branch: [Case Law](#)



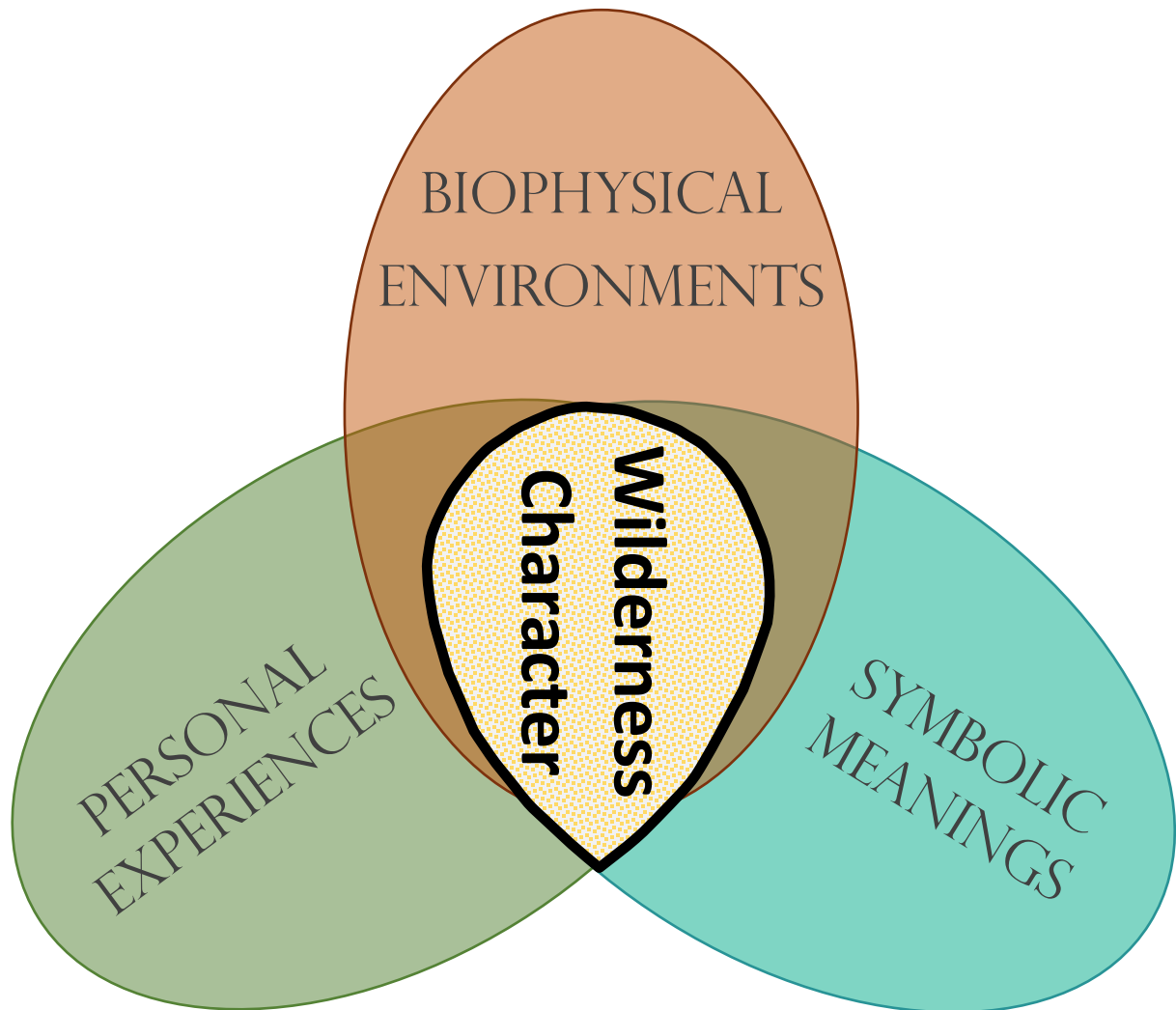
A Wilderness Character



Name and draw a picture of a wilderness character you know in the box below...



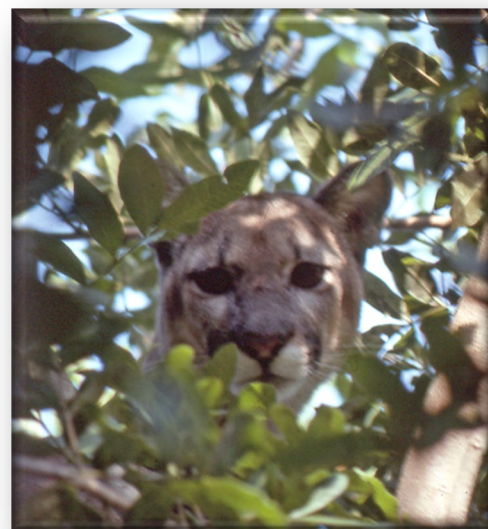
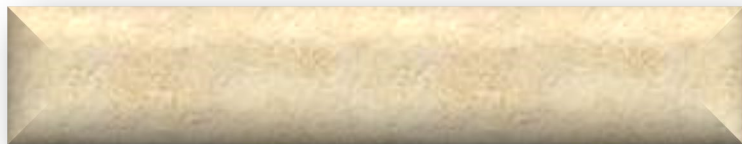
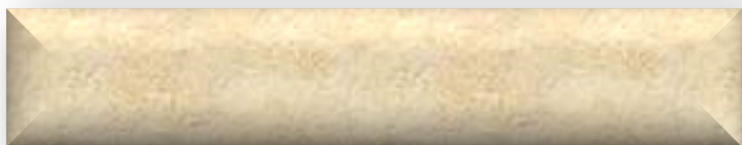
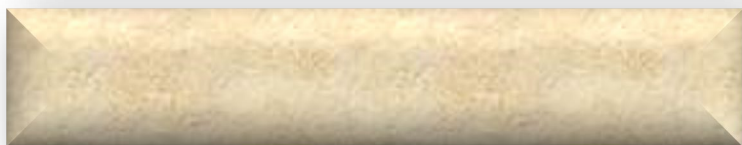
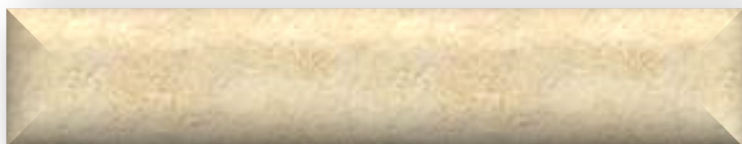
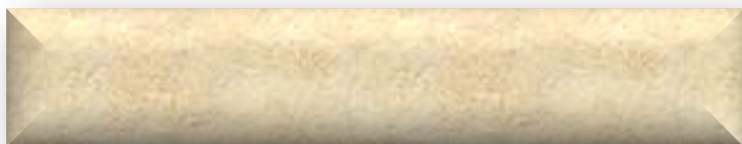
What is Wilderness Character?



“Wilderness character is a holistic concept based on the interaction of:

- _____ primarily free from modern human manipulation and impact,
- _____ in natural environments relatively free from the encumbrances and signs of modern society, and
- _____ of humility, restraint, and interdependence that inspire human connection with nature.

Qualities of Wilderness Character



Qualities of Wilderness Character



Intangible



Untrammeled



Qualities of Wilderness Character



Natural



Undeveloped



Qualities of Wilderness Character



Outstanding Opportunities



Other Features of Value

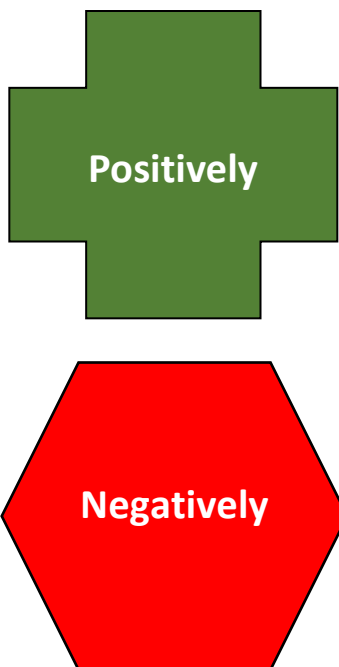


Conflicting Qualities



Prescribed Burning

Draw a line from the quality of wilderness character to positively or negatively affected or neither.



- Untrammeled
- Natural
- Undeveloped
- Outstanding Opportunities
- Other Features of Value

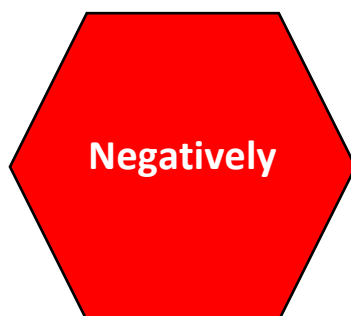


Conflicting Qualities



Radio Collaring Wildlife

Draw a line from the quality of wilderness character to positively or negatively affected or neither.



- Untrammeled
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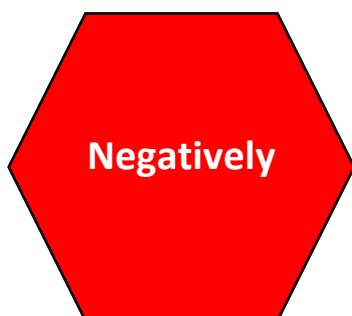


Conflicting Qualities



Designated Campsites

Draw a line from the quality of wilderness character to positively or negatively affected or neither.

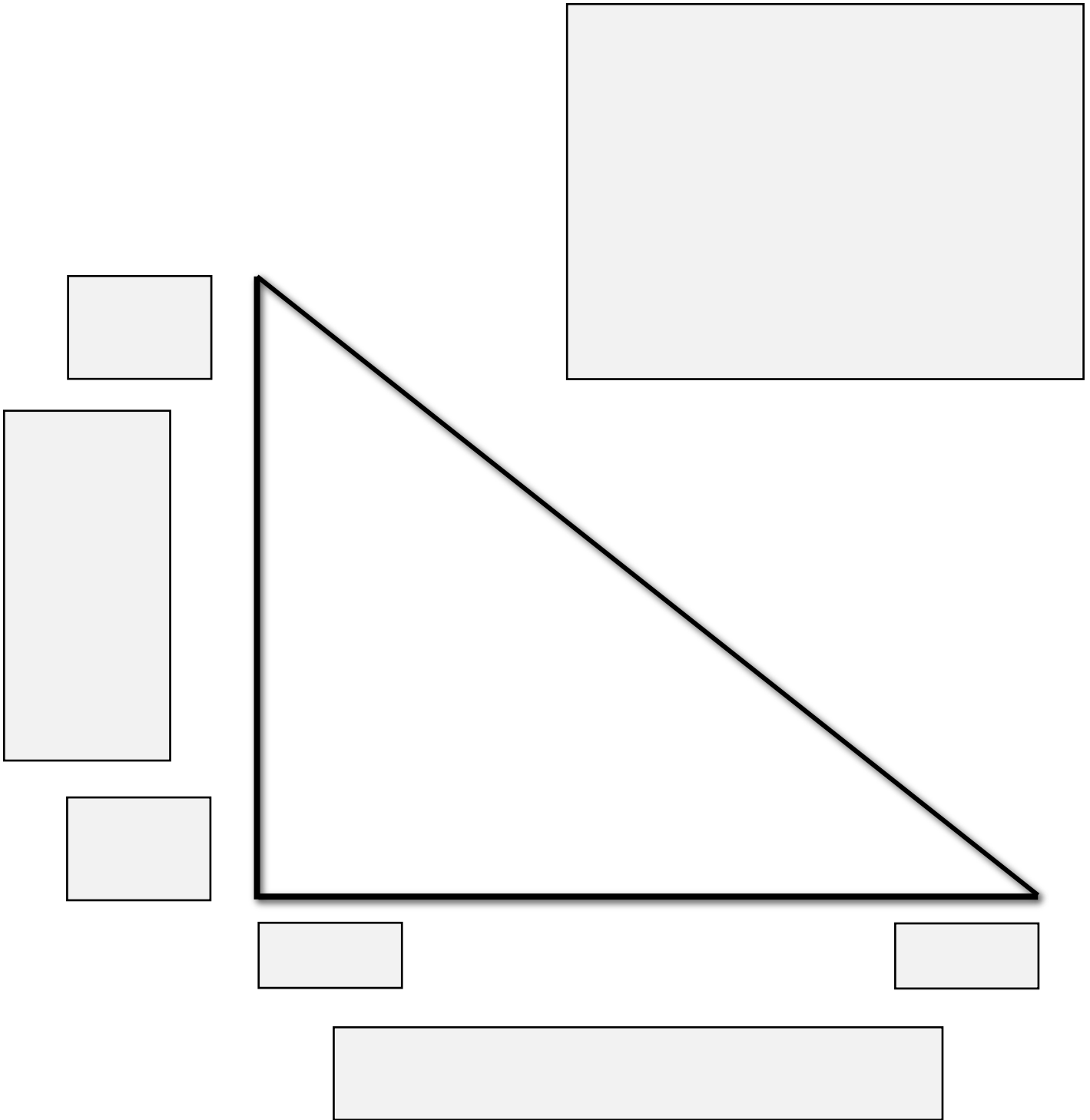


- Untrammeled
- Natural
- Undeveloped
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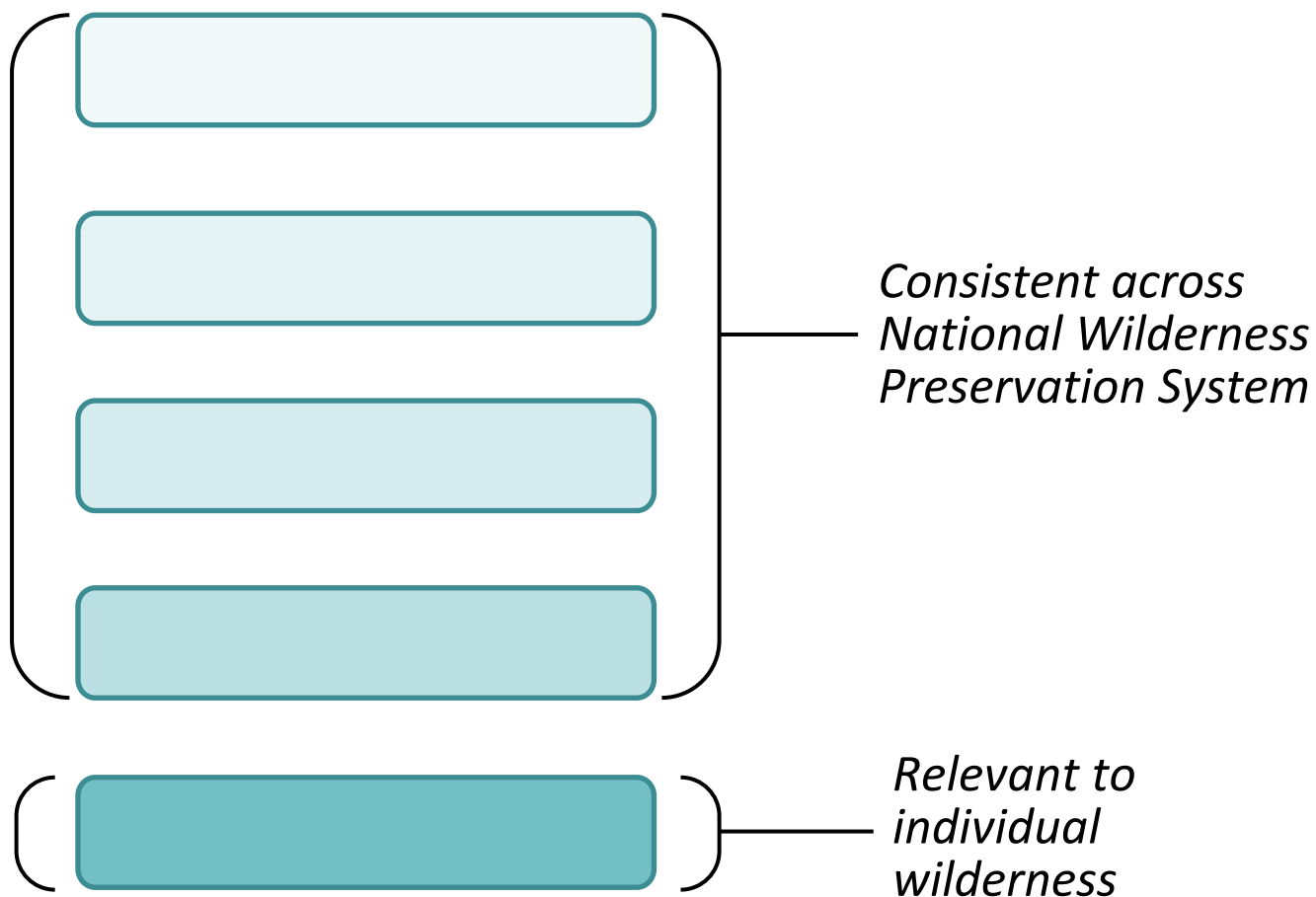
State of Wilderness Character



Wilderness Character Monitoring

Helps us tangibly track changes in wilderness character over time

- _____ information and data to inform future decision-making
- Management _____ for this preservation mandate
- Interagency _____ for NPS, BLM, USFWS, and USFS



Word Bank: Wilderness Character Consistency Measures Credible
Monitoring Questions Qualities Accountability Indicators





Integrating Wilderness Character

Tangible

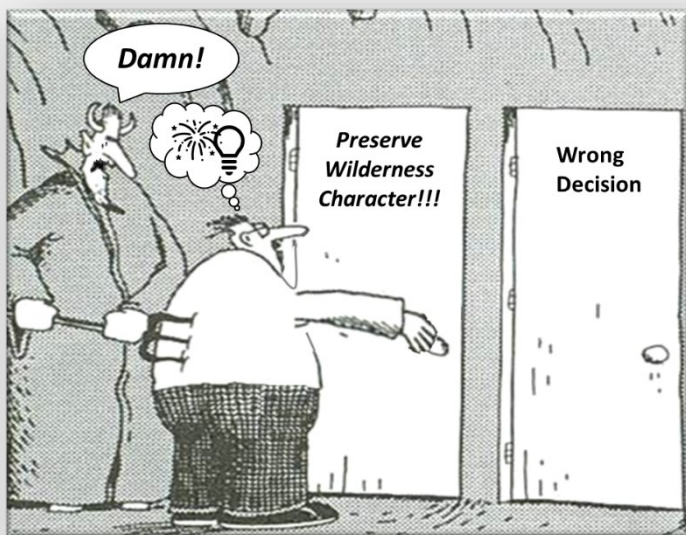
Tangible and practical aspects of wilderness character arising from the Wilderness Act definition

Intangible

Spiritual, symbolic, ethical, philosophical, and other intangible aspects of wilderness character



Final Notes and Thoughts



Resources

The Wilderness Act

<https://wilderness.net/learn-about-wilderness/key-laws/wilderness-act/default.php>

Agency Policy

BLM

<https://winapps.umn.edu/winapps/media2/wilderness/toolboxes/documents/WC/BLM%20Manual%206340%201.6.A.2.pdf>

USFWS

<https://winapps.umn.edu/winapps/media2/wilderness/toolboxes/documents/WC/FWS%20610%201.13,1.14,1.17.pdf>

USFS

<https://winapps.umn.edu/winapps/media2/wilderness/toolboxes/documents/WC/FSM%202320.pdf>

NPS

<https://winapps.umn.edu/winapps/media2/wilderness/toolboxes/documents/WC/NPS%20Management%20Policies%206.3.1.pdf>

Case Law

https://winapps.umn.edu/winapps/media2/wilderness/NWPS/documents/caselaw/Wilderness_Case_Law_508.pdf

Keeping it Wild 2

<https://winapps.umn.edu/winapps/media2/wilderness/toolboxes/documents/WC/Keeping%20It%20Wild%202,%20GTR-340.pdf>

Wilderness Character Toolbox on Wilderness Connect

<https://wilderness.net/practitioners/toolboxes/wilderness-character/default.php>

