

SUMMARY OF QUALITIES, INDICATORS, AND IMPACT EXAMPLES FOR WILDERNESS CHARACTER

UNTRAMMELED	NATURAL	UNDEVELOPED	SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION	OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE
<p>Wilderness ecosystems are essentially free from the intentional <u>actions</u> of modern human control or manipulation.</p> <p>“...an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammled by man...” and “...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.” Wilderness Act, Section 2(c)</p> <p>Preserved when... actions are <i>not</i> taken to manipulate or control ecological systems and its components.</p> <p>Degraded by... actions that intentionally control or manipulate the flora, fauna, or natural processes.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predator control • Translocating wildlife • Suppressing fire • Prescribed fire • Spraying weeds • Damming streams <p><i>Actions can be agency authorized or unauthorized public actions and are trammeling while the actions are ongoing.</i></p>	<p>Wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the <u>effects</u> of modern civilization.</p> <p>“...is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions.” and “...retaining its primeval character and influence...” Wilderness Act, Section 2(c)</p> <p>Preserved when... indigenous species and ecological processes are intact and functional.</p> <p>Degraded by... effects (intended or unintended) of modern civilization on the biophysical environment.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of non-native species • Extirpation of native species • Air pollution • Diminished water quality or quantity <p><i>Effects can be the result of actions inside or outside the wilderness boundary, and/or occurred prior to wilderness designation and still persist today.</i></p>	<p>Wilderness is essentially without permanent improvement or modern human occupation.</p> <p>“...man and his works [do not] dominate the landscape... “...an area of undeveloped Federal land...,” “...without permanent improvement or human habitation”, and “...where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” Wilderness Act, Section 2(c)</p> <p>Preserved when... modern human-made features are not located in, and motors or mechanical transport are not used in, the wilderness area.</p> <p>Degraded by... modern structures or installations, or the use of motors or mechanical transport.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern buildings • Radio repeaters • Installing wildlife radio collars • Use of chainsaws • Use of wheelbarrows <p><i>Developments can be pre-existing or new, temporary or permanent, big or small, stationary or mobile, and made of manufactured materials or natural materials found on site.</i></p>	<p>Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation.</p> <p>“...has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.” Wilderness Act, Section 2(c)</p> <p>Preserved when... visitors experience minimal encounters, experience challenge, observe landscapes without modern human effects, and are not encumbered by restrictions.</p> <p>Degraded by... excessive encounters, indications of civilization, or regulation of visitor behavior.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sights and sounds of other people • Infrastructure for visitor support • Access restricted by permits • Designated campsites <p><i>Can be degraded by activities inside or outside wilderness and from management provided or visitor created infrastructure.</i></p>	<p>Wilderness preserves other features that are of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.</p> <p>“...may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.” Wilderness Act, Section 2(c)</p> <p>Preserved when... each identified feature unique to the wilderness area is protected.</p> <p>Degraded by... partial or total loss of the feature.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism of cultural resources • Destruction of paleontological resources • Scenic quality lost to air pollution • Loss of unique habitats <p><i>Features can be degraded from activities within or outside the wilderness area, or when they are not protected consistent with preservation of wilderness character.</i></p>