



What's New? Wilderness Implementation Updates

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WSR Water Rights: Based on a February 2012 agreement with BLM, USGS staff is conducting steam flow monitoring on the 12 Wild & Scenic River (WSR) segments lacking any gage data. These efforts will help the BLM determine what high flows and low flows are needed to support and protect the various Outstandingly Remarkable Values inherent in each of the stream segments. Data gained from this monitoring effort will be used to develop defensible water right claims for each of the affected stream segments. Claims need to be filed by December 12, 2012.

Wilderness Surveys: Cadastral Survey staff is currently surveying the boundary of the North Fork Owyhee Wilderness. Data collected during last year's Pole Creek Wilderness boundary survey is being reviewed this year, and we expect to see the official wilderness map and legal description completed in the not too distant future.

Range Project Inventory Report: BLM staff has completed follow-up meetings with permittees, and is finalizing revisions to the Wilderness Range Project Inventory Report,

which will become a part of the Wilderness Management Plan. Copies of the Inventory Report Addendum will be provided to all affected grazing permittees.

Wilderness and WSR Planning: The Boise and Twin Falls District Offices are continuing to work on the draft Wilderness Management Plan, which we hope to release for public review later this summer.

Travel Management: BLM staff is continuing to clean up the GIS data layers to ensure the most accurate route base map possible. Criteria will be used to select the system of routes that best supports ongoing public land access and use, while protecting the environment.

Recreation Site Improvement: Boise and Twin Falls Districts are cooperating in a project to improve a short section of the steep access road into the east side of the Bruneau Canyon at Indian Hot Springs. Road repairs, which should be completed by this Fall, will help eliminate a growing safety hazard.

Wilderness Etiquette and Protocol

Please help protect the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness Areas and Wild & Scenic Rivers by doing your part to *Leave No Trace*.

Camping in the same location for longer than 14 days.

- General BLM policy allows camping in one location on public lands for no more than 14 days within any 28 consecutive days. After this period, campers must relocate to another site at least 25 miles away. The purpose of this rule is to prevent damage to sensitive resources caused by continued use of any particular site. This camping protocol is being reviewed as part of the Wilderness Management Planning process to determine the most appropriate policy for the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness Areas.

Motorized or mechanized travel within wilderness boundaries.

- Camping is permitted within units of the National Wilderness Preservation System. However, motorized and mechanized vehicles and equipment are prohibited in wilderness without specific BLM authorization. Cherry-stem and boundary roads are available for motorized and mechanized travel since they are located outside of wilderness.

Improper disposal of human waste.

- Although it is a generally accepted practice to bury human waste in catholes, even in wilderness, the use of portable personal waste disposal systems, such as Wag Bags, is required within Wild & Scenic River corridors. Improper waste disposal can lead to concentrations of human waste and other refuse, which pollutes the environment and presents a human health hazard.
- Left unchecked, an unhealthy accumulation of human waste near areas of use could force land managers to restrict access, or implement user regulations designed to protect the natural resources and enhance public health and safety. Click [here](#) for more information about proper sanitation procedures.



Camping in the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness

Etiquette and Protocol Continued



Destruction of Natural Resources



Littering on Public Lands



Destruction of Government Property

Littering on Public Land.

- Many dispersed campsites are beginning to show the impacts of heavy use. Campers can lessen their impact on public lands by adopting the following "Leave No Trace" minimum impact principles:

Plan Ahead and Prepare
Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
If You Pack It In - Pack It Out
Do Not Cut Standing Live or Dead Trees
Dispose of Waste Properly
Leave What You Find
Minimize Campfire Impacts
Respect Wildlife
Be Considerate of Other Visitors

For More Information go to: www.LNT.org



Threats to Wilderness

While wilderness designation provides the highest level of protection available to public lands, it does not prevent threats that can adversely impact wilderness character. Many of these threats are the same as what other public lands face. Pressures that arise from a growing population and a demand for economic growth include: overuse, technology, fire suppression, invasive species, pollution, and lack of public knowledge and support.

Overuse

The Wilderness Act of 1964 gave land managers a particularly difficult and challenging mandate. Wilderness areas are to be maintained in a wild and natural state - relatively free of human control - while, at the same time, providing for public use and enjoyment.

Technology

New equipment and technologies have benefited all forms of outdoor recreation. Technology helps people spend time in wilderness with fewer and smaller impacts to the land. However, technology can also perpetuate a false sense of security by making people feel that wilderness is smaller, safer and easier. Technology can also provide too much information and remove the element of mystery often associated with the wilderness experience.

Wildfire Suppression

Scientists and land managers have long recognized the importance of naturally occurring wildfire. Decades of unnatural fire suppression have profoundly altered wildlife and plant species composition, distribution, and density at the landscape level.

Invasive Species

In the United States, many species listed as Threatened or Endangered are impacted by invasive species - plants, animals, insects, fungi and pathogens that do not normally exist or interact with native species. Sometimes invasive species simply coexist with natives, but more often, invasives disrupt entire ecosystems by outcompeting, displacing, sickening, preying upon native species, or interbreeding with and hybridizing native species.

Pollution

Until recently, wilderness managers focused primarily on keeping wilderness from being "loved to death" by visitors. Today, however, activities occurring outside wilderness sometimes affect natural processes within wilderness. Pollution from outside of wilderness, including air, water, light, and sound, can adversely affect wilderness characteristics and values.

Lack of Public Awareness

Public surveys have found that people who know about wilderness value it immensely, yet many Americans simply do not understand what wilderness is, how it shaped our nation, and what benefits we derive from it. This leaves many, especially today's youth, disconnected from and less likely to support and value wilderness.



Fire Suppression



Invasive Species
(Quagga Mussel)

CONCERNS IN WILDERNESS

- *Overuse*
- *Technology*
- *Wildfire suppression*
- *Invasive species*
- *Pollution*
- *Lack of public knowledge*



Air Pollution