

# **Wilderness Management**

## **Stewardship and Protection of Resources and Values**

Fourth Edition

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# Publisher's Preface

by Vance G. Martin, President,  
International Wilderness Leadership (WILD) Foundation

Wilderness is essential to a well-balanced natural-resource program. We need wild places with naturalness and solitude and where biological evolution can proceed naturally to produce the genetic diversity on which all life and societies are built. These remote and relatively unspoiled areas provide important research opportunities and benchmarks for monitoring changes in the Earth's climate and natural systems; they provide clean water and important habitat for wildlife. Increasingly, wilderness areas are popular for recreation and personal growth and healing that generate economic benefits in addition to social and spiritual values. Wilderness areas are valuable; however, if we do not manage them wisely, their value will decline as surely as if they were never designated.

This book presents state-of-the-art information about wilderness management by leading authorities in the field, building on three previous editions, in 1978, 1990, and 2002 respectively, and the contributions and reviews over the years by dozens of collaborators. The book traces the history, philosophy, legal basis, and processes for designating wilderness and accepted practices for managing the National Wilderness Preservation System. It looks beyond U.S. boundaries at the growing international recognition and application of the wilderness concept, and the need for stewardship and protection of its many values wherever wilderness exists.

The U.S. Forest Service, through the Government Printing Office, published the first edition of

*Wilderness Management* in 1978; a revised, second edition was published by North American Press of Fulcrum Publishing in 1990; and a revised, third edition was published by Fulcrum Publishing in 2002.

Wilderness management is a growing focus of four federal agencies: the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They are joined by many state agencies that also manage wilderness or similar land classifications in the United States and, increasingly, by natural-resource agencies in other countries.

This book is meant for everyone who is concerned about wilderness—land managers, scientists, wilderness users, teachers, students, citizens, environmentalists, natural-resource developers, outfitters and guides, consultants, planners, and policy makers in the United States and other countries. We all have a stake in the future of wilderness.

## ***The WILD Foundation***

In recognition of the biological, economic, cultural, and spiritual values of wilderness, The International Wilderness Leadership (WILD) Foundation was established in 1974. Its worldwide goals are to increase the understanding, protection, and sustainability of wilderness and wildlands, and to inspire an ecological conscience among current and future leaders. For more information on WILD, contact WILD president Vance G. Martin at [vance@wild.org](mailto:vance@wild.org) or visit the website at [www.wild.org](http://www.wild.org).

# Foreword

by National Wilderness Coordinators, U.S. Federal Agencies,  
and Other Wilderness Leaders

The 1964 U.S. Wilderness Act stands the test of time, virtually unamended in forty-four years. Today, there are more than 700 wilderness units totaling more than 107 million acres in the United States National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) under stewardship of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and National Park Service. Twelve states within the United States also manage some land for wilderness purposes. More than a dozen other countries also have wilderness systems designated by law or administrative policy. We are challenged to manage these wild and natural places as the Wilderness Act directs: “to keep them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.” Even though political decisions remain about designating additional land as wilderness, responsibilities for stewardship of existing wilderness continue to grow.

The toughest challenge is to keep wilderness wild, and (as stated in the Wilderness Act of 1964) “affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.” Wilderness is at risk from external threats, such as global warming and invasion by exotic species, and internally, due to recreational and other wilderness uses.

Wilderness stewardship seeks to maintain the wildness of wilderness while at the same time making it accessible for appropriate human use and enjoyment. Management and use of range, minerals, wildlife and fish, water, and other resources in wilderness must be compatible with the wilderness concept. Fire, insects, disease, and other natural forces must be allowed to play their ecological roles within wilderness as long as they do not threaten human life, resources, and properties outside the wilderness boundary. Increasingly, the need to allow and

even encourage natural fire regimes is a challenge. As wilderness and land development and global environmental changes continue, wilderness can provide reservoirs of gene pools and natural ecosystems, and be a benchmark against which to compare human-kind’s impacts on land and ecosystems.

Wilderness is a “special place,” somewhere to experience solitude, unconfined recreation, and wild natural surroundings. Each visitor has a special responsibility to not degrade the wilderness experience of other visitors or wilderness resources. Wilderness users need to understand and abide by a Leave No Trace ethic, where each is a “visitor who does not remain.” Wilderness management must be “light on the land,” striving to use minimum tools, and doing only necessary wilderness tasks.

Thirty years of wilderness progress and action have passed since the first edition of this textbook was published in 1978, eighteen years since the second edition in 1990, and seven years since the third edition in 2002. U.S. wilderness acreage has increased dramatically since the Wilderness Act was passed, and it has become increasingly clear that protecting wilderness requires more than just setting land aside and leaving it alone. Wilderness management, the stewardship and protection of resources and values, is essential. It is the breadth of these wilderness stewardship challenges and opportunities that this book addresses.

We are pleased to jointly introduce this fourth edition of *Wilderness Management: Stewardship and Protection of Resources and Values*. We expect that it will help wilderness stewards and users, resource policy makers, and concerned citizens better care for enduring wilderness resources in the United States and worldwide.



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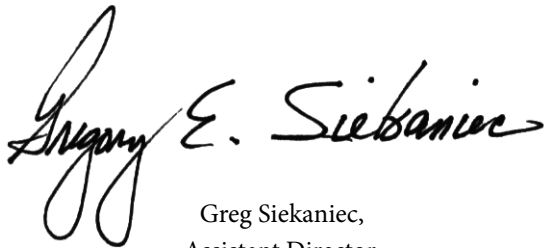
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