

SUMMARY OF QUALITIES, INDICATORS, AND EXAMPLE MEASURES OF WILDERNESS CHARACTER

UNTRAMMELED	NATURAL	UNDEVELOPED	SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED RECREATION	OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE
<p>From the Wilderness Act, wilderness is “...an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man...” and “...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature”</p> <p>Wilderness is essentially free from the intentional <u>actions</u> of modern human control or manipulation</p> <p>Indicators are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions authorized by the federal land manager that intentionally manipulate the biophysical environment • Actions <u>not</u> authorized by the federal land manager that intentionally manipulate the biophysical environment <p>Measures could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spraying weeds • suppressing or lighting fire • introducing non-native species • using biocontrol agents • unauthorized actions such as predator control 	<p>From the Wilderness Act, wilderness “...is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions”</p> <p>Wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the <u>effects</u> of modern civilization</p> <p>Indicators are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plants • Animals • Air and water • Ecological processes <p>Measures could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presence, abundance, or distribution of non-native plant species • presence, abundance, or distribution of terrestrial non-native animal species • presence, abundance, or distribution of aquatic non-native animal species • visibility, ozone, chemical deposition • water quality and quantity condition • presence of sensitive lichen species • watershed condition • fragmentation 	<p>From the Wilderness Act, wilderness is “...an area of undeveloped Federal land...without permanent improvement or human habitation” and “...where man himself is a visitor who does not remain”</p> <p>Wilderness retains its primeval character and influence, and is essentially without permanent improvement or modern human occupation</p> <p>Indicators are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of non-recreational structures, installations, and developments • Presence of inholdings • Use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or mechanical transport <p>Measures could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authorized installations and developments such as scientific equipment, radio repeaters, fish barriers • unauthorized installations and developments • inholdings or allotments • administrative and emergency use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or mechanical transport • unauthorized uses of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or mechanical transport 	<p>From the Wilderness Act, wilderness “...has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation”</p> <p>Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation</p> <p>Indicators are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remoteness from sights and sounds of human activity <u>inside</u> wilderness • Remoteness from sights and sounds of human activity <u>outside</u> the wilderness • Facilities that decrease self-reliant recreation • Management restrictions on visitor behavior <p>Measures could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • visitor use • area affected by travel routes • night sky visibility • impacts to soundscape • authorized recreation facilities such as trails, toilets, bridges, shelters • unauthorized recreation facilities such as user-created campsites, illegal motorcycle/ATV trails • visitor management restrictions 	<p>From the Wilderness Act wilderness “...may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.”</p> <p>Wilderness preserves other features that are of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value</p> <p>Indicators are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deterioration or loss of integral cultural features • Deterioration or loss of other tangible and integral features of value <p>Measures of other features must be identified separately for each wilderness, and should not readily fit within one of the other qualities. Examples include cultural and historic sites, and paleontological localities.</p>