The National Wilderness Preservation System is managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In a spirit of cooperation these four agencies established the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute. Two representatives from each of the agencies and the National Biological Service direct the Carhart Center and Leopold Institute on management needs for training, education and research.

The Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center was established to "foster interagency excellence in wilderness stewardship by cultivating knowledgeable, skilled and capable wilderness managers and by improving public understanding of wilderness philosophy, values and processes."

Located at the Historic Ninemile Ranger Station near Missoula, Montana, the Carhart Center addresses challenges in wilderness management, training, and education identified by wilderness managers all across the country. The Carhart Center staff of eight includes representatives from each of the four wilderness-managing agencies. They believe the key to success of any program is implementation, the key to implementation is ownership, and the key to ownership is participation. So the Carhart Center staff works with experts at all levels of the four wilderness-managing agencies, along with outside experts, to develop comprehensive interagency solutions to wilderness challenges using a team approach. Materials developed by the Carhart Center are distributed to every wilderness unit
and training sessions are offered where they are needed most. By coor-
dinating with wilderness leaders and managers from each agency, and by
exporting training and expertise, everyone benefits from the creative efforts
of a few, implementation is ensured, and training costs are minimized.

ARTHUR H. CARHART'S LIFE stands as testimony that a good
idea will grow and prosper in and of itself.

Born in 1892 in Mapleton, Iowa, Carhart graduated from Iowa State
College in 1916 with a degree in landscape architecture. In 1919 the U.S.
Forest Service hired Carhart as its first full-time landscape architect, even
though his official title was "recreation engineer."

One of Carhart's first assignments was to survey a road around Trapp-
ners Lake in the White River National Forest in Colorado, and to plot
several homesites on the lakeshore. Carhart completed the assignment,
but recommended to his supervisor Carl Stahl that no development be
permitted on the shore. Instead, he strongly urged that the best use of the
area was for wilderness recreation. This was a bold suggestion for such
a young employee and Carhart was quite surprised when Stahl endorsed
his recommendations. In 1920 Trappers Lake was designated as an area
to be kept roadless and undeveloped. It remains so to this day. That
designation marked the first application of the wilderness preservation
concept in Forest Service history.

WHILE NO ONE PERSON CAN BE called "Father of the Wilder-
ness Concept," Carhart has been referred to as "the chief cook in the kitchen
during the critical first years." Carhart's ideas and vision were shared by
another individual who became a significant figure in the wilderness move-
ment. This was Aldo Leopold, then Assistant District (Regional) Forester
for District 3 (Region 3) in New Mexico.

On December 6, 1919, Leopold visited with Carhart in Colorado.
Following their talks Carhart wrote what was then simply a "memoran-
dum for Mr. Leopold, District 3." This memorandum became one of the
most significant records in the history of the wilderness concept:
There is a limit to the number of lands of shoreline on the lakes; there is a limit to the number of lakes in existence; there is a limit to the mountainous areas of the world, and . . . there are portions of natural scenic beauty which are God-made, and . . . which of a right should be the property of all people."

Encouraged by Carhart's kindred spirit, Aldo Leopold went on to champion creation of the Gila Wilderness Reserve in New Mexico—the first Wilderness Reserve, officially designated on June 3, 1924.

Arthur Carhart left the Forest Service in 1923, cutting short his federal career to pursue private practice in landscape architecture, city planning and writing. Before leaving the Forest Service, however, he toured the Quetico-Superior region in Minnesota and recommended these areas of superlative wild scenery be managed for their value as wilderness. Carhart's efforts eventually led to development of what is now the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

During his long life Carhart continued to write about and work for the ideal of wilderness. On March 3, 1973, at the age of 81 Carhart said of himself: "I sometimes wonder how I had the nerve as a young punk to get my superiors turned around on some of these things. I feel real good about how it all turned out."

Working together as Carhart and Leopold did, the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute ensure that recent developments and tested practices in wilderness management are shared throughout the ranks of federal wilderness agencies and with other organizations interested in wilderness preservation.

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