

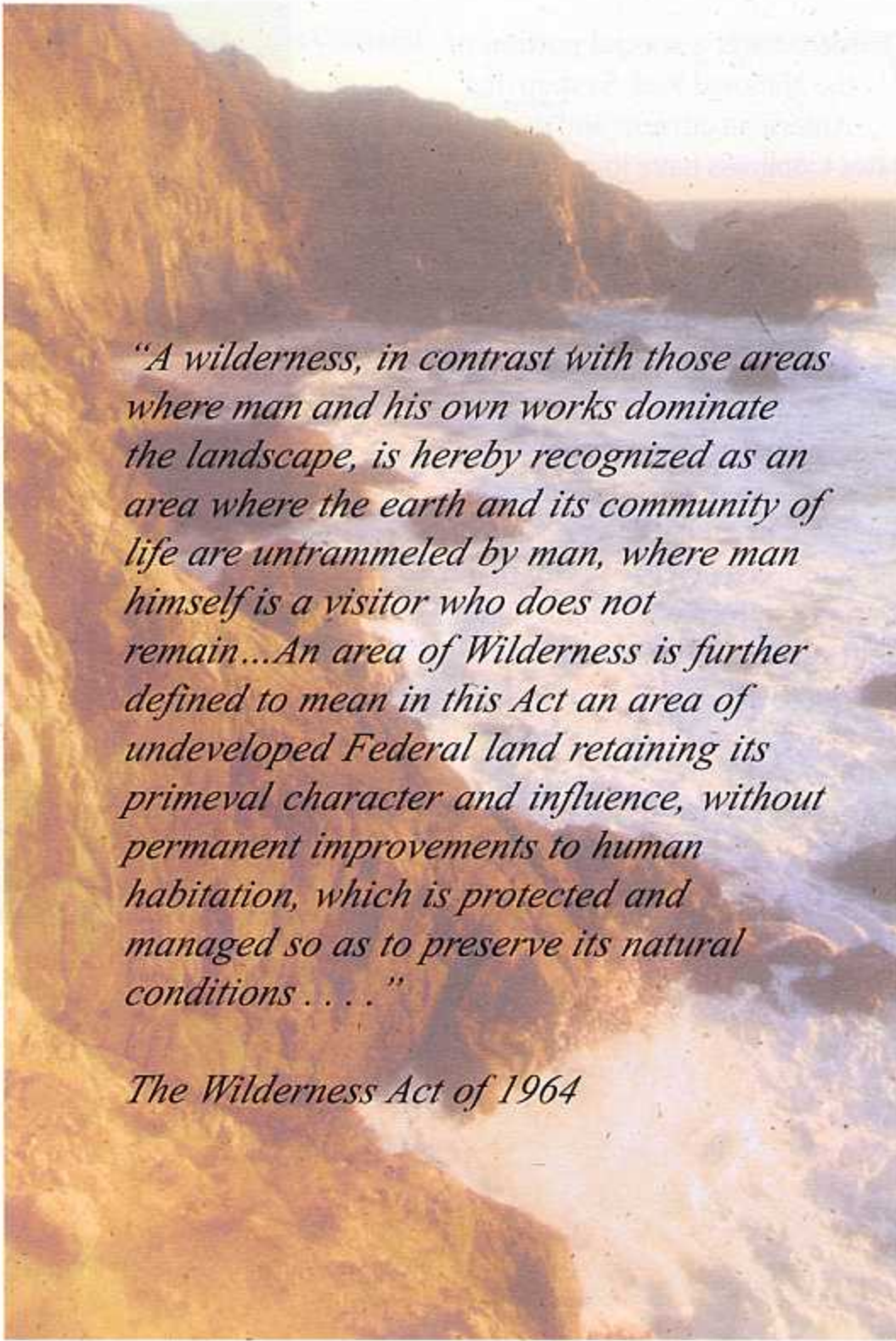
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WILDERNESS REPORT
2000-2001



**Prepared by
National Wilderness Steering Committee
National Park Service
June 2002**



"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain...An area of Wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements to human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions"

The Wilderness Act of 1964

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INTRODUCTION

Wilderness is a special portion of the National Park System that American citizens and the United States Congress have jointly declared will be kept as wild and natural as possible. Wilderness designation is a declaration of people's care and desire to protect special areas in the National Park System. As a result of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and subsequent legislation, 45 national parks contain approximately 43 million acres of designated wilderness — nearly 53 percent of all Park Service lands. Significant additional acreage is still in the wilderness review process, meaning that these areas are under recommendation, proposed, or being studied for wilderness designation (see section on the Status of Wilderness Stewardship).

NPS Mission Statement

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and intrinsic values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation, and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS

WILDERNESS NAME	PARK UNITS (45)	SIZE IN ACRES
Ansel Adams	Devils Postpile National Monument	747
Badlands	Badlands National Park	64,144
Bandelier	Bandelier National Monument	23,267
Black Canyon of the Gunnison	Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park	15,599
Buffalo National River	Buffalo National River	34,933
Carlsbad Caverns	Carlsbad Caverns National Park	33,125
Chiricahua	Chiricahua National Monument	10,680
Congaree Swamp	Congaree Swamp National Monument	15,010
Craters of the Moon	Craters of the Moon National Monument	43,243
Cumberland Island	Cumberland Island National Seashore	8,840
Death Valley	Death Valley National Park	3,253,028
Denali	Denali National Park	2,124,783
Gates of the Arctic	Gates of the Arctic National Park	7,167,192
Glacier Bay	Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve	2,664,876
Great Sand Dunes	Great Sand Dunes National Monument	33,450
Guadalupe Mountains	Guadalupe Mountains National Park	46,850
Gulf Islands	Gulf Islands National Seashore	4,080
Haleakala	Haleakala National Park	24,719
Hawaii Volcanoes	Hawaii Volcanoes National Park	130,790
Indian Peaks	Rocky Mountain National Park	2,917
Isle Royale	Isle Royale National Park	132,018
Joshua Tree	Joshua Tree National Park	557,802
Katmai	Katmai National Park and Preserve	3,384,358
Kobuk Valley	Kobuk Valley National Park	174,545
Lake Clark	Lake Clark National Park and Preserve	2,619,550
Lava Beds	Lava Beds National Monument	28,460
Lassen Volcanic	Lassen Volcanic National Park	78,982
Marjory Stoneman Douglas	Everglades National Park	1,296,500
Mesa Verde	Mesa Verde National Park	8,500
Mohave	Mohave National Preserve	695,200
Mount Rainier	Mount Rainier National Park	228,480
Noatak	Noatak National Preserve	5,765,427
Olympic	Olympic National Park	876,669
Organ Pipe Cactus	Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	312,600
Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune	Fire Island National Seashore	1,380
Petrified Forest	Petrified Forest National Park	50,260
Philip Burton	Point Reyes National Seashore	25,952
Pinnacles	Pinnacles National Monument	13,270
Saguaro	Saguaro National Park	70,905
Sequoia-Kings Canyon	Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks	736,980
Shenandoah	Shenandoah National Park	79,579
Stephen Mather	North Cascades National Park	634,614
Theodore Roosevelt	Theodore Roosevelt National Park	29,920
Yosemite	Yosemite National Park	704,624
Wrangell-St. Elias	Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve	9,078,675
NPS Designated Wilderness	Total (acres) =	43,287,523

THE WILDERNESS ACT

As expressed through the Wilderness Act of 1964, Congress intended that wilderness areas be places where the imprint of human beings is largely unnoticeable. They are revered landscapes that preserve the heritage of America where natural processes are the primary influences, and where human activity and management intervention is limited. This allows people to experience, study, and enjoy wild places without disturbing or destroying natural processes.

Although the National Park Service (NPS) is a resource preservation agency, Congress chose to apply the Wilderness Act of 1964 to the agency to provide it with important guidance. It did so in response to the persistent trend within the NPS to make parks



more and more accessible and comfortable to visitors through additional development.

Indeed, the whole history of the changing patterns of transportation access to national parks shows mounting development pressures on the undeveloped portions of the national parks. The 1916 Organic Act provides no direct guidance on the question of how wilderness should be managed and protected. The scenic, natural, and historic objects of the national parks must be conserved while providing for public enjoyment by means that will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment

of future generations. In essence, this leaves the NPS with broad discretion to choose among a variety of development options and wildness.

The Wilderness Act supplements the NPS's basic statutory authorities and requires it to evaluate its lands for wilderness designation and to manage those suitable areas to preserve their wilderness character.

In addition to adding greater affirmation of the importance of keeping parts of parks in an undeveloped condition, wilderness designation specifically has the following legal effects on administrative discretion available under the 1916 Organic Act:

- No permanent roads are allowed (subject to certain exceptions to meet minimum requirements for wilderness administration, to deal with emergencies, and to honor vested private rights);
- No commercial enterprise is allowed (subject to the same exceptions as stated above); however, commercial services (e.g., guide services) can be permitted to the extent necessary for realizing purposes of wilderness recreation;

- No temporary road is allowed (not subject to the above exceptions, nor are the following restrictions subject to them);
- Generally, with exceptions authorized for emergency or minimal administrative needs, no use can be made of motorized vehicles or motorboats;
- Generally, with exceptions authorized for emergency or minimal administrative needs, no landing of aircraft is permitted;
- No other form of mechanical transport is allowed; and
- Generally, with exceptions authorized for administrative purposes, no structures or installations can be maintained within such areas (tradition does allow trails, footbridges, and some campsite improvements). Historic structures often remain in wilderness—guided by a



variety of preservation statutes including direction from the Wilderness Act itself.



Congress often acts to add specific legislative provisions to specific wilderness area enabling legislation. The most notable example is the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) which

added eight large wilderness areas, quintupled the wilderness acreage managed by the NPS and added over 20 modifications to the Wilderness Act for Alaska wilderness. Some of the more obvious modifications include uses, subject to reasonable regulation and specific conditions, allowing motorized access (motorboats, snowmachines, and airplanes) for recreation; subsistence activities including hunting, fishing, trapping, and the gathering of firewood and logs for cabins by local, rural residents; sport hunting in preserve units; temporary structures for taking of fish and wildlife in preserve units; provision for reasonable access across wilderness to private and state lands including mining claims; and provisions for air and water navigation aids, communications sites, and facilities for weather, climate and fisheries research and monitoring.



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WILDERNESS IN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The NPS is proud that it manages more wilderness than any other land management agency in America. Wilderness evokes a sense of awe and curiosity, it invites exploration and discovery, and it connotes an area left unchanged by human hands. Designation of an area as wilderness represents a national affirmation of the value of wilderness.

Wilderness areas encompass a complex mix of social values and this is reflected in its multifaceted significance and value to individual people, including:

- Protecting watersheds upon which many cities and towns depend for drinking water.
- Improving air quality through the filtering action of trees and plants.
- Serving as critical habitat to protect rare and endangered species of plants and animals as well as other components of healthy and diverse ecosystems.
- Serving as unique and irreplaceable *living laboratories* for scientific and medical research both now and in the future.
- Providing outdoor classrooms for students learning about natural systems.
- Helping meet the nation's increasing demand for outdoor recreation in a primitive setting, including hiking, fishing, mountain climbing, canoeing, and camping.
- Serving as a haven from the pressures of urban and suburban sprawl.
- Providing for spiritual and emotional renewal.



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THE STATUS OF WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship of NPS Wilderness is necessarily multidisciplinary. Wilderness areas often encompass most of a park unit, and that means that a majority of park employees—superintendents, rangers, interpreters, resource specialists, maintenance workers, etc.—have wilderness stewardship responsibilities.

Consequently, the NPS places significant emphasis on training—offering training for superintendents and senior park staff as well as on-site workshops in parks for all staff involved in wilderness stewardship.



Management issues involving wilderness are addressed in a similar multidisciplinary fashion. An advisory committee, known as the National Wilderness Steering Committee (NWSC), is convened to advise the NPS Leadership on wilderness issues facing the NPS. It reflects the multidisciplinary nature of national park staffs and includes

superintendents and a full range of staff specialists. It is responsive both to the NPS Leadership and the needs of parks with wilderness stewardship responsibilities.

Under National Park System guidance, major wilderness program responsibilities include completion of:

- the Wilderness Review Process,
- Wilderness Management Planning,
- Wilderness Resource Management and Protection responsibilities, and
- Wilderness Area Administrative responsibilities.

Due to the decentralized nature of the NPS, only limited information is currently available on how parks are meeting these management responsibilities. But a survey is in process and a website database is under construction so that more information will be available next year.

Wilderness Review

The Wilderness Act envisioned that the NPS would complete a 10-year wilderness review process on its lands to be finished by 1974. The Service completed a partial inventory in 1978. The majority of the 45 designated NPS wilderness areas date from this effort or the passage of the Alaska National Interests Land Conservation Act in 1980. The same is true of the NPS areas recommended to Congress for wilderness designation and those proposed by the NPS for wilderness designation.

The NPS wilderness review process is mandated by the 1964 Wilderness Act and codified for agency use in the Code of Federal Regulations. The first step by a park in this process is to analyze what portion of the park meets the criteria that make it eligible to be studied formally for wilderness designation. This is known as a *Wilderness Suitability Assessment*. The Assessment area then undergoes a very public study and environmental impact analysis in which a variety of alternatives, from zero acreage to all the Assessment acreage is considered for wilderness designation. As a result of this part of the process, the National Park Service makes a formal *Wilderness Proposal* that is then forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary modifies or forwards this Proposal intact to the President in the form of a formal *Wilderness Recommendation*. The President may also modify or forward this Recommendation intact to Congress as his *Wilderness Recommendation*. Congress then makes a final decision on whether or not to designate the area as wilderness.

After a park has completed a *Wilderness Suitability Assessment*, NPS Management Policies commit the park to managing the area in a manner that does not degrade its suitability for wilderness designation until the Agency makes its *Wilderness Proposal*.

After the Wilderness Proposal goes to the Department, the National Park Service manages that area as wilderness to preserve the choices made by the public and the Agency until such time as the Secretary and the President have had opportunity to make their recommendations on the area.

Subsequent agency management reflects whatever decisions are made by the Secretary or President in their *Wilderness Recommendations*.



A total of 19 parks have been recommended by the President for wilderness designation and are currently awaiting Congressional decision. These include Arches NP, Assateague Island NS, Big Bend NP, Bryce Canyon NP, Canyonlands NP, Capitol Reef NP, Cedar Breaks NM, Colorado NM, Crater Lake NP, Craters of the Moon NM, Cumberland Gap NHP, Dinosaur NM, El Malpais NM, Glacier NP, Grand Tetons NP, Great Smoky Mountains NP, Rocky Mountain NP, Yellowstone NP, and Zion NP (See Appendix 1).

Twenty additional parks (See Appendix 2) have wilderness proposals in the review process. The NPS has proposed parts of 13 Alaska parks and 7 parks in the lower 48 states for wilderness designation. Some of these are additions to existing park wilderness areas. The park units include: Aniakchek NM and Pr, Bering Land Bridge NPr, Bighorn Canyon NRA, Cape Krusenstern NM, Cape Lookout NS, Denali NP and Pr, Gates of the Arctic NP and Pr, Glacier Bay NP and Pr, Glen Canyon NRA, Grand Canyon NP, Katmai NP and Pr, Kenai Fjords NP, Kobuk Valley NP, Lake Clark NP and Pr, Noatak NPr, Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, Voyageurs NP, Wrangell-St. Elias NP and Pr, and Yukon-Charley Rivers NPr. Wilderness proposals from Grand Canyon NP and the 13 Alaska park units are awaiting decision in the Office of the Director; five other proposals have been forwarded to the Department for Secretarial decision on a possible recommendation to the President. The Voyageurs NP wilderness

proposal has been recommended by the Secretary to the President for designation.

A number of other national park units have begun formal wilderness studies that may eventually lead to a formal NPS wilderness designation proposal to the Department of the Interior. These parks include Apostle Islands NL, Channel Islands NP, Pictured Rocks NL, Big Cypress NPr, and Lassen Volcanic NP. Because of the questions raised by NPS planners in the process



of these recent studies, the NWSC developed guidance for Reference Manual 41 to explain the details of the Wilderness Review Process as laid out in the Wilderness Act, Code of Federal Regulations, and NPS Policy.

Some national park units have yet to complete the Wilderness Review Process—many of these were in existence at the time of the passage of the Wilderness Act. These include Acadia NP, Amistad NRA, Big South Fork NRRRA, Canyon de Chelly NM, Cape Cod NS, Cape Hatteras NS, City of Rocks NR, Coronado NMem, Curecanti NRA, Delaware Water Gap NRA, Great Basin NP, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, Ozark NSR, Redwood N and SP, Wind Cave NP. There may or may not be suitable wilderness acreage in these parks, but Wilderness Suitability Assessments will need to be completed to determine if formal wilderness studies are necessary.

Additions to parks also need to be evaluated through the Wilderness Review Process. This includes possible additions at Bandelier NM, Big Bend NP, Crater Lake NP, Joshua Tree NP, and Sequoia-Kings Canyon NP. Both House and Senate Committees have requested that additional acreage in Mesa Verde NP be evaluated through the Wilderness Review Process.

Finally, a number of parks that have completed the Wilderness Review Process may need to revisit the process. Disqualifying conditions have changed at Big Thicket NPr, Biscayne NP, Canaveral NS, Chaco Culture NHP, Mammoth Cave NP, Padre Island NS, White Sands NM, and Wupatki NM. Re-evaluations were promised by the Department or the NPS at Big Thicket NM, Chaco Culture NHP, Mammoth Cave NP, and White Sands NM.

Wilderness Management Planning

Wilderness and backcountry plans exist for very few of the 76 designated, recommended, or proposed wilderness areas that require them, and many of these are very dated. For the parks with designated wilderness, some type of wilderness management plan exists in the following parks: Buffalo NR (1994), Fire Island NS (1983), Glacier Bay NP (1989), Guadalupe Mountains NP (1994), Joshua Tree NP (2000), Lassen Volcanic NP (1994), Mount Rainier NP (1989), North Cascades NP (1989), Rocky Mountain NP (2001), Saguaro NP (1992), Shenandoah NP (1998), and Yosemite NP (1989). Parks that are in progress of developing or updating their plans include Denali NP and Pr, Gates of the Arctic NP and Pr, Wrangell-St. Elias NP and Pr, Bandelier NM, Isle Royale NP, Point Reyes NS, Hawaii Volcanoes NP, Olympic NP, Everglades NP, and Gulf Islands NS. About half of these are being done in conjunction with General Management Planning for those parks. Completion of General Management Plan amendments for the Alaska parks over the next few years will mean that a significant portion of NPS wilderness acreage will then be covered by up-to-date guidance. The National Wilderness Steering Committee (NWSC) is preparing detailed guidance for developing Wilderness Management Plans (available next year) that should greatly aid smaller parks in completing their documents.



Wilderness Resource Management and Protection

These management activities focus on the protection of the physical and social aspects of wilderness resources in national parks.



Parks are required to develop and use a minimum requirements process to minimize the impacts of their management activities, review potential wilderness areas for conversion to designated wilderness, review new or evolving recreation activities for their impact on wilderness, incorporate wilderness education into their interpretive planning, and evaluate scientific activities to ensure they are appropriate and using the best "light on the land" techniques.

Many of the wilderness parks are using a minimum tool requirement decision process. To increase accountability and compliance to the Wilderness Act, the NWSC has made the development of better guidance and assistance an important focus. Significant efforts that have started but will be completed and distributed to wilderness parks next year include:

- A “model” minimum requirements process developed by the interagency Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center.
- The NPS *Wilderness Education and Partnership Plan*.
- The *Wilderness Resource Book*, the first product from the Wilderness Education and Partnership Plan, will include a great deal of information to assist interpreters with wilderness education and interpretation in their parks.
- The “Scientific Activities in Wilderness Evaluation Process” being developed by the interagency Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute will help parks evaluate scientific activities in terms of appropriateness and use of “light on the land” techniques and tools.
- “White Papers” for inclusion in Reference Manual 41 on Cultural Resources Management in Wilderness and Ecological Restoration in Wilderness for the purpose of better integrating these important resource management activities in wilderness.



Wilderness Area Administration

Administration activities focus on incorporation of wilderness activities into personnel management, providing needed wilderness-related types of training, creating technical guidance documents, setting wilderness performance goals under the Government Performance and Review Act (GPRA), and presenting group or individual wilderness awards.

The NPS is attempting to make wilderness management a key element in personnel evaluations in wilderness parks. This includes the incorporation of the wilderness skills and knowledge into key positions descriptions and vacancy announcements and inclusion into superintendent’s critical annual performance goals.

Training in visitor-use management, planning, education and interpretation, as well as training for superintendents has been offered through the interagency Carhart Wilderness Training Center in 2000 and 2001. In addition, short on-site training courses on wilderness management are offered in 5-6 wilderness parks each year. The Carhart Center has been a tremendous provider of quality training.

The NWSC, in conjunction with the NPS Performance Management Council, has developed a performance goal related to the number of parks having approved wilderness/backcountry plans or other approved plans that address the management of the park's wilderness/backcountry. An approved plan is required by Director's Order 41. Parks with wilderness resources will also be required to gauge the level of visitor understanding and appreciation of wilderness through the use of a question in the Visitor Survey Card in their park's visitor survey. In the future it is hoped that a goal to address maintenance of wilderness character (social attributes of these areas) will be established. The NWSC is currently working with an interagency working group to develop a protocol for monitoring wilderness character.

The Year 1999 Director's Wilderness Management and Stewardship Award presentation honored Joshua Tree National Park Superintendent Ernest Quintana as the "Individual Champion of Wilderness." For the Year 2000, Superintendent Mary Martin of Mojave National Preserve was presented with the Group Wilderness Management and Stewardship Award at a Washington event attended by Deputy Director Galvin, and Associate Directors Dick Ring, and Mike Soukup. Also for the Year 2000, Tim Devine received the "Individual Champion of Wilderness" award at a special ceremony at Rocky Mountain National Park attended by Secretary Norton, Director Mainella, and the park staff.



THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

In September 2001, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation released its final report entitled *Ensuring the Stewardship of the National Wilderness Preservation System*. It was commissioned by the four Federal agencies with wilderness management responsibilities for the NPS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. They sought an independent evaluation of wilderness stewardship over the last 35 years and recommendations on how to improve this stewardship. A ten-member panel chaired by Dr. Perry Brown, Dean of the School of Forestry at the University of Montana, developed the report.

The fundamental conclusion of this report is that there is a need to forge a more integrated and collaborative system across the four existing wilderness management agencies. Given the importance of wilderness as part of a land use spectrum, its historical, scientific, recreational, philosophical, and spiritual significance, and the lack of a truly systematic approach to protecting and managing Wilderness, the report offers an agenda and specific recommendations to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior who are primarily responsible for the stewardship of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Report made the following recommendations for the four wilderness agencies:

- The four wilderness agencies and their leaders must make a strong commitment to wilderness stewardship by developing a fully integrated stewardship system across the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- Wilderness planning must be accelerated to help guide stewardship activities, to enhance opportunities for evaluation and accountability, and to increase the probability that the Wilderness System will be sustained.
- Science, education, and training programs should be enhanced and focused to provide information, professional expertise, and public support for wilderness stewardship.
- The four wilderness agencies should create wilderness stewardship positions and career opportunities at all levels and commit adequate financial resources for stewardship and support of wilderness.
- Accountability for the maintenance and sustainability of the Wilderness System must be embraced by the four wilderness agencies.

The Report's recommendations are being considered by the Interagency Wilderness Policy Council as well as by the NWSC.

Specific NPS Steering Committee Goals for 2002

The following goals were established by the Committee for Fiscal Year 2002:

- Provide additional field guidance on the Wilderness Review Process.
- Encourage field areas to use the Carhart interagency minimum requirements process template to ensure proper decision-making regarding wilderness areas.
- Develop a national strategic goal for wilderness management and planning.
- Establish a system of technical reports for distribution to the 75 parks with wilderness resources.
- Disseminate the recently approved NPS Wilderness Education Plan and program.
- Increase cooperation with the NPS Natural Resource Advisory Group.
- Provide increased support to the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute.
- Enhance the profile of wilderness management in the NPS.
- Provide guidance on scientific research and long-term inventory and monitoring in wilderness areas.



APPENDIX 1
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Park Name</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Potential</u>	<u>Date</u>
Arches NP	UT	61,547	8,461	05/23/77
Assateague Island NS	MD/VA	440	4,760	12/04/74
Big Bend NP	TX	538,250	44,750	11/28/73
Bryce Canyon NP	UT	20,810	—	02/08/72
Canyonlands NP	UT	260,150	18,270	10/10/77
Capitol Reef NP	UT	179,815	4,050	05/23/77
Cedar Breaks NM	UT	4,830	—	04/28/71
Colorado NM	CO	13,842	937	02/08/72
Crater Lake NP	OR	127,058	—	04/12/74
Craters of the Moon NM	ID	396,696	—	11/09/00
Cumberland Gap NHP	KY-VA-TN	12,191	1,900	09/21/72
Dinosaur NM	CO-UT	205,672	5,055	12/04/74
El Malpais NM	NM	97,428	11,161	04/18/02
Glacier NP	MT	927,550	3,360	06/13/74
Grand Teton NP	WY	122,604	20,850	09/21/72
Great Smoky Mtns. NP	TN/NC	390,500	500	01/01/78
Rocky Mountain NP	CO	240,030	284	06/13/74
Yellowstone NP	ID-MT-WY	2,032,721	—	09/21/72
Zion NP	UT	120,620	10,364	06/13/74
Total		5,752,754	134,702	



APPENDIX 2
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS¹

<u>Wilderness Study Areas</u>	<u>(Proposed/Suitable Acres)²</u>
Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve	602,799
Bering Land Bridge National Preserve	2,690,179
Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area	8,108
Cape Krusenstern National Monument	633,587
Cape Lookout National Seashore	2,990
Denali National Park and Preserve	3,726,243
Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve	1,052,516
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve	62,790
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area	637,810
Grand Canyon National Park	1,109,257
Katmai National Park and Preserve	643,448
Kenai Fjords National Park	668,165
Kobuk Valley National Park	1,494,500
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve	1,240,280
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	680,780
Noatak National Preserve	757,175
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore	7,128
Voyageurs National Park	127,436
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve	3,174,000
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve	2,220,576

¹ This list does not include parks where wilderness studies are in progress such as Channel Islands National Park, Apostle Islands National Park, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, etc. When these are completed and forwarded to the Director, they will be added to the list.

² Alaska acreage numbers represent the total suitable wilderness acres from the Environmental Impact Analyses since decisions on the preferred alternatives were not completed. In these parks the wilderness studies and environmental analysis were completed, but the record of decision was not signed by the Director and the final proposal was not forwarded to the Department of Interior. The same is true of the Grand Canyon proposal.

The Need for Wilderness Areas

This need is for areas of the earth within which we stand without our mechanisms that make us immediate masters over our environment...

We deeply need the humility to know ourselves as dependent members of a great community of life, and this can indeed be one of the spiritual benefits of a wilderness experience.

Without the gadgets, the inventions, the contrivances whereby men have seemed to establish among themselves an independence of nature, without these distractions, to know the wilderness is to know a profound humility, to recognize ones littleness, to sense dependence and inter-dependence, indebtedness, and responsibility.

by Howard Zahniser
chief author of the Wilderness Act of 1964





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