

ARTHUR CARHART NATIONAL WILDERNESS TRAINING CENTER

"Fostering interagency excellence in wilderness stewardship"



MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS DECISION GUIDE

Process Outline

Step 1: Determine if any administrative action is necessary

First, describe the situation that may prompt action and describe why it is a problem or issue.

Then, answer the following questions to determine if administrative action is necessary in wilderness:

A. Options Outside of Wilderness - Is action necessary within wilderness ?

B. Valid Existing Rights or Special Provision of Wilderness Legislation - Is action necessary to satisfy valid existing rights or a special provision in wilderness legislation (the Wilderness Act of 1964 or subsequent wilderness laws) that allows consideration of the Section 4(c) prohibited uses?

C. Requirements of Other Legislation - (ESA, ARPA, NHPA, Dam Safety Act, Clean Air Act, etc.) - Is action necessary to meet the requirements of other laws?

D. Other Guidance - Is action necessary to conform to direction contained in agency policy, unit and wilderness management plans, species recovery plans, or agreements with tribal, state and local governments or other federal agencies?

E. Wilderness Character - Is action necessary to preserve one or more of the qualities of wilderness character: ***untrammeled, undeveloped, natural, outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, or unique attributes or other features*** that reflect the character of this wilderness area?

F. Public Purposes of Wilderness - Is action necessary to support one or more of the public purposes for wilderness (as stated in Section 4(b) of the Wilderness Act): recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use?

Step 1 Conclusion: Is Administrative Action Necessary?

If action is necessary, proceed to Step 2 to determine the minimum activity which least impacts the wilderness resource and character.

Step 2: Determine the *minimum* activity

A. Description of Action Alternatives - For each alternative, describe what methods and techniques will be used, when the action will take place, where the action will take place and what mitigation measures are necessary.

Alternatives considered should include one with the use of the suggested prohibited equipment or facilities, one with none of the Section 4 (c) prohibitions, and, if possible, one with a mix of prohibited and non-prohibited uses. Alternatives should be “feasible” and creative. Although the conclusion of Step 1 to take *some* action was the basis for continuing to Step 2, analyzing a “no action” alternative here helps better understand the effects on wilderness character if action is not taken, and assists in the development of a future or concurrent NEPA document.

B. Alternative Comparison - For each alternative, describe effects based on:

- Wilderness Character
 - Untrammelled
 - Undeveloped
 - Natural
 - Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation
 - Unique Attributes or Other Features that reflect the character of this wilderness
 - Other Comparison Criteria
 - Maintaining Traditional Skills
 - Special Provisions
 - Economics and Time constraints
 - Safety of personnel, visitors, and contractors
- Include mitigation (timing, location, frequency, design standards, etc.)

Step 2 Decision: What is the Minimum Activity?

- Identify the selected alternative.
- Describe the rationale for selecting this alternative, referencing law and policy criteria. Include documentation of Safety criterion, if appropriate.
- Describe any monitoring and reporting requirements.

Approvals and NEPA analysis - Follow agency requirements.

Reporting – Follow agency requirements

Refer to the MRDG [Overview](#), [Instructions](#), and [Worksheets](#) for more information.