

R3 Wilderness Need Assessment Work Products Table

Operational Draft: This document is prepared to provide guidance to Forest Plan revision teams. As this guidance is implemented, we expect to learn improved ways to do this work. As we learn, this document will be updated. This document was reviewed and revised as appropriate in October 2007 to conform to the requirements of the 1982 Planning Rule provisions.

The wilderness need assessment analyzes the degree to which each area would contribute to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Direction from FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70 is to deal with need on a regional basis. The following table shows the factors required by the wilderness assessment handbook that will be considered in examining the regional need for wilderness, potential existing data sources, how the information will be displayed and analyzed, the expertise needed for each factor, deadlines, and expected products. Some products will be created at the Regional Office, and some will be produced by individual forests. Regional Office and Forest personnel creating products should use the table to guide their work.

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Factors and Data Sources

Factor (From FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70)	Data Source	How Information Will be Displayed and Analyzed	Expertise Needed	Status	Product(s)
<p>Factor #1, Item #1: Location, size, and type of other wildernesses and primitive areas in the general vicinity</p>	<p>GIS layers from Forest Service (FS), National Park Service (NPS), US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) www.wilderness.net www.nationalatlas.gov</p>	<p>Map/layer showing existing FS, NPS, USFWS, and BLM wildernesses in AZ, NM, CO, UT, TX, southern NV, and southern CA. (Regional Office)</p> <p>The size and managing agency for each wilderness will be identified in an attribute table. (Regional Office)</p> <p>Forests will identify gaps in the distribution of designated wilderness that could be filled by potential wilderness on the forest, and describe how well potential wilderness would meet the need.</p>	<p>GIS Specialist, Wilderness Specialist</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>GIS layer (RO) Map (RO) Analysis (Forest)</p>
<p>Factor #1, Item #2: Accessibility of areas to population centers and user groups</p>	<p>GIS Layer from Item #1</p>	<p>GIS tool will allow identification of wilderness and potential wilderness areas within varying distances of different population centers. (Regional Office)</p> <p>Forests will identify any population centers that are “under-served” by wilderness and how well potential wildernesses might meet the need.</p>	<p>GIS Specialist, Wilderness Specialist</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>GIS tool (Regional Office) Analysis (Forest)</p>

Factor (From FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70)	Data Source	How Information Will be Displayed and Analyzed	Expertise Needed	Status	Product(s)
<p>Factor #2, Item #1: Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses, the trends in use, changing patterns of use.</p> <p>Factor #2, Item #2: Population expansion factors, and trends and changes in transportation.</p>	<p>FS - National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM), Forest Socio-Economic Assessments, <i>Wilderness and Primitive Area Recreation Participation and Consumption: An Examination of Demographic and Spatial Factors</i>. BLM – Recreation Management Info System NPS – wilderness permits USFWS – if available Forests without wilderness specific data may consider anecdotal data to include 1) Changes in recreation activities (i.e. increased % of horse use), 2) Changes in length of stay, 3) Changes in amount of use (from trail counters, trail registers). www.azdes.gov http://www.census.gov/</p>	<p>Tables displaying visits in wilderness by forest, and by wilderness if data is available. Also user demographics for wilderness on each forest (gender, age, ethnicity/race, and origin). (Regional Office)</p> <p>Table displaying amount of use in NPS, BLM, USFWS wildernesses. (Regional Office)</p> <p>Narrative summarizing trends in wilderness use, population expansion factors that could affect wilderness visitation, and identifying regional demand for additional wilderness. (Regional Office)</p> <p>Forests supplement the above narrative with local information where available (including changing patterns of use and trends and changes in transportation), to identify demand for additional wilderness, and to identify how well potential wilderness could meet the demand.</p> <p>Forests send anecdotal data to RO for posting on Revision website, for other forests to use.</p>	<p>Recreation Data Specialist, Wilderness Specialist, Recreation Planner</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Tables (Regional Office)</p> <p>Narrative summarizing trends and regional demand (Regional Office)</p> <p>Narrative identifying demand for additional wilderness on forest, and how well potential wilderness could meet that need. (Forest)</p>

Factor (From FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70)	Data Source	How Information Will be Displayed and Analyzed	Expertise Needed	Status	Product(s)
<p>Factor #3, Item #1: The extent to which nonwilderness lands on the National Forest System unit or other Federal lands are likely to provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences.</p>	<p>FS – Inventoried Roadless Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classes of P, SPNM and SPM. NPS – WSA, national parks, other categories of primitive areas USFWS – WSA, primitive management areas BLM – WSA, primitive management areas</p>	<p>GIS layer showing IRAs, P, SPNM & SPM ROS areas managed by FS, NPS, USFWS, BLM. (Regional Office)</p> <p>Forests describe how these areas might meet the demand for additional wilderness experiences for users, for the purpose of primitive recreation.</p>	<p>GIS Specialist, Recreation Planner</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Layer (Regional Office) Narrative (Forest)</p>
<p>Factor #4, Item #1: The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific values or phenomena.</p>	<p>Forest Ecological Sustainability Analysis; Forest GIS Layers</p>	<p>Forest GIS layer or other analysis with potential wilderness and locations of species needing primitive conditions, and other unique scientific values or phenomena needing protected areas.</p> <p>Narrative discussion by forest of ability of potential wilderness to provide protection for identified species, values, or phenomena.</p>	<p>GIS Specialist, Wildlife Biologist, Fisheries Biologist, Plant Ecologist</p>	<p>TBDL</p>	<p>Layer/analysis (Forest) Narrative (Forest)</p>
<p>Factor #5, Item #1: Use of management direction to increase capacity of existing wilderness areas to support human use without unacceptable depreciation of the wilderness resource</p>	<p>Current Forest Plan, Factor #2 tables and narratives</p>	<p>Narrative discussion of whether opportunities exist to increase capacity by changing management, where, and any potential impacts on the resource if this were to be pursued.</p>	<p>Forest planner, recreation/wilderness specialist</p>	<p>TBDL</p>	<p>Narrative (Forest)</p>

Factor (From FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70)	Data Source	How Information Will be Displayed and Analyzed	Expertise Needed	Status	Product(s)
<p>Factor #6, Item #1: Preservation of identifiable ecosystems and landform types.</p>	<p>Item #1 GIS Layer Nature Conservancy data GIS - Ecosystem – Bailey-Kuchler GIS - Landform - Hammond</p>	<p>GIS layer with ecosystem and landform types and designated wildernesses (all agencies). (Regional Office)</p> <p>Narrative discussion of underrepresented ecosystems and landform types. (Regional Office)</p> <p>Forests supplement the above narrative to identify how well potential wilderness could meet the need.</p>	<p>GIS Specialist, Wilderness Specialist</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>Layer (Regional Office)</p> <p>Narrative (Regional Office)</p> <p>Narrative (Forest)</p>