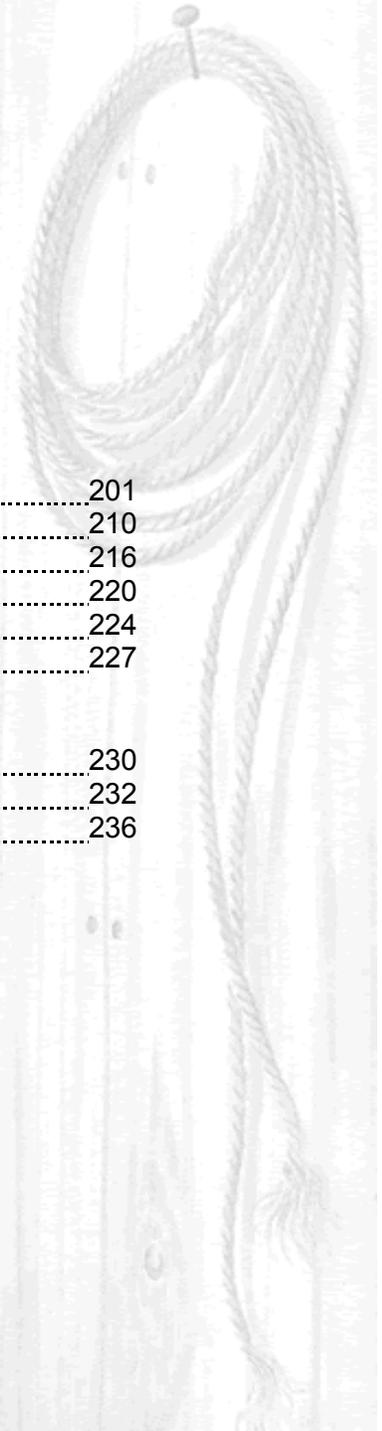


WILDERNESS ACT ETHICS & OTHER READINGS

Wilderness Act, Ethics & Other Readings

- Wilderness Act..... 201
 - ▶ Wilderness History & Ethics..... 210
 - ▶ What Does the Wilderness Act Say?..... 216
 - ▶ Wilderness Pack & Saddle Stock Use..... 220
 - ▶ Wilderness Act & Motorized Use..... 224
 - ▶ The Gentle Use Land Ethics..... 227
- Other Readings
 - ▶ Wilderness Values Quiz..... 230
 - ▶ Miles & Packing A Historical Perspective..... 232
 - ▶ Horse Sense Vs. Mule Sense..... 236



Wilderness Act

Act of September 3, 1964 (P.L. 88-577, 78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1121 (note), 1131-1136)

Sec. 1. This Act may be cited as the “Wilderness Act” (16 U.S.C. 1121 (note))

Sec. 2. (a) In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify, all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. For this purpose there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as “wilderness areas”, and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness; and no Federal lands shall be designated as “wilderness areas” except as provided for in this Act or by a subsequent Act.

(b) The inclusion of an area in the National Wilderness Preservation System notwithstanding, the area shall continue to be managed by the Department and agency having jurisdiction there over immediately before its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System unless otherwise provided by Act of Congress. No appropriation shall be available for the payment of expenses or salaries for the administration of the National Wilderness Preservation System as a separate unit nor shall any appropriations be available for additional personnel stated as being required solely for the purpose of managing or administering areas solely because they are included within the national Wilderness Preservation System.

(c) 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 or human habitation, which is protected and



managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. (16 U.S.C. 1131)

PREVIOUSLY CLASSIFIED AREAS

Sec. 3. (a) All areas within the national forests classified at least 30 days before the effective date of the Act by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service as "wilderness", "wild" or "canoe" are hereby designated as wilderness areas. The Secretary of Agriculture shall –

- (1) Within one year after the effective date of this Act, file a map and legal description of each wilderness area with the Interior and Insular Affairs Committees of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and such descriptions shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: Provided however, that correction of clerical and typographical errors in such legal descriptions and maps may be made.
- (2) Maintain, available to the public, records pertaining to said wilderness areas, including maps and legal descriptions, copies of regulations governing them, copies of public notices of, and reports submitted to Congress regarding pending additions, eliminations, or modifications. Maps, legal descriptions, and regulations pertaining to wilderness areas within their respective jurisdictions also shall be available to the public in the offices of regional foresters, national forest supervisors, and forest rangers.

(b) The Secretary of agriculture shall, within ten years after the enactment of this Act, review, as to its suitability or non-suitability for preservation as wilderness, each area in the national forests classified on the effective date of this Act by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service as "primitive" and report his finding to the President. The President shall advise the United States Senate and House of Representatives of his recommendations with respect to the designation as "wilderness" or other reclassification of each area on which review has been complete together with maps and a definition of boundaries. Such advice shall be given with respect to not less than one-third of all the areas now classified as "primitive" within three years after the enactment of this Act, not less than two-thirds within seven years after the enactment of this Act, and the remaining areas within ten years after the enactment of this Act. Each recommendation of the President for designation as "wilderness" shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress. Areas classified as



“primitive” on the effective date of this Act shall continue to be administered under the rules and regulations affecting such areas on the effective date of this Act until Congress has determined otherwise. Any such area may be increased in size by the President at the time he submits his recommendations to the Congress by not more than five thousand acres with no more than one thousand two hundred and eighty acres of such increase in any one compact unit; if it proposed to increase the size of any area by more than five thousand acres or by more than one thousand two hundred and eighty acres in any one compact unit the increase in size shall not become effective until acted upon by Congress. Nothing herein contained shall limit the President in proposing, as part of his recommendations to Congress, the alteration of existing boundaries of primitive areas or recommending the addition of any contiguous area of national forest lands predominately of wilderness value. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may complete his review and delete such area as may be necessary, but not to exceed seven thousand acres, from the southern tip of the Gore Range-Eagles Nest Primitive area, Colorado, if the Secretary determines that such action is in the public interest.

(c) Within ten years after the effective date of this Act the Secretary of the Interior shall review every roadless area of five thousand contiguous acres or more in the national parks, monuments and other units of the national park system and every such areas of, and every roadless island within, the national wildlife refuges and game ranges, under his jurisdiction on the effective date of this Act and shall report to the President his recommendation as to the suitability or non-suitability of each such area or island for preservation as wilderness. The President shall advise the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the house of Representatives of his recommendation with respect to the designation as wilderness of each such area or island on which review has been completed, together with a map thereof and a definition of its boundaries. Such advice shall be given with respect to not less than one-third of the areas and islands to be reviewed under this subsection within three years after enactment of this Act, not less than two-thirds within seven years of enactment of this Act, and the remainder within ten years of enactment of this Act. A recommendation of the President for designation as wilderness shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress. Nothing contained herein shall, by implication or otherwise, be construed to lessen the present statutory authority of the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the maintenance of roadless areas within the national park system.

(d) (1) The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior shall, prior to submitting any recommendations to the President with respect to the suitability of any area for preservation as wilderness –

(A) give such public notice of the proposed action as they deem appropriate, including publication in the Federal Register and in a newspaper having general circulation in the area or areas in the vicinity of the affected land;



- (B) hold a public hearing or hearings at a location or locations convenient to the areas affected. The hearings shall be announced through such means as the respective Secretaries involved deem appropriate, including notices in the Federal Register and in newspapers of general circulation in the area: Provided, that if the lands involved are located in more than one State, at least one hearing shall be held in each State in which a portion of the land lies:

- (C) at least thirty days before the date of a hearing advise the Governor of the State and the governing board of each county, or in Alaska the borough, in which the lands are located, and Federal departments and agencies concerned, and invite such officials and Federal agencies to submit their views on the proposed action at the hearing or by no later than thirty days following the date of the hearing.

- (2) Any views submitted to the appropriate Secretary under the provisions of (1) of this subsection with respect to any area shall be included with any recommendations to the President and to Congress with respect to such area.

- (e) Any modification of adjustment of boundaries of any wilderness area shall be recommended by the appropriate Secretary after public notice of such proposal and public hearing or hearings as provided by in subsection (d) of this section. The proposed modification or adjustment shall then be recommended with map and description thereof to the President. The President shall advise the United States Senate and the House of Representatives of his recommendation with respect to such modification or adjustment and such recommendation shall become effective only in the same manner as provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of this section. (16 U.S.C. 1132)

LIMITATION OF USE AND ACTIVITIES

Sec. 4 (a) The purposes of this Act are hereby declared to be within and supplemental to the purposes for which national forests and units of the national park and national wildlife refuge systems are established and administered and –

- (1) Nothing in this Act shall be deemed to be in interference with the purpose for which national forests are established as set forth in the Act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat. 11), and the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of June 12, 1960 (74 Stat. 215).

- (2) Nothing in this Act shall modify the restrictions and provisions of the Shipstead-Nolan Act (Public Law 539, Seventy-first Congress, July 10, 1930; 46 Stat. 568) and the Humphrey-Thye-Blatnik-Andersen Act (Public Law 607, Eighty-fourth Congress, June 22, 1956; 70 Stat. 326), as applying to the superior National Forest or the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) Nothing in this Act shall modify the statutory authority under which units of the national park system are created. Further, the designation of any area of any park, monument, or other unit of the national park system as a wilderness area pursuant to this Act shall in no manner lower the standards evolved for the use and preservation of such park, monument, or other unit of the national park system in accordance with the Act of August 25, 1916, the statutory authority under which the area was created, or any other Act of Congress which might pertain to or affect such area, including, but not limited to, the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225; 16 U.S.C. 432 et seq.); section 3(2) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796 (2)); and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.).

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area and shall so administer such area for such other purposes for which it may have been established as also to preserve its wilderness character. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.

(c) Except as specifically provided for in this Act, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.

(d) The following special provisions are hereby made:

(1) Within wilderness areas designated by this Act the use of aircraft or motorboats, where these uses have already become established, may be permitted to continue subject to such restriction, as the Secretary of Agriculture deems desirable. In addition, such measures may be taken as may be necessary in the control of fire, insects, and diseases, subject to such conditions, as the Secretary deems desirable.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall prevent within national forest wilderness areas any activity, including prospecting, for the purpose of gathering information about mineral or other resources, if such activity is carried on in a manner compatible with the preservation of the wilderness environment. Furthermore, in accordance with such program as the Secretary of the Interior shall develop and conduct in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, such areas shall be surveyed on a planned, recurring basis

consistent with the concept of wilderness preservation by the Geological Survey and the Bureau of mines to determine the mineral values, in any, that may be present; and the results of such surveys shall be made available to the public and submitted to the President and Congress.

- (3) Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Act, until midnight December 31, 1983, the United State mining laws and all laws pertaining to mineral leasing shall, to the same extent as applicable prior to the effective date of this Act, extend to those national forest lands designated by this Act as wilderness area subject, however, to such reasonable regulations governing ingress and egress as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture consistent with the use of the land for mineral location and development and exploration, drilling, and production, and use of land for transmission lines, waterlines, telephone lines, or facilities necessary in exploring, drilling, producing, mining, and processing operations, including where essential the use of mechanized ground or air equipment and restoration as near as practicable of the surface of the land disturbed in performing prospecting, location, and in oil and gas leasing, discovery work, exploration, drilling, and production, as soon as they have served their purpose. Mining locations lying within the boundaries of said wilderness areas shall be held and used solely for mining or processing operations and uses reasonable incident thereto; and hereafter, subject to valid existing rights, all patents issued under the mining laws of the United States affecting national forest lands designated by this Act as wilderness areas shall convey title to the mineral deposits within the claim, together with the right to cut and use so much of the mature timber therefrom as may be needed in the extraction, removal, and beneficiation of the mineral deposits, if needed timber is not otherwise reasonable available, and if the timber is not reasonable available, and if the timber is cut under sound principles of forest management as defined by the national forest rules and regulations, but each such patent shall reserve to the United States all title in or to the surface of the lands and products there of, and no use of the surface of the claim or the resources therefrom not reasonably required for carrying on mining or prospecting shall be allowed except as otherwise expressly provided in the Act: *Provided*, That unless hereafter specifically authorized, no patent within wilderness areas designated by this Act shall issue after December 31, 1983, except for the valid claims existing on or before December 31, 1983. Mining claims located after the effective date of this Act within the boundaries of wilderness areas designated by this Act shall create no rights in excess of those rights which may be patented under the provisions of this subsection. Mineral leases, permits, and licenses covering lands within national forest wilderness areas designated by this act shall contain such reasonable stipulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture for the protection of the wilderness character of the land consistent with the use of the land for the purposes for which they are leases, permitted, or licensed. Subject to valid rights then existing, effective January 1, 1984, the minerals in lands designated by this Act as wilderness



areas are withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing and all amendments thereto.

- (4) *Within wilderness areas in the national forests designated by this Act, (1) the President may, within a specific area and in accordance with such regulations as he may deem desirable, authorize prospecting for water resources, the establishment and maintenance of reservoirs, water-conservation works, power projects, transmission lines, and other facilities needed in the public interest, including the road construction and maintenance essential to development and use thereof, upon his determination that such use of uses in the specific area will better serve the interests of the United States and the people thereof than will its denial; and (2) the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the secretary of Agriculture.*
- (5) *Other provisions of this Act to contrary notwithstanding, the management of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, formerly designated as the Superior, Little Indian Sioux and Caribou Roadless Areas, in the Superior National Forest, Minnesota, shall be in accordance with regulations established by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the general purpose of maintaining, without unnecessary restrictions on other uses, including that of timber, the primitive character of the area, particularly in the vicinity of the lakes, streams, and portages; Provided, that nothing in this Act shall preclude the continuance within the area of any already established use of motorboats.*
- (6) Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the extent necessary for activities, which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.
- (7) *Nothing in this Act shall constitute an express or implied claim or denial on the part of the federal Government as to exemption from State water laws.*
- (8) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the several State with respect to wildlife and fish in the national forests (16 U.S.C. 1133)

RIGHTS OF NON-FOREST LANDS OWNERSHIP

Sec. 5 (a) In any case where State-owned or privately owned land is completely surrounded by national forest lands with areas designated by this Act as wilderness, such State or private owner shall be given such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to such State-owned or privately owned



land by such State or private owner and their successors in interest, or the State-owned land or privately owned land shall be exchanged for federally owned land in the same State of approximately equal value under authorities available to the Secretary of Agriculture; Provided, however, that the United States shall not transfer to a State or private owner any mineral interests unless the state or private owner relinquishes or causes to be relinquished to the United States the mineral interest in the surrounded land.

(b) in any case where valid mining claims or other valid occupancies are wholly within a designated national forest wilderness area, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, by reasonable regulations consistent with the preservation of the area of wilderness, permit ingress and egress to such surrounded areas by means which have been or are being customarily enjoyed with respect to other such areas similarly situated.

(c) Subject to the appropriation of funds by Congress, the secretary of agriculture is authorized to acquire privately owned land within the perimeter of any area designated by this Act as wilderness if (1) the owner concurs in such acquisition or (2) the acquisition is specifically authorized by Congress (16 U.S.C. 1134)

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Sec. 6 (a) The Secretary of Agriculture may accept gifts or bequests of land within wilderness areas designated by this Act for preservation as wilderness. The Secretary of Agriculture may also accept gifts or bequests of land adjacent to wilderness areas designated by this Act for preservation as wilderness if he has given sixty days advance notice thereof to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Land accepted by the Secretary of Agriculture under this section shall become part of the wilderness area involved. Regulations with regard to any such land may be in accordance with such agreements, consistent with the policy of this Act, as are made at the time of such gift, or such conditions, consistent with such policy, as may be included in, and accepted with, such bequest.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to accept private contributions and gifts to be used to further the purposes of this Act. (16 U.S.C. 1135)

REPORT TO CONGRESS

Sec. 7. At the opening of each session of Congress, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior shall jointly report to the President for transmission to Congress on the status of the wilderness system, including a list and descriptions



of the areas in the system, regulations in effect, and other pertinent information, together with any recommendations they may care to make. (16 U.S.C. 1136)

APPROVED SEPTEMBER 3, 1964

Legislative History:

House Reports:

No. 1538 accompanying H.R. 9070 (Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs) and No. 1829 (Committee of Conference).

Senate Report:

No. 109 (Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs). Congressional Record:

Vol. 109 (1963): April 4, 8, considered in Senate
April 9, considered and passed Senate

Vol. 110 (1964): July 28, considered in House.
July 30, considered and passed House, amended, in Lieu of H.R. 9070
August 20, House and Senate agreed to conference report.



WILDERNESS HISTORY AND ETHICS

Ann Lange
BCHC Public Lands Committee

1. What is Wilderness

- A. No ONE correct definition
- B. Means different things to different people based on their experiences
 - 1. “Wilderness and the American Mind” (Roderick Nash)
 - a) Because of its subjectivity, a universally acceptable definition of wilderness is elusive.
 - b) The difficulty is while the word is a noun it acts like an adjective.
 - c) There is no specific material object that is wilderness.
 - d) The term designates a quality that produces a certain feeling in an individual.
 - What you see and what I see may be different. That doesn’t mean I am right and you are wrong.

2. US Forest Service And Early Wilderness History

- A. Leaders advocating preservation of some lands in a primitive state.
- B. Aldo Leopold
 - 1. He defined Wilderness as “An area big enough to absorb a two-week pack trip”.
 - 2. The first designated wilderness in the United States was named after him – The Aldo Leopold Wilderness, Gila National Forest, New Mexico.
- C. Robert Marshall
 - 1. Offered this definition in 1930: I shall use the word wilderness to denote a region which contains no permanent inhabitants, possesses no possibility of conveyance by any mechanical means, and is sufficiently spacious that a person in crossing it must have the experience of sleeping out. The dominant attributes of such an area are: First, that it requires anyone who exists in it to depend exclusively on his own efforts for survival; and second, that it preserves as nearly as possible the primitive environment. This means that all road, power transportation, and settlements are barred. But trails and temporary shelters, which were common long before the advent of the white race, are entirely permissible.

3. The Wilderness Act

- A. Passed by Congress in 1964
 - 1. Did not bring new land into public ownership
 - 2. It only meant that some existing federal lands would be managed differently.
- C. Created the national Wilderness Preservation System and 54 wilderness areas (9 Million Acres)
 - 1. Designated as Wilderness those areas previously classified by the US Forest Service as Wild, Wilderness, or Canoe.

4. Four Federal Agencies Have Wilderness Mgmt. Responsibilities

- A. United States Forest Service
- B. National Park Service
- C. US Fish and Wildlife Service
- D. Bureau of Land Management

5. National Park Service

- A. 43,149,825 acres, (almost 33 million of these are in Alaska)
- B. 443 wilderness areas
- C. Has the most wilderness designated acreage of the 4 agencies
 - 1. Due to large acreage in 1 state – Alaska

6. United States Forest Service

- A. 35 million acres
- B. 399 wilderness areas in 38 states
 - 1. Largest is the 2.3 million acre Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness in Idaho
 - 2. Smallest is 994 acre Leaf Wilderness in Mississippi

7. U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service

- A. Wilderness located in National Wildlife Refuge Systems
- B. 20 million acres
- C. 75 wilderness areas on 63 refuges
 - 1. 90% if these lands are in Alaska

8. Bureau of Land Management

- A. Newest player in the field
 - 1. They were excluded from the wilderness Act of 1964
 - 2. Congress granted BLM with responsibilities in 1976
- B. 5.2 million acres
- C. 136 wilderness areas in 10 western states
 - 1. The BLM has no land east of the Mississippi River.

9. Changes In Wilderness Over 30 Years

- A. Both number of areas and acreage has increased 11 fold
 - 1. There are currently over one hundred million acres of land in the United States designated as wilderness
- B. Largest Wilderness
 - 1. Wrangell-Saint Elias in Alaska
 - 2. 50+ million acres
 - 3. Almost as large as the entire system in 1964
- C. Smallest Wilderness
 - 1. Oregon Islands at 5 acres
 - 2. Over 1,000 times smaller than the smallest wilderness in 1964

10. California Wilderness Facts

- A. It was in California that land was first set aside for something other than economic benefit
 - 1. Yosemite 1864 – the precursor to the National Park System
- B. California is second only to Alaska in total acreage dedicated to wilderness.
- C. California has the largest unbroken stretch of wilderness
 - 1. Over 150 miles south to north of continuous road less country.
 - 2. Largest unroaded areas left in lower 48 states.
- D. In California is located the first wilderness added to the National Wilderness Preservation System after passage of the Wilderness Act.
 - 1. The San Raphael Wilderness in 1968
 - 2. Approximately 142,000 acres.

11. Legal Definition Of Wilderness

- A. Contains two general ideas:
 - 1. Lack of human development.
 - 2. Land that is essentially in an undeveloped or “natural” state.
- B. IDEAL Definition from the 1964 Ace (Section 2 (C))
 - 1. “A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his 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....”

- a) Untrammelled – a trammel was a net or fetter, untrammelled means the forces of nature are not restricted – they are allowed to operate without interference by man.

- C. REALISTIC Definition from the 1964 Act
 - 1. “(a) land without permanent improvements or human habitation which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions...(and) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable.”
- D. Congressional Designation PROTECTED and PRESERVED wilderness for present and future generations to use, study and enjoy.

12. Why Do We Still Debate The Meaning, Value And Proper Management Of Wilderness

- A. The Act was the result of compromise to gain support and has ambiguous language.
- B. The “Act” allowed certain non-conforming uses.
- C. There is no clear precise definition of wilderness
 - 1. rather conflicting definition and conflicting management direction.
- D. Much of the terminology is subjective and interpretation of the Act can vary – and does vary between agencies.

13. Humans In Wilderness

- A. Congress incorporated both preservation and use and enjoyment into wilderness management standards.
- B. Management Concepts:
 - 1. Management should strive for the optimum of both use and preservation rather than the maximum for either
 - 2. Should use the minimum tool concept to accomplish objectives (includes regulation).
 - 3. Should operate under the non-degradation principle.
 - a) Lands managed in such a way as to not degrade from current conditions (or conditions at time of wilderness designation).

14. BCHC Obligation

- A. Teach a wilderness ethic:
 - 1. “The first ethics dealt with the relation between individuals as members of a community of interdependent parts. The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, water, plants and animals or collectively the land.”
Aldo Leopold
- B Terminology
 - 1. “Gentle Use”
 - 2. “Tread Lightly”
 - 3. “Leave No Trace”
 - 4. “Minimum Impact”
- B. Impacts, Action, and Consequences
 - 1. All this means generally is that we can return in a year’s time to our old camp and find little visible evidence of our previous stay.
 - 2. It means packing out our garbage and that left by others.
 - 3. It means cleaning the camp, raking manure – filling in holes.
 - 4. It means what we do today has an affect on tomorrow AND what we do today affects those people who follow behind us.
 - 5. If misuse or overuse destroys an area’s wilderness character, the opportunity to use and enjoy that wilderness may be lost to future generations.

15. Wilderness Ethic

- A. This is simply saying we have an obligation to respect and care for the land to the best of our ability by:
 - 1. Looking at land a little bit differently.
 - 2. Doing things a little bit differently.
 - 3. Becoming stewards or caretakers of our wild lands.



WHAT DOES THE WILDERNESS ACT SAY?

The Wilderness Act was passed in September 1964. Since that time there has been debate and discussion interpreting this document. Perhaps it is time to look at what the Wilderness Act really says as relates to our use of wilderness.

Section 2(a) is divided into three parts.

1. The first part states the reason why the Wilderness Act was needed:

"In order to insure that an increasing population accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition..."

This simply recognizes "natural condition as something that is being lost as a result of occupation and modification.

2. It establishes congressional Policy.

it is hereby declared to be the Policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. For this purpose there is hereby established a National- Wilderness Preservation System...

3. It establishes the goal for wilderness managers.

"... and these (wilderness areas) shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and disseminating of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness;"

It is important to emphasize that the goal is NOT to maintain and/or restore the "natural (pristine) condition" but instead to preserve their "wilderness; character!

The Wilderness Act defines "wilderness character" both ideally and realistically. Both definitions are contained in Section (c)

Ideal definition - "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.'



However, Congress knew that striving for "ideal" wilderness was not a realistic goal. Therefore, it qualified that goal with a realistic definition by saying:

Realistic definition - "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 or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions, and which (1) generally appears to have been affected Primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's works substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

It is important to note that wilderness established by this Act is to be protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions (plural). The phrase natural condition (singular) would imply "pristine". Little if any land in the United States can be called truly pristine. However, all wilderness areas will have one or more conditions (plural) that are natural or close to natural. Congress said, in effect, preserve those conditions that are natural. That was and is the foundation for the "non-degradation" philosophy and policy adopted by the United States Forest Service.

Congress recognized that human use (of any kind) would tend to impact on the "ideal" or "pristine" concept of wilderness. At the same time, wilderness areas are established for the use and enjoyment of the American people as wilderness.

Section 4 addresses the use of wilderness areas. It does not define goals, it provides administrative guidance. It identifies those activities that are appropriate in the "use and enjoyment" of wilderness and establishes some limitations.

Section 4(a) tells managers that they cannot ignore the basic purposes for which national forests, parks, and wildlife refuges were established.

Section 4(b) lists those uses that are generally appropriate in wilderness:

"Except as otherwise provided in this Act, each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the "wilderness character" of the area and shall so administer such area for such other purposes for which it may have been established as also to preserve its wilderness character. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use."

Section 4(c) lists those uses that are inappropriate and generally prohibited.



"Except as specifically provided for in this Act, and subject to existing valid rights, there shall be no commercial enterprises and no permanent roads within any wilderness area designated by this Act, and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purposes of this Act, (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area."

Section 4(d) gives guidance for those non-conforming uses that represent compromises necessary to get the legislation passed, i.e. "special provisions..."

1 Use of aircraft and motorboats may be permitted to continue where already established ... subject to restrictions.

Measures may be taken as necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases.

2 & 3 Deal with prospecting and filing of claims; power lines, waterlines, telephone lines, etc. and mining patents until December 31, 1983.

4(l) The President may ... authorize prospecting for water sources, establishment and maintenance of reservoirs... and other facilities needed in the public interest.

(2) The grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(6) Commercial Services may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the extent necessary for activities, which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the area.

Returning to Section 4(b). it tells the administrators that s/he shall generally allow "recreational, scenic, scientific educational, conservation, and historical use" but first it reminds administering agencies that they are responsible for preserving wilderness character and shall administer for those other purposes so as to also preserve its wilderness character.

All this proves that administrators have only one fundamental and overriding goal: "to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness." I believe that Congress recognized that ideal or pristine wilderness was disappearing rapidly, but did not direct managers to attempt the impossible task of trying to reestablish a "pristine" condition. But they should aim to come as close to the ideal as is feasible while complying with the provisions of Section 4. Thus, the unnecessary but minimum



requirements for nonconforming activities or equipment are determined on the basis of what is feasible. Feasibility is measured in terms of what has been demonstrated by our forefathers as they moved westward or by the early day ranchers, prospectors, and Forest Rangers. (if our forebears did a job by primitive means, it is feasible to do it that way in wilderness today.

There are some pervasive changes caused by external factors that wilderness managers are powerless to control or undo. Beyond this, the wilderness exists to provide benefits, to be used as wilderness. This means some modification is unavoidable, but management of these primary wilderness uses must seek to hold the impact this use will have to the lowest possible levels. The only mandate is to allow natural processes to operate freely to the extent possible.

NONDEGRADATION CONCEPT

The nondegradation concept basically calls for the maintenance of existing environmental conditions if they equal or exceed minimum standards, and for the restoration of conditions, which are below minimum levels. This concept recognizes that naturalness and solitude vary between individual wildernesses. The objective is to prevent degradation of current naturalness and solitude in each wilderness and restore substandard settings to minimum levels rather than letting all areas in the NWPS to deteriorate to a minimum standard. For example, certain wildernesses that possess only minimum levels of naturalness and solitude need not set a standard to which areas of higher quality will be allowed to descend. To a degree, under the nondegradation principle, the conditions prevailing at time of classification establishes the benchmark of naturalness to be sought by management.

MINIMUM TOOL CODICEPT

This concept has often been interpreted as simply using a traditional or primitive tool, such as a crosscut saw. In reality, the minimum tool concept means that managers should scrutinize every planned action to determine if it is necessary to protect physical and biological resources or the wilderness experience. If the action is deemed necessary, it should be accomplished using methods and equipment that have the least impact on the physical, biological and experiential characteristics of the Wilderness. How you carry out management actions is as important as, if not more important than, the end product. The minimum tool concept can be applied in evaluating trail or bridge construction projects, administrative structures, and fire suppression activities as well as determining the need for and extent of visitor regulations and requests for scientific uses. Administrators are not exempt from the Wilderness Act, Section 4(c) of the act states -except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act... which is very different than the common interpretation "except for the administration of the area.'



Wilderness Pack and Saddle Stock Use:

"the packtrain, preserving our cultural heritage."

A position paper on wilderness planning and management by the Back Country Horsemen of Idaho.

PREFACE: When Coronado and other early Spanish explorers first began to explore the North American Southwest, Native Americans soon realized the value of the equine. While the Spanish had and have produced great horsemen, no one was more adept at incorporating the horse into their world than the Native American, a people who lived and traveled as a part of, rather than apart from, their wilderness ecosystem. So too did the Europeans and early Americans who ventured forth from the East Coast to explore the uncharted wilderness that was North America. The horse, mule and ass were partners in this exploration of our great American Wilderness. Today, while the risk may not be so great and the distance so far, this partnership of man and beast continues in following our forefathers 'hoof and foot prints' through North America's modern wilderness.

FOREVER WILD. It was 1913, and Aldo Leopold, Forest Supervisor of the Carson National Forest, and a District Ranger by the name of Elliott Barker, shared conversation over a campfire somewhere in the headwaters of the Pecos. Leopold lamented the loss of our "wild places." He propounded a belief that the Nation should set aside large tracts of land that would remain "forever wild."

Leopold defined wilderness as "a continuous stretch of country preserved in its natural state, ... big enough to absorb a two week's pack trip ... " In his book "Sand County Almanac," he expounded that "Public wilderness areas are, first of all, a means of perpetuating, in sport form, the more virile and primitive skills in pioneering travel and subsistence." Skills "as American as the hickory tree; ... have been copied elsewhere, but they were developed to their full perfection only on this continent. One of these is canoe travel, and the other is travel by packtrain.

Clearly, the experience that Leopold envisioned in these early writings is the experience represented, in modern day, by Back Country Horsemen. It is likely that the wording in the Wilderness Act requiring that wilderness provide "primitive and unconfined recreation" has its origin in Leopold's philosophy.

No one has greater claim to our special wildernesses than responsible stock users!

THE "THREATENED AND ENDANGERED" WILDERNESS VISITOR. As the wilderness user population becomes more urban, use of packstock in wilderness has declined. Stock use occurs in less than half of our nation's wildernesses and



is a minority use in all but a handful of large western wildernesses. Differing values over what is appropriate in wilderness and growing intolerance toward stock use has resulted in conflict between hikers and stock users and increased restrictions. Attitudes reflected by wilderness managers mirror these changes in society. Visitors and managers often do not understand the needs and preferences of stock users. This lack of knowledge and empathy is resulting in an erosion of quality experiences and occasional loss of access to wilderness for stock users of 'confining' regulations and the designation, restriction and assignment of campsites which eliminate the wild nature and unconfined environment intended by law. If necessary, restrictions should be imposed before entering wilderness and intended to preserve reasonable levels of solitude and unconfined recreation, and they should be imposed on all recreationists equitably.

IMPACT: Some impact is inherent to all use. Appropriate limits on use must be established through a wilderness planning process open to the public. Much of the impact apparent in our wildernesses is the cumulative result of decades of use and inappropriate practices. Development and use of low impact practices is resulting in a stable and often improving trend in many areas (in spite of increased levels of use). Restrictions in use proving on site impact should be based on trend in condition as well as existing condition. Permanent indicators of previous abusive practices such as scars on trees should be neutralized so that they will not be factored in to future trends.

MANAGEMENT OF CAMPSITES: All visitors should have freedom to select camps appropriate to the experience desired (including pristine or previously unimpacted sites) and the size and nature of their party with the understanding that it will be left in a manner that leaves no cumulative presence of their use beyond the next spring growing season. Use of existing, impacted sites, should be encouraged however, in concentrated or high use areas.

GROUP SIZE AND STOCK SIZE LIMITS: It is recognized that large parties have the potential to cause more impact than small parties. Most stock users access the wilderness in small parties and minimize the number of pack and saddle animals voluntarily. Management presence in the form of regulations and restrictions "penalize" all users. Limits should be imposed only as the minimum necessary.

GRAZING: Grazing restrictions are often driven by 'visual perceptions' of what is appropriate or inappropriate as a 'pristine' environment -- a social impact. Both social and biological considerations are appropriate, but restrictions should be the minimum necessary to protect the wilderness resource and the reason (social or biological) must be identified. 'Nature abhors a vacuum,' and 'no grazing' is not 'natural.' Native plant communities evolved with ungulate grazing. Much of what we interpret as '\$grazing impact' today is the result of unregulated or poorly regulated sheep and cattle grazing of an earlier era. Conservative standards for



utilization (25 - 40%) and a reasonable range readiness determination should be adequate to protect the natural ecosystem processes (plant composition, density, distribution, function and succession).

PACK AND SADDLE STOCK CONTAINMENT: Unnecessary grazing restriction may result in additional stock impact. Free roaming horses grazing on good grass cause little long-term impact. As a general rule, the more stock is restricted the greater the potential for impact. Stock users should be given maximum flexibility to contain their stock in a manner in which they have been trained and conditioned -- loose grazing (where appropriate) or confined with hobbles and pickets, or with electric or otherwise appropriate corrals. Stock confined at camp should be highlined or contained in a method that doesn't cause cumulative impact beyond the next spring growing season. Tying to trees for short periods is occasionally necessary -- to load or unload, clear a trail obstruction, straighten a pack, etc. It is not appropriate, however, as a long-term containment method. BCH acknowledges the need for enforceable measures to reduce impact from inappropriate tethering of stock, and suggests restricting this practice to "not longer than one hour or in a manner that causes permanent damage to trees and vegetation." We cannot support a restriction that limits tying to trees of a certain size. Although it is preferable to tie to larger trees with thicker bark, the urgency of the situation, available vegetation and the terrain often determines the size tree we tie to.

THE 'STOCK FREE' HIKER EXPERIENCE: Back Country Horsemen recognize that some hikers are adversely impacted by meeting stock users or seeing evidence of the presence of stock in wilderness. We encourage courtesy and respect in all contacts within wilderness, and recommend that stock users scatter manure in and around camps to facilitate decomposition, minimize insect problems, and reduce evidence of their presence. Once again, we feel that education must be employed as a means of reducing conflict before resorting to restrictions. The history and tradition of the "packtrain" and Aldo Leopold's philosophy should be interpreted for visitors as part of Agency wilderness education efforts.

Most wildernesses have areas that receive very little stock use as a result of natural access and terrain limitations. It is usually unnecessary to 'prohibit' stock access (and proliferate the perception of restriction) to provide a reasonably "stock free" experience. As recreation managers know, realistic expectations are critical to obtaining quality experiences. Wilderness managers should make this information available to backpackers that desire a 'stock free' environment. This information could be communicated with probabilities of encountering stock - 80%, 90%, etc. rather than imposing prohibitions on stock access. It must also be recognized, however, that these difficult to access portions of the wilderness provide the greatest opportunity for solitude and a 'pristine environment' for experienced stock users also. Stock users must not be confined to only the



highly impacted portions of the wilderness. This denies us the opportunity for solitude and unconfined recreation intended by law.



THE WILDERNESS ACT AND MECHANIZED/MOTORIZED USE

As passed by the United States Congress, the wilderness Act definition conveys two general ideas:

1. Lack of human development - absence of human settlement, structures, roads, etc.
2. Land retaining primeval character and influence affected primarily by the forces of nature, i.e. a healthy, natural ecology.

The Wilderness Act is based on three fundamental concepts:

1. Wilderness preservation
2. Wilderness use
3. Accommodating certain non-conforming uses

The Wilderness Act is subject to interpretation as to what is a politically correct wilderness ethic. If on the ground is different, the Wilderness Ranger suffers rebuke or rebuff from co-workers.

There needs to be a protocol developed to provide for some uniformity in interpretation, but still allow latitude for individual situations and issues.

The Wilderness Act does make exceptions for occasional use of motorized and mechanized equipment as necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of the Act. (Section 4c "except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the for the purpose of this Act...there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats...")

If the use of mechanized equipment (chain saws, rock drills, wheelbarrows) clearly reduces the amount of impact on the area "wilderness and its use (e.g. by reducing the level and extent of resource impact) then administrators would have the flexibility to authorize use of such equipment.

FSH2309.19 3-39 Chapter 40

The Wilderness Act recognizes recreation as one of the uses of wilderness when it is carried out in a manner consistent with the underlying purposes of wilderness - maintaining naturalness and providing opportunities for solitude. But a "primitive and unconfined type of recreation", as envisioned by Congress, may require the construction or maintenance of certain minimum facilities, such as trails.



Inadequate trail maintenance is an increasing problem in wilderness areas, resulting in its own negative environmental and social impacts.

PL 95-237; 1978 - The Endangered American Wilderness Act House Report 95-540 Specifically addresses Trails, Bridges, and Trail Signs:

"Trails, trail signs, and necessary bridges are permissible when designed in keeping with the wilderness concept.

These are often important to the recreational access and use of a wilderness area. Trail construction or maintenance can include the use of mechanized equipment where appropriate and/or necessary.

US Forest Service National Wilderness Policy

2320.2 Objectives

4. Protect and perpetuate wilderness character and public values including, but not limited to, opportunities for scientific study, education, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and stimulation, inspiration, and primitive recreational experiences.

2323.13f Transportation System

1. Trails are an acceptable improvement. Construct and maintain trails to standards described in FSH 2309-18, Trails Management Handbook

c. Maintain trails by non-motorized methods except for situations described in Section 2326.

2326 Use of Motorized Equipment or Mechanical Transport in Wilderness

2326-02 Objectives

1. Exclude the sight, sound, and other tangible evidence of motorized equipment or mechanical transport within wilderness except where they are needed or justified

2326-03 Policy

1. Ensure that Forest Service employees acquire and maintain necessary skills for primitive travel by foot, horse, canoe, or other non-mechanical means, and the use of hand tools.

2. Do not approve the use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport unless justified as described in 2326.1

2326.1 Conditions Under Which Use May be Approved - allow the use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport only for:



1. Emergencies where the situation involves an inescapable urgency and temporary need for speed beyond that available by primitive means.

5. To meet minimum needs for protection and administration of the area as wilderness only as follows:

a. A delivery or application problem necessary to meet wilderness objectives cannot be resolved within reason through the use of non-motorized methods

b. An essential activity is impossible to accomplish by non-motorized means because of such factors as time or season limitations, safety, or other material restrictions.

.... The Line Officer approving the use of motorized equipment ... shall specify what uses of that equipment are suitable and will have the least lasting impact to the wilderness resource. Schedule use of this equipment to minimize impact on wilderness visitors.



THE GENTLE USE LAND ETHIC

Several weeks ago I received - a letter from Dr. Richard Cercle of the Mid Valley Unit expressing a concern regarding the behavior of some livestock users at backcountry trailheads. Dr. Cercle states:

I recently returned from my vacation and my elected return route took us over Sonora Pass on Highway 188 going east to west. At Kennedy Meadows, Pat and I stopped at the new trailhead that has been constructed to accommodate the automobiles and truck/trailers of both hikers and horsemen. There was one vehicle trailer parked in the equestrian vehicle lot, but there were numerous mounds of horse manure left on the asphalt some of which represented the debris made by horses entering and leaving their trailers, but others clearly representing a trailer "clean out" before returning home (photo enclosed).

This obvious lack of respect for facilities and other users certainly places all equestrians in a defensive posture to the Forest Service and hikers. The Mid Valley Unit has been proactive with volunteer trail work as evidenced by a recent wire gathering work for the Forest Service. I certainly concur with volunteerism, but I believe a change in focus is indicated, addressing the equestrian users of Kennedy Meadows facility to clean up after themselves and if necessary to "Gl up the parking area" so as to not provide other user groups with ammunition to salvo at the equestrians in general.

Dr. Cercle observed a condition that many of us have seen over the years as we arrive and depart from wilderness trailhead facilities. If the presence of horse manure at stock user trailheads is distressful to horsemen, it more than likely is even more objectionable to those who do not use pack and saddle stock. This leaves a negative impression that can lead to conflict. For it is important to note that no actual contact among users need occur for conflict to be felt.

Today, many backcountry and wilderness users come from urban environments. They are seldom, if ever, in close contact with horses and mules. They have a very different perception of horse manure than those of us who muck out stalls and corrals all year long. They often consider horse manure as impairing the aesthetics and intangible values of wilderness. To those of us more familiar with horses and mules, manure and urine is not perceived as a mess, but as a natural, biodegradable component of the land, not inherently more destructive or less beneficial than droppings from deer and other wildlife. We feel that, from a purely biological, ecological point of view, recreational pack and saddle use causes little impact to the environment.

Moreover, we believe that sometimes conflict is designed into trails and related facilities. For example, over the past seven to ten years, the U.S. Forest Service in the Pacific Southwest Region constructed many trailhead facilities. These facilities are usually divided between stock use and non-stock use areas. Both



areas are paved. As far as the stock user is concerned, this creates a conflict by design. Urine and manure leave an unsightly mess on pavement. There is no way to avoid it. Even when cleaned up, the mess still remains. With a base of decomposed granite stock urine soaks in and manure is less evident. The simple solution would be not to pave the stock use area.

Beyond the ecological definition of wilderness is the experiential definition. Social conditions in back country and wilderness refer to all aspects of human use of the land that pose the possibility of impact to the resource and to the visitor experience. Crowded campsites, muddy trails, visible horse manure, and other sociological impacts that have a minor influence upon an area's ecological stability may still detract from one's perception of wilderness quality. And for many backcountry visitors, perceptions are all they have. The perception is reality. Accuracy of that perception has no bearing on the strength of the belief.

There are many of us who say, "I have a right to be here. All use causes some impact. Why should I have to work harder?" And the truth is, some visible evidence of recreational stock use is an acceptable part of that use. But we do have to work harder to overcome the impacts of those users who may not be aware of the bad impressions they are creating by not cleaning up after themselves to the extent that is reasonable and practical. Any impact created by one group is noticed by many. Not only horse users, but all users, need to be aware of the impressions they are creating, and do the best job they can to insure their impact is the minimum it can reasonably be. As Back Country Horsemen, it is our obligation to lead by example. We must personally strive to comply with the strictest standards of a backcountry land ethic so that others can look to us as the standard to follow.

If there is an activity that leads to undesirable impacts, we need to look for solutions. A debate on who or what activity is doing the most damage to our back country, or who is the most to blame is not a constructive approach to solving problems. In the case mentioned by Dr. Cercle, the immediate solution may be as simple as working in partnership with the Forest Service to provide signing at the trailhead stressing the importance of cleaning up after our animals. Perhaps rakes, shovels, and brooms could be made available for those who do not routinely carry such items. Trailhead clean up projects could be, in fact are, conducted annually by individual units of Back Country Horsemen of California. By our own example, and through myriad educational efforts, it is possible to gently nudge others down the path of a minimum impact land ethic. After all, we clean up horse manure in our own back yards. Why should we behave differently as we vacation and travel on our public lands?

In the final analysis, education of all backcountry users is the critical need. Back Country Horsemen of California is attempting to address this need in a variety of ways. At our yearly Rendezvous, speakers stress "Gentle Use", "Leave No Trace", and a variety of "Gentle on the Land" techniques. The "Gentle Use"



brochure produced and distributed to agency land managers, stock users, and other users free of charge is another attempt to address education of recreational, pack and saddle stock users. An Education Committee has been established by the state organization, and is looking at a number of ways to reach backcountry users. We are working together with our public lands agencies to help meet the needs of the backcountry recreational packer, to look for solutions to problems that confront all of us, and to jointly teach other users. We are not willing, however, to accept the blame for all abuse, misuse, and perceived abuse of the backcountry resource, nor are we able to alone take on the responsibility of educating all back country stock users. It has to be a shared responsibility.



Wilderness Value Quiz

Circle a Y for Yes if you do agree with the question, or N for No if you do not agree with the question.

- Y N 1 Do you feel hunting is an appropriate activity in wilderness?
- Y N 2 Do you feel it is OK to stock native fish in lakes, which historically have not had fish?
- Y N 3 In an area that has established wildlife watering devices (example: guzzlers), so you feel it is appropriate to maintain these and leave them in Wilderness?
- Y N 4 Do you feel it is appropriate to control predators in Wilderness that are killing a substantial number of livestock?
- Y N 5 Are low level, aerial game surveys acceptable to you in Wilderness?
- Y N 6 Do you feel we should be protecting known T & E (threatened and endangered) species habitat from prescribed natural fire (PNF)?
- Y N 7 Is it acceptable to you to have Managed Ignited Fires (MIF) in wilderness area?
- Y N 8 Do you feel it is appropriate to have technologically advanced data collecting stations in Wilderness to monitor temperature, moisture content, wind and other factors that would allow better information for PNF and MIF?
- Y N 9 Do you feel we should be suppressing any fires in Wilderness?
- Y N 10 In your opinion is it OK to maintain historic cabins in Wilderness?
- Y N 11 Do you feel that there is a point when air quality is more important than allowing extended periods of PNF?
- Y N 12 Is it OK to interpret in a publicly available book, historic and cultural resources that are in Wilderness?
- Y N 13 Do you feel that cattle or sheep grazing is an appropriate use for Wilderness?
- Y N 14 Do you feel grazing permittees should be allowed to use motorized equipment for maintaining water developments in Wilderness in areas where this has been a historical method of maintenance (for example, using a dozer to clean out a dirt stock tank in Wilderness)?
- Y N 15 Do you feel a hazard tree along a well-used trail should be cut to protect public saw.
- Y N 16 Do you feel that cutting logs in trails to facilitate passage by pack strings is appropriate in Wilderness?
- Y N 17 Do you feel we should be signing natural caves in Wilderness that pose safety hazards?
- Y N 18 Do you feel it is appropriate for a visitor center to be giving users more information about hazards in Wilderness, so that we can lessen the potential of search and rescue operations?
- Y N 19 Do you feel that signs should be placed at historic structures to warn people of the Hanta Virus potential?
- Y N 20 Do you feel we should be rescuing a person with a broken leg (but not in a life threatening situation) in Wilderness with a helicopter?
- Y N 21 Do you feel it is OK to use llamas or pack goats in Wilderness?
- Y N



- 22 Do you feel that it is appropriate to leave some established rock bolt routes in Wilderness areas?
Y N
- 23 Does the value of having the number of users controlled by a permit system outweigh the value of unregulated use and freedom in Wilderness? (i.e. Do you believe permit systems should be used in Wilderness?)
- 24 Do you feel it is OK to collect crystals in Wilderness?
- 25 Do you feel it is OK to allow people to collect angers in Wilderness?
- 26 Do you feel that recreation opportunities are the dominant value of Wilderness?
- 27 Do you feel it is OK to have trail signs in Wilderness?
- 28 Do you feel it is OK to put mileage on signs in the Wilderness?
- 29 If available free to you, would you take a cellular phone into Wilderness with the intention that it would only be used to facilitate an emergency situation?
Y N
- 30 Do you feel OK about burying decomposable garbage in Wilderness?
Y N
- 31 If you hand a well behaved dog, would you feel OK about taking it with you into the Wilderness?
Y N
- 32 In your own mind, is it appropriate for outfitters to have business operations dependent on Wilderness?
Y N
- 33 Do you feel it is OK to film, in Wilderness, a movie about Wilderness values?
Y N
- 34 Do you feel it is appropriate to allow a one or two week window for chain saw use, to open trails after an intense blow down event?
Y N
- 35 Do you feel it is OK to apply a mandatory party size and/or limited permits to promote solitude in wilderness?
Y N
- Y N
- Y N
- Y N
- Y N
- Y N

There are really no right or wrong answers to this quiz. Count the number of Yes answers and the number of no answers to see which direction your wilderness philosophy leans:

Number of Yes answers _____ Number of No answers _____

If you have 18 or more YES answers you have an Anthropocentric view of wilderness. If you have 18 or more NO answers you have a Biocentric view of wilderness.

Anthropocentric - A philosophical viewpoint that sees wilderness primarily from a human oriented

perspective. The naturalness of wilderness is less important than facilitating human use and convenience.

Biocentric - A philosophical viewpoint which emphasizes the maintenance of natural systems at the expense of recreational and other human uses, if necessary, because wilderness values depend on naturalness and solitude.



OTHER READINGS

MULES AND PACKING - A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The history of mules and packing goes back to ancient times. Geographically, the northwest corner of Asia Minor is credited with the invention of the mule. Through the centuries mules spread into the Roman Empire and, as discarded remnants of invasion, into much of Europe. By the time of the discovery of America in 1492, there were well over 100,000 mules in Spain. It is reputed that Queen Isabella of Spain in 1486 organized, equipped, and maintained pack trains of 14,000 mules and burros which carried supplies and munitions of war for her armies of 13,000 cavalry and 40,000 infantry.

Adventurers and explorers in Spanish America found conditions that demanded the use of mules. Importation and breeding soon reached major proportions. For 400 years the mule served as the most important work animal in South and Central America.

The world's most significant pack trail at that time crossed the Isthmus of Panama. Leather, grain, meat and other provisions were shipped west. Gold and silver came east. Nicaragua became the great center of mule raising for the Isthmus trade.

Mules were a major factor in the early development of California. Pushing slowly northward from Spanish centers, the hybrids were numerous in fifteenth century Mexico. As fast as missions were established in new territory, mules

went along. Charles III of Spain decided in 1768 to settle the northwestern portion of his North American Empire. So he sent a viceroy with orders to build posts in such spots as San Diego and Monterey. Starting from Lower California, the expedition gathered stock from every mission on the way. They found 16 broke mules at the Mission of San Francisco Xavier, 26 at San Jose de Cummundia. When they had accumulated more than 100 mules, along with a smaller number of horses, they moved into Upper California.

The mule reached the peak of usefulness on the Santa Fe Trail where Mexican "mule-skinners" packed animals with loads up to 320 pounds.

George Washington became the first documented mule breeder in the United States when the King of Spain sent him a gray jack and two jennets. By the mid-point of the 19th century, U.S. mule production was rising faster than that of any other farm animal.

General George Crook has been called by some in the military of the day "the greatest manager the army of the United States ever had..", He rode to war on his favorite mule. He lavished an unprecedented care and love upon the humble mule. The service rendered by civilian pack trains employed by General Crook after the close of the Civil War in western Indian campaigns was so successful that he authorized the purchase of three of these pack trains for the Government. This really makes him the Father of the modern pack service in the U.S. Army. General Crook became famous for his good care of these army mules - only common sense because he well



understood the logistics of frontier warfare. With special rigging and meticulous loading procedures he adapted the Aparejo pack saddle for use in his pack strings, inducing the mules to carry up to 320 pounds apiece, about twice the usual army mule load. The great range of movement Crook gained by use of these animals was one of the keys to his success.

Of the early pathfinders, Joseph R. Walker was one of the most talented. At the Green River Rendezvous in 1833, he called for men to join him on an expedition into the little known trackless lands of the west all the way to California. Such a trip west had been accomplished only three times before this date, twice by Jedediah Smith in 1826 and 1827 and by Peter Ogden in 1829. Both had followed a more southern route to California.

Walker's basic plan was to head straight through to California due west from the Great Salt Lake and make a trail to Central California. He planned carefully for the trip and departed the Green River Rendezvous in mid-summer, 1833. Each man was mounted, and each led three additional pack animals with "every article necessary for the comfort of men engaged in an expedition of this kind.

That many animals were considered an abundance by the standards of the day, but it was actually a kind of trademark of any party led by Walker. Of all the mountain men, Walker was the most knowledgeable stockman. He took good care of his animals, searched diligently to find adequate forage for them, and did not ride them into the

ground. Although like all western explores of the day, he regarded spare animals as emergency rations, and knew that inevitably some of them would become lost or succumb on the high mountain passes and trails.

One of the first people Walker convinced to accompany him on this grand expedition was a clerk, Zeonas Leonard, who kept a detailed and accurate journal of the expedition. As the following entry indicates, some of the animals did, indeed become emergency rations as the starving party faced a month of extreme hardships crossing the Sierra in October 1833. Leonard writes, "As a conciliatory gesture, Walker ... permitted the men to butcher two horses. This gave our men fresh courage and we went to bed this night in better spirits than we had done for a long time." In the end, seventeen animals were to be eaten in the next several weeks. Without them, Walker and his men would almost certainly have died, but even so, Leonard, who was sentimental about the animals found the choice hard. "It seems to be the greatest cruelty to take your rifle, when your horse sinks to the ground from starvation, but still manifests a desire and willingness to follow you, to shoot him in the head and then cut him up and take such parts of their flesh as extreme hunger alone will render it possible for a human being to eat-

William H. Brewer was a member of the team conducting the California Geological Survey from 1861 - 1864. The team traveled over 14,000 miles up and down California in a 3 1/2 year period. They used mules extensively, both riding and packing them. Brewer chronicles one of the advantages of



mules over horses as he portrays a particularly nasty accident that occurred in March of 1861. "As we approached a most dangerous place, where the path went down a steep slope over and among large boulders, Peter's mule caught his foot between two rocks and fell. His forefoot was held between these rocks like a vise, and he was hanging with much of his weight on that foot. We could budge neither the rocks nor his foot. We thought his leg broken, and saw no way of releasing him. He was a valuable mule, worth \$150.00 or more. We tugged, toiled, pried with levers, dug, all to no purpose. He made a tremendous effort, but only made matters worse, twisting his leg nearly around. After lying so for some time, while we were working frantically, he made another effort, tore off his shoe, and got out - strange to say, uninjured. A horse would have been ruined."

It is in such places that the superior sagacity of mules over horses is seen. Much is said and written about the sagacity of horses - poets sing of it and romance writers harp on it is far inferior to the much-abused mule. This fellow, as he lay so helpless, instead of struggling frantically, would get all ready and then coolly exert his greatest strength to get his foot loose, but not when we were working with it. Although he groaned pitifully, and gnawed the ground and rocks in his intense pain, he did not bite us, but would put his head against us and look up most wistfully. We washed his foot and leg in the brook, led him a mile or so, and soon he scarcely limped. Peter then mounted him and rode him home to camp-

The use of pack mules became a tradition in the Army. In 1910 a special

exhibition was given at West Point. Sixty-four Missouri mules were loaded with 14,000 pounds of ammunition and supplies in just fourteen minutes. The bond between animals and the future officers became so strong that the mule became the mascot of the West Point football team.

In 1958 an official report of the Quartermaster General pronounced the end of the last two armed forces pack units. "All of our animals were sold or transferred to other Government agencies, including the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture and the National Park Service of the Department of Interior., In a ceremony befitting and honoring the long service of this patient but sometimes cantankerous Army animal, the mules were publicly mustered out of the army at Fort Carson, Colorado in 1956. More than 3,000 people attended the ceremony. Newsweek magazine reported the official Armed Services demise of the mule as follows: "Old Army Mule" Well over 100 years ago, in 1834, the mule became an official fixture of the United States Army. Winfield Scott used mules to carry mountain howitzers into Mexico. George Crook rode a mule by preference into battle. Black Jack Pershing led mule trains in the Philippines and in the Mexican border war, and encouraged their widest use in the First World War. In the Second World War mules carried food and ammunition to troops fighting in the rugged Italian mountains. Mules came in handy in Korea too.

Last week the mule became a has-been. The Army announced the inactivation of its last "combat mule"



outfit, the Fourth Field Artillery Battalion (pack), at Fort Carson, Colorado. Its spaceship sounding replacement: The Experimental Fourth Amphibious Field Artillery Firing unit (a helicopter unit)."

Today the pack mule carries on' his tradition of public service within bur public lands agencies - the very Forest Service and Park Service people that Back Country Horsemen work with year after year. From a historical perspective, recreational stock users practice and perpetuate the craft of packing in much the same way as those earlier generations, with only slight modification of these earlier packing skills brought about by the technological advances of modern society. Today Back Country Horsemen of America packers do the best job they can to see that this traditional skill is not lost., considering it a privilege to pass this legacy on to the next generation, becoming, for an instant, living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the west.

We think of those who have gone before us and take some pleasure from the thought that the actions of our organization, in some small part, help assure that packing skills will not become phantom skills seen only in books and practiced only in the mind. I somehow think that somewhere General Crook, Joseph Walkerand the whole cadre of Armed Services, Forest Service, Park Service, and other early packers are smiling and nodding their approval.



HORSE SENSE VERSUS MULE SENSE

The views of those people who work extensively with horses and mules are amazingly alike when it comes to discussing horse sense versus mule sense. Bill DeCarteret, a real gentleman, and a long time commercial packer with Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, has a definite opinion. Bill is retired now from his commercial operation with pack stock. He continues his involvement in his saddle shop in central California where he constructs packsaddles, panniers, and related packing gear.

At the Backcountry Horsemen of California Rendezvous several years ago, Bill characterized the differences between horses and mules as follows: "Mules remember everything they learn. They learn it the first time, and remember it from then on. They remember it if it is right or wrong. People often confuse stubbornness with intelligence. You can take a horse and open a gate about a foot and encourage him to go through it and he will try. He is trying to obey you and do a good job. He tears up the gate and hurts himself - but you're just so proud he did what you asked- You patch up the gate and patch up the horse and go on about your business. A mule, on the other hand, will wait until you open the gate wide enough. That, folks, is intelligence, not stubbornness

In the magazine Large Animal Veterinarian July-August; 1995 Dr. Robert M. Miller provides further clarification. Dr.. Miller is a respected equine veterinarian in California who successfully raises and shows mules.

In the article he -states: "Mules are always thinking, and their strong sense of self preservation will often cause them to disobey a command, that is not in their best interest whereas a horse can be conditioned to respond to commands so automatically that they will literally die obeying them-to

"In temperament mules are different from horses ... Horses evolved on open grasslands with flight as their primary defense behavior. Flighty animals can be desensitized to fear-provoking stimuli. The ass, on the other hand, evolved in precipitous terrain. Blind flight could be disastrous in such an environment. The ass, therefore, when alarmed, assesses the situation and makes a choice between three options (and these decisions can be made in an instant).

1. Stand still. This choice, often a valid one on steep terrain, gives donkeys and mules their reputation for stubbornness.
2. Run. This is the 'option most horses choose.
3. Attack! This is the reason that donkeys and mules will often go after a dog or a predator, rather than run as a horse would."

Dr Miller finishes by stating, "On the positive side, mules are, in general, more sociable, gregarious, and less quarrelsome than horses. They readily bond with people if treated with respect. I have learned," he concludes, "to respect their judgment and character.