

STEPS TO WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

By following these steps the Forest Service fulfills its requirements to identify, evaluate, and recommend lands to add to the National Wilderness Preservation System. Public involvement occurs throughout the process. For information about other ways the public or elected officials can recommend wilderness go to www.wilderness.net

Only Congress can establish wilderness.



**FINAL
STEP**

CONGRESS DESIGNATES WILDERNESS

Congress may enact the proposed bill into law, resulting in designated wilderness.

RECOMMENDATIONS GO TO WASHINGTON D.C.

Recommendation goes to the Chief of the Forest Service. Chief may elect to forward recommendation with bill wording to Secretary of Agriculture. Administration may elect to transmit the proposed bill to Congress.

REGIONAL FORESTER RECOMMENDS WILDERNESS

In the decision for the proposed LMP, the Regional Forester identifies which PWAs are "recommended" for wilderness (the recommendation can refine the proposed boundaries to include less acres, but cannot recommend acres not already included in the inventory).

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Proposed recommendations are included in the land management plan and are supported by NEPA analysis and decision-making. The public is asked to review and recommend adjustments to the administrative recommendation.

FOREST SUPERVISOR PROPOSES RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS

In the proposed land management plan the Forest Supervisor proposes which PWAs may be "recommended" for wilderness designation (the recommendation can refine the proposed boundaries to include fewer acres, but it cannot recommend acres not already included in the PWA inventory).

EVALUATE PWAS

F.S. evaluates PWAs as part of forest plan revision process. Evaluations assess "capability" of offering wilderness character, "availability" based on all resource values, and "need" to fulfill important functions of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

INVENTORY POTENTIAL WILDERNESS AREAS

Forest Service completes an inventory of qualifying lands following criteria in FS Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 70. This inventory sets the stage for NEPA analysis, but is not a NEPA decision-making process.

**S
T
E
P
1**