

# *Welcome*

## *Process to*

### *Recommend*

#### *Wilderness*



# Process to Recommend Wilderness

Identification, Inventory and Evaluation of Areas that **May be** Suitable for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

1. Inventory
  - Preliminary Inventory
  - Final Inventory
2. Evaluation
3. Analysis
4. Recommendation Decision



# Process to Recommend Wilderness

## Step 1. Inventory

### 1. Inventory

- Preliminary Inventory
- Final Inventory

### 2. Evaluation

### 3. Analysis

### 4. Recommendation Decision

# Recommended Wilderness Inventory

- NFS lands that meet the size and improvements criteria outlined in the proposed Forest Service Handbook (FSM1909.70) were identified and used to develop a preliminary inventory
- Public feedback was received on the preliminary inventory in June 2014
- The feedback was used to assist the Forest Service in developing a final inventory.

# Process to Recommend Wilderness

## Step 2. Evaluation

### 1. Inventory

- Preliminary Inventory
- Final Inventory

### 2. Evaluation

### 3. Analysis

### 4. Recommendation Decision

# Recommended Wilderness Evaluation

The primary function of the evaluation process is to evaluate the wilderness characteristics of each area identified during inventory including the degree to which each area:

- Appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprints of man's work substantially unnoticeable.
- Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
- Contains ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values.'
- May be managed to preserve its wilderness characteristics.

# Process to Recommend Wilderness

## Step 3. Analysis

### 1. Inventory

- Preliminary Inventory
- Final Inventory

### 2. Evaluation

### 3. Analysis

### 4. Recommendation Decision

# Recommended Wilderness Analysis

- The Forest Supervisor reviewed the evaluation, public input and staff recommendations and identified which specific areas, or portions thereof to carry forward into the NEPA analysis in one or more alternatives.
- Not all lands included in the inventory and subsequent evaluations are required to be carried forward in an alternative.
- Plan components have been developed for any areas included in one or more alternatives in the analysis.



# Process to Recommend Wilderness

## Step 4. Recommendation Decision

### 1. Inventory

- Preliminary Inventory
- Final Inventory

### 2. Evaluation

### 3. Analysis

### 4. Recommendation Decision

# Recommended Wilderness Decision

- The responsible official may recommend wilderness as part of the Forest Plan Record of Decision.
- If a wilderness recommendation is made, it is referred to as a “preliminary administrative recommendation.”
- Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness designation.

# Recommended Wilderness Round Table Questions

- What are the main challenges in interpreting and applying the final Chapter 70 directives?
- How can the Forest Service best engage the public in wilderness evaluation and planning?