



U.S. Forest Service National Forest System Briefing Paper

Date: January 29, 2014

Topic: New Wilderness Program Performance Measure

Issue: The wilderness program plans to implement their new performance measure “wildernesses meeting baseline performance for preserving wilderness character” in FY 2015.

Summary/Key Points:

- The 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014 provides a unique opportunity to reframe where we want to lead the program over the next 10 years and beyond.
- The current performance measure “wildernesses managed to a minimum stewardship level” has been in place since 2002. We have learned a lot during that time and want to address some of the short-comings of the existing measure.
- We want to keep what works (integrated elements, overall framework) but:
 1. Allows units to choose the elements of greatest local relevance, within a consistent framework;
 2. Make the linkage to wilderness character more explicit.
- The plan is to have the performance measure fully defined, and the plan for roll-out completed, by June 1st, 2014 – with a “soft implementation” scheduled for FY 2015.

Background:

Please refer the framework and listing of elements on the reverse side.

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Element #'s	Category	Element	Selection*
1 - 7	Natural Quality of Wilderness Character	Invasive Species	Select 1-3
		Air Quality Values	
		Natural Role of Fire	
		Water Quality & Quantity	
	Undeveloped Quality of Wilderness Character	Recreation Sites	Select 1-2
		Trails	
		Non-Essential Infrastructure	
		Motorized Equipment / Mechanical Transport Use Authorizations	
	Untrammeled Quality of Wilderness Character	Untrammeled (Agency Management Actions)	Must Select
	Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation Quality of Wilderness Character	Opportunities for Solitude	Must Select
		Opportunities for Primitive and Unconfined Recreation	Select 0-1
	Other Features of Value Quality of Wilderness Character	Cultural Resources	Select 0-1
Special Provisions	Grazing	Select 0-2	
	Outfitters & Guides		
	Other Special Provisions (e.g., dams, airstrips, mines, subsistence use)		
8	Capacity	Includes: line officer training, partners & volunteers, primitive skills, wilderness awareness (internal and external)	Must Select
9	Planning & Education	Includes: wilderness boundaries, education plans, information management, plan direction	Must Select
10	Wilderness Character Baseline	Establishment of wilderness character baseline	Must Select