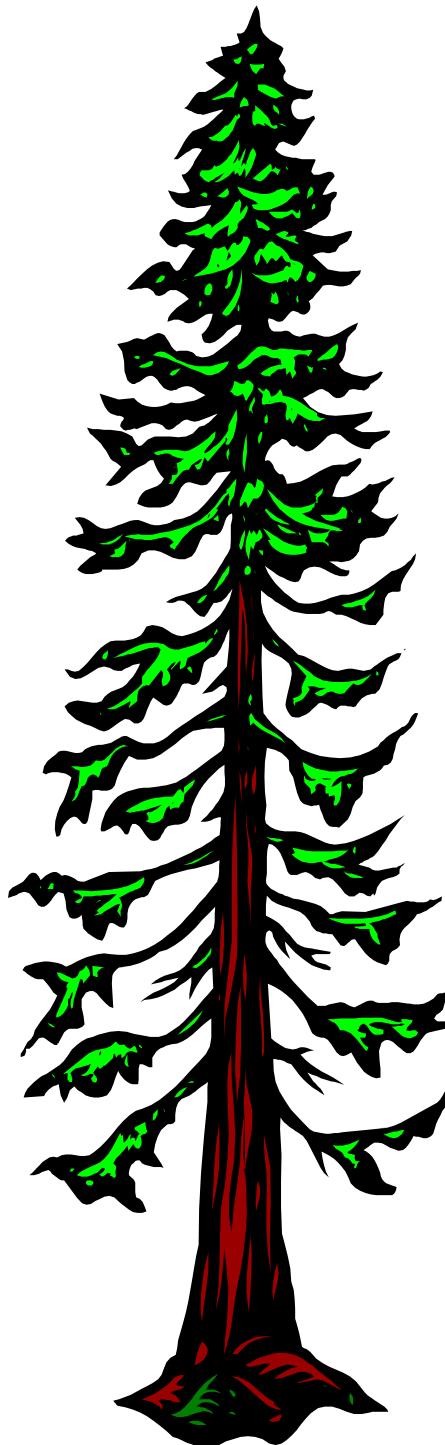


Selway Bitterroot Wilderness

Jr. Wilderness Ranger

Program



Welcome to the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness!

The Selway Bitterroot Wilderness (SBW) is a big and special place. It crosses the Montana / Idaho border and includes over 1.3 million acres. That is larger than the state of Delaware! The SBW is made up of rugged mountains, expansive forests, rolling meadows and plenty of lakes and streams. The Wilderness and surrounding lands provide homes for many wild animals including: moose, elk, deer, bear, wolves, coyotes, mountain lions, wolverine, fish, snakes, birds, other small animals and insects.

Each year, thousands of people visit the SBW to camp and enjoy opportunities for solitude (quiet) and exploration. During your visit to this special place, you may want to learn more about **Wilderness**, the home it provides for wildlife and how **YOU** can help keep this wonderful place **WILD**! If so, we invite you to participate in our Jr. Wilderness Ranger program!

Jr. Wilderness Rangers

What does it take to become
a Jr. Wilderness Ranger?

It takes a little bit of work, but becoming a Jr. Ranger is also a lot of fun! All you need to do is complete 4 of the 5 activities in this booklet.

Ask a family member or a nearby Forest Service Ranger if you need help with any of the activities. (There is no age limit for learning!)

Once you finish 4 activities, take your completed work to a Forest Service Ranger Station near the SBW. You will be asked to repeat the Jr. Ranger Pledge and will receive the official Selway Bitterroot Wilderness Jr. Ranger badge!

Badge Activities

*Wilderness Crossword

*Leave No Trace Ethics

*Nature Scavenger Hunt

*Drawing a Habitat

*Understanding Maps



Jr. Ranger Pledge

"As a Jr. Wilderness Ranger,
I will do all I can
to learn about & protect the
Selway Bitterroot Wilderness.

I promise to
respect the animals and plants
by practicing

Leave No Trace camping skills
to the best of my ability.

When I return home,
I will continue to learn
more about the natural world
where I live."

WILDERNESS

What is it and Why do we have it?

What do you think of when you hear the word "Wilderness"? Do you think of forests, wild animals and nature? These are some of the things that people like Bob Marshall, Aldo Leopold, Olaus and Mardy Murie, Rachael Carson and others were concerned about in the 1950's and 1960's. They wanted to protect some natural areas from development, for future generations (you and your kids) to enjoy. They turned their concern into action, and, after years of work, Congress passed a law called the **Wilderness Act**. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the legislation on September 3, 1964.



Signing the Wilderness Act, 1964

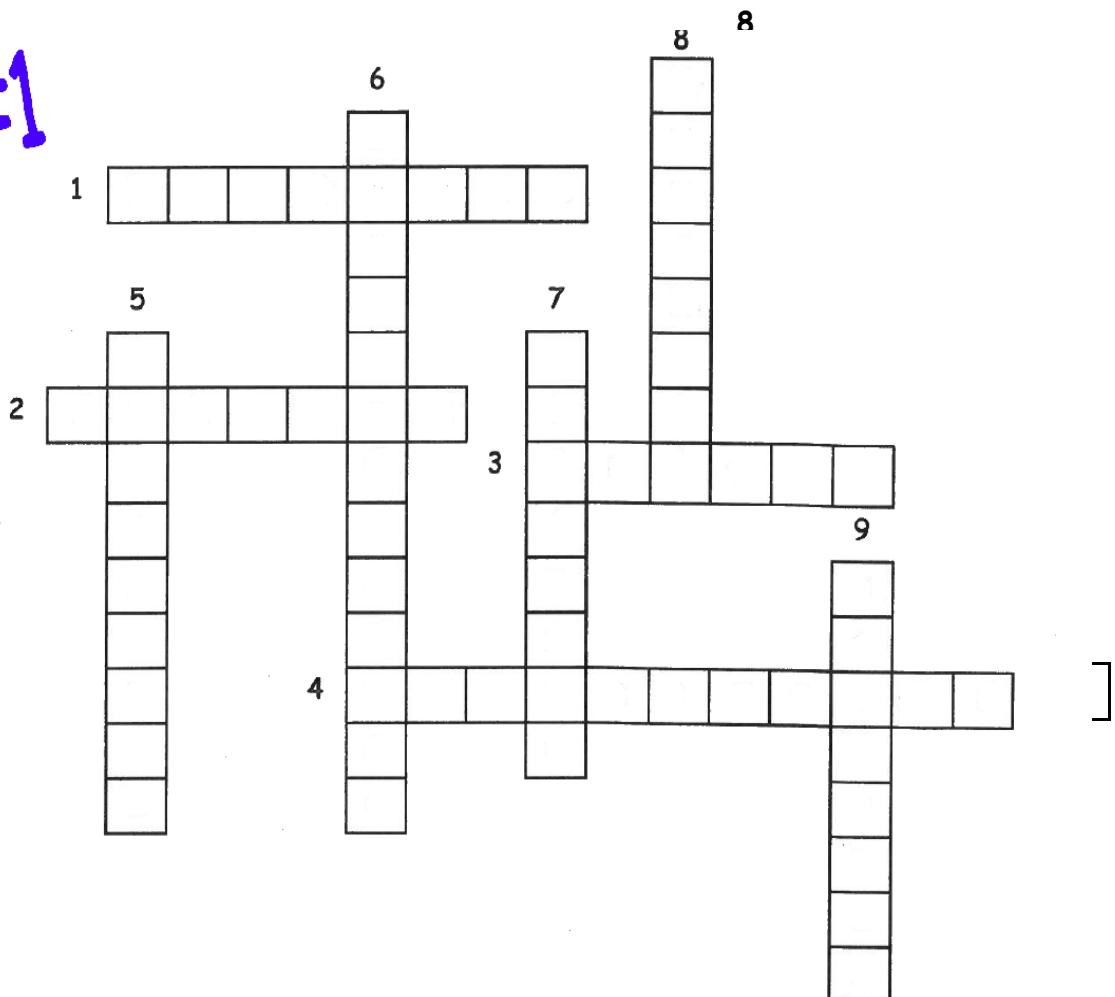
This law defines Wilderness as an area:

- In contrast to those areas where humans dominate the landscape, where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled (not controlled) by humans.
- Where humans visit, but do not live.
- That appears to be affected primarily by the forces of nature (like wind, lightening, rain, and avalanches).
- That has outstanding opportunities for solitude (a chance to be by yourself) and primitive and unconfined type of recreation (No motorized equipment, like chainsaws and no motorized/mechanized transport, such as mountain bikes or snowmobiles).
- That contains ecologic, geologic or other features of educational, scientific, or historic value.

Wilderness Crossword

Activity #1

Use the information on the previous page to help you solve the crossword puzzle!



ACROSS:

1. Wilderness areas offer opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation and they are also valued for educational, scientific, and _____ reasons.
2. The Wilderness Act was signed in 1964 by President, Lyndon B. _____.
3. SBW stands for _____ Bitterroot Wilderness.
4. Wilderness areas are places where the earth and its community of life are _____ by humans.

DOWN:

5. _____ equipment, (like chainsaws and snowmobiles) is NOT allowed in Wilderness.
6. Lightning is an example of a _____.
7. When humans go to Wilderness areas they are _____, who do not live there.
8. Bob _____ helped spread the word about the importance of protecting Wilderness areas in the United States.
9. Wilderness is a quiet place that contrasts (is different from) places where people live. Because it is easy to be alone there, you can find _____.



Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace (LNT) skills are like magic! If you practice, those who follow you won't know where you've been. Use these skills to keep the **WILD** in **Wilderness** and all natural environments!

1. **Know before you go:** Be prepared, pack the right clothes, tell someone where you are going and when you'll be back. Don't forget your map and compass!
2. **Choose the right path:** Stay on main trails. Use existing camps and camp at least 100 big steps (200 ft) from roads, trails and water.
3. **Pack it in, pack it out!**: Pack out all trash. Keep water clean by keeping soap, food, and human waste OUT of lakes and streams. Bury human waste 6-8 inches in the soil and 100 big steps (200 ft) away from camps, trails, and water.
4. **Leave what you find:** Leave plants, rocks and historical items where you find them, so others can enjoy them too.
5. **Be Careful with fire:** Use a camp stove for cooking. Make sure it is OK to have a campfire and use an existing fire ring. Burn only wood and paper, not trash. Use *Dead, Down, Dry, and Dinky* wood. Put your fire out before you leave!
6. **Respect Wildlife:** Observe animals from a distance and never feed or harass them. Protect wildlife by storing your food and trash out of their reach.
7. **Be kind to other Visitors:** Remember that other visitors have come to enjoy the outdoors too. Avoid making loud noises and you will see more wildlife.

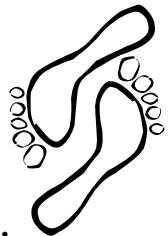
Activity #2

After reading about Leave No Trace practices, test your LNT knowledge and answer the following questions...

- ♦ True or False
- ♦ True or False
- ♦ True or False

(Fill in the blanks)

Pack out all garbage when you leave camp.
If you see a hungry chipmunk in camp, feed it.
Before leaving on a trip, it is important to tell someone where you are going and when you'll be back.
Bury human waste at least ____ feet from water and ____ to ____ inches deep, to prevent polluting water.





HABITATS

Habitat is another word for home. Animals need four important things for a good home: food, water, shelter and space. The next two activities ask you to examine different habitats that you might find in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness.

Alpine Habitats

Alpine habitats are high up in the mountains. Weather conditions are harsh and plant growth is slow. There are not many trees in the alpine and shelter for large animals is hard to find. You might hear pikas or see mountain goats in this rocky habitat.

Forest Habitats

Most of the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness is forested. Black bears and deer find shelter and food in this forest. The trees provide homes for birds, Squirrels, and insects.

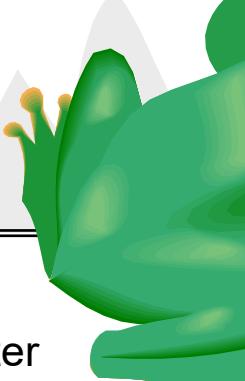
Activity #3

This activity can be done along any trail. As you walk, look and listen for the different things that make up a habitat.

This is like a scavenger hunt, but do not collect the items. Instead, put a check by the things you see or hear.

How many of the items on the list were you able to discover? Did you encounter other special things not on the list?

△ Plant with thorns	△ Bird's nest
△ Tree with needles	△ Fish in water
△ Tree with leaves	△ Pinecone
△ Moose	△ Bear
△ Squirrel	△ Feather
△ Stream or creek	△ Song bird
△ Insect	△ Purple flower
△ Eagle	△ Spider web
△ Animal track	△ Mushroom
△ Rock with moss	△ Deer
△ _____	△ _____



Activity #4

Think about habitats you saw during your visit to the SBW. Draw a picture of your favorite habitat in the space below. What kind of habitat was it? If you have trouble thinking of a habitat, draw a picture of **your** habitat. Remember to include: food, water, shelter and space.



Aquatic Habitats

Aquatic means water. Most of the water in the SBW began as snowflakes that fell in winter. Once summer arrives, the snow melts, filling our aquatic habitats with cold, clear water! Be on the lookout for water-skippers, fish, frogs, ducks, moose and humans in these habitats!

Grassland Habitats

Grasslands, or meadows, are an important food source for grazing animals like deer and elk. There are lots of different grasses and sedges in meadows. How many different kinds can you find? Flowers are also common in the meadows. In spring and summer, you are likely to see a rainbow of color!

MAPS



Wilderness Rangers use maps to help them navigate. Maps show important features, such as mountains, streams, trails and ranger stations, using symbols (pictures and lines). Maps also come in different scales or sizes. "Scale" relates the area shown on the map to the same area on the ground. For example, **1/2 inch** on the map below equals approximately **1 mile** on the ground. Titles and legends also help explain the map.

Legend

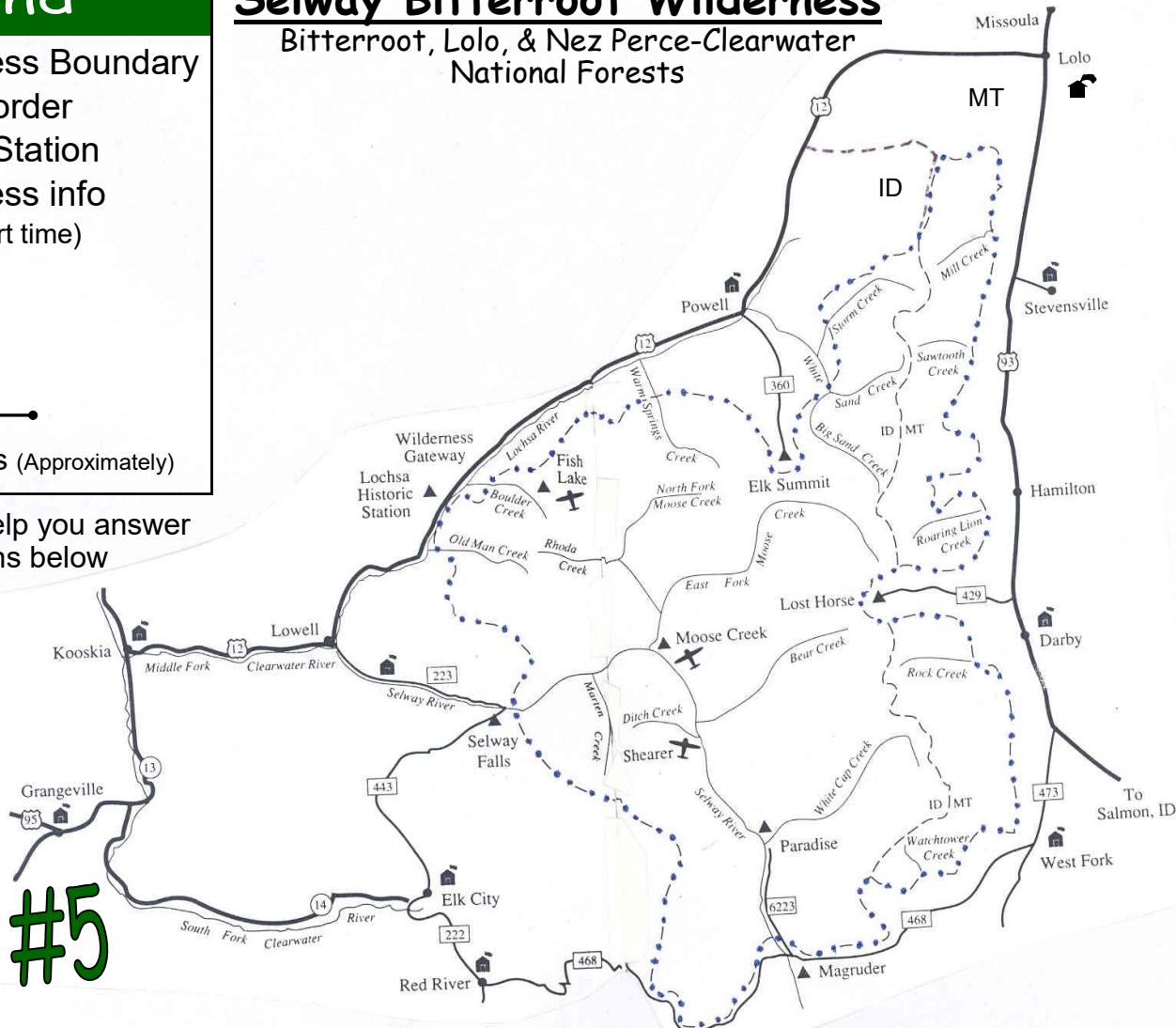
- - - Wilderness Boundary
- - - MT/ID border
- Ranger Station
- Wilderness info (staffed part time)
- Airstrip
- Road
- River

Scale:

1/2 inch = 15 miles (Approximately)

Selway Bitterroot Wilderness

Bitterroot, Lolo, & Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests



Activity #5

1. How many Ranger Stations does the map show? _____
2. How far of a hike would it be from Lowell, ID (through the SBW) to Lost Horse, MT? (estimate using the scale) _____
3. Write down the name of one location from the map that has a wild animal in its name: _____
4. Put an X near a place you visited in the SBW. _____