



Wilderness Character

Untrammeled

Wilderness is defined as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, meaning that it is free from modern human control or manipulation. Hazard tree management in wilderness is an example of an action that affects the untrammeled quality.



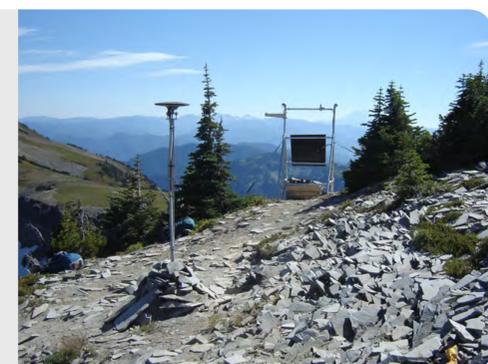
Natural

Wilderness should be protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions. Wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization. This quality is degraded by intended or unintended effects of modern people on the ecological systems inside the wilderness since the area was designated. The introduction of non-native species, vegetation loss, and soil compaction in a campsite are examples of impacts to the natural quality



Undeveloped

Wilderness is defined as an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation. This quality is affected by the presence of structures or installations. A patrol cabin or seismic monitoring installation in wilderness is an example of a structure that affects the undeveloped quality.



Solitude or a Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Wilderness is defined as an area that has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Opportunities for solitude are affected by the presence, visibility, or noise of other humans. High visitor densities and aircraft overflights are examples of conditions that reduce opportunities for solitude.

Opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are affected by management restrictions that reduce visitors' freedom or self-reliance. Designating campsites is an example of management restrictions that reduces opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.



Other Features of Value

Wilderness areas may also have ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. This fifth quality reflects unique features of a park's wilderness area that are not adequately reflected in the other four qualities. An example would be the deterioration or loss of cultural resources integral to wilderness character.

