



# Alternatives

The National Park Service has developed preliminary alternatives for public comment. Public comment will help to refine the alternatives before they are analyzed in the environmental impact statement (EIS). Each preliminary alternative is subject to the requirements and prohibitions

of the Wilderness Act of 1964, and must meet the purpose and need for the WSP. The preliminary alternatives differ in terms of recreation and conservation goals and in terms of the emphasis that is placed on each wilderness character quality.

## ALTERNATIVE 1

### No Action

A no action alternative is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as a baseline for comparing the effects of the action alternatives. For this WSP, the No Action alternative is defined as the continuation of existing management. As the baseline for the alternatives, the No Action alternative (existing management) demonstrates the current condition of wilderness qualities within the Mount Rainier Wilderness.

## ALTERNATIVE 2

### Implemented General Management Plan (GMP)

This alternative focuses on implementing key elements of the General Management Plan (2002) to create a high-quality visitor experience within Mount Rainier Wilderness while also ensuring that the park's natural and cultural resources are preserved.

## ALTERNATIVE 3

### Manage for Opportunities for Solitude

This alternative focuses on increasing opportunities for solitude by actively managing visitor use levels, particularly day use levels. Less emphasis would be placed on qualities such as visitor self-reliance and freedom from management control.

## ALTERNATIVE 4

### Manage for Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

This alternative emphasizes primitive and unconfined recreation by expanding access and reducing management controls on visitors. Less emphasis would be placed on providing opportunities for solitude by promoting a more unconfined use of park resources.

## ALTERNATIVE 5

### Manage for Natural and Undeveloped Lands

This alternative focuses on preserving and restoring the natural quality of wilderness by preserving or restoring ecological systems and allowing the wilderness to be substantially free from the effects of modern civilization. Less emphasis would be placed on qualities such as solitude or freedom from management control.

