



Purpose and Need

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP) is to guide the preservation, management, and use of the park's wilderness area. The goal is to restore, protect, and enhance the overall character of the Mount Rainier Wilderness.

Need for the Plan

Wilderness use has continued to be in high demand since the park prepared a wilderness management plan in 1992. An updated plan is needed to manage future visitor use and preserve wilderness character.

The development of this WSP is based on the need to:

- Develop an approach to managing visitor use such that wilderness character is preserved and public use and enjoyment is provided.
- Re-evaluate management zones that were adopted in the 2002 General Management Plan, and adopt indicators, measures, and standards for wilderness character in those zones.
- Clarify how decisions about wilderness administrative actions are made and documented.
- Evaluate the current plotting of the wilderness boundary and consider adjustment where non-conforming administrative infrastructure is present.
- Further the public understanding of wilderness stewardship through effective communication and education.