

SCOPING

*"How often we speak of the great silences
of the wilderness and of the importance of
preserving them and the wonder
and peace to be found there.*

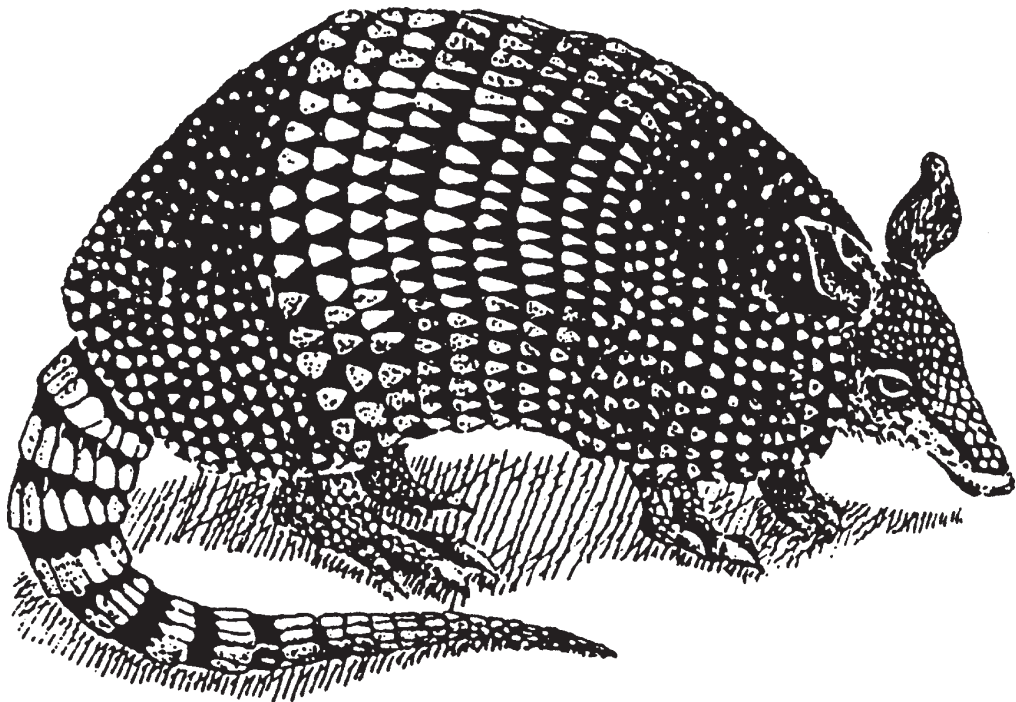
*When I think of them, I see the lakes and rivers
of the North, the muskegs and expanses of tundra,
the barren lands beyond all roads.*

*I see the mountain ranges of the West
and the high, rolling ridges of the Appalachians.*

*I picture the deserts of the Southwest
and their brilliant panoramas of color,
the impenetrable swamplands of the South.*

*They will always be there and their beauty
may not change, but should their silences be broken,
they will never be the same."*

Sigurd F. Olson



Scoping the Proposed Management Direction

This unit focuses on identifying issues associated with the proposed management direction so that alternatives can be developed.

Objectives

1. Participants can develop a preliminary map displaying how zones are proposed to be allocated on-the-ground.
2. Participants can identify the preliminary issues that might arise from their proposed management direction.
3. Participants can identify the contents of a scoping statement and can develop a preliminary scoping statement for their proposed Wilderness management direction.

Key points

- Scoping is the start of the NEPA process but is just another point along the continuum of public participation.
- The purpose of scoping is to invite the public to comment on the proposed management direction and identify issues.

Scoping the Proposed Management Direction

Description

At this stage, you should have a description of desired conditions for a few zones, monitoring indicators that will be used to track trends, and objectives that define acceptable conditions (and help promote achievement of the desired conditions). Now you need to determine how you propose to allocate the zones across the Wilderness. The end product will be a map showing which areas are proposed to be managed under the desired conditions, indicators, and objectives specified for zone I, which areas are to be managed under the direction for zone II, and which areas are to be managed under the direction for zone III.

Considerations

- Remember that the desired condition descriptions reflect what should be, not what currently exists. If an area currently meets zone III standards but there is a desire to improve conditions, then it should be mapped as a proposed zone II.
- The principle of non-degradation applies here. This principle seeks to prevent the decline of current conditions. Management should always strive for maintenance or improvement. Thus, allocating an area that is currently relatively undisturbed to a zone which would allow a higher degree of human disturbance than currently exists, would violate this principle.
- Typically, travel corridors are mapped as “strings” with the surrounding area mapped as a big “blob.”
- Wherever possible, zone boundaries should be mapped using topographic features. Coordinate zone mapping with management objectives for adjacent lands.
- Review the issues as you map. If the issues revealed that conditions were unacceptable in a particular area, make sure the area is allocated to a zone with standards that will promote improvement in conditions. As you map, keep track of why you allocated a particular area to a particular zone. This will help you explain what the proposed management direction is intended to do.
- Make sure areas that are especially sensitive (e.g. crucial winter range, rare plant communities) are allocated to zones that will afford the protection they need.

Scoping

Congratulations! You have now completed the assessment phase and have developed the best possible proposed direction to meet the intent of the Wilderness Act and respond to the significant issues. You are now ready to begin the NEPA process to analyze your proposed direction. The purpose of scoping is to:

- Invite the public to comment on the proposed management direction
- Identify significant issues relative to the proposed direction
- Guide the analysis and documentation

The scoping statement should clearly describe the proposed management direction so the public can identify specific issues. Well-described, specific proposed management direction will help the public focus their issues which then can be used to drive development of alternatives.

Scoping statement content

1. **Description of the proposed management direction** Include who is proposing this action (the agency), specifically what is proposed (map of zones with desired conditions, objectives, and monitoring indicators), and where the new direction will apply (location map of the Wilderness).
2. **Purpose and Need** Explain why new management direction is being considered. Refer to your “Need for Change” to develop this information.
3. **Decision to be made** Describe the nature and the character of the decision. This will usually read something like: “The decision to be made is whether or not to adopt new management direction for the Blankity-blank Wilderness and, if so, which alternative should be selected. Adoption of new management direction will also include the decision to amend the _____ Plan to incorporate new direction for management area —.”
4. **Issues** Identify the preliminary issues associated with the proposed management direction. Some issues probably came up as you were mapping zones. It is highly unlikely that your proposed management direction resolved all the issues. The issues at this point are focused on the concerns with the specific proposed management direction—this should be a smaller, more focused set of issues than what you identified at the beginning of the assessment phase (during “Need for Change” step).
5. **Name and Address** Identify where people should send their comments. Identify planned public meetings, open houses, etc.
6. **Deadline for comments** Identify the deadline by which comments must be submitted.
7. Contact person for further information

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SCOPING THE PROPOSED MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Crossing from Assessment to NEPA

A Process Used To:

- Invite the public to comment
- Guide analysis and documentation
- Identify significant issues

Contents of Scoping Statement:

- Proposed Management Direction

Who is proposing direction

What is proposed—map of zones with desired conditions, objective and monitoring indicators

Where will direction apply—map

- Purpose and Need

Why is this proposed management direction being considered (refer to “Need for Change”)

- Decision to be Made

Nature and character of decision

- Issues

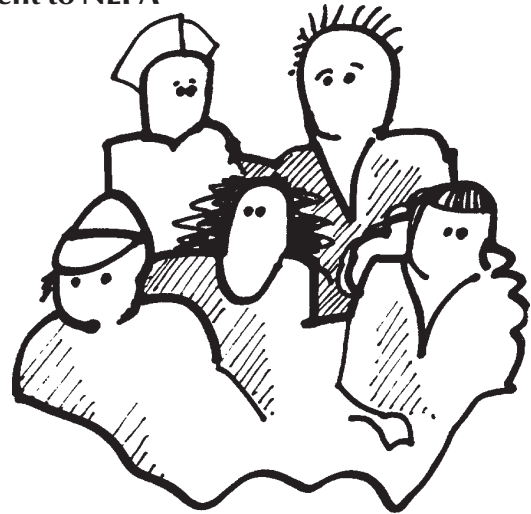
Points of disagreement or concern regarding proposed management direction

- Name and Address

Where to send comments:

- Deadline for Comments

- Contact Person for Further Information



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WORKSHEET

SCOPING PROPOSED

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Review your desired conditions, monitoring indicators, objectives and standards. On your Wilderness map, begin to draw out how you propose to allocate zones on-the-ground. Map a proposal for at least 1/3 of your Wilderness.

Describe your proposed management direction—who, what, where.

Briefly recap the purpose and need for new management direction.

Describe the decision to be made.

Identify some preliminary issues associated with the proposed management direction.
