

Appendix J

Vision of Wilderness

Field Advisory Group - National Vision

Make decisions with an eye toward the seventh generation. Serve as Field Advisory Group on Wilderness Management Effectiveness folks! What a productive/wonderful/renewing meeting we had last week! Here is the first draft Of the visioning/positioning statement that we put on the easels. Would like to have your comments/changes. I'll also start circulating this with other folks, since we really didn't have a good sense of where this will be most useful within the wilderness program. Hey, keep smiling! Yes!

-Anne Fege October 29, 1990

The vision for wilderness is in the 1964 Wilderness Act. The vision for individual wildernesses' supplemented by the designating legislation and by the "desired future conditions" in Forest Plans.

The vision for wilderness management:

1. Wilderness is a full partner in the multiple use mission.
2. Wilderness is managed for its conservation, scientific and other non-recreational values.
3. Visitors are offered quality wilderness recreation experiences.
4. Each wilderness is recognized as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.
5. The Forest Service maintains its national leadership role in wilderness management.
6. Conservation and user groups are involved in wilderness management.
7. Excellent wilderness education and awareness programs are reaching wilderness users and the public.
8. A field workforce is in place.

Positioning strategy to achieve wilderness management vision by 1996 (or 2000)

1. Wilderness is a full partner in the multiple use mission.
 - Wilderness is recognized as part of the "balance" to the agency's commodity programs.
 - Accountability is achieved by getting performance standards and targets in place.
 - Wilderness is fully represented in Forest Plans.
 - Wilderness Implementation Schedules are completed for all wildernesses by 19.

Vision For Northern Region Wilderness

The wilderness of the Northern Region is a distinct and treasured resource, whose value to the Nation grows with each passing decade. Wilderness provides us with the opportunity to step back and let natural forces take the dominant role. While wilderness has long been revered as a setting for spiritual renewal; we are only beginning to understand its value to science and to the perpetuation of a healthy planet. With one National Forest acre in five currently in wilderness, the Northern Region provides leadership in demonstrating the highest quality interdisciplinary stewardship of the wilderness resource.

The Vision for the Northern Region wilderness stewardship is clear:

- The wilderness resource is an integral part of the multiple use mission of the Northern Region.
- Our employees value the wilderness resource, understand their responsibilities to it, and are accountable for its stewardship.
- We manage wilderness for its full compliment of values.
- Our wilderness stewardship is directed by the best ecological, social, and economic knowledge available.
- As stewards of the wilderness resource, we place a high value on natural ecosystems and associated biological diversity.
- The public participates in wilderness stewardship; we actively seek their involvement.

Based on our vision, the actions we plan to take are charted:

- Obtain from all program areas the interdisciplinary involvement needed for quality wilderness stewardship.
- Assure that Forest Plans provide adequate direction and identify needed funding for wilderness management.
- Communicate the wilderness vision to develop values and behaviors in our employees that contribute to excellence in wilderness stewardship.
- Facilitate development, transfer, and application of new knowledge and practices.
- Improve the knowledge, skills and capabilities of the work force involved in wilderness planning and management at all levels in the organization.
- Increase opportunities for public involvement in wilderness planning and management.
- Insure that wilderness expenditures meet congressional intent.

Visions for Wilderness

- Decisions must be made in the context of the purpose of Wilderness - “to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition” (The Wilderness Act).
- In managing wilderness, aim to make identified wilderness purposes (recreation, scenic, scientific, education, conservation and historic) compatible. Aim to minimize the effects of special provisions (grazing, mining, established aircraft or motorboat use, commercial services) (R. Max Peterson).
- Let go of the idea that humans must improve nature. In wilderness, nature knows best.
- Wilderness is an Opportunity, It is Not a Constraint. We can be the “white hats” with wilderness management. Use wilderness as an opportunity to respond positively to increasing environmental public sentiment.
- The management challenge is to move a wilderness from existing condition up the “purity” scale (towards less human influence) within legal constraints without being so restrictive that we lose broad base of public support.
- Good wilderness management (or stewardship) is the true application of the Leopold land ethic where we are part of the natural community of life and do not dominate it. The philosophy of this wilderness ethic spins off to all resource and land stewardship.
Wilderness is a full partner in the multiple use mission.
- Conservation groups and wilderness users must become full partners in wilderness management with shared responsibility and ownership.
- Wilderness is a unique and vital resource.
- Wilderness is not business as usual.
- Wilderness must Win in every decision. Err on the side of wilderness.
- Wilderness is a spiritual place.
- Wilderness is a place where the elements of discovery and surprise must remain.
- We must manage wilderness as one resource rather than as a series of separate resources. Individual resources must be managed to support the overall wilderness resource.

- Wilderness is a philosophy where economy, convenience, comfort and commercial value are not the basis for management decisions.
- Wilderness is not an “Area” - It is a resource onto itself.

Wilderness Advisory Group (WAG) and Wilderness Excellence Team (WET) Summary

National Wilderness Field Advisory Group

- Chartered in late 1989 in response to perceived lack of leadership in Wilderness management. Traditional Chief to Regional Wilderness Coordinator to Forest to District method of management was not effectively translating \$30 million budget into on-the-ground accomplishments
- One person from each Region met for the first time in February 1990 to determine what advice to provide the WO in an effort to get field wilderness management programs up and running.
- Developed a 23 page action item list focusing on 5 key areas and reported to Chief and Staff, March 1991
- Overbay recommended additional tasks for the group including development of Wilderness Excellence Teams

National Wilderness Excellence Teams

- Designed to increase the consistency of quality wilderness management across the Regions by working together in a team effort
- Will assist neighboring Forests with workforce recruitment, technology transfer, training needs, conservation group involvement, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, management costs analysis, administrative boundary review, opportunities for interdisciplinary efforts, Limits of Acceptable Change process, and National Environmental Policy Act efforts.
- Comprised of 2 to 4 members from each Region who met for the first time November 5-7, 1991 to identify approaches to current challenges.