

APPENDIX L

Wilderness Fact Sheets

These Fact Sheets were developed by Ralph Swain on the San Juan National Forest. You may want to consider recommending that attendees to your Wilderness Awareness Training develop a Fact Sheet for "their" Wilderness.

FACTS

National Wilderness Preservation System

- Four federal agencies administer the National Wilderness Preservation System: the National Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and Fish & Wildlife Service.
- 4% of the land mass of the United States is congressionally designated Wilderness.
- 1.8% of the lower 48 states is Wilderness.
- 15% of the state of Alaska is Wilderness.
- 33% of the entire NWPS is in the 11 western states.

"A wilderness . . . is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."
[The Wilderness Act (P. L. 88-577), September 3, 1964]

The 1964 Wilderness Act prohibits:

- Motorized and mechanical equipment, such as bicycles (including mountain bikes), hang-gliders, chainsaws and game carts.
- Aircraft, including helicopters, from landing or dropping off and picking up any materials, supplies, or persons.
- Exceptions include handicap access with mechanical wheelchairs, and emergencies.



Aldo Leopold, 1887-1948
 author of the Sand County Almanac
 and leader in early wilderness
 management.

"The individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. The land ethic . . . enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land. . ."

*Aldo Leopold,
 Sand County Almanac*



Howard Zahniser
 (1906-1964)
 Wilderness Society Executive
 Director.
 Proposed first wilderness bill in
 1956.

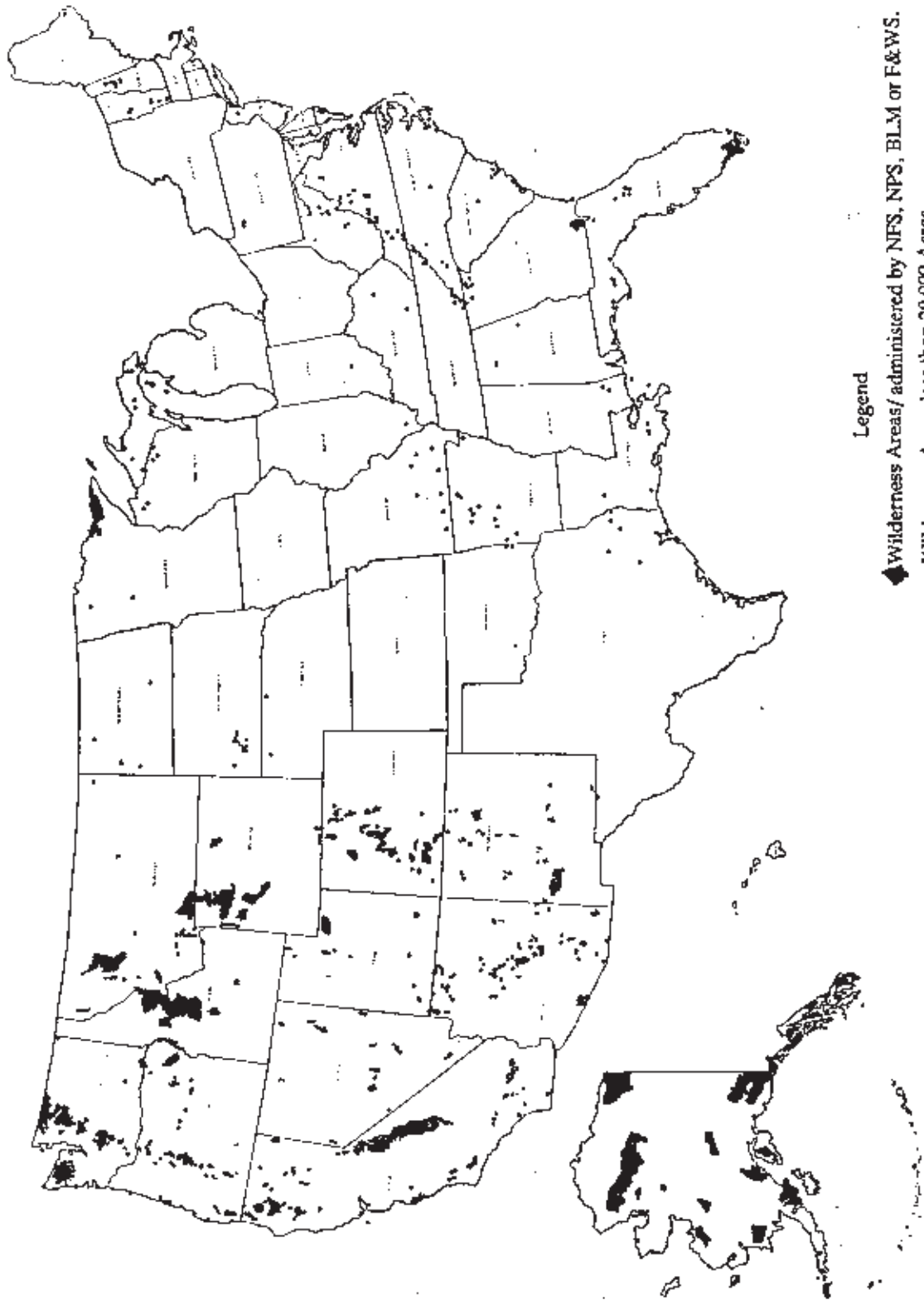
NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of System</u>
<i>NFS</i>	35 million	36
<i>NPS</i>	40 million	42
<i>BLM</i>	20 million	21
<i>F&WS</i>	1 million	1
Total	95 million	



THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM

1990



FACTS

San Juan National Forest Wildernesses

- 24% of the SJNF is protected as designated wilderness.
- The 463,678-acre Weminuche is Colorado's largest and most visited wilderness.
- Lizard Head Wilderness (41,000 acres) is named for the rock monolith visible for miles around.
- South San Juan Wilderness (128,000 acres) was originally a Spanish land grant territory.
- Recreation use in all three wildernesses totaled 300,000 Recreational Visitor Days in 1991.
- Wilderness visitation is on the increase. If you seek greater solitude than popular areas offer, ask about trails elsewhere in the forest.



Weminuche



Lizard Head

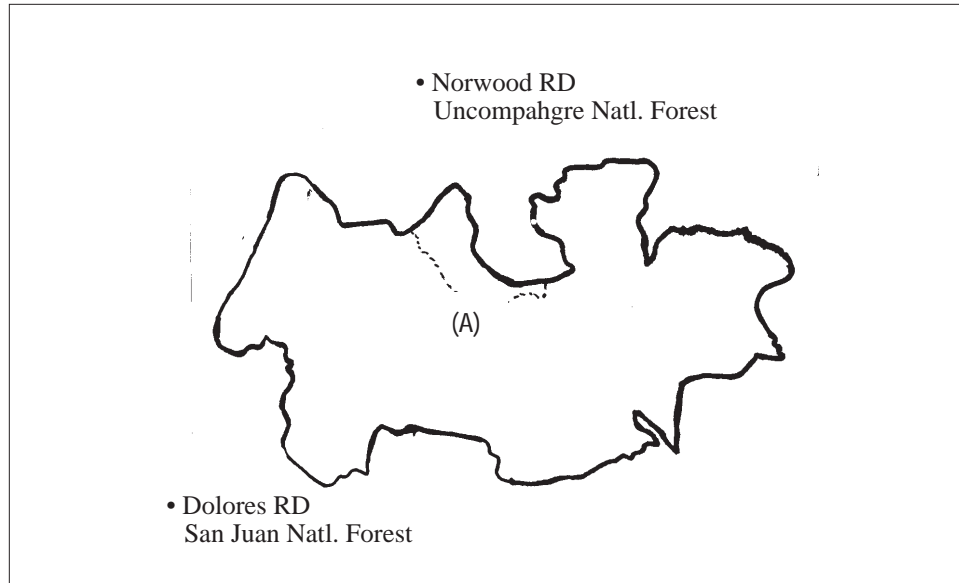


South San Juan

	<i>Acres</i>			<i>Miles of Trails</i>			<i>No. of Lakes</i>		
	<i>SJNF</i>	<i>RGNF</i>	Total	<i>SJNF</i>	<i>RGNF</i>	Total	<i>SJNF</i>	<i>RGNF</i>	Total
WEMINUICHE	298,911	164,767	463,678	260	210	470	50	13	63
SOUTH SAN JUAN	88,000	40,000	128,000	64	100	164	2	30	32
	<i>SJNF</i>	<i>UNF</i>	Total	<i>SJNF</i>	<i>UNF</i>	Total	<i>SJNF</i>	<i>UNF</i>	Total
LIZARD HEAD	21,000	20,000	41,000	15	19	37	1	0	1



REGULATIONS AND ADDRESSES



REGULATIONS:

- (A) Campfires are prohibited in Navajo Basin.
- (B) Shortcutting on trail switchbacks is prohibited.
- (C) Limit group size to no more than 25 people and stock.

• *Only weed free cubed/pelletized hay, steamed grain, and treated mulch for packstock are allowed in the Lizard Head.*

ADDRESSES:

San Juan National Forest

Dolores County Sheriff's Office
420 North Main
Dolores, CO 81323
(303) 677-2277

Supervisor's Office
701 Camino Del Rio
Durango, CO 81301
(303) 247-4874

Dolores Ranger District
100 N. 6th
P. O. Box 21
Dolores, CO 81323
(303) 882-7296

Grand Mesa/Uncompahgre National Forest

San Miguel Sheriff's Office
County Court House
Telluride, CO 81435
(303) 728-4422
(303) 728-3081 [Emergency]

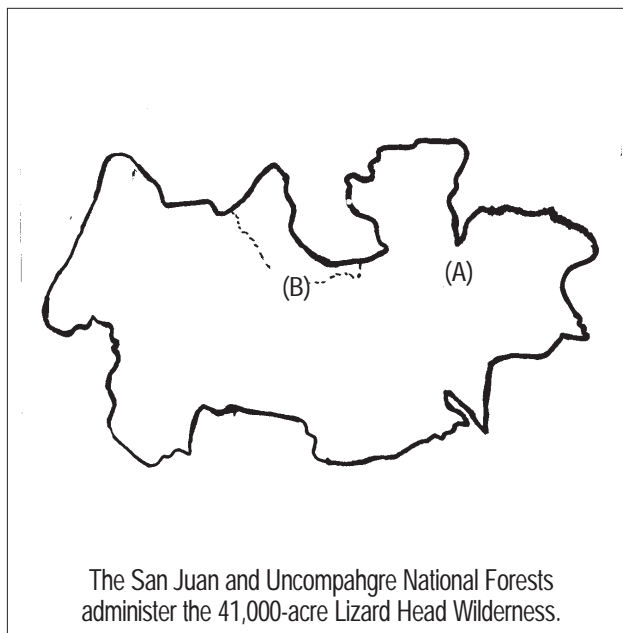
Supervisor's Office
2250 Highway 50
Delta, CO 81416-8723
(303) 874-7691

Norwood Ranger District
1760 E. Grand Ave.
P. O. Box 388
Norwood, CO 81423
(303) 327-4261

FACTS

Lizard Head Wilderness

- Originally designated by the 1980 Colorado Wilderness Bill.
- Named after the rock monolith visible from State Highway 182 (A).
- The Lizard Head's 37 miles of maintained trails offer ample opportunity for true wilderness travel and solitude.
- Navajo Lake Basin (B) is the most heavily visited portion of Lizard Head. To allow nature a chance to heal this area, please seek lesser used areas and practice "Leave No Trace" camping techniques.



SUGGESTED MAPS:

- Trails Illustrated map includes the Lizard Head Wilderness. Available from San Juan National Forest Assoc., Box 2261, Durango, CO 81302, (303) 385-1210.
- USGS topographical quadrangles available from local outdoor and bookstores, or the US Geological Survey, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225.

SUGGESTED READING:

- Leave No Trace, free booklet from the National Outdoor Leadership School. To order, call 1-800-332-4100.

<i>LIZARD HEAD WILDERNESS</i>			
<i>Acres</i>		<i>Miles of Trails</i>	<i>No. of Lakes</i>
<i>SJNF</i>	21,000	15	1
<i>UNF</i>	20,000	19	0
Total	41,000	37	1



FACTS

San Juan National Forest Wildernesses

Six of the Most Asked Questions

1. What exactly is "Wilderness?"

Most people think of wilderness as a roadless area set aside for recreation. However, Congress defined wilderness in the 1964 Wilderness Act as, ". . . an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

[Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577), September 3, 1964]

2. Do you need a permit to enter wilderness?

No - currently, you do not need to obtain a permit to enter the Weminuche, Lizard Head, or South San Juan Wildernesses. However, a permit system might be implemented to safeguard the wilderness resource from being "loved to death." Please do your part to protect these fragile areas.

NOTE: Regional Forest Service group size standards have been set at a maximum of 25 people and/or packstock. Keep your group size smaller to ensure less impact to the land and to other visitors. Also, the SJNF Animas Ranger District asks that groups of 10 or more members check in with the district for a wilderness orientation and a no fee group permit. Call (303) 385-1283 for more information.

Wildlands form a great part of the core of American culture that makes our heritage unique among the world's cultures. We all are obligated to protect wilderness. Aldo Leopold said it well when he wrote:

The question is, does the educated citizen know he is only a cog in an ecological mechanism? That if he will work with that mechanism his mental wealth and his material wealth can expand indefinitely? But if he refuses to work with it, it will ultimately grind him to dust?

[from Sand County Almanac]

3. Do I need to treat the water?

It is advisable to treat and/or filter all backcountry drinking water. Giardia lamblia, a water-borne parasite, can be found in most high country streams. To avoid contamination you should filter, boil or chemically treat all water. Also, help to not contaminate water sources . . . camp at least 100 feet from lakes or streams and bury your bodily waste far from water.

4. What about bears?

Black bears live in the forest. It is a good practice to hang all food and keep a clean camp.

5. What do we do in case of emergency?

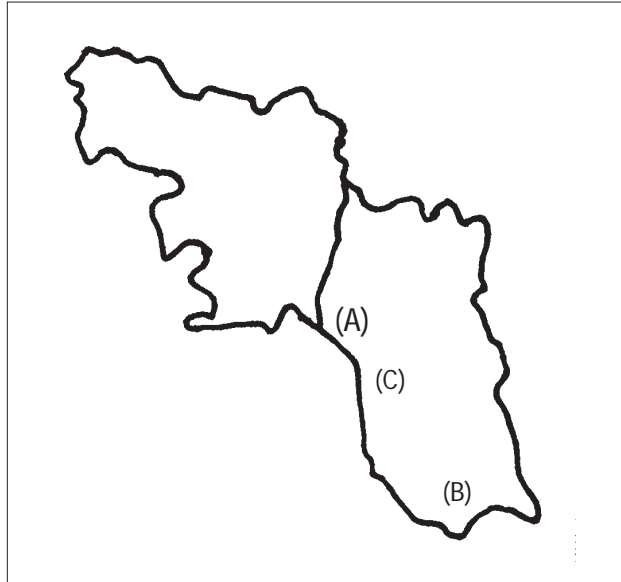
If lost, stay calm and stay in one spot. If one can go for help, follow drainages downriver.

6. What can I do to protect wilderness?

It's simple. Practice "Leave No Trace" techniques. To learn more, contact the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) at 1-800-332-4100.



REGULATIONS AND ADDRESSES



REGULATIONS :

- No camping, riding, picketing, hobbling, tethering, or grazing saddle or packstock within 300 feet of Blue (A), Green (B) and Red (C) Lakes.
- *Only weed free feed and grain are allowed in the South San Juan. Check with districts for details.*

ADDRESSES :

San Juan National Forest

Supervisor's Office
701 Camino Del Camino
Durango, CO 81301
(303) 247-4874

Pagosa District
P. O. Box 310
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
(303) 264-2268

Rio Grande National Forest

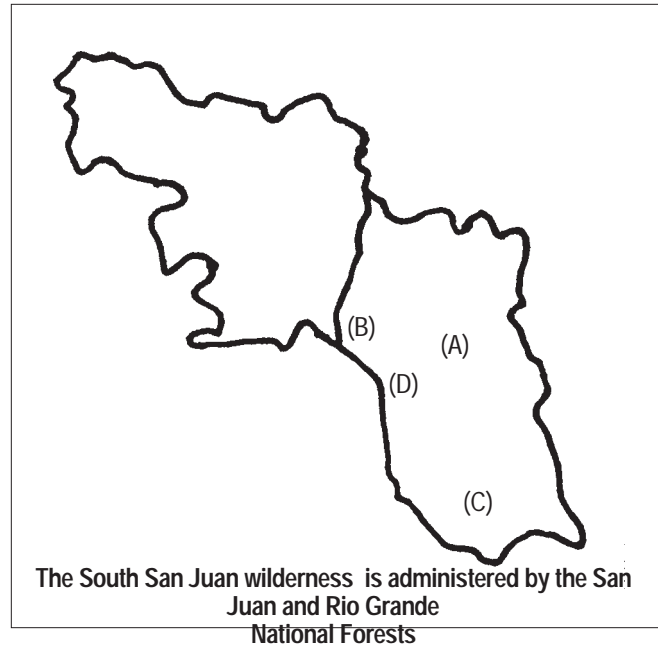
Supervisor's Office
1803 W. Hwy 160
Monte Vista, CO 81144
(719) 852-5941

Conejos Peak District
21461 State Highway 285
La Jara, CO 81140
(719) 274-5193

FACTS

South San Juan Wilderness

- Originally established as a Spanish land grant, the South San Juan was designated a wilderness by the 1980 Colorado Wilderness Bill.
- Highest point is Summit Peak at 13,300 feet. When mountaineering, follow the rule of thumb, "Down By Noon."
- Bear Lake is a heavily used area of the South San Juan (A). Please avoid camping there in order to lessen impact.
- Blue (B), Red (C), and Green Lakes (D) are heavily used. For more solitude plan your trip to other areas.



SUGGESTED MAPS:

- San Juan and Rio Grande National Forest Maps available from the San Juan National Forest Association, P. O. Box 2261, Durango, CO. 81302 (303) 385-1210.
- USGS quadrangles available at local outdoor retail stores or the US Geological Survey, Box 25286, Federal Center, Building 41, Denver, CO 80225.

SUGGESTED READING:

- The South San Juan Wilderness Area: A Hiking and Field Guide by John A. Murray. Pruett Publishing Co: Boulder, CO., 1989.
- Leave No Trace, free booklet from the National Outdoor Leadership School. To order, call 1-800-332-4100.

<i>SOUTH SAN JUAN WILDERNESS</i>		
<i>Acres</i>	<i>Miles of Trails</i>	<i>No. of Lakes</i>
RGNF 88,000	100	30
SJNF 40,000	64	2
Total 128,000	164	32

