

WILDERNESS AWARENESS TRAINING MODULE



**A framework to increase understanding of Wilderness values,
policies and stewardship among Forest Service employees.**



**Produced by
Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center
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Acknowledgments

Contributors

Individuals responsible for development of this publication are Wilderness Excellence Team members including: Susan Thomas, R6; Kristen Meyer, R5; Melinda McWilliams, R8; Joyce Zifko, R9; Connie Birkland, R3; and Ramona Degorgio-Venegas, R9. Special thanks are extended to Susan Thomas for developing the first drafts of the project and to Connie Birkland for pilot testing and moving the product toward completion. A number of individuals contributed resources found in this publication. Deserving special credit are: Gretchen Weiss and Ralph Swain, R2 for the video list and wilderness fact sheets; Terry Daniel, University of Arizona for *The Green Scene* curriculum; Wilderness Society for *Keeping it Wild: A Citizen Guide to Wilderness Management*. When known, contributing authors are credited throughout the publication. There are a number of resources for which authorship is unknown. To those folks, “Thanks.”

Compilers

Converting the resources used in this publication to a consistent format was an involved and laborious process. For scanning and formatting, Bob Jaffe displayed considerable patience and persistence, while Dave Cornell put on the finishing touches. Diane Taliaferro personally contacted several individuals and organizations to ensure reprint rights were not violated. She helped edit and organize the publication. Bob Zingmark’s creativity is displayed on the cover and spine of this set of wilderness publications.

Supporters

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CONNIE G. MYERS
Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center
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Forward

Background

In late 1989, the Chief of the Forest Service chartered the National Wilderness Field Advisory Group to provide recommendations on maintaining quality wilderness field programs. In late 1991, the National Group Leader for Wilderness Management, John Twiss, and the Wilderness Field Advisory Group met and identified several objectives for achieving excellence in wilderness field management. Regional Wilderness Specialists and field Wilderness Excellence team members reviewed and validated these specific objectives. Responsibility for completing this and other national wilderness objectives in 1992 was given to the National Wildlands Training Center at Ninemile. F. Dale Robertson, Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, announced the establishment of the center as the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center on January 11, 1993.

One of five key areas identified as a priority was to develop a wilderness awareness training module. This publication is framework to increase understanding of wilderness values, policies and stewardship among Forest Service employees. It is designed to provide a flexible framework to be adapted according to the target audience needs, knowledge level and their role with wilderness management.

Improvements

As with many first efforts, there is undoubtedly room for improvement. We would like to incorporate your suggestions regarding content corrections, format, and additional information. Please use the enclosed comment form at the back of this publication to forward your suggestions.

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Wilderness Awareness Training Module

Purpose

The purpose of this module is to provide field units with a training program on the basics of wilderness management. The overall goal is to increase awareness of wilderness management. Emphasis is placed on wilderness values, the Wilderness Act, the need to manage wilderness and local management issues. Specifically, the intent of this training course is to provide participants with:

- 1) An understanding of wilderness as an integral part of the overall Forest Service Mission.
- 2) Increased awareness and understanding of wilderness values, legislation and management .
- 3) Commitment to the wilderness resource, understanding of personal responsibilities and stewardship.
- 4) An understanding of the importance and need for an interdisciplinary approach to wilderness management.

At the end of this training session participants will be able to explain:

- 1) The Purpose of wilderness designation.
- 2) Why wilderness needs to be managed.
- 3) The principles of wilderness management and their application to local issues.
- 4) The role of Wilderness within the Forest Service.
- 5) How the job of each participant relates to wilderness and their responsibility to convey their wilderness knowledge to the public.

Organization

Included in this notebook is all the material you will need to conduct a wilderness awareness training on your unit. The information presented provides a flexible framework to be adapted according to the target audience needs, knowledge level and their role in managing wilderness.

Presented in the next section is the fundamental information needed to get started. You will find information for facilitators, tips on what to look for when considering the target audience, and a step-by-step approach for conducting your own wilderness awareness training session.

The Appendixes include background reading that you must complete to ensure you (or your facilitator) are fully prepared and supplemental information that may be used in your training session.

Program Preparation

The key to a successful training session is preparation. Before you can figure out how much and what information to provide, which activities to use, and who is best suited to convey the information, you must first consider your target audience.

Target Audience

The target audience for this program is intended to be employees who have not been directly involved in wilderness management. These may include receptionists; resource clerks; public affairs officers; researchers; archeologists; biologists; fire, range, recreation, trail and fisheries crew members; engineers, Student Conservation Association and Youth Conservation Corps volunteers, and other new employees.

In addition to new employees, your target audience may include long-term Forest Service personnel having limited knowledge and information about wilderness management. Be aware that you will need to modify the way you present your information depending on your audience. For example, long-term employees will have a much higher level of understanding of Forest Service lingo than will new employees.

Facilitators

An effort has been made to provide all the information and materials you will need to conduct a wilderness awareness training session. However, every teaching situation is different and it is your responsibility to review the enclosed materials and decide what is most appropriate to meet your specific needs. If necessary, supplement the information with your own materials.

Facilitators and presenters of this program should be Forest Service personnel directly involved with local wilderness management. Search out effective and interesting speakers on your Forest or in your Region. Contact your Regional Wilderness Specialist and members of the Regional Wilderness Excellence Team for suggestions.

Preparation Steps

The following suggestions are provided as preliminary steps in preparing your program:

- 1) Thoroughly study *all* of the information included in this notebook. Do not make the mistake of thinking that just because the information has been gathered for you that your job is complete. It is critical that you take time to decide what information and activities are most appropriate to your situation. Start with the “Suggested Agenda” and modify it to meet your needs.
- 2) Determine the most appropriate time and place to conduct a wilderness awareness training and fly a brief description of the course, goals, agenda, educational outcome and targeted audience to generate participation.
- 3) Once your training session is scheduled, re-focus your attention on this notebook beginning with “Pre-reading for Facilitators.” Read your way through the other Appendixes and, based on your audience, decide which activities, handouts and overheads to use. Search out available wilderness displays, references, Skills Trails and local programs to supplement the Appendix material as necessary.

- 4) Select dynamic, qualified guest speakers and facilitators to help with the program presentation. Provide them, well in advance, with appropriate materials. Wilderness Rangers and other experienced employees are highly recommended.
- 5) You and your presenters should consider testing the various activity options on wilderness co-workers for effectiveness and preference. Present information and conduct the activities that are most comfortable for you and your presenters.
- 6) Develop and redistribute a final agenda and include information about the speakers, location, appropriate clothing, eating arrangements, travel and lodging, if necessary.
- 7) Prepare handouts, notebooks, overheads, displays, reference materials, maps, quotes and any other appropriate materials. Be certain that necessary equipment is available including flip charts, markers, overhead projector, extra bulbs, video player, extension cords, screen, tables and chairs.
- 8) Complete a summary of the course evaluations and forward it to H. Blaylock: R01F16D04A or mail it to Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, Ninemile Ranger District, 20325 Remount Rd., Huson, MT 59846. Please include copies of your agenda and any supplemental information you may have used. This will help us assist others in conducting this training.
- 9) Appropriately acknowledge presenters and others who provided course support and follow up with attendees as requested. Have fun and don't wait too long to schedule your next course!