

EXCELLENCE IN WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP

Park Self-Assessment

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

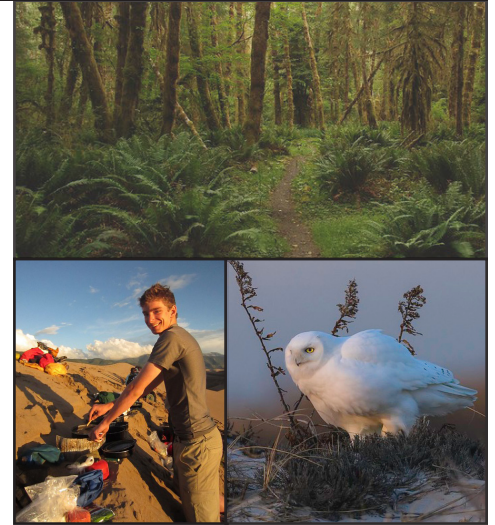
Wilderness Stewardship Division



Background

The National Park Service (NPS) “Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship” self-assessment tool, developed by the NPS National Wilderness Leadership Council and Wilderness Stewardship Division, serves as a means by which a wilderness park may conduct an informal, internal evaluation of the effectiveness of their wilderness stewardship program. The assessment includes 24 key elements considered fundamental to meeting the NPS legal and policy mandates to preserve wilderness character. Parks are encouraged to conduct this self-assessment using an interdisciplinary review team.

The benefits of conducting this self-assessment include 1) identifying the park’s overall status of wilderness stewardship, 2) validating the park’s achievements and commitment to wilderness stewardship, and 3) identifying areas in need of improvement and actions to achieve improvement.



Park Self-Assessment Questions

Park: _____ **Contact Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

1. Has the park superintendent attended the National Wilderness Leadership training provided by the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center (Carhart)?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Has the park deputy superintendent attended the National Wilderness Leadership training provided by Carhart?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

3. Has the park wilderness coordinator attended a regional or national wilderness training provided by Carhart?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Has your park hosted a wilderness unit training in the past 7 years?

☐ Yes ☐ No

5. Do you address wilderness stewardship and preservation in park seasonal training/orientation?

☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Are Minimum Requirements Analyses (MRA) completed for all actions that involve Wilderness Act Section 4(c) prohibited uses?

☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Are MRAs completed for all other actions that have potential to impact wilderness character?

☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Have staff responsible for preparing MRAs received formal training by a qualified presenter or trainer in the MRA writing process?

☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Has the park authority that approves MRAs received formal training in the MRA process?

☐ Yes ☐ No

10. Do you address the qualities of wilderness character in the affected environment and environmental consequences sections of wilderness related NEPA documents?

☐ Yes ☐ No

11. Is there an accurate and updated wilderness boundary map and legal description filed in park and with the WASO Wilderness office?

☐ Yes ☐ No

12. Does your park have an active interdisciplinary wilderness committee that conducts regularly scheduled meetings and/or meets when important wilderness stewardship issues require discussion?

☐ Yes ☐ No

13. Is wilderness stewardship and/or preservation of wilderness character referenced in all appropriate position descriptions?

☐ Yes ☐ No

14. Is wilderness stewardship and/or preservation of wilderness character referenced in vacancy announcements for positions with wilderness stewardship responsibilities?

☐ Yes ☐ No

15. Does the park have annual programmatic or interdivisional work plans that integrate key wilderness stewardship priorities?

☐ Yes ☐ No

16. Has all park acreage been evaluated for wilderness eligibility?

☐ Yes ☐ No

17. Has your park completed a Wilderness Character Narrative?

☐ Yes ☐ No

18. Has your park completed a Wilderness Character Baseline Assessment?

☐ Yes ☐ No

19. Does the park regularly monitor this baseline assessment to track changes and trends in wilderness character over time?

☐ Yes ☐ No

20. Does your park have a Wilderness Stewardship/Management Plan or equivalent plan to guide the preservation, management, and use of wilderness?

☐ Yes ☐ No

21. Is wilderness addressed as a fundamental resource value in your park's foundation document?

☐ Yes ☐ No

22. Is wilderness character preservation included as a theme in applicable interpretive plans/documents?

☐ Yes ☐ No

23. Is wilderness identified in your NPS unigrid brochure narrative *and* map?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

24. Is wilderness integrated into the park website and printed media?

☐ Yes ☐ No

REMARKS

Be sure to connect each remark to a specific question(s)

ASSESSMENT SCORE

_____ [# of "yes" responses] ÷ _____ [# of total applicable questions] = _____%

*Did the park score 80% or higher? If so, congratulations on achieving the **NPS Gold Standard for Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship** -- keep up the good work! If not, please identify the questions lacking affirmative responses and consider prioritizing these in future wilderness stewardship efforts for the park.*