



# Why a Backcountry Management Plan?



*Zion National Park is preparing an environmental assessment in support of a Backcountry Management Plan. You are invited to provide your written comments and become part of this planning effort. The purpose of these scoping meetings is to identify issues that should be resolved through the planning process.*

## **Backcountry Management Plan Goals**

- Protect and conserve the park's natural and cultural resources and values, and the integrity of the wilderness character for present and future generations.
- Provide for the maximum freedom of public use and enjoyment of the park's backcountry in a manner that is consistent with park purposes, wilderness management, and the protection of park resources and values.
- Provide for public understanding and support of wilderness values.

## **General Management Plan**

A General Management Plan (GMP) was completed in 2001. The GMP divided the park into management zones (frontcountry high development, frontcountry low development, transition, primitive, pristine, and research natural areas). The backcountry plan

will cover areas within the primitive, pristine, and research natural area zones, as well as a small portion of the transition zone. Management of over 95% of the acreage within the park will be covered through this planning process.

## **Wilderness**

Much of the park's backcountry has been recommended for wilderness designation. The Wilderness Act of 1964 carries a number of requirements. Lands must be managed for their use and enjoyment in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness. National Park Service policy requires that recommended wilderness be managed in the same manner as congressionally designated wilderness to conserve wilderness values until Congress acts. The backcountry management plan will include all recommended wilderness in the park.