

ALAN E. WATSON
Supervisory Research Social Scientist
Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute
790 E. Beckwith
Missoula, MT 59801
406-542-4197
FAX: 406-542-4196
awatson@fs.fed.us

Leopold Institute: Interagency (Departments of Interior & Agriculture) research unit focused on providing physical and social science needed to support wild land planning and management. The Leopold Institute has a national and international mission, working with the federal agencies through the Rocky Mountain Research Station, USDA Forest Service.

Social Science at the Leopold Institute: Leadership of the social science requires active engagement in research projects across the U.S. and in many places around the world. Duties include supervising employees and students, providing financial support and engagement in university research, serving as Editor, Guest Editor, Special Editor of journals, and facilitating training of managers to apply recent research findings.

Examples of Current Research Projects:

1. Understanding recreation visitor experiences and meanings at the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska
2. Influences on sustainable ecotourism development in Kamchatka, Russia
3. Planning Support Systems: using interactive GIS mapping of meanings and threats to protect cultural landscapes on the Flathead Indian Reservation through improved forest health
4. Understanding social forces of change influencing human relationships with the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, Minnesota.
5. Monitoring trust in public land managers' ability to consider local meanings attached to the landscape in ecosystem management, Bitterroot National Forest, Montana.

Examples of Commitment to Wilderness and Wild Lands:

1. Executive Editor for Science of the International Journal of Wilderness
2. Science Symposium Coordinator and Executive Committee, 6th - India, 7th - South Africa, 8th - Alaska, 9th - (Mexico) World Wilderness Congresses
3. Member, National Social Fire Science Strategic Planning Area Committee, USDA Forest Service
4. Executive Committee Member – Bitterroot Ecosystem Management Research Project, Montana
5. Coordinator, Forest Service Chief's Wilderness Stewardship Science Award
6. Fulbright Scholar to Finland (University of Lapland), Brazil (University of São Paulo), Russia (Russian Academy of Sciences, Komarov Botanical Institute) to study and assess efforts to protect wild nature.