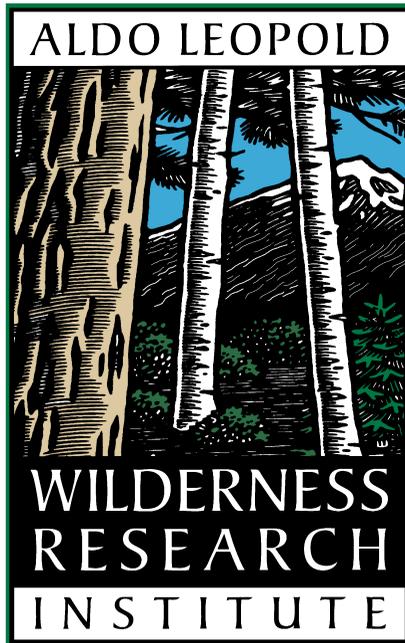


For more information, visit:
leopold.wilderness.net

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THE ALDO LEOPOLD WILDERNESS RESEARCH

INSTITUTE is the only Federal research group in the United States dedicated to improving wilderness stewardship and preserving wilderness values.

The Leopold Institute provides leadership by working with managers and other scientists to develop the knowledge and tools needed to improve wilderness stewardship and preserve the ecological and social values derived from wild and protected landscapes. We communicate and facilitate the application of this knowledge to wilderness managers, policymakers, educators, and other scientists. Our materials are available via publications, websites, seminars, workshops, trainings, demonstrations, and one-on-one consultations.

The Leopold Institute is administered by the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station (www.fs.fed.us/rmrs). We operate under an agreement between the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service. Our mission depends on collaboration and partnerships with a wide variety of individuals and organizations.



Science For Wilderness

Science For Wilderness

Fire...Let it Burn...

In a handful of areas, wildfires have been allowed to burn without being suppressed; we evaluate the natural role of fire, and how to use fire as a cost-effective management strategy that can benefit natural resources.



People visiting wilderness...how it's changing overtime

Our scientists are evaluating a time-series database that tracks wilderness permit data over multiple decades. It allows us to look at how the numbers of people visiting are changing over time and will be useful in forecasting how changing demographics and population will affect future wilderness recreation.

Wildlife Management

The project will summarize the general powers and authorities of federal agencies to manage wildlife on federal lands and clarify how those powers are generally interpreted and implemented by federal agencies. It will provide a concise review of relevant laws, regulations and policies on federal lands.

Understanding Visitors in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

We are coordinating a survey of visitors to help managers understand attributes valued highly by different types of visitors (e.g., hunters, floaters, anglers, hikers, guided groups, private groups, etc.), response to conditions encountered (social and ecological) during trips.

Use of traditional knowledge in restoration of public lands

In areas with mixed public or trust ownership and usage managers need to understand how place-based traditional knowledge can contribute to post-disturbance restoration (from drought, flood and fire events) to increase cultural and ecological resistance to future impacts. This project is ongoing in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming and Montana.

**Highlights from some of the ongoing work at the Leopold Institute in 2016-2017
(more info at: leopold.wilderness.net)**

Wilderness For Science

Fire and climate change

Our scientists use fire and climate data from protected areas to better understand how fire regimes might change over the next several decades as a result of human caused climate change.

Role of refugia

We are working to understand and predict where fire refugia—places less affected by fire within high severity burn mosaics—play a key role in maintaining and regenerating fire-prone forests.

Keeping It Wild 2

Keeping it Wild 2 provides a tested and refined interagency strategy to monitor trends in wilderness character based on lessons learned from 15 years of experience developing and implementing wilderness character monitoring across the National Wilderness Preservation System. It provides a foundation for the four federal wilderness managing agencies to develop a nationally consistent approach to wilderness character monitoring.



Visitor Use Management - Grand Staircase-Escalante

The Monument will be managed (1) to protect "its primitive, frontier state," by safeguarding its "remote and undeveloped character;" and (2) to "provide opportunities for the study of scientific and historic resources." Management problems have surfaced and our scientists compiled, analyzed and displayed existing visitor use related monitoring data. We also worked with local staff to develop the management direction needed for visitor use management decisions.



Tools For Managers

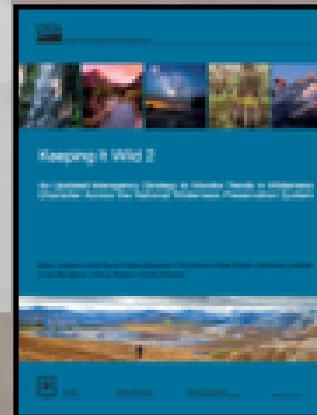
Interventions...when is it ok?

One of the most challenging parts of a manager's job is deciding when to intervene; such decisions need to incorporate diverse legal, scientific, and ethical considerations. In response to this challenge, we collaborated with managers to develop an Evaluation Framework for Proposed Ecological Interventions in Wilderness.



Ecosystem Services

We are developing a tool for the Shoshone National Forest, to illustrate the flow of water-based ecosystem services to diverse stakeholder groups of the Wind/Bighorn Basin. This landscape will serve as a case study to refine our methods and to demonstrate utility for all federal public lands, including designated wilderness.



Evaluating Management Effectiveness

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature developed a comprehensive framework for evaluating the management effectiveness of protected areas. But it has not yet been applied in the US. We are developing develop an interagency framework for evaluating management effectiveness across federal wilderness lands to help local, regional, and national managers. It will improve stewardship and accountability.