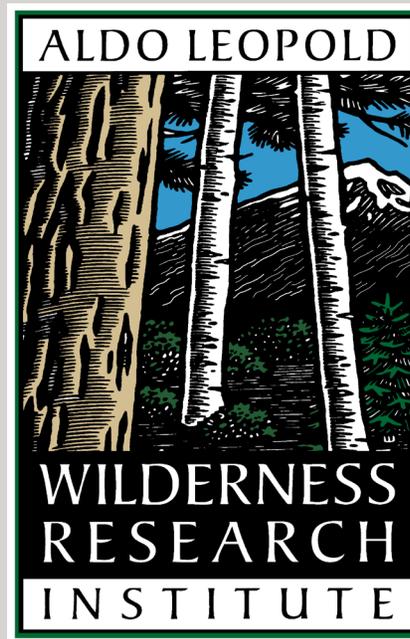




THE ALDO LEOPOLD
WILDERNESS RESEARCH
INSTITUTE

- 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.
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ALDO LEOPOLD WILDERNESS RESEARCH INSTITUTE





USE OF TRADITIONAL
KNOWLEDGE IN RESTORATION



HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOME OF THE ONGOING
WORK AT THE LEOPOLD INSTITUTE IN 2017-2018



WE WELCOME MORE INPUT ON ISSUES

SCIENCE

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.

WILDERNESS

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.

PROTECTED AREAS PROVIDE SAFE HARBOR FOR IMPORTANT SPECIES AS CLIMATE CHANGES

Findings suggest that the protected area network is likely to be severely compromised by a changing climate. The majority of protected areas (~80%) may be exposed to high rates of climate shifts that could result in changes in species abundance or distribution in these areas. A small fraction of protected areas (<10%) could be critical for future conservation plans, since they will host climates that match the climates currently characterizing almost a fifth of the protected areas.

RESOURCES

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.