



ARTHUR CARHART NATIONAL WILDERNESS TRAINING CENTER

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS DECISION GUIDE

WORKSHEETS

“ . . . except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act...”

– the Wilderness Act, 1964

Please refer to the accompanying MRDG Instructions for filling out this guide.

The spaces in the worksheets will expand as necessary as you enter your response.

The MRDG Instructions may be found at: <http://www.wilderness.net/mrdg/>

Project Title: _____

Step 1: Determine if any administrative action is necessary.

Description: Describe the situation that may prompt action.

To determine if administrative action is necessary, answer the questions listed in A - F on the following pages by answering Yes or No, and providing an explanation.

A. Options Outside of Wilderness

Is action necessary within wilderness?

Yes: ☐ No: ☐

Explain:

B. Valid Existing Rights or Special Provisions of Wilderness Legislation

Is action necessary to satisfy valid existing rights or a special provision in wilderness legislation (the Wilderness Act of 1964 or subsequent wilderness laws) that allows or requires consideration of the Section 4(c) prohibited uses? Cite law and section.

Yes: ☐ No: ☐

Explain:

C. Requirements of Other Legislation

Is action necessary to meet the requirements of other laws? Cite law and section.

Yes: ☐ No: ☐

Explain:

D. Other Guidance

Is action necessary to conform to direction contained in agency policy, unit and wilderness management plans, species recovery plans, or agreements with tribal, state and local governments or other federal agencies?

Yes: ☐ No: ☐

Explain:

E. Wilderness Character

Is action necessary to preserve one or more of the qualities of wilderness character including: Untrammeled, Undeveloped, Natural, Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation, or Unique Attributes or Other Features that reflect the character of this wilderness area?

Untrammeled: **Yes:** ☐ **No:** ☐

Explain:

Undeveloped: **Yes:** ☐ **No:** ☐

Explain:

Natural: **Yes:** ☐ **No:** ☐

Explain:

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation:

Yes: ☐ **No:** ☐

Explain:

Unique Attributes or Other Features that reflect the character of this wilderness:

Yes: ☐ **No:** ☐

Explain:

F. Public Purposes

Is action necessary to protect one or more of the public purposes for wilderness (as stated in Section 4(b) of the Wilderness Act) of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use?

Recreational: **Yes:** ☐ **No:** ☐

Explain:

Scenic: **Yes:** ☐ **No:** ☐

Explain:

Scientific: **Yes:** ☐ **No:** ☐

Explain:

Educational: **Yes:** ☐ **No:** ☐

Explain:

Conservation: **Yes:** ☐ **No:** ☐

Explain:

Historical: **Yes:** ☐ **No:** ☐

Explain:

Step 1 Decision: Is any administrative action necessary in wilderness?

In reviewing the Step 1 questions in A - F above, note that not all answers have equal weight in the Step 1 Decision: A - C and E have first priority; F has second priority; D has third priority. See [Instructions](#) for details.

Yes: ☐ **No:** ☐

Explain:

If action is necessary, proceed to Step 2 to determine the minimum activity.

Step 2: Determine the minimum activity.

Please refer to the accompanying MRDG [Instructions](#) for information on identifying alternatives and an explanation of the effects criteria displayed below.

Description of Alternatives

For each alternative, describe what the action is, when the activity will take place, where the activity will take place, and what methods and techniques will be used. Detail the impacts to the qualities of wilderness character and other comparison criteria, including safety. Where mitigation is possible, include mitigation measures. In addition to describing the effects of the alternative, it may be useful to break down each alternative into its component parts and list in tabular form the impacts to each comparison criterion.

Alternative # _____

Description:

Impacts to Wilderness Character:

Untrammeled

Undeveloped

Natural

Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Unique Attributes or Other Features

Impacts to other criteria:

Maintaining Traditional Skills

Special Provisions

Economics and Timing Constraints

Impacts to safety of visitors and workers

Impacts Comparison Tables

Wilderness Character

Untrammeled			
	positive impacts	negative impacts	Untrammeled Grand Total
1 st component:			
2 nd component:			
3 rd component:			
4 th component:			
TOTAL			

Undeveloped

	positive impacts	negative impacts	Undeveloped Grand Total
1 st component:			
2 nd component:			
3 rd component:			
4 th component:			
TOTAL			

Natural

	positive impacts	negative impacts	Natural Grand Total
1 st component:			
2 nd component:			
3 rd component:			
4 th component:			
TOTAL			

Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

	positive impacts	negative impacts	S or P&UR Grand Total
1 st component:			
2 nd component:			
3 rd component:			
4 th component:			
TOTAL			

Unique Attributes or Other Features

	positive impacts	negative impacts	UA or OF Grand Total
1 st component:			
2 nd component:			
3 rd component:			
4 th component:			
TOTAL			

Other Criteria

Maintaining Traditional Skills

	actions with beneficial effects	actions with adverse effects	Traditional Skills Grand Total
1 st component:			
2 nd component:			
3 rd component:			
4 th component:			
TOTAL			

Special Provisions

	positive impacts	negative impacts	Special Provisions Grand Total
1 st component:			
2 nd component:			
3 rd component:			
4 th component:			
TOTAL			

Economics and Timing Constraints

	positive impacts	negative impacts	Economics & Timing Grand Total
1 st component:			
2 nd component:			
3 rd component:			
4 th component:			
TOTAL			

Safety of Visitors and Workers

	positive impacts	negative impacts	Safety Grand Total
1 st component:			
2 nd component:			
3 rd component:			
4 th component:			
TOTAL			

Comparison of Alternatives

It may be useful to compare each alternative's positive and negative impacts to each of the criteria in tabular form, keeping in mind the law's mandate to "preserve wilderness character."

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	No Action
Untrammeled				
Undeveloped				
Natural				
Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation				
Unique / Other Features				
WILDERNESS CHARACTER				

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	No Action
Maintaining Traditional Skills				
Special Provisions				
Economics & Timing				
OTHER CRITERIA SUMMARY				

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	No Action
SAFETY (visitors & workers)				

Safety Criterion

Occasionally, safety concerns can legitimately dictate choosing one alternative which degrades wilderness character (or other criteria) more than an otherwise preferable alternative. In that case, describe the positive and negative impacts in terms of risks to the public and workers for each alternative here but avoid pre-selecting an alternative based on the safety criteria in this section.

Documentation:

To support the evaluation of alternatives, provide an analysis, reference, or documentation and avoid assumptions about risks and the potential for accidents. This documentation can take the form of agency accident-rate data tracking occurrences and severity; a project-specific job hazard analysis; research literature; or other specific agency guidelines.

Step 2 Decision: What is the Minimum Activity?

Please refer to the accompanying MRDG [Instructions](#) before describing the selected alternative and describing the rationale for selection.

Selected alternative:

Rationale for selecting this alternative (including safety criterion, if appropriate):

Monitoring and reporting requirements:

Check any Wilderness Act Section 4(c) uses approved in this alternative:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> mechanical transport | <input type="checkbox"/> landing of aircraft |
| <input type="checkbox"/> motorized equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> temporary road |
| <input type="checkbox"/> motor vehicles | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> motorboats | <input type="checkbox"/> installation |

Record and report any authorizations of Wilderness Act Section 4(c) uses according to agency policies or guidelines.

Follow agency policies for the following review and decision authorities:

Approvals	Signature	Name	Position	Date
Prepared by:				
Recommended:				
Recommended:				
Approved:				