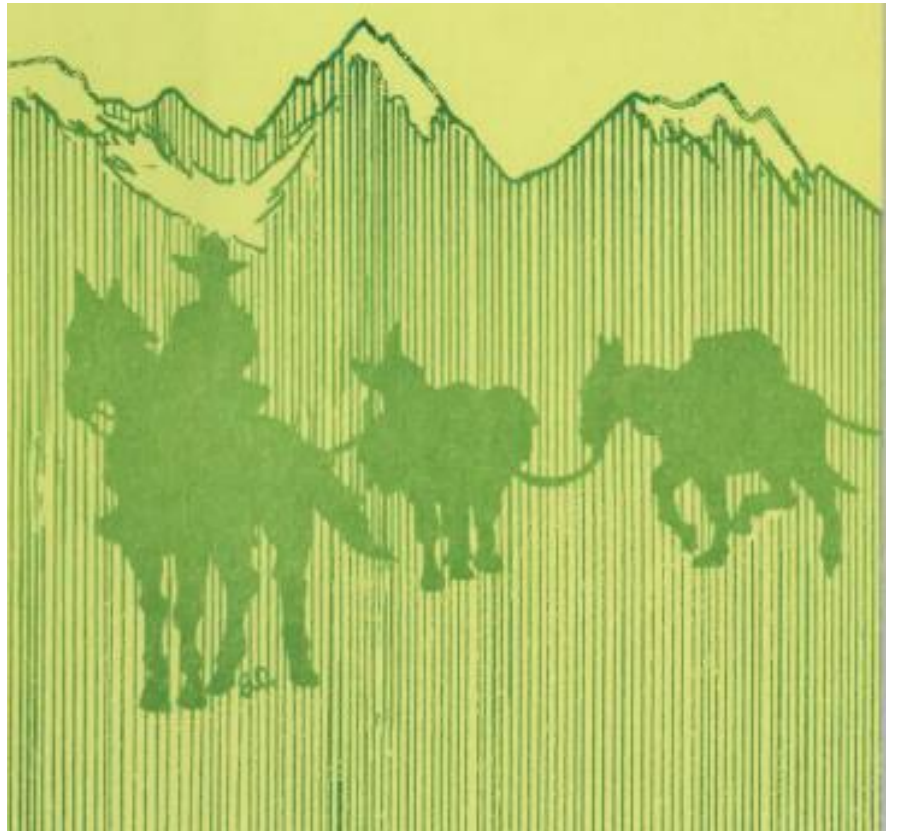


# **WILDERNESS VISITOR STUDY**

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Great Bear  
Scapegoat**



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**INTERMOUNTAIN FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION,  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOREST SERVICE**

Wilderness Visitor Study

All of the following questions refer to the Wilderness visit you made on about \_\_\_\_\_, 1982, entering/leaving at \_\_\_\_\_.

**IMPORTANT!** The term "Wilderness" in this questionnaire means the roadless, undeveloped country reached only by trails or rivers. These questions refer only to the Wilderness portion of your trip, not to places along the road

First, we would like to know about some of the things your party did on this visit.

**1. How did you travel in the Wilderness (the roadless country) on this visit?**

**(Check all that apply, but if more than one, underline the way you traveled most.)**

☐ hiked, carrying our equipment ourselves

☐ raft, canoe, kayak, etc.

☐ hiked, leading horses or mules

☐ horseback

☐ other (describe \_\_\_\_\_)

**2. If your party used horses or mules, please answer the following question. (If not, please skip to QUESTION 3.)**

**a. How many horses or mules did your party take? \_\_\_\_\_**

**b. Was supplemental feed packed in?**

☐ No

☐ Yes → **What kind of feed?** ☐ Hay ☐ Grain ☐ Pellets

**c. How were most of the horses or mules handled at night?**

☐ kept in a corral ☐ turned loose ☐ Hobbled

☐ tied to trees ☐ picketed

☐ tied to a rope stretched between trees

☐ other (explain \_\_\_\_\_)

**3. Which of the following things did you do in the Wilderness on this visit? (Check only those things that you personally did.)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish  | <input type="checkbox"/> Rafting or other boating    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunt  | <input type="checkbox"/> Swim                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hike  | <input type="checkbox"/> Take pictures (photography) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature study (bird watching, identifying wild flowers, rock study, etc.)  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain climb (using ropes, special equipment, etc., not just hiking up) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe: _____)   |  |

**4. Which of the following large wildlife did you see in the Wilderness?**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> grizzly bear              | <input type="checkbox"/> elk            | <input type="checkbox"/> moose         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> black bear                | <input type="checkbox"/> deer           | <input type="checkbox"/> bighorn sheep |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bear, not sure which kind | <input type="checkbox"/> mountain goats | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____   |

**If you were hunting, what did you get?** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Did your party stay out overnight in the Wilderness, beyond the road, on this visit?**

☐ No

☐ Yes → **Total number of nights?** \_\_\_\_\_. **Did you:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> have a wood fire (campfire) | <input type="checkbox"/> have both a wood fire and a gas stove |
| <input type="checkbox"/> use a gas stove             | <input type="checkbox"/> neither                               |

**6. Did an outfitter or guide go with you?**

☐ No

☐ Yes → **Was it a:**

- |   |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fully outfitted trip                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Spot pack" or "Drop camp" (brought in and left) |

**7. Did your party have maps or guidebooks for the Wilderness?**

☐ No

☐ Yes → **(What kinds?** \_\_\_\_\_)

8. Was going to the Wilderness the **SOLE** purpose of this trip away from home, or were there other purposes for the trip, too (such as visiting another recreation area or park or visiting friends along the way)?

☐ Visiting the Wilderness was the sole purpose of this trip  
☐ Visited another place or places on this trip also

9. Have you ever visited any Wilderness before this trip?

☐ No → *Go to question 11*

☐ Yes → At about what age did you first visit a Wilderness? \_\_\_\_\_

Was this with your parents? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Do you usually return to Wilderness places you have already visited, or do you spend most of your time hiking or riding in areas new to you?

☐ Spend most of my time in areas new to me  
☐ Spend most of my time revisiting areas I've been in previously  
☐ Spend my time doing both of the above equally

10. Have you visited this Wilderness area before?

☐ No → *Go to question 11*

☐ Yes → About how many times? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you say the quality of this area was:

☐ Getting better  
☐ About the same  
☐ Getting worse

What, if anything, seemed different? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Did you personally choose (or help choose) the trailhead where you entered the Wilderness?

☐ Yes → *Continue with question 12*

☐ No → Who did choose?

☐ An outfitter or guide  
☐ Someone else in your party  
☐ Other (explain \_\_\_\_\_)

—————→ **Now skip to QUESTION 16**

**12. How long before you visited the Wilderness did you choose the trailhead where you entered the area?**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> on the way                | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 week to 1 month before |
| <input type="checkbox"/> less than 24 hours before | <input type="checkbox"/> more than 1 month before |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24 hours to 1 week before |   |

**13. How did you find out about the trailhead you chose? (Check all that were important)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Been there lots of times                  | <input type="checkbox"/> A guidebook     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't remember how I found out about it   | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper story |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Studied a map                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Magazine story  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Told by friends or relatives              | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signs along the road                      | <input type="checkbox"/> TV              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Service ranger (or other employee) |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain _____)                     |  |

**14. What was there about this trailhead that caused you to choose it? (Check all that were important)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close to home         | <input type="checkbox"/> Been there before, familiarity         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easy trail            | <input type="checkbox"/> A new area, variety                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less crowded          | <input type="checkbox"/> Access to food fishing or hunting area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain _____) |   |

**15. Did you consider some other trailheads, and reject them, before you finally chose the one where you entered?**

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes → **What was there about rejected trailheads that caused you to choose another place?** \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**16. Did you contact the Forest Service to get information about the Wilderness before your trip?**

☐ No → *Go to question 18*

☐ Yes

**17. a. Did you: (Check all that apply.)**

☐ Visit a Forest Service office

☐ Telephone a Forest Service office

☐ Write a Forest Service office

**b. How well did the information you got from the Forest Service meet your needs?**

☐ Very well

☐ Fairly well

☐ Not very well

☐ No opinion, or don't remember

**18. Including this visit, how many times did you visit a Wilderness in the past 12 months?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**How many total days did you spend in a Wilderness on all visits in the past 12 months?**

\_\_\_\_\_

The following questions ask for your personal opinion about the Wilderness you visited. This information will assist the Forest Service to better manage and protect the Wilderness.

- 19. What were your main reasons for choosing to visit this kind of area (a roadless Wilderness) instead of some other kind of recreation area? Please indicate the importance of each of the following by marking one answer after each statement.**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
To enjoy scenic beauty.....	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
To fish.....	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
To hunt.....	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
To relax.....	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
To exercise and get in shape.....	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
To escape civilization.....	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
To develop backcountry skills.....	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
To experience solitude.....	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
To face the challenge of wild country.....	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
To avoid mechanized recreation.....	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Other reasons.....	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

(explain \_\_\_\_\_)

- 20. How satisfied were you, personally with this trip into Wilderness? What kind of a grade would you give it? (Check one.)**

[ ] A, Very good    [ ] B, Good    [ ] C, Fair    [ ] D, Poor    [ ] F, Very poor

**What was most satisfying about the trip? (The high points.)**

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**What was most dissatisfying about the trip? (The low points.)**

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- 21. When you are camped in the Wilderness, about how many other parties would you prefer camped within sight or sound of your camp? \_\_\_\_\_**

If you didn't camp overnight in the Wilderness on this trip, please skip to question 29.

22. On this trip into the Wilderness, were you able to find a campsite with this preferred number of other campers?

☐ Always                      ☐ Usually  
(at least ½ time)                      ☐ Sometimes                      ☐ Never  
(less than ½ time)

23. When you were looking for a place to camp on this trip, did you take the first available campsite you found in the general area where you intended to stay?

☐ Always                      ☐ Usually  
(at least ½ time)                      ☐ Sometimes                      ☐ Never  
(less than ½ time)

24. On this trip, did you pass up an available campsite because you didn't like the condition it was in? (The next question asks about location; now we just want to know if you passed up a campsite because of its condition.)

☐ No

☐ Yes → What didn't you like about it? (check all that apply)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Litter (cans, paper, etc.)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood scarce           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horse manure   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cut or damaged trees      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bare ground or dust, exposed tree roots, erosion of the soil, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Grazing for horses scarce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Old campfire remains, rock fire rings, etc.                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain_____)   |  |

25. On this trip, did you pass up an available campsite in the area where you intended to stay because of its location?

☐ No

☐ Yes → If so, what was it that you didn't like about it?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poor view             | <input type="checkbox"/> Too close to other occupied camps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water too far away    | <input type="checkbox"/> Too close to trail; No privacy    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe_____) |  |



**26. On this trip, did you purposely leave the trail to look for a campsite?**

☐ No

☐ Yes

**27. Did you have serious problems finding unoccupied places to camp?**

☐ No

☐ At one place

☐ At more than one place

**28. On this trip, did you generally use campsites that had been used before, or sites that hadn't been used before, as best as you could tell? (Check one.)**

☐ Usually used sites that hadn't been camped on before

☐ Usually used sites that had been camped on before

☐ Used both sites that had and hadn't been used before about equally

**29. How did you feel about the number of other people you saw in the Wilderness on this visit? (check one.)**

☐ Saw way too few

☐ Saw too few

☐ About right

☐ Saw too many

☐ Saw way too many

☐ Did not matter to be one way or the other

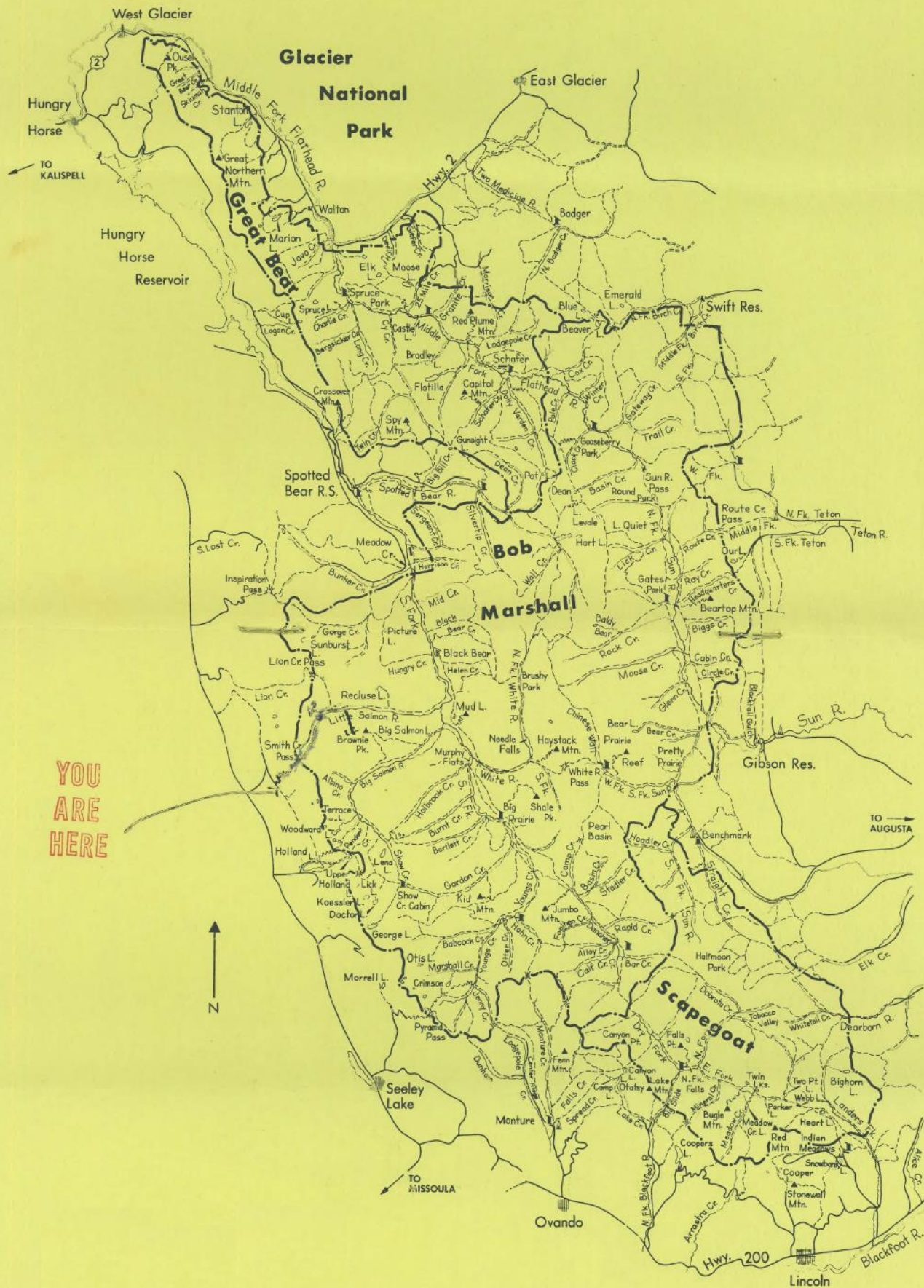
☐ Do not remember

**30. About how many other parties did you see in the Wilderness on this trip? \_\_\_\_\_**

**How many of these were large parties (say, over 10 people)? \_\_\_\_\_**

**How many of the parties had horses or mules? \_\_\_\_\_**

On the map below please: (A) Draw an arrow along your route (off the road). Include any off-trail travel. (B) Mark your campsites with an "X" and write the number of nights you spent at each campsite next to the "X".



**31. Did you feel crowding was a problem in the Wilderness in places you visited?**

☐ No

☐ Yes → **Please note the places you felt were crowded. (A very simple description of the place will be enough; something like, "around Smith Lake," or "on the trail between Jones Pass and Brown River.")**

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**32. How did you feel about the condition of the Wilderness in terms of wear and tear from use, causing erosion and loss of vegetation, and in terms of litter? (Check one box in each row.)**

	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor	Do not remember
Wear and tear	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Litter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe what seemed wrong, if anything: \_\_\_\_\_

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**33. Thinking about the Wilderness you visited, how desirable or undesirable do you think each of the following is? (check one box after each item.)**

	Undesirable	Don't Care	Desirable	Desirable in more heavily used parts of Wilderness, but not in more lightly used parts
A. High standard trails (wide, steady grades, fairly straight.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Low standard trails (somewhat like a game trail -- narrow, grade varies, winding, not the shortest route)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Leaving some areas with no trails	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. A few trees blown down across the trail, maybe 1 or 2 per mile	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Bridges over creeks where hikers would otherwise get wet feet.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Bridges over rivers that are dangerous for hikers to wade or for horses to ford	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Outhouses (pit toilets)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
H. Cemented rock fireplaces with metal grates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I. Small, loose rock fireplaces (fire rings)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
J. Natural forest fires started by lightning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
K. Pole corrals at campsites for horses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
L. Closing some areas to use by horse parties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
M. Prohibiting wood fires where dead wood is scarce (requiring use of gas stoves)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N. Split log picnic tables at campsites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
O. Restricting the number of visitors to an area if it is being used beyond capacity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P. Eliminating grazing by visitors' horses (require carrying horse feed)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q. Require all visitors to register when entering	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Undesirable	Don't Care	Desirable	Desirable in more heavily used parts of Wilderness, but not in more lightly used parts
R. A natural fishery-no stocking and barren lakes left barren	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
S. Limiting the size of parties to 12 people	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
T. Prohibiting camping within 200 feet of lakes, Wild and Scenic Rivers, or streams	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
U. Encouraging visitors to remove fire rings and all evidence of campfires when breaking camp	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
V. Signs along the trail explaining natural features or early history	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
W. Burying unburnable trash	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
X. Use of chain saws by the administrators to clear trails of trees	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Y. A guidebook to the Wilderness	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
Z. A detailed, accurate map	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
AA. Issue trip permits so visitors could only camp each night in the area assigned to them	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
BB. Expect campers to use only dead wood on the ground for campfires	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
CC. Allow visitors to catch fish to eat in the Wilderness but not to bring out	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
DD. Packing unburnable garbage back out of the Wilderness	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
EE. Rangers or patrolmen in the backcountry	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

**Did you meet a Ranger in the Wilderness?** [ ] No [ ] Yes

**Please comment on any of the items above, if you want to:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



We would also like some background information about you. This information is needed to predict future use and to compare different kinds of recreation areas. We respect your privacy – all this information will be kept strictly confidential.

**36. How many people were in your party in the Wilderness on this trip, including yourself?**

**How many were in each of the following age and sex categories (Please put the correct number in each box.)**

	Up to 14 years old	15 to 24 years old	25 to 44 years old	Over 44 years old
Males				
Females				

**37. Were these people: (Skip if you were alone.)**

- ☐ A family or families (includes part of a family)
- ☐ A family plus friends (includes part of a family)
- ☐ Friends and acquaintances (not related)
- ☐ From an organization (scouts, club, etc.)
- ☐ Other (describe \_\_\_\_\_)

**38. Do you belong to any conservation or outdoor recreation clubs?**

- ☐ No
  - ☐ Yes → Which ones? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

39. **Where do you live? And where did you live most of your life before age 18? (Check one box in each column. If you live or used to live in a suburb, answer in terms of the whole metropolitan area.)**

	Where do you now live?	Where did you live most of your life before age 18?
On a farm	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ]	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ]
Rural or small town (under 1,000 population)	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ]	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ]
Town (1,000 - 5,000 population)	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ]	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ]
Small city (5,000 - 50,000 population)	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ]	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ]
Medium city (50,000 - 1 million population)	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ]	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ]
Large city (Over 1 million population)	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ]	<input type="checkbox"/> [ ]

40. **What is the highest year of school you have completed? (circle)**

Elementary	High School	College	Graduate School
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	9 10 11 12	13 14 15 16	17 18 19 or more

**Are you still a student?**

☐ [ ] No

☐ [ ] Yes

41. **What is your occupation? (If retired, also show occupation before retirement.)**

**What kind of work are you doing?** \_\_\_\_\_

**To help us determine occupation, please list your most important activities or duties.**

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Please mail the completed questionnaire in the self-addressed, stamped envelope.  
Thank you very much!



**(If you have any other comments, please write them here. And, thanks again!)**