

Wilderness Application

Application Overview

Natural Resource Manager's (NRM) Wilderness application provides online data storage and analysis tools to better manage Forest Service's 448 federally-designated Wilderness areas and ensure Agency accountability to the Wilderness Act.

The application contains five modules: (1) general wilderness, (2) Wilderness Study Areas/recommended wilderness, (3) wilderness character monitoring, (4) visitor use permit system, and (5) wilderness recreation monitoring. The first three modules support program management and required Agency reporting. The latter two modules provide USFS staff optional tools for improved wilderness recreation management.

Key Features

- Stores data on the Agency's Wilderness areas such as summary reports, profiles, and stewardship performance progress
- Allows local wilderness managers to review and approve wilderness characteristic measures that use data in NRM
- Monitors campsite occupancy, visitor use permits, and wilderness recreation site impacts
- Tracks data on Wilderness Study Areas/recommended wilderness

Agency Benefits

- Provides the Agency a comprehensive understanding of Forest Service Wilderness Area management
- Connects people to Wilderness by providing standard data on the Agency's Wilderness areas to Wilderness.net, a website visited by half a million people annually
- Supports accurate and efficient reporting on Forest Service Wilderness Areas to Congress, the Department, and Wilderness partners



Case Study

In 2005, Chief Dale Bosworth issued a 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge to have all Forest Service wilderness areas managed in accordance with ten performance elements by 2014, the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

NRM Wilderness was key in helping the Agency meet this Challenge. The application provided the Chief, the Agency, and relevant partners, up-to-date information on progress and accomplishments. It helped highlight those performance elements needing regional or national attention. It also identified possible funding needs—internal and external—to improve wilderness management. With the help of the Wilderness application, the Agency was successful in meeting the Chief's Challenge.

"The NRM Wilderness application improves our understanding of how we manage our Wilderness Areas, helps us identify where to focus our resources, and tracks our compliance with the Wilderness Act. The application is essential in managing these special places."

Peter Mali
Wilderness Program Manager