

NATIONAL WILDERNESS SKILLS INSTITUTE



MAY 24–26, 2022

WELCOME!



While we would rather be together in-person, we hope this week of training and networking fills you with new skills, inspiration, and energy that propels you into a season of stewarding wilderness and wild & scenic rivers. Thank you for taking the time to join us on this adventure!

The National Wilderness Skills Institute Core Team is staff from federal agencies and partner organizations from across the nation.



Angie Fuhrmann

River Training Center Coordinator
River Management Society



Jimmy Gaudry

Northern Region Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers
Program Manager, USDA Forest Service



Risa Shimoda

Executive Director
River Management Society



Togan Capozza

Acting Pacific Southwest Region Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers
Program Manager, USDA Forest Service



Eric Giebelstein

Regional Director
Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards



J. Dan Abbe

Wilderness Specialist, USDA Forest Service Representative,
Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center



Peter Keller

National Wilderness Program Manager
Bureau of Land Management



Carol A. Hennessey

Recreation, Trails, Wilderness, Outfitter & Guide & Rivers Program
Manager, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, USDA Forest Service



Todd Loubsky

Program Director
Society for Wilderness Stewardship



Nancy Taylor

Pacific Northwest Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Congressionally
Designated Areas Program Manager, USDA Forest Service



Dusty Vaughn











Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers Specialist,
Washington Office, USDA Forest Service

ASSIGNMENT:

Participate in the National Wilderness Skills Institute, a free online training event focused on wilderness and wild & scenic river stewardship, with classes ranging from traditional field skills to data management for all levels of experience.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Using the links provided in agenda, join virtual Zoom rooms. Your control panel appears at the bottom of the screen:

- ☐ Join Audio  or click Unmute  / Mute  microphone. Click the ^ arrow to change microphone or speaker.
- ☐ Click Start Video  / Stop Video  for camera. Click the ^ arrow to change cameras or a **virtual background**.
- ☐ Click Participants  to see who's currently in the meeting. To rename yourself, hover over your name, click More, and choose Rename. "Name, Organization" is ideal.
- ☐ Use the Chat  to ask or respond to questions.
- ☐ If the host allows, use Share Screen  to select the desktop or application you want to share.
- ☐ Reactions  allow you to communicate to the presenter without disrupting. Use Raise Hand  icon if asked.

Test your connection and controls at <https://zoom.us/test>

WHAT TO PACK:

- ☐ Eagerness to learn – ask questions, respond to polls, participate in breakout rooms, volunteer to share!
- ☐ Grace – This is a new format for many instructors and participants. Technical difficulties will likely happen.
- ☐ Use a photo of your wilderness or river where you work as your virtual background – or take your computer outside!

JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS:

- ☐ Log on early and join sessions ahead of start time to test connection and settings of microphone and camera.
- ☐ Remain on mute unless asked to speak by instructor.
- ☐ Stay present - multi-tasking will trammel your learning.
- ☐ Use scheduled breaks to stand up, go outside, drink water, eat snacks, or take "bio breaks". Don't forget to blink!

CONDITION SURVEYS:

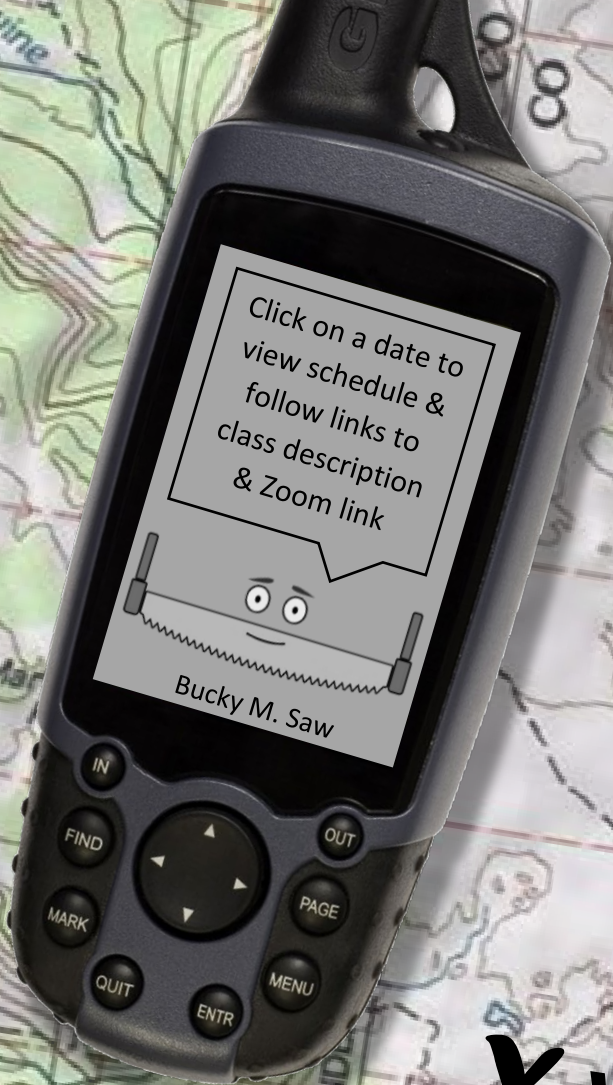
- ☐ Complete the overall NWSI Event Evaluation.
- ☐ Complete Session Surveys for specific presentations

DISPATCH:

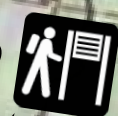
If you run into any issues, contact the following:

- Zoom - <https://support.zoom.us/>
Video not working Audio not working
- Check the daily agenda for scheduled points of contact





TRAILHEAD



2022 Sessions

2021 Recordings

X TUESDAY

X WEDNESDAY

X THURSDAY



INFORMATION

NORMS AND EXPECTATIONS

- **Plan Ahead and Prepare** – log on early
- **Stay on the Trail** – be present and avoid multi-tasking
- **Be considerate of others** - Everyone deserves respectful dialogue, no matter how different opinions may be, we can respectfully agree to disagree. Assume good intent.
- **Make space for all** – ensure all gets a turn to share.
- **Keep video on but microphone on mute** - unless called on.
- **Ask questions, respond to polls, and complete evaluations.**
- **Attend coffee and happy hour sessions** - connect with peers.



Keep Lakes and streams clean



Prevent Erosion. Do not cut across switchbacks



Dispose of human waste in cat hole 200' from lakes and streams. Cover with soil.

Bear Country

Avoid Confrontation

- ☐ Don't surprise bears
- ☐ make noise.
- ☐ Hike during daylight hours, in groups when possible.

Odors Attract Bears

- ☐ -Keep A Clean Camp
- ☐ Store all food in vehicles or high in a tree, away from sleeping areas.
- ☐ Deposit garbage in refuse containers or store as you would food. Never bury it!

Dogs Antagonize Bears

- ☐ Leash your pet.

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SUBMIT EVENT EVALUATION



TUESDAY, MAY 24TH

Click on class for description and to access Zoom room

EASTERN TIME	Traditional Skills	Visitor Use Management	Wild & Scenic Rivers	Wilderness I	Wilderness II	
12:00 PM	<div>Welcome and Keynote</div> <div>12:00-1:50</div>					
12:30 PM						
1:00 PM						
1:30 PM						
2:00 PM	<div>This is Who We Are – Leadership Stance & Habits</div> <div>2:00-2:50 PM</div>					
2:30 PM						
3:00 PM	<div>Mastering the Basics: An Examination of the Physics, Nuances, & Mechanics of Traditional Tool Skills</div> <div>3:00-4:20</div>	<div>The Wonderful World of Visitor Use Management</div> <div>3:00-4:20</div>	<div>Myth-busting the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act</div> <div>3:00-4:20</div>	<div>History Leading up to the Wilderness Act</div> <div>3:00-4:20</div>	<div>The Wilderness Movement: Through the (Historical) Looking Glass</div> <div>3:00-4:20</div>	
3:30 PM						
4:00 PM						
4:30 PM	<div>Happy Hour – Agency and USDA Forest Service Regional Breakouts</div> <div>4:30-6:00</div>					
5:00 PM						
5:30 PM						



Need Help? Contact Dispatch:

12:00-2:00 pm Angie Fuhrmann: angie@river-management.org, or text 480-818-3649

2:00-6:00 pm Dusty Vaughn: gary.vaughn@usda.gov or text: 325-665-8412

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25TH

Click on class for description and to access Zoom room

EASTERN TIME	Traditional Skills	Visitor Use Management	Wild & Scenic Rivers	Wilderness I	Wilderness II
12:00 PM	Coffee Hour – Wild Yoga 12:00 - 12:25				
12:30 PM	Situational Leadership 12:30-1:50				
1:00 PM					
1:30 PM					
2:00 PM	Trail Maintenance Basics for Field Staff 2:00-3:20	The Sustainable Camping & Trail Management Toolbox 2:00-3:20	Training on Demand 2-2:25	The Fundamentals of Wilderness 2:00-3:20	Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute Updates 2:00-3:20
2:30 PM			River Incident Management 2:30-3:20		
3:00 PM					
3:30 PM	Traditional Skills & Minimum Tool Leadership Panel Discussion 3:30-4:50	Increasing the Relevancy of Wilderness to Diverse Visitors: Adaptions for how we communicate 3:30-4:50	Challenges & Successes: User Capacity Monitoring on Wild & Scenic Rivers 3:00-4:50	From Knowledge to Impact: A conversation about unpacking barriers to DEI in wilderness 3:30-4:50	Wilderness Character Monitoring Baselines: Best Practices for Shared Areas 3:30-4:50
4:00 PM					
4:30 PM					
5:00 PM	Happy Hour – Leave No Trace Trivia!				
5:30 PM	5:00 - 6:00				



Need Help? Contact Dispatch:
Dusty Vaughn: gary.vaughn@usda.gov
text: 325-665-8412

THURSDAY, MAY 26TH

Click on class for description and to access Zoom room

EASTERN TIME	Traditional Skills	Visitor Use Management	Wild & Scenic Rivers	Wilderness I	Wilderness II
12:00 PM	Coffee Hour - From knowledge to impact: A coffee-hour conversation about unpacking barriers to DEI in wilderness				
12:30 PM	12:00-12:50				
1:00 PM	Leadership Panel Discussion				
1:30 PM	1:00-1:50				
2:00 PM		Improving Public Interactions: Applying WISDOM and ART for Better Field Contacts and Visitor Use Management	Wild & Scenic River Monitoring: A Collaborative Citizen Science Approach	Understanding Wilderness Character	International Aspects of Wilderness
2:30 PM	Pack Stock 2:00-3:20	2:00-3:20	2:00-3:20	2:00-3:20	2:00-3:20
3:00 PM					
3:30 PM	USDA Forest Service Trail Stewardship Program	To Permit or Not to Permit: Addressing Visitor Capacity	All-Forward: Sexual Harassment in the Whitewater Rafting Industry	What's in a Title: Congressionally Designated Areas and the Planning Processes Behind Them	Assessing and Developing Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities for Wilderness Rangers
4:00 PM	3:30-4:50	3:30-4:50	3:00-4:50	3:30-4:50	3:30-4:50
4:30 PM					
5:00 PM	Happy Hour – Take-Aways & Next Steps				
5:30 PM	5:00 - 6:00				



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Dusty Vaughn: gary.vaughn@usda.gov
text: 325-665-8412



TRACK & CLASS DESCRIPTIONS



Coffee Hour

Join us each morning as we start the day with a brief welcome and updates followed by various topical discussions including morning yoga and a conversation about unpacking barriers to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in wilderness.



All Tracks Combined

A few larger sessions have been developed that cross all tracks including the opening keynote session, leadership training, and a closing discussion around take-aways and next steps.



Traditional Skills

Provides a foundation for the skills needed to work in a wilderness setting. With an overview of crosscut, axes, rigging and hand tools, using pack stock, and trail maintenance techniques, participants will have a solid foundation for moving to the field to practice these skills.



Visitor Use Management

Visitor Use Management Provides participants with the tools needed to adapt to a variety of challenges and opportunities that are present in current land management settings. These sessions will go from the theoretical to the applied with an overview of the Visitor Use Management Framework and a variety of lessons from the field.



Wild & Scenic Rivers

This track assists agency personnel and partners learn more about the management of Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSRs). Sessions explore key topics related to the management of WSRs, including misconceptions of the WSR Act, river incident management, water quality monitoring, user capacity monitoring, and training resources.



Wilderness I

The Wilderness I track will take us on a journey from the beginnings of the Wilderness Act through the foundations that guide wilderness stewardship today. Learn from experienced instructors working in a variety of wilderness settings who will share their expertise in the fundamentals of wilderness history, the Wilderness Act, wilderness character, more inclusive wilderness, and the different congressionally designated areas. Join us to grow your knowledge, skills, and understanding of wilderness from the origin of an idea decades ago to stewardship of these unique and special lands in the modern day.



Wilderness II

Building upon content covered in the Wilderness I sessions, the courses in this track dives deeper into wilderness history, current research, Character Monitoring (WCM), international topics, and wilderness ranger knowledge, skills, and abilities.



Happy Hour

End each day with informal and relaxed hangouts ranging agency and regional breakout session, testing your Leave No Trace knowledge, take-aways from the week, and next steps.

12:00-1:50 pm



Welcome and Keynote:

What kind of an ancestor do you want to be?

⚠ Recommended Pre-Work: Listen or read [“What Do You Owe the Mountains Around You?”](#)



NWSI Core Team



Randy Moore
Chief
USDA Forest Service



Dr. John Hausdoerffer
Dean, Clark School of Environment & Society
Western Colorado University

[View Welcome Message and Chief's Opening Remarks](#)

[View Keynote Recording](#)

Dr. John Hausdoerffer will present an interactive session based on his book, *What kind of an ancestor do you want to be?* As we face an ever-more-fragmented world, *What Kind of Ancestor Do You Want to Be?* demands a return to the force of lineage—to spiritual, social, and ecological connections across time. It sparks a myriad of ageless-yet-urgent questions: How will I be remembered? What traditions do I want to continue? What cycles do I want to break? What new systems do I want to initiate for those yet-to-be-born? How do we endure? Published in association with the Center for Humans and Nature and interweaving essays, interviews, and poetry, this book brings together a thoughtful community of Indigenous and other voices—including Linda Hogan, Wendell Berry, Winona LaDuke, Vandana Shiva, Robin Kimmerer, and Wes Jackson—to explore what we want to give to our descendants. It is an offering to teachers who have come before and to those who will follow, a tool for healing our relationships with ourselves, with each other, and with our most powerful ancestors—the lands and waters that give and sustain all life.

2:00-2:50 pm



This is Who We Are: Leadership Stance and Habits



Colter Pence
Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers and Trails Program Manager
Flathead National Forest
USDA Forest Service

[View Recording](#)

Every one of us is a leader. Over the course of a day, a week, a year, a whole career, each of us can lead in our work, regardless of a job title. Learn about the stances and habits of effective and successful leadership in conservation and stewardship work.

3:00-4:20 pm



Mastering the Basics: An Examination of the Physics, Nuances, & Mechanics of Traditional Tool Skills

⚠ Resources: [Posters, Publications & Videos](#)



Bob Beckley
Retired, National Technology
& Development Center
USDA Forest Service



Dolly Chapman
Retired, Wilderness
Trail Crew Leader
& Owner of Chapman's
Sharp Crosscut Saws



Josh Burt
Eastern Operations &
Training Specialist
American Conservation
Experience

[View Recording](#)

[Publications Request Inbox](#)

This session is targeted to both beginner and advanced tool users, reviewing and building on NWSI 2021 material. Bob and Dolly are back and Josh Burt joins the tool crew this year. Students are encouraged to view as pre-work the [NWSI 2021 course video](#). The course provides participants an opportunity to learn from traditional tool experts with a focus on learning how to use a tool rather than just learning the “how to do it” technique. The foundational teaching by these experts puts more emphasis on the science, physics and dynamics of the work and the proper shape, size, and balance of the tool. This understanding improves efficiency and safety of tool use regardless if tool users are new to the skill set or have years of experience. There is nothing easy about using traditional tools, it is hard work, but improving proficiency of tool use enhances the experience and promotes the recognition of value in the work and tools used in wilderness.

3:00-4:20 pm



The Wonderful World of Visitor Use Management



Linda Merigliano
Recreation and Wilderness Program Manager
Bridger-Teton National Forest
USDA Forest Service

[View Recording](#)

Are you frustrated by visitor behavior? Do you want to address management challenges in a meaningful way that lasts? Do you feel like you're lacking the tools and information you need to tackle visitor use challenges? This session will provide an introduction to visitor use management and to valuable tools that will help you tackle challenges big and small.

3:00-4:20 pm



Myth-Busting the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act



Angie Fuhrmann
River Training Center Coordinator
River Management Society



Fred Akers
Administrator
Great Egg Harbor
Wild & Scenic River



Jamie Fosburgh
Branch Chief
Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers
National Park Service



Colter Pence
Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers,
and Trails Program Manager
Flathead National Forest
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

Legislation is tough to read and hours of review are often needed to fully comprehend what exactly it does. As a result, many individuals often make their own interpretations. In this session, a panel of Wild and Scenic River experts will share some common misconceptions regarding the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, along with clarifying explanations that can be used to educate, inform and collaborate with constituency groups, partners, and river users.

3:00-4:20 pm



History Leading up to the Wilderness Act



Bill Hodge
Executive Director
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation

 [View Recording Link](#)

Explore the cultural shifts that happened to launch a system of public commons, and how that shift and a vision of the future informed the subsequent movement to secure wild public lands within the framework of the larger public domain. We will explore critical moments and crucial characters, while laying open the fissures and cracks left to us by those that advocated for what we serve today.

3:00-4:20 pm



The Wilderness Movement: Through the (Historical) Looking Glass

 [View Recording](#)



Dr. Michelle Reilly

National Wildlife Refuge System Wilderness Liaison

Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center

Wildlife Biologist & Course Leader

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center

In this session, Michelle Reilly, Ph.D. will present two related discussions. First, she will discuss some of the women in the early days of the wilderness movement from her article, “Beyond Secretaries, Hostesses, and Cooks: The Power, Humility, and Compassion of Women Who Battled to Save Wilderness” published in the April 2021 volume of the International Journal of Wilderness. Next, Michelle will present opposing views, namely the dualistic, backward-looking interpretation of wilderness and a forward-looking conception of wilderness supported by historical documents.

4:30-6:00 pm



Happy Hour – Agency and USDA Forest Service Regional Breakout Sessions

Breakout room discussions intentionally not recorded

Join a breakout room based on your agency or location to participate in agency-specific or U.S. Forest Service regional presentations, group discussions, and project showcases. The goal is to build relationships that hopefully result in some synergy moving forward on projects or future regional training events.

Breakout Rooms:

- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- USDA Forest Service Regions:



WEDNESDAY, MAY 25TH

*All times in Eastern Time

12:00-12:25 pm



Coffee Hour – Wild Yoga



Kathleen Pangan
Wilderness Specialist
Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards

 [View Recording](#)

Join Kathleen Pangan, a registered yoga teacher and former Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards Wilderness Specialist in a lovely natural setting in Mount Rogers National Recreation Area for 30 minutes of movement in an outdoor setting. Take this break in your day to wake up, focus, breathe, stretch your muscles, strengthen your body, and enjoy some healthy screen time.... outdoors if you can, or in your own home space. Enjoy!

12:30-1:50 pm



Situational Leadership



Shannon Stober
Trainer, Facilitator, Coach
Jump Start Training & Development

 [View Recording](#)

Strong teams and competent leaders can transform any organization. This session focuses on the development of influential teams and leaders through the Situational Leadership model, enabling participants to:

- Describe contributing factors to both group and individual development levels.
- Characterize the four primary leadership styles.
- Articulate the relationship between development levels and leadership styles.

2:00-3:20 pm



Trail Maintenance Basics for Field Staff



Jessica May

Trails Specialist
Hungry Horse-Glacier View
Ranger District
Flathead National Forest
USDA Forest Service



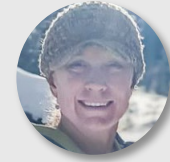
Kerry Wood

Wilderness & Trails Program Manager
Sandia Ranger District
Cibola National Forest
USDA Forest Service



Garrett Villanueva

Pacific Southwest Regional Trail and
Travel Management Program Leader
USDA Forest Service



Melanie Vining

Executive Director
Idaho Trails Association

 [View Recording](#)

An overview of definitions of common terms, some details of trail clearing and basic tread, and a run through of the most common trail tools. This is targeted at the novice trail maintainer.

2:00-3:20 pm



The Sustainable Camping & Trail Management Toolbox



Dr. Jeff Marion

Recreation Ecologist
Eastern Ecological Science Center
U.S. Geological Survey



Dr. Jeremy Wimpey

Principal
Applied Trails Research, LLC

 [View Recording](#)

This presentation will discuss the use-impact relationship and its implications for managing visitor use to minimize resource impacts. Management begins by developing a sustainable infrastructure of trails and campsites so we will discuss the most influential attributes that makes these features sustainable and how maintenance can enhance their sustainability. Next, we will discuss visitor use management options, such as camping management options (dispersed, established site, and designated site), trail management options (pairing type of use to trails that are sustainable for each use), and when redistributing or limiting visitor use is necessary. Finally, we will discuss the role of visitor education and Leave No Trace practices.

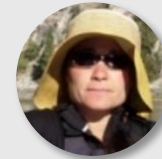
2:00-2:25 pm



Wild & Scenic Rivers Training On-Demand



Angie Fuhrmann
River Training Center Coordinator
River Management Society



Monica Zimmerman
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Bureau of Land Management

 [View Recording](#)

In this session, participants will learn about the resources and training that can be accessed on-demand and for free through a tour of National Wilderness Skills Institute recordings, the Interagency Wild and Scenic River's Coordinating Council crosswalk on training resources, and the [River Management Society's Video Channel](#).

2:00-3:20 pm



The Fundamentals of Wilderness



Nancy Taylor
Pacific Northwest Wilderness,
Wild & Scenic Rivers,
Congressionally Designated Areas
Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



Dan Abbe
Wilderness Specialist
Arthur Carhart National
Wilderness Training Center
USDA Forest Service



Ben Clark
Virtual Student Federal Service Intern
Pacific Northwest Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers,
Congressionally Designated Areas, USDA Forest Service;
Geography & History Educator, Crested Butte Community School

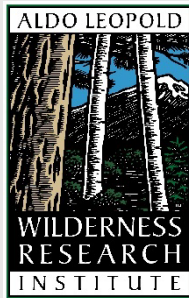
 [View Recording](#)

For those who are new to wilderness stewardship and anyone who wants to experience creative and interactive approaches to wilderness education. Finish the session with a deeper understanding of the wilderness as you learn about fundamental principles of the 1964 Wilderness Act, why wilderness mattered then, now, and for future generations through presentation of a creative and interactive story map. Presenters will demonstrate tools and resources through the story map that will encourage participant engagement and may inspire creative ideas for your own presentations in the future.

2:00-3:20 pm



Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute – Updates & Science Delivery Interactive Session



Jason Taylor
Director



Teresa Hollingsworth
Deputy Director



Chris Armatas
Research Social
Scientist



Lauren Redmore
Research Social
Scientist

Session intentionally not recorded as requested by presenters

Wilderness science, how can we best help you? Join us for this interactive session to inform our developing science delivery plan. We will begin this session with a brief introduction of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute mission, staff, and research agenda. We will then open it up to hear from you about where you access wilderness science and how we can effectively share the most up-to-date and relevant science. Come prepared to engage in a guided discussion and to share ideas to improve wilderness science in action.

2:30-3:20 pm



River Incident Management



David Cernicek
Wild & Scenic Rivers, Special Uses, Partnerships, & River Ranger
Bridger-Teton National Forest
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

Preventive actions, using home court advantage, dos and don'ts and things to consider before, during and after a critical emergency unfolds in your river canyon. In this session, participants will gain a real-world perspective on approaching good problem-solving and go-no-go decision making while putting personal and team safety first.

Please provide feedback to the National Wilderness Skills Institute Core Team on your experience to inform our review process and improve future training efforts by completing the **EVENT EVALUATION**:



Please complete a **SESSION SURVEY** for each NWSI session to provide constructive feedback to instructors, panelists, and organizers at NWSI.



3:30-4:50 pm

**Traditional Skills & Minimum Tool Leadership Panel Discussion**

Adam Washebek
Recreation Staff Officer
Gardiner Ranger District
Custer Gallatin National Forest
USDA Forest Service



Cindy Ebbert
Reality Specialist
Dillon Ranger District,
White River National Forest
USDA Forest Service



Kelly Pearson
Retired
Wilderness Technician
Shawnee National Forest
USDA Forest Service



Tory Hahka
Eastern Region
Authorities Coordinator
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

Every year the USDA Forest Service recognizes an employee or crew that demonstrates outstanding initiative, creativity, and commitment to wilderness principles by accomplishing a difficult or challenging wilderness stewardship activity using traditional skills. During this panel discussion attendees will hear from some of the award recipients from the last five years as they share information about their work and the future of promoting traditional skills for wilderness work.

3:30-4:50 pm

**Increasing the Relevancy of Wilderness to Diverse Visitors:
Adaptions for how we communicate**

Lisa Ronald
Wildlands Communications Director
Wilderness Institute
University of Montana

 [View Recording](#)

During and after the pandemic, wilderness areas are seeing sustained increases in the numbers and types of visitors, and as a movement we continue to struggle to be relevant to an increasingly diverse America. Adaptations to how we communicate with diverse visitors—through conversations at visitor centers or on the trail, trailhead signage, website information, etc.—are needed to ensure all visitors feel welcome in our wilderness areas. Through interactive exercises that promote self-reflection and self-discovery, participants in this session will explore inclusivity and exclusivity in the concepts, words, and images that typify how we communicate to visitors and potential visitors about wilderness. Participants will leave with an understanding of how to adapt their future communications and visitor contacts and a list of resources to continue learning.

3:30-4:50 pm



Challenges & Successes: User Capacity Monitoring on Wild & Scenic Rivers



Mary Ellen Emerick
Natural Resource Specialist
Enterprise Program
USDA Forest Service



Sarah Lange
Acting Pacific Southwest Wilderness and
Wild & Scenic Rivers Program Assistant
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

How long are the wait times at your boat ramp? How often are the campsites used along your river? In this session, participants will learn the theory behind user capacity monitoring, how to use the sliding scale, examples of user capacity monitoring strategies along different types of river corridors, and different types of systems used for gathering and storing data. There will be opportunities to share your ideas and successes!

3:30-4:50 pm



From Knowledge to Impact: A conversation about unpacking barriers to DEI in wilderness



Kimm Fox-Middleton
Wilderness Interpretation & Outreach Specialist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center



Lauren Redmore
Research Social Scientist
Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute
USDA Forest Service



This session was limited to 40 participants for a focused conversation (20 from federal agencies and 20 from stewardship groups)
Session intentionally not recorded as requested by presenters

This is an interactive session designed to identify impactful methods and materials to better prepare wilderness professionals around the country to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) needs. We will begin with a discussion to share our own personal DEI-in-wilderness journeys, and then we will break out into 4 smaller focus groups to discuss what DEI barriers and knowledge gaps you face in your work in wilderness, as well as explore some successes and opportunities to build from to improve our commitment to DEI in wilderness. Come prepared to share your own stories, successes and challenges and to build ideas with others who are committed to a more inclusive future of wilderness. We are limiting registration to the first 40 participants (20 from federal agencies and 20 from stewardship groups) to allow for the opportunity for deep dialogue in smaller break-out sessions.

3:30-4:50 pm



Wilderness Character Monitoring Baselines: Best Practices for Shared Areas



Christina Boston

Acting National Wilderness Character
Monitoring Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



Jim Edmonds

Central Data Analyst
USDA Forest Service



Drew Lindsey

Data Services Specialist
USDA Forest Service



Heather MacSarrow

Executive Director
Society for Wilderness
Stewardship



Scotty Bowman

Central Team Member
Southern Appalachian
Wilderness Stewards



Colter Pence

Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers
and Trails Program Manager
Flathead National Forest
USDA Forest Service



Portia Jelinek

Natural Resource Manager
(NRM) Account Manager
USDA Forest Service



Michelle Tanz

Wilderness Dayen, Region 6
Wilderness Project Development
& Coordination, Society for
Wilderness Stewardship



Kimi Zamuda

Wilderness Dayen
Society for Wilderness
Stewardship

 [View Recording](#)

In this session we will discuss how working across multiple jurisdictions can add complexity and challenge to completing Wilderness Character Monitoring (WCM) baselines and will be sharing best practices for both agency staff and partners for working across administrative boundaries, including, district, forest/park/unit, regional, agency and international boundaries. We will be sharing examples and challenges of working across agency boundaries for Bureau of Land Management/USDA Forest Service shared wilderness areas in California and across forest boundaries with examples from the Bob Marshall Complex and the central Sierra Nevada. We will share how efficiencies can be gained by working on multiple wildernesses on the same district or forest at the same time with examples from Los Padres National Forest and from the Southern Appalachians. We will briefly explore the unique challenges of areas that are immediately adjacent to international boundaries where data and information may be needed from agencies outside the U.S. We will share resources, such as tools and templates that are available to help you as you work to complete wilderness character narratives and baseline reports. We also share information about partner resources available to assist, how to obtain them, and how to work with new partners.

5:00-6:00 pm



Happy Hour – Leave No Trace Trivia



Haley Toy
Subaru/Leave No Trace Team



Gary Huey
Subaru/Leave No Trace Team

 [View Recording](#)

Whether you are new to Leave No Trace or consider yourself an expert, bring a friend and join the Subaru/Leave No Trace Team for this interactive game night to gain or refresh Leave No Trace skills and knowledge. After each question there will be discussion of the applicable Leave No Trace practices and principles, with quick tips covering Leave No Trace Basics and techniques for protecting your favorite outdoor spaces. Come ready to play! We will use an online trivia platform ([Aha Slides](#)) that's a ton of fun. Use your phone or computer to play along!

Please provide feedback to the National Wilderness Skills Institute Core Team on your experience to inform our review process and improve future training efforts by completing the **EVENT EVALUATION**:



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THURSDAY, MAY 26TH

*All times in Eastern Time

12:00-12:50 pm



From knowledge to impact: A coffee-hour conversation about unpacking barriers to DEI in wilderness



Kimm Fox-Middleton
Wilderness Interpretation &
Outreach Specialist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Arthur Carhart National
Wilderness Training Center



Gaylen Beatty
Special Projects Manager
Parks & Nature
Oregon Metro



Lauren Redmore
Research Social Scientist
Aldo Leopold Wilderness
Research Institute
USDA Forest Service

Session intentionally not recorded as requested by presenters

Continued informal conversations on what it means to normalize and operationalize the work of DEI in wilderness. Our instincts steer us towards backing away from the DEI conversation and what we really need to do is be courageous. Leaning into what is often stated as ones growing edges, approach the conversation with openness, authenticity and vulnerability.

1:00-1:50 pm



Leadership Panel Discussion



Colter Pence
Wilderness, Wild &
Scenic Rivers and Trails
Program Manager
Flathead National Forest
USDA Forest Service



Leanne Martin
Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
Northern Region



Tim Love
Coordinator
Montana Forest
Collaboration Network



Risa Shimoda
Executive Director
River Management
Society



Kaitlin de Varona
Executive Director
Southern Appalachian
Wilderness Stewards

 [View Recording](#)

Bring your curiosities to a panel discussion on what leadership in conservation and stewardship work looks like

2:00-3:20 pm



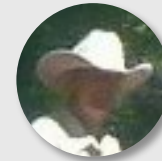
Pack Stock



Ken Graves
Forest Packer &
PSCO Co-Director
Shasta-Trinity
National Forest



Katy Bartzokis
PSCO Lead Packer
Shasta-Trinity National
Forest



Debbie McDougald
Special Uses Permit
Administrator & Stock
Program Manager
Sierra National Forest



Michael Morse
Wilderness & Trails
Supervisor
PSCO Co-Director
Inyo National Forest

 [View Recording](#)

This session will use video content from last year's NWSI (see [Pack Stock I](#) and [Pack Stock II](#) recordings) and bring in expert speakers for discussion/Q&A. Session will introduce participants to the capabilities of pack stock and their role in managing public lands throughout the nation. We will also discuss safely working around stock, including horse psychology, stock on the trail, all the way up to some of the safety factors that packers consider when putting a string together. Interact with a panel of professional U.S. Forest Service packers.

2:00-3:20 pm



Improving Public Interactions: Applying WISDOM and ART for Better Field Contacts and Visitor Use Management



Jack Ader
Wilderness Ranger
West Fork Ranger District
Bitterroot National Forest
USDA Forest Service



Jimmy Gaudry
Northern Region Wilderness
and Wild & Scenic River
Program Manager
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

Learning how to make professional public contacts with wilderness visitors is truly an art and a science that comes with experience. However, managers and rangers can improve their techniques by using a systematic six-step process called WISDOM that has been field tested and used in congressionally designated wildernesses throughout America. Following the WISDOM presentation, a separate follow up Authority of the Resource Technique (ART) presentation will conduct role-playing skits using volunteers from the audience to reinforce the six-step process. The ART presentation is intended to be interactive.

2:00-3:20 pm



Wild & Scenic River Monitoring: A Collaborative Citizen Science Approach



Lindsay Wancour
Project Creation
Senior Manager
Adventure Scientists



Steve Chesterton
National Wild & Scenic
Rivers Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



Colter Pence
Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers
and Trails Program Manager
Flathead National Forest
USDA Forest Service

Recording not available due to technical problems

In this session, participants will learn about a partnership between Adventure Scientists and three WSR-administering agencies (USFS, BLM, NPS) to collect data on unassessed Wild and Scenic Rivers across the country and how the data will empower managers of these rivers to conserve water resources. Participants will also learn how to volunteer for this program and receive training on collecting data using field probes to measure water quality data such as pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity, and conductivity.

2:00-3:20 pm



Understanding Wilderness Character



Linda Merigliano
Recreation and Wilderness Program Manager
Bridger-Teton National Forest
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

Brief overview of wilderness character – how it is defined, why it matters, and what each of the 5 qualities is about. How is wilderness character used with emphasis on use at field level – communication, education.

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2:00-3:20 pm



International Aspects of Wilderness: Vignettes of Hope in a Conservation Landscape of Uncertainty



Vance Martin

President, The WILD Foundation
and Wilderness Foundation Global
Founder/Chair, Wilderness
Specialist Group (IUCN/WCPA)



Adam Hanson

North America Wilderness and
Protected Areas Facilitator and
Manager of Conservation Programs
The WILD Foundation



Cherryl Curry

CEO
Wilderness
Leadership School



Jo Roberts

CEO
Wilderness
Foundation UK



Bhavna Menon

Programme Manager
Last Wilderness
Foundation

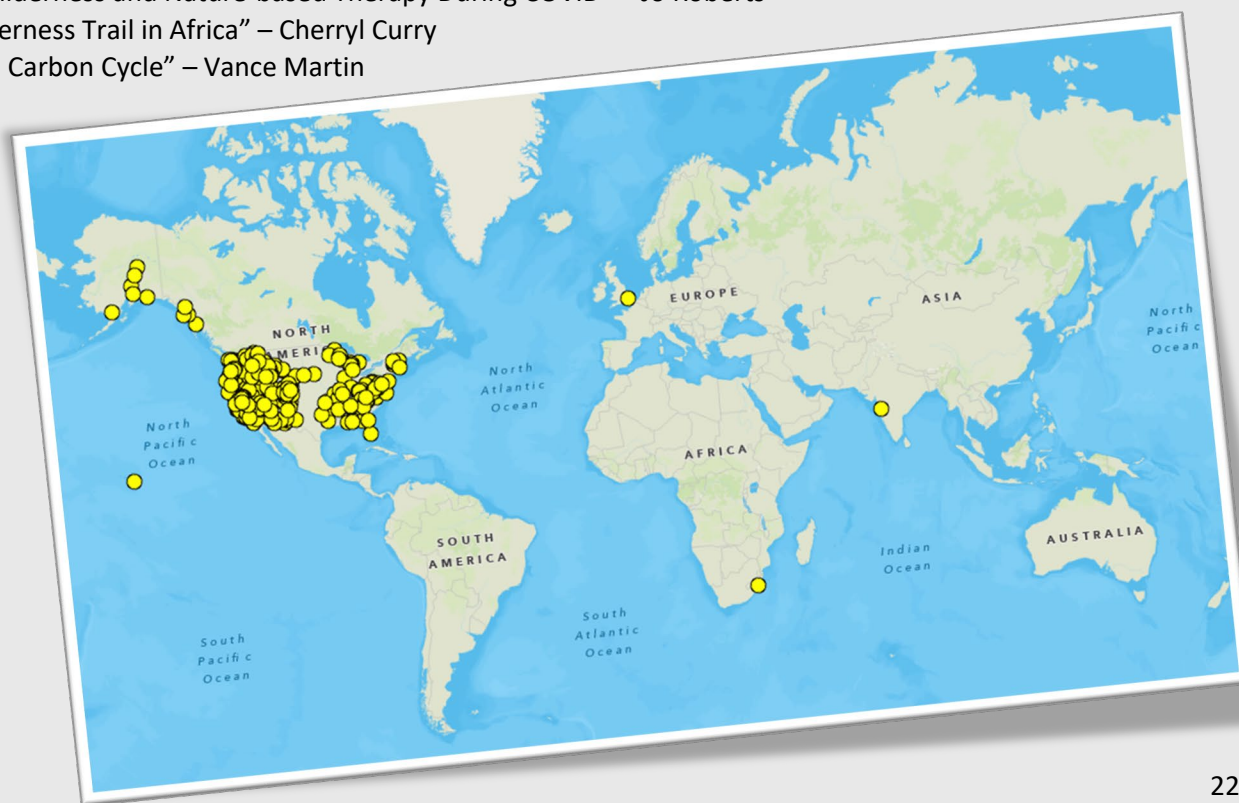
 [View Recording](#)

Presentations on the progress being made to protect wild nature and people:

- “Communities, wilderness and conservation” – Bhavna Menon
- “The Value and Uses of Wilderness and Nature-based Therapy During COVID” – Jo Roberts
- “The Experience of a Wilderness Trail in Africa” – Cherryl Curry
- “Rewilding, Animating the Carbon Cycle” – Vance Martin

NWSI 2022

600 participants
from 4 continents!



3:30-4:50 pm



USDA Forest Service Trail Stewardship Program



Brenda Yankoviak
National Trail Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



Del Orme
Former Acting Assistant National
Trail Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



Matt Able
Trail Data Modernization
Product Owner
USDA Forest Service



Andy Welsh
Current Acting Assistant National
Trail Program Manager
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

Come hear about specific actions the agency is taking to support the trails workforce and improve trail conditions on the ground. During this session, participants will learn about the 10 Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge- what it is, why we have it, and what to expect from it. We'll then do a deep dive into several topics of interest to trail practitioners related to training, analyzing trail program workforce capacity, and data efforts (spoiler alert- we're working to bring our trail data systems into the 21st century).

3:30-4:50 pm



To Permit or Not to Permit: Addressing Visitor Capacity



Katy Nelson
Wilderness and Trails Specialist
White River National Forest
USDA Forest Service

 2022 recording not available due to technical problems – [view the 2021 recording here](#)

Have you ever thought to yourself, “What is visitor capacity and how do I determine the visitor capacity of an area?” or “How would I even go about addressing visitor capacity?” or “A permit system would solve everything!” This session will provide an introduction to visitor capacity and will provide some useful tools and a framework that will help you navigate the complex world of visitor capacity.

3:30-4:50 pm



All-Forward: Sexual Harassment in the Whitewater Rafting Industry



Dr. Maria Blevins
Associate Professor
Department of Communication
Utah Valley University

 [View Recording](#)

The whitewater rafting industry offers many unique aspects in the job, including blurred lines between work and personal time, a hierarchy of seniority, the prevalence of alcohol, customer service orientation, isolated environments, and young workforces. The Equal Opportunity Employment Commission outlines that these traits can foster work environments where sexual harassment is prevalent. This session will outline a multi-year qualitative research project looking at the working environment in the whitewater rafting industry and how it might become more inclusive.

3:30-4:50 pm



What's in a Title: Congressionally Designated Areas and the Planning Processes Behind Them



Liz Townley
Wilderness and
Wild & Scenic Rivers
Planning Specialist
USDA Forest Service



Steve Chesterton
National Wild & Scenic Rivers
Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



Peter Mali
National Wilderness
Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



Mary Erickson
Forest Supervisor
Custer Gallatin
National Forest

 [View Recording](#)

What is recommended wilderness, or a wilderness study area? What is the difference between those land allocations and designated Wilderness and how does that impact your work? What is an eligibility or suitability study? What does it mean to have an eligible or suitable Wild and Scenic River on your unit? How does that title influence or impact your work? If you are curious about these questions then this course is for you! We will hear from several experts in this field and break down complicated planning terms and processes so that you can understand what these titles mean and what your role is in managing these areas. See you there!

3:30-4:50 pm



Assessing and Developing Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities for Wilderness Rangers



Colter Pence
Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers,
and Trails Program Manager
Flathead National Forest
USDA Forest Service



Dan Abbe
Wilderness Specialist
Arthur Carhart National
Wilderness Training Center
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

Learn about core competencies, knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) needed for entry level wilderness ranger work, in order to develop a personal development and training plan, and then identify resources to develop those KSAs. This session will be shared in three modules:

1. Review the Wilderness Technical Core Competencies for Wilderness Specialists,
2. Assess your own wilderness KSAs,
3. Learn about resources to further develop your KSAs.

5:00-6:00 pm



Happy Hour – Take-Aways & Next Steps



NWSI Core Team

 [View Recording](#)

 [View The End/Thank You Recording](#)

This week wasn't what we wanted to do...or was it? We all came into this knowing that this training session was a needed replacement for what we would have rather done in person and within our local landscape. But what did work about the week and is there a need for some bigger connection in future years? Let's spend one last zoom session together and toast to the wilderness and wild & scenic river adventures ahead!!

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Thank You!

What a great wild week!

Thank you all for participating in the second annual Virtual National Wilderness Skills Institute. While the last two years have been challenging due to COVID, extreme wildland fire seasons, and record visitor use, we have realized the silver lining that has brought us together. During the week, we have celebrated Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers, connecting with each other, and learning together – exploring our collective history, moving toward a more inclusive landscape, and expanding our knowledge in Traditional Skills, Visitor Use Management, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Wilderness fundamentals and advanced Wilderness courses.

We hope the week has been meaningful to you, that there will be lasting connections carried forward, and that you built new skills to help guide your stewardship of these special and unique lands and waters.

Looking ahead to creating life-changing experiences on our ever more-popular public lands, we thank you for investing your time and energy to join us in this community of practice and wish you all the best in your next wilderness and river adventures. As the 2022 NWSI comes to a close - we look ahead to 2023 and beyond!

Keep in touch, wild friends!

