

Scenario 1 V:

You are on your first ever backpacking trip into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. You have hiked 8 miles today and are feeling pretty tired. You decide to look for a campsite and find one right off the trail (50 feet) and next to a lake (25 feet) with amazing views. You proceed to set up camp as a few other people looking for campsites hike by. It feels a little odd having people walk right through your camp spot but you are tired and proceed with setting up your tent.

Scenario 1 R:

You are on your first wilderness hitch for the season and looking forward to getting being the field. You have set up camp and decide to do a patrol around a popular lake nearby. As you approach the lake you see someone setting up camp right next to the trail and the lake. The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness does not have any regulations about camping too close to the trail or water but you know the LNT principle is 200 feet from water and that the presence of a camp so close to the trail could impact the experience of other visitors. You decide to approach the camp to discuss this.

Scenario 2 V:

Friday evening finds you and your family (2 small children) at Shoe Lake in the Goat Rocks Wilderness. You have been looking forward to treating your family to a backcountry excursion for weeks. The weather is cool and it looks like rain when you arrive at the trailhead. You notice a sign on the bulletin board regarding Wilderness Regulations in your hurry to get going you do not take time to read them. While setting up camp it begins to rain lightly. Realizing you don't have enough fuel for your stove to heat enough water for the family meal you build a nice campfire. Surely there's no fire damage in this weather and besides it's getting pretty cold! Feeling as if your weekend trip may flop you are feeling defensive when the wilderness ranger arrives.

Scenario 2 R:

The first evening of your backcountry tour finds you at Shoe Lake in the Goat Rocks Wilderness. As you are finishing up dinner you notice/smell smoke rising from a campfire located on the bank of the lake. The Wilderness regulations are clearly posted at each trailhead leading into the wilderness.

Make the necessary contact.

Scenario 3 V:

This is your first wilderness horsepacking trip. You and your friends have limited packing experience. You heard from another friend about a nice weekend trip along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. You are aware of the vegetation damage that horse grazing can cause so you brought along hay for the animals! Wanting to minimize the damaged area you have tethered all the horses in one location! (50 ft. from trail).

Scenario 3 R:

After hiking the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail all day you are about to locate a camp for the night. Just south of the Louisiana Saddle you come across a group of six horsemen with three pack animals. They are camped approximately 50 ft, off the trail.

Their horses are tethered to trees and you notice a couple of hay bales.

Make the necessary contact.

Scenario 4 V:

You and your friends wanted to get away for the day and have a good time. You decided to hike up to Summit Lake. You brought along a couple of coolers of cold beer to enjoy after the hike. You also brought along your new handgun in case you have a chance to try it out. You found a nice sunny spot on the bank to prop cans up and decided to target practice. You are intoxicated and you have a bad attitude towards authority.

Scenario 4 R:

You arrive at Summit Lake in the Clearwater Wilderness during the afternoon and are amazed at the number of occupied sites. While trying to discreetly locate a spot to camp you hear gunshots echoing out of the lake basin. You locate the site of the disturbance down by the water. Upon entering the site you are greeted by the occupants (who appear intoxicated). Several empty beer cans are scattered around the camp and others have been used for target practice.

Scenario 5 V:

You are in the middle of a week of exploring in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness with a friend. While packing for the trip you decided to take your new drone so that you could get some ariel footage of the areas you will visit. Today you are at a popular lake flying the drone over the water and the footage is pretty cool.

Scenario 5R:

You are on your first 10 day hitch with a partner in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Last week you attended the Northern Rockies Wilderness Skills Institute and there was an in-depth discussion of drones and you understand that they are considered motorized and illegal in wilderness. Now you come upon two people flying a drone over a remote lake and approach them to discuss the situation...

Scenario 6 V:

You and your friends are on your last day of a ten day backpack trip into the Bridger Wilderness. You are headed to the trailhead and still have a 6 hour drive before you get home. Feeling rushed you begin to take shortcuts heading down the trail. You know that this is not the trail you are on but it seems to be cutting time off of your travel. You look up and see a ranger headed up the trail.

Scenario 6 R:

You are on your first day of a ten day hitch into the Bridger Wilderness. You are anxious to get to your campsite for the first night and as you look up the trail you see a backpacker hiking down the trail and cutting switchbacks. You decide to stop and talk with them about it.

Scenario 7 V:

You are with a group of friends camped in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and you are all taking turns doing the dishes. It's been a long day but tonight it is your turn to wash. You grab the soap and stack of dishes and head for the lake to wash them. You notice food particles drifting off into the lake as well as soap and wonder if this is the best method of washing. Just as you begin to wonder a ranger walks up to you.

Scenario 7 R:

You have set up your camp at a lake in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and decide to hike around the lake on an evening patrol. After a few minutes you come upon a visitor washing dishes in the lake. You can see the food particles and the soap drifting away into the lake. You stop to speak with the visitor.

Scenario 8 V

You are on a day hike into the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness with a group of 25 friends. When you planned this trip it was only 12 people coming but everyone brought a friend or two. As you park your car and get ready you notice a kiosk with information. Here you note that there is a group size limit of 12 people in the wilderness. You figure it's too late now to tell people to go home and decide to go with the entire group. As you prepare to depart a ranger pulls up in the parking lot and begins to approach.

Scenario 8 R:

It's early season and you are spending the day checking trailhead kiosks to make sure they look nice and have up to date information. As you drive into a particular trailhead you see a very large group of people about to head into the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness for a day hike. This is a popular trail they are about to hike and you know that the group size is 12. You count 25 people in the group as you approach.

Scenario 9 V

You have just moved into a neighborhood that abuts national forest land. Spring has arrived and you decide to go for a mountain bike ride on the trail near your house. You ride for about 30 minutes and then you notice a sign that says Rattlesnake Wilderness. You are going too fast to notice what it says underneath. You have no idea what a wilderness is but you think to yourself how cool is this. Then you notice a ranger headed your way on foot and slow down.

Scenario 9 R:

You are a wilderness ranger in the Rattlesnake Wilderness and you have spent the day checking on work that is being done on a dam in the wilderness. You are headed out down the trail and you see a mountain biker headed your way. You are about two miles from the wilderness boundary and you approach the mountain biker.

Scenario 10 V:

You are excited to visit the newly designated Cecil D. Andrus-White Clouds Wilderness. You and a friend pack in for the night. You decided to go light and brought only a lighter and plan to use a fire to cook dinner and breakfast. When you arrive you note that there are several other parties camped in the location as well but none have fires going. You begin to collect wood and find some rocks to build a fire ring. You notice a ranger approaching your camp...

Scenario 10 R:

You have worked in the Sawtooth NRA for several years now. This year you have been assigned to wilderness patrols in the newly designated Cecil D. Andrus White Clouds Wilderness. You head up to a popular lake for the evening and notice a party building a fire ring and a fire.

Side notes: The NRA page on wilderness.net encourages visitors to use stoves to avoid impacts from fires. The area was also recently designated as a dark sky preserve by the International Dark-Sky Association.