

A List of Potential Agency Approved/Authorized Trammeling Actions

Intent: This list is meant to be a quick reference showcasing a range of examples of actions which may be considered agency authorized/approved trammeling when done within or adjacent to wilderness. Wilderness stewards and resource specialists can reference this list when considering if a project contains trammeling actions. This is not a complete list, nor a tool to make a final determination about whether or not a project has trammeling actions. To make a final determination and view a flowchart help to assess potential trammeling actions not listed here, please reference Keeping It Wild 2: An Updated Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character Across the National Wilderness Preservation System, Appendix 6 (KW2) for further discussion on trammeling actions. When considering a potential trammeling action, the intent of the action, and the scope and scale of the action help determine whether or not it is a trammeling. Additionally, special provisions for ANICLA may be one example where a seemingly obvious trammeling action is not counted because of special uses allowed in the law. KW2 can also be referenced for unapproved/authorized trammeling actions.

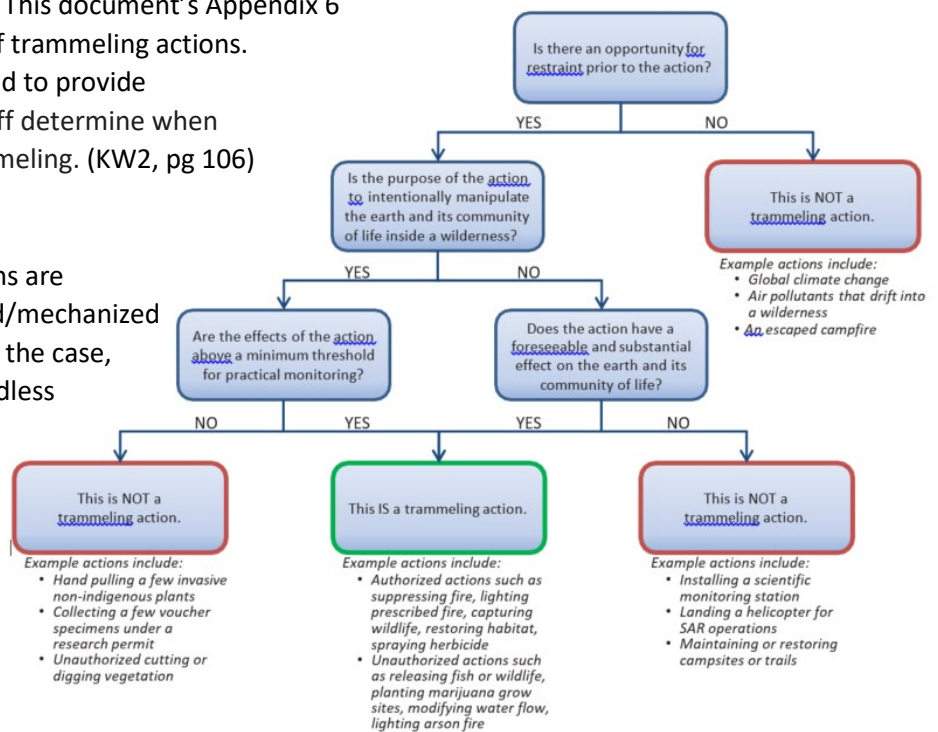
Please refer to cited sources for more information and context.

Definitions: Trammeling action: A human endeavor that intentionally controls or manipulates the land’s self-will; any management action that intentionally manipulates, controls, hinders, or restricts any aspect of the ecosystem. (WSP Guidebook, pg 68) *The WSP Agency Management Action element is focused on agency authorized/approved trammeling actions.*

An action or persistent structure that intentionally manipulate “the earth and its community of life” inside a designated wilderness or inside an area that, by Congressional legislation or agency policy, is managed to preserve wilderness character. (KW2, pg 101) *KW2’s definition is broader, and accounts for agency authorized and unauthorized trammeling actions.*

Additional Information: Keeping It Wild 2: An Updated Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character Across the National Wilderness Preservation System is a master resource for understanding trammeling and trammeling actions. This document’s Appendix 6 includes many additional examples of trammeling actions. Additionally, a flow chart is referenced to provide general guidelines to help agency staff determine when an action should be considered trammeling. (KW2, pg 106)

A common misunderstanding with trammeling actions is that actions are considered trammeling if a motorized/mechanized tool was used. This is not necessarily the case, a trammeling action may occur regardless of the type of tools used; moreover irrespective of how the action is implemented, a trammeling may occur if the intent was to control, hinder, or restrict any aspect of the ecosystem.



Examples of Agency Authorized Trammeling Actions

- Removing predators to reduce their population size (KW2)
- Installing a dam across a river channel (KW2)
- Removing many trees to reroute a major section of trail (KW2)
- Restoring a mine site (KW2)
- Introducing a game species outside a wilderness with the intention that the animals will occupy habitat within the wilderness (KW2)
- Igniting a fire outside of a wilderness with the anticipation that the fire will burn into the wilderness (KW2)
- Installing a dam outside of a wilderness boundary that results in the containment of a watershed within the wilderness (KW2)
- Seeding clouds for weather manipulation over a wilderness (KW2)
- Using prescribed fire to allow fire processes to occur where adjacent land development precludes allowing lightning-ignited fires to burn naturally (KW2)
- Spraying herbicide to eradicate a non-indigenous species (KW2)
- Removing non-indigenous fish from lakes (KW2)
- Some fire related motor/mech authorizations including, IF they had the effect of trammeling; not all motor/mech authorizations have a trammeling effect (WCMTG)
 - o Fireline construction
 - o Burn operations
 - o Extinguishing fire
 - o Application of fire retardant
- Administrative actions to remove or kill indigenous or nonindigenous vegetation, fish, or wildlife (WCMTG)
- Adding or restoring indigenous or nonindigenous vegetation, fish, or wildlife (WCMTG)
- Using chemicals or biocontrol agents to control indigenous or nonindigenous vegetation, fish, or wildlife (WCMTG)
- Collecting, capturing, or releasing fish and wildlife under a research permit (WCMTG)
- Enclosing or excluding fish and wildlife from an area (WCMTG)
- Permitting livestock grazing (WCMTG)
- Taking suppression action on a naturally ignited fire (WCMTG)
- Igniting fire (under management prescription) for any purpose (WCMTG)
- Constructing or maintaining a dam, water diversion, guzzler, fish barrier, or other persistent installation intended to continuously alter wilderness hydrology (WCMTG)
- Installing a bat gate on a cave or constructing fencing to an extent sufficient to alter wildlife behavior (e.g. elk or cattle exclosures) (WCMTG)
- Adding acid-buffering limestone to water to neutralize effects of acid deposition (WCMTG)
- Collecting fossils, rocks, paleontological specimens under a collection or research permit (WCMTG)
- Implementing Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) activities (WCMTG)
- Killing fish and wildlife outside wilderness, or planting or stocking fish or wildlife outside wilderness, to intentionally affect the population or distribution of this species inside wilderness (WCMTG)

- Indirect manipulation of fish and wildlife, such as changing hunting regulations with the goal of decreasing predator populations within wilderness (WCMTG)
- Modifying water resources to provide water for wildlife, or otherwise store water or alter the timing of water flow (WCMTG)
- Killing individual animals outside of wilderness with the intention to affect populations whose ranges expand into wilderness (WCMTG)
- Releasing individual animals outside of wilderness with the intention to affect populations whose ranges expand into wilderness (WCMTG)
- Restoring habitat for a listed endangered species (WCMTG)
- Transplanting an extirpated species back into a wilderness (WCMTG)
- Routing a trail through an area of sensitive alpine butterfly habitat (WCMTG)
- Obliterating a large section of non-system trail that requires extensive earth movement (WCMTG)
- Restoring a number of campsites that requires moving a significant amount of soil or number of plants in the surrounding area (WCMTG)
- Removing all of the hazard trees over large area (WCMTG)
- Constructing a large amount of trail to reroute around an obstacle (WCMTG)
- Installing instrumentation that disrupts the movement or behavior of plants, fish, or wildlife (WCMTG)
- Capturing, collaring, and releasing wildlife (WCMTG)

Source Abbreviations:

KW2 – Keeping It Wild 2: An Updated Interagency Strategy to Monitor Trends in Wilderness Character Across the National Wilderness Preservation System. USDA Forest Service, October 2015.

WCMTG – Wilderness Character Monitoring Technical Guide. USDA Forest Service, May 2019.

WSP Guidebook – Wilderness Stewardship Performance Guidebook. USDA Forest Service, 2017.