

NATIONAL WILDERNESS SKILLS INSTITUTE



MAY 24–28, 2021

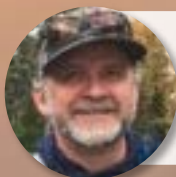
WELCOME!

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!

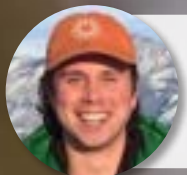
The National Wilderness Skills Institute Core Team is staff from the USDA Forest Service and partner organizations from across the nation.



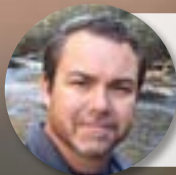
Bill Hodge
Executive Director
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation



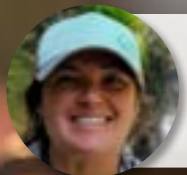
Jimmy Gaudry
Northern Region Wilderness and Wild & Scenic
Rivers Program Manager, USDA Forest Service



Jacob Wall
Program Director
Society for Wilderness Stewardship



John Campbell
Southern Region Wilderness and Wild & Scenic
Rivers Program Manager, USDA Forest Service



Angie Fuhrmann
River Training Center Coordinator
River Management Society



J. Dan Abbe
Wilderness Specialist, USDA Forest Service Representative,
Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center



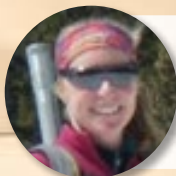
Risa Shimoda
Executive Director
River Management Society



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



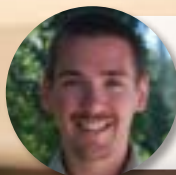
Eric Giebelstein
Regional Director
Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards



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



Ian Davidson
Program Manager
Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation













Dusty Vaughn
Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers
Specialist, 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 the Session Survey 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





MONDAY X

TUESDAY X

WEDNESDAY X

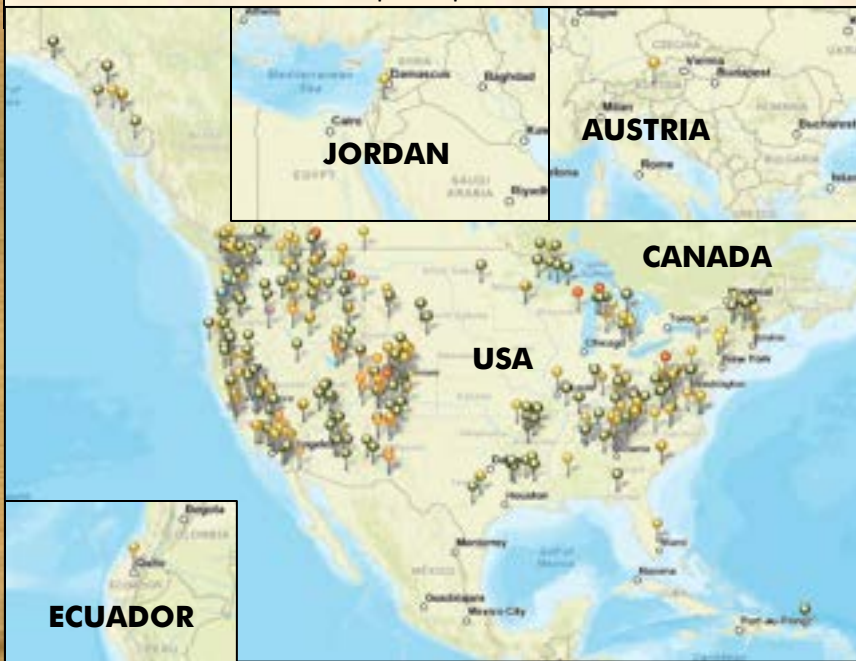
FRIDAY X

THURSDAY X



INFORMATION

TRAIL REGISTER: locations of participants from around the world



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.



☐ Duck, split, no bones
medium, frozen

☐ Dogs Antagonize Bears' Scent



NORMS AND EXPECTATIONS

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

PROHIBITED BEHAVIORS

At this time we have no prohibitions in place.

Help keep it that way by practicing responsible participation methods and showing kindness to others that are participating.



Thank you,
NWSI Core Team



SUBMIT EVENT EVALUATION



MONDAY, MAY 26TH

Click on class for description and to access Zoom room

| EASTERN TIME | Traditional Skills | Visitor Use | Wild & Scenic Rivers | Wilderness I | Wilderness II |
|--------------|--|---|--|---|--|
| 11:00 AM | <div>Welcome and Keynote</div> <div>Core Team</div> <div>Vicki Christiansen</div> <div>Bill Hodge</div> <div>Dr. Drew Lanham</div> <div>11:00-12:20</div> | | | | |
| 11:30 AM | | | | | |
| 12:00 PM | | | | | |
| 12:30 PM | <div>Public Lands in the US - A More Inclusive Examination</div> <div>Paul Sanford, Liz Vogel, & Sharon Musa</div> <div>12:30-1:50</div> | | | | |
| 1:00 PM | | | | | |
| 1:30 PM | | | | | |
| 2:00 PM | <div>Mastering the Basics: An Examination of the Physics, Nuances, & Mechanics of Traditional Skills</div> <div>Bob Beckley, Dolly Chapman, Aaron Klug, Doug Hunt, Jess Kehoe, Susan Jenkins, Jeremy Watkins</div> <div>2-3:20</div> | <div>The Wonderful World of Visitor Use Management</div> <div>Linda Merigliano</div> <div>2:00-3:20</div> | <div>How & Why The Wilderness Act Became Law</div> <div>Bill Hodge</div> <div>2:30-3:20</div> | | <div>Wilderness Stewardship Performance (WSP) Overview</div> <div>Eric Sandeno & Dusty Vaughn</div> <div>2:00-2:50</div> |
| 2:30 PM | | | | | |
| 3:00 PM | | | | | <div>Wilderness Character Monitoring (WCM)- An Interagency Perspective</div> <div>Dr. Peter Landres, Julie King, Kaitlin de Varona, Peter Mali, Roger Semler, Peter Keller, Marissa Edwards</div> <div>3:00-4:50</div> |
| 3:30 PM | | | | | |
| 4:00 PM | <div>Trail Maintenance Basics for Field Staff</div> <div>Jessica May & Kerry Wood</div> <div>3:30-4:50</div> | <div>Visitor Use Management on the Appalachian Trail</div> <div>Morgan Sommerville</div> <div>4:00-4:50</div> | <div>History of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act</div> <div>Ed Krumpe & LuVerne Gruessing</div> <div>3:30-4:50</div> | <div>Wilderness Act 101</div> <div>Ralph Swain</div> <div>3:30-4:50</div> | |
| 4:30 PM | | | | | |
| 5:00 PM | <div>Happy Hour - Keynote Discussion</div> <div>Bill Hodge</div> <div>5:00-6:00</div> | | | | |
| 5:30 PM | | | | | |

Need Help? Contact Dispatch: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm: Angie Fuhrmann, angie@river-management.org



2:00 pm – 5:00 pm: John Campbell, john.campbell@usda.gov

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm: Dusty Vaughn, gary.vaughn@usda.gov

TUESDAY, MAY 25TH

Click on class for description and to access Zoom room

EASTERN
TIME

11:00 AM

11:30 AM

12:00 PM

12:30 PM

1:00 PM

1:30 PM

2:00 PM

2:30 PM

3:00 PM

3:30 PM

4:00 PM

4:30 PM

5:00 PM

5:30 PM

Traditional Skills

Visitor Use

Wild & Scenic Rivers

Wilderness I

Wilderness II

Coffee Hour - Regional Breakouts

11:00 - 11:50

Crosscut Saws I

Pete Duncan
12:00 - 1:20

**WISDOM: A Six-Step
Process for Effective
Public Contacts and
Authority of the Resource**
Ralph Swain & Jack Ader
12:00 - 1:20

Wilderness/WSR Fire Resource
Advisors Dylan McCoy 12-12:30

Wildfire Incidents and Wild
& Scenic River Resource
Considerations
Kai Allen 12:30 - 1:20

**WISDOM - Authority of
the Resource**

Ralph Swain & Jack Ader
12:00 - 1:20

Wilderness/WSR Fire Resource
Advisors Dylan McCoy 12-12:30

WSP - Natural Role of Fire
Frankie Romero &
Colter Pence
12:30 - 1:20

Monitoring Campsite and Trail Conditions

Dr. Jeff Marion & Dr. Jeremy Wimpey
1:30 - 2:20

**Understanding Your Wild &
Scenic River I** Steve
Chesterton, Kristen Thrall,
Tangy Wiseman, Liz Townley

Monitoring Campsite and Trail Conditions

Dr. Jeff Marion & Dr. Jeremy Wimpey
1:30 - 2:20

**Resolving the Worst Appalachian Trail
Camping Impacts**

Dr. Jeff Marion & Morgan Sommerville
2:30 - 3:20

**Understanding Your Wild &
Scenic River II** Steve
Chesterton, Kristen Thrall,
Tangy Wiseman, Liz Townley

**Understanding
Wilderness Character**
Linda Merigiano
2:30 - 3:20

WSP - Recreation Sites
Stacy Duke & Eric Sandeno
2:30 - 3:20

Pack Stock I

USDA Forest Service Pacific
Southwest Region Pack Stock
Center for Excellence
3:30 - 4:50

**Lessons from the Field -
Digital Kiosks and Visitor
Use Management**

Chrysann Jaeger
3:30 - 4:50

**Understanding Your Wild &
Scenic River III**
Steve Chesterton,
Kristen Thrall, Tangy
Wiseman, Liz Townley

**Wilderness Values,
Four Cornerstones,
and Benefits**
Ken Straley & Jason Taylor
3:30 - 4:50

**WCM - Implementing
with the Forest Service**
Kaitlin de Varona, Mike
Smith, & Jacob Wall
3:30 - 4:50

Happy Hour - Trivia Night

Pete Irvine & Dusty Vaughn
5:00 - 6:00

Need Help? Contact Dispatch: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm: John Campbell, john.campbell@usda.gov



2:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Risa Shimoda, executivedirector@river-management.org

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm: Dusty Vaughn, gary.vaughn@usda.gov

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26TH

Click on class for description and to access Zoom room

| EASTERN TIME | Traditional Skills | Visitor Use | Wild & Scenic Rivers | Wilderness I | Wilderness II |
|--------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| 11:00 AM | Coffee Hour - Exploring Native Land Acknowledgements | | | | |
| 11:30 AM | Colter Pence & Dr. Serra Hoagland 11:00 - 11:50 | | | | |
| 12:00 PM | Crosscut Saws II Bill Hodge 12:00 - 1:20 | 10-Year Trail Stewardship → | Assessing and Developing Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities for River Rangers I Colter Pence & Angie Fuhrmann 12:00 - 1:20 | 10 Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge | 12:00 - 12:25 |
| 12:30 PM | | Trail Conditions Via Electronic Formats Joshua Simpson 12:30 - 1:20 | | | WSP - Trails Brenda Yankoviak 12:30 - 1:20 |
| 1:00 PM | Solitude Monitoring Dr. Troy Hall 1:30 - 2:20 | | Assessing and Developing Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities for River Rangers II 1:30 - 2:20 | Solitude Monitoring Dr. Troy Hall 1:30 - 2:20 | |
| 1:30 PM | | | Assessing and Developing Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities for River Rangers III 2:30 - 3:20 | Prohibited Uses and the Exceptions to Them James Sippel 2:30 - 3:20 | WSP - Opportunities for Solitude Dr. Troy Hall 2:30 - 3:20 |
| 2:00 PM | | | | | |
| 2:30 PM | Trail Management Objectives on the Trail: An Introduction to the Backend of Trail Work Jessica May 3:30 - 4:50 | Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills & Ethics - Introductory Erin Collier & Brice Esplin 3:30 - 4:50 | | | WCM - Support & Resources Julie King, Jim Edmonds, Mike Smith, Kaitlin de Varona, Drew Lindsey, & Portia Jelinek 3:30 - 4:50 |
| 3:00 PM | Happy Hour - Movie Night "The Dark Divide" Followed by a Panel Discussion with the Producers 5:00 - 8:00 | | | | |
| 3:30 PM | | | | | |
| 4:00 PM | | | | | |
| 4:30 PM | | | | | |
| 5:00 PM | | | | | |
| 5:30 PM | | | | | |
| 6:00 PM | | | | | |
| 6:30 PM | | | | | |
| 7:00 PM | | | | | |
| 7:30 PM | | | | | |
| 8:00 PM | | | | | |

Need Help? Contact Dispatch: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm: Eric Giebelstein, ericgiebelstein@wildernessstewards.org



5:00 pm – 8:00 pm: Dusty Vaughn, gary.vaughn@usda.gov

THURSDAY, MAY 27TH

Click on class for description and to access Zoom room

| EASTERN TIME | Traditional Skills | Visitor Use | Wild & Scenic Rivers | Wilderness I | Wilderness II |
|--------------|--|---|----------------------|---|--|
| 11:00 AM | Coffee Hour - Topic Breakouts 11:00 - 11:50 - Wilderness Research, Jason Taylor | | | | |
| 11:30 AM | - International & Global Initiatives, Adam Hanson & Hanna Öllös - Using "Field Maps" Applications in Wilderness Management, Dylan McCoy | | | | |
| 12:00 PM | Crosscut Saws III Dave Haberl 12:00 - 1:20 | The Sustainable Camping & Trail Management Toolbox Dr. Jeff Marion 12:00 - 1:20 | | | Introduction to This is Who We Are Colter Pence 12:00 - 1:20 |
| 12:30 PM | | | | | |
| 1:00 PM | | | | | |
| 1:30 PM | Field Leadership Development: Giving Leader’s Intent and Field Briefings Colter Pence 1:30 - 3:20 | The Central Cascades Wilderness Permit System Jason Fisher 1:30 - 2:20 | | Minimum Requirements Analysis / Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG) Dan Abbe, Dan Morris, & John Campbell 1:30 - 3:20 | |
| 2:00 PM | | | | | |
| 2:30 PM | | To Permit or Not to Permit: Addressing Visitor Capacity Katy Nelson 2:30 - 3:20 | | | |
| 3:00 PM | | | | | |
| 3:30 PM | Backpacking & Backcountry Nutrition Katie Currier & Jessica Satterfield 3:30 - 4:50 | Leave No Trace - Teaching Tools for Responsible Recreation Erin Collier & Brice Esplin 3:30 - 4:50 | | | WSP - Agency Management Actions Bjorn Fredrickson & Colter Pence 3:30 - 4:20 |
| 4:00 PM | | | | | |
| 4:30 PM | | | | | |
| 5:00 PM | Happy Hour - Regional Virtual Campfire Chats | | | | |
| 5:30 PM | 5:00 - 6:00 | | | | |

Need Help?: 11:00 am – 2:00 pm: Angie Fuhrmann, angie@river-management.org



2:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Nancy Taylor, nancy.taylor@usda.gov

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm: Dusty Vaughn, gary.vaughn@usda.gov



FRIDAY, MAY 28TH

Click on class for description and to access Zoom room

EASTERN TIME

11:00 AM

11:30 AM

12:00 PM

12:30 PM

1:00 PM

1:30 PM

2:00 PM

2:30 PM

3:00 PM

3:30 PM

4:00 PM

4:30 PM

Traditional Skills

Visitor Use

Wild & Scenic Rivers

Wilderness I

Wilderness II

Coffee Hour

Message from the USDA Chief: 11-11:30
Micro-Mentoring: Colter Pence 11:30-11:50

Funding Programs

Randy Welsh, Kerry, Morse, Dusty Vaughn, Brenda Yankoviak, Sharon Seim
12:00 - 12:50

Crosscut Saws IV

Pete Duncan, Bill Hodge,
& Dave Haberl
12:00 - 1:20

Overcoming Challenges and Continuous Improvement in Wyoming's Snake River Canyon

David Cernicek 1:00 - 1:50

Wilderness Stewardship Performance

Eric Sandeno & Dusty Vaughn
1:00 - 1:50

Pack Stock II

USDA Forest Service Pacific
Southwest Region Pack Stock
Center for Excellence
1:30 - 2:50 pm

Wild & Scenic Rivers Coalition

Risa Shimoda
2:00 - 2:50

Introduction to Wilderness Character Monitoring

Julie King, Mike Smith, &
Kaitlin de Varona 2:00 - 2:50

WSP - Round Robin

Nancy Taylor, Kelly Pearson,
Christina Boston, &
Lee Johnson 2:00 - 2:50

What We Learned

Bill Hodge
3:00 - 3:50

Happy Hour – Take-Aways & Next Steps

Core Team
4:00 - 4:50

Need Help? 11:00 am – 2:00 pm: Angie Fuhrmann, angie@river-management.org



zoom
help center

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Jimmy Gaudry, christopher.gaudry@usda.gov



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 regional breakouts, exploring native land acknowledgements, research, global initiatives, field mapping, and micro-mentoring.

All Tracks Combined

A few larger sessions have been developed that cross all tracks including the opening keynote session, exploring public lands management, history, and conservation with a focus on telling a more inclusive narrative, funding programs, review of the week, 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 hand tools, using pack stock, trail maintenance techniques, crosscut use, field leadership and backpacking and backcountry nutrition, participants will have a solid foundation for some actual time in the field to practice these skills.

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.

Wilderness I

Join 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, character, values, benefits, science, and prohibited uses. Leave No Trace instructors will lead us through outdoor skills, ethics, and provide teaching tools for responsible recreation.

Wilderness II

Building upon content covered in the Wilderness I sessions, the courses in this track dives deeper into Wilderness Stewardship Performance (WSP) elements, Wilderness Character Monitoring (WCM), and Minimum Requirements Analyses (MRA/MRDG).

Wild & Scenic Rivers

This track assists agency personnel and partners learn more about the management of Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSRs). Courses explore the history of the WSR Act, core competencies and management principles for field staff, wildfire within WSR corridors, and the network of organizations working to protect and defend existing and potential WSRs.

Happy Hour

End each day with informal and relaxed hangouts ranging from reflecting on the keynote message, testing your wilderness and river knowledge in a friendly game of trivia, join us for movie night, and sharing your story around a virtual campfire with your regional peers.

[Return to Agenda](#)

MONDAY, MAY 24TH

*All times in Eastern Time

11:00-12:20
pm



Welcome and Keynote: A New Way into the Wild – Inclusion as a Criterion for the Future of Conservation



Bill Hodge
Executive Director
Bob Marshall
Wilderness Foundation



Dr. Drew Lanham
Alumni Distinguished Professor of Wildlife Ecology
Master Teacher and Certified Wildlife Biologist
Forestry and Environmental Conservation Department
Clemson University

 [View Welcome Message](#)

 [View Keynote Recording](#)


Join us as we kick-off the National Wilderness Skills Institute followed by an in-depth discussion with Dr. Drew Lanham. He is a cultural and conservation ornithologist whose work addresses the confluence of race, place, and nature. Drew is an accredited author, a lifelong bird watcher and hunter-conservationist living in Seneca, South Carolina.

12:30-1:50 pm



Public Lands in the US: A More Inclusive Examination

Presented by The Wilderness Society

 **Pre-Work:** read [“How Did Public Lands Come to Be?”](#)
ahead of participating in this session (2-hour read)

 [View Recording](#)



Paul Sanford
National Director of
Recreation Policy



Liz Vogel
National Director for
Access and Education



Sharon Musa
High Meadows
Fellow

In this interactive virtual class, we'll explore public lands management, history, and conservation with a focus on telling a more inclusive narrative presented by The Wilderness Society. Participants will:

- Review the definition of public lands and management of public lands.
- Understand that the common historical narrative of public lands has done little to reckon with the sometimes-atrocious means by which public lands were created.
- Explore how social and political movements affected and continue to affect how and for whom public lands were and are created.
- Learn about some of the historic and current contributions that Black people, Indigenous people, and People of Color have had and continue to have in the conservation movement. See [“Groups Diversifying the Outdoors Detailed Information”](#) handout

MONDAY, MAY 24TH

*All Times in Eastern Time

2:00-3:20 pm



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

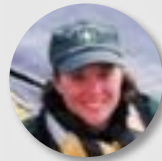
⚠ **Recommended
Pre-work:**
[Posters,](#)
[Publications &
Videos](#)

[View Recording](#)

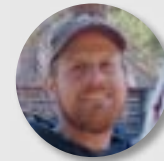
This session provides participants an opportunity to learn from traditional tool experts with a focus on learning how to use a tool rather than just learning the “how to do it” technique. The foundational teaching by these experts puts more emphasis on the science, physics and dynamics of the work and 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.



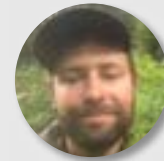
Bob Beckley
Retired, National
Technology &
Development Center
USDA Forest Service



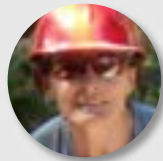
Susan Jenkins
Project Leader
National Technology &
Development Center
USDA Forest Service



Jeremy Watkins
Wilderness/Trails Specialist
Seeley Lake Ranger District
Lolo National Forest
USDA Forest Service



Aaron Klug
Bob Marshall Wilderness
Trail Specialist
USDA Forest Service



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



Doug Hunt
Retired Packer
Selway Bitterroot
Wilderness
USDA Forest Service



Jessica Kehoe
PT,DPT,CSCS
Alpine
Physical
Therapy

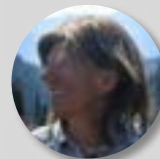
2:00-3:20 pm



The Wonderful World of Visitor Use Management

[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.



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

MONDAY, MAY 24TH

*All Times in Eastern Time

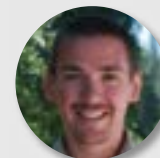
2:00-2:50 pm



Wilderness Stewardship Performance Overview



Eric Sandeno, Information Manager
Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers
Washington Office
USDA Forest Service



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

 [Table of Elements](#)

 [View Recording](#)

Provides attendees background of the Wilderness Stewardship Performance (WSP) measure, results from the first six years, accomplishment trends, and funding opportunities. From this presentation, participants will gain a better understanding of WSP, where to find resources, and possible funding opportunities. (**Note:** This class is also presented on Friday, May 28th at 1:00-1:50 pm)

2:30-3:20 pm



How and Why The Wilderness Act Became Law



Bill Hodge
Executive Director
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation

 [View Recording](#)

We will 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.

MONDAY, MAY 24TH

*All Times in Eastern Time

3:00-4:50 pm



Wilderness Character Monitoring - An Interagency Perspective



Dr. Peter Landres
Emeritus Scientist, Aldo
Leopold Wilderness
Research Institute
USDA Forest Service



Kaitlin de Varona
Program Manager &
WCM Team Leader
Southern Appalachian
Wilderness Stewards



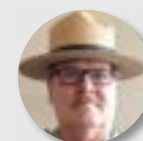
Julie King
National WCM
Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



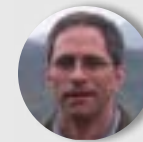
Marissa Edwards
Wilderness Fellow
American Conservation
Experience



Peter Mali
National Wilderness
Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



Roger Semler
Wilderness Stewardship
Division Manager
National Park Service



Peter Keller
National Wilderness Program Lead
Bureau of Land Management

 [View Recording](#)

A look at wilderness character monitoring history, development, overview, and an interagency update.

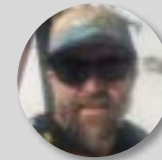
3:30-4:50 pm



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

 [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.

3:30-4:50 pm



History of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act



Ed Krumpke
Professor Emeritus
Department of Natural Resources & Society
University of Idaho



LuVerne Gruessing
Retired, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Cottonwood Field Office
Bureau of Land Management

 [View Recording](#)

This course will explain the events that contributed to the passage of the Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSR) Act, discuss the importance of the WSR Act, describe the key primary concepts included in the WSR Act, and describe the role of federal land management agencies in implementing the WSR Act.

MONDAY, MAY 24TH

*All Times in Eastern Time

3:30-4:50 pm



Wilderness Act 101



Ralph Swain
Retired
Rocky Mountain Region Wilderness and Rivers Program Manager
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

This presentation is targeted to first- or second-year seasonal wilderness rangers, volunteers and those that are new to wilderness stewardship. The power-point will focus on the fundamentals of the Wilderness Act, specifically section 2 and 4 of the Law. It will also address the "why" wilderness was needed in 1964 and for future generations. The presentation will conclude with the challenges forthcoming, including climate change, intervention, and the need to "Let it Be."

4:00-4:50 pm



Lessons from the Field - Visitor Use Management on the Appalachian Trail



Morgan Sommerville
Director of Visitor Use Management
Appalachian Trail Conservancy

 [View Recording](#)

I'll describe the history of VUM on the Appalachian Trail (AT), Appalachian Trail Conservancy's (ATC) adoption of the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council's (IVUMC) Visitor Use Management (VUM) planning framework, give some examples of AT VUM planning work, and describe ATC's strategic VUM plan for future A.T. VUM work.

5:00-6:00 pm



Happy Hour – Keynote Discussion



Bill Hodge
Executive Director
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation

 [View Recording](#)

Join us as we spend time exploring the messages shared in the keynote discussion with Dr. Drew Lanham. What role do we each play in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion and what connection does this have to stewarding Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers?

TUESDAY, MAY 25TH

*All times in Eastern Time

11:00-11:50 am



Coffee Hour – Regional Breakouts

Northern Region - northeastern Washington, northern Idaho, Montana, North Dakota & northwestern South Dakota
Rocky Mountain Region - Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas
Southwestern Region - Arizona & New Mexico
Intermountain Region - Utah, Nevada, western Wyoming, and southern Idaho
Pacific Southwest Region - California, Hawaii, and Pacific Islands
Pacific Northwest Region - Washington and Oregon
Southern Region - Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North & South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Puerto Rico
Eastern Region – Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Vermont, West Virginia,
Alaska Region - Alaska

Regional breakout room discussions intentionally not recorded

Join a breakout room based on your location to participate in 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.

12:00-1:20 pm

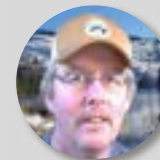


Crosscut Saws I

 [Resources](#)

 [View Recording](#)

Day one we will cover personal protective equipment, equipment requirements, human factors, and the five-step cutting process: Objective, Hazards/obstacles, Leans/binds, Escape paths and Cut plan (OHLEC). We will also present an overview of the USDA Forest Service Saw Program



Pete Duncan
National Saw Program Manager
USDA Forest Service

TUESDAY, MAY 25TH

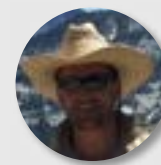
12:00-1:20 pm



WISDOM: A Six-Step Process for Effective Public Contacts and Authority of the Resource Technique



Ralph Swain
Retired, Rocky Mountain Region
Wilderness & Rivers Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



*All Times in Eastern Time
Jack Ader
Wilderness Ranger
West Fork Ranger District
Bitterroot National Forest
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.

12:00-12:25 pm



Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers Fire Resource Advisors (READs)



Dylan McCoy
Lead Wilderness Ranger
McKenzie River Ranger District
Willamette National Forest
USDA Forest Service

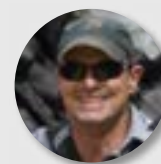
[View Recording](#)

This course will include a brief introduction into what a Fire Resource Advisors(READ) is, how they are related to Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers (WWS) specifically, some of what a WWSR READ does, why that is important to WWSR management, and how people can get started on this path if they are interested.

12:30-1:20 pm



Wildfire Incidents and Wild & Scenic Rivers Resource Considerations



Kai Allen
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Rogue National Wild & Scenic River
USDI Bureau of Land Management

[View Recording](#)

This session will focus on Wild & Scenic Rivers (WSR) in the context of Wildland Fire Incident Management. The presentation will review the requirements of the WSR Act, consider river specific resource protection measures during a wildland fire incident, and examine the framework for integrating river resources into the overall incident management strategy. This session will benefit a wide range of river professionals and resource specialists tasked with ensuring the protection of river values before, during, and after a wildland fire.

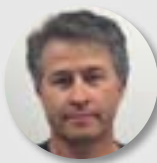
TUESDAY, MAY 25TH

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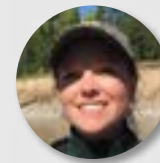
12:30-1:20 pm



Wilderness Stewardship Performance – Natural Role of Fire



Frankie Romero
Fire Use & Fuels Program Manager
Washington Office
USDA Forest Service



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

 [View Recording](#)

Provides attendees details about the five scoring components, with specific examples, of the Natural Role of Fire Wilderness Stewardship Performance element. From this presentation, participants will gain a better understanding of the Natural Role of Fire element and deliverables needed to improve element scores.

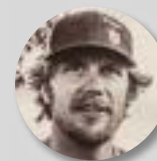
1:30-2:20 pm



Monitoring Campsite and Trail Conditions



Dr. Jeff Marion
Recreation Ecologist
USDI U.S. Geological Survey
Eastern Ecological Science Center



Dr. Jeremy Wimpey
Principal
Applied Trails Research, LLC

 [View Recording](#)

This presentation will address how monitoring can supply a Visitor Use Management process with accurate information about campsite and trail conditions to evaluate thresholds/standards of quality and aid in selecting corrective actions and evaluating their efficacy. The bulk of the talk will be focused on developing and implementing effective monitoring programs, with helpful guidance for both program leaders and field staff.

Part I:
1:30-2:20 pm

Part II:
2:30-3:20 pm

Part III:
3:30-4:50 pm

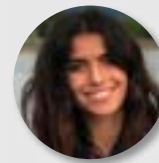
Beyond the Banks, Understanding Your Wild & Scenic River



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



Kristen Thrall, Recreation
Program Manager, Huron-
Manistee National Forest,
USDA Forest Service



Tangy Wiseman, Wilderness
and Wild & Scenic Rivers
Program Specialist
USDA Forest Service



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

 [View Recording](#)

Field staff implement law, agency policy and regulation often without realizing their day to day work is designed to align with broader goals and objectives. Understanding the requirements for stewarding a Wild & Scenic River (WSR) and the management plans that provide the basis for how and why WSRs are managed increases knowledge of field level practitioners creating ownership and lasting stewardship of the resource. This session focuses on the fundamentals of managing a WSR.



TUESDAY, MAY 25TH

*All Times in Eastern Time

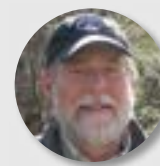
2:30-3:20 pm



Management Case Studies: Resolving the Worst Appalachian Trail Camping Impacts



Dr. Jeff Marion
Recreation Ecologist
USDI U.S. Geological Survey
Eastern Ecological Science Center



Morgan Sommerville
Director of Visitor Use Management
Appalachian Trail Conservancy

 [View Recording](#)

This presentation will present and discuss three cases studies where management-science collaborations sought to resolve the recognized “worst” Appalachian Trail camping locations by shifting camping from popular flat areas, where campsite proliferation and expansion had created unacceptably large “mega-clusters” of campsites and impact, to sustainable side-hill campsites in sloping terrain. The cases studies are Annapolis Rocks vista, Maryland, Slaughter Gap, Georgia, and Hawk Mtn Shelter, Georgia. The “lessons-learned” from each will be shared and discussed.

2:30-3:20 pm



Understanding Wilderness Character



Linda Merigiano
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

2:30-3:20 pm



Wilderness Stewardship Performance – Recreation Sites



Stacy Duke
Forest Recreation Program Manager
Hoosier National Forest
USDA Forest Service



Eric Sandeno, Information Manager
Wilderness and Wild & Scenic
Rivers
Washington Office
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

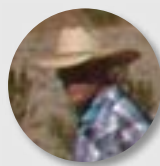
Provides attendees details about the five scoring components, with specific examples, of the Recreation Sites Wilderness Stewardship Performance element. From this presentation, participants will gain a better understanding of the Recreation Sites element and deliverables needed to improve element scores.

TUESDAY, MAY 25TH

3:30-4:50 pm



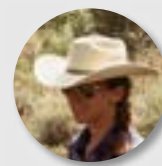
Pack Stock I



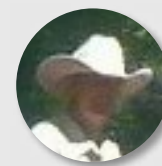
Ken Graves
Forest Packer
PSCOE Co-Director
Shasta-Trinity
National Forest



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



Katy Bartzokis
PSCOE Lead Packer
Shasta-Trinity
National Forest



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

*All Times in Eastern Time

[View Recording](#)

This 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 USFS packers.

3:30-4:50 pm

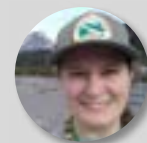


Lessons from the Field: Digital Kiosks and Visitor Use Management

[Northern Region Digital Kiosk Operational Plan](#)

[View Recording](#)

USDA Forest Service Northern Region digital kiosk program: Explanation and background of what digital kiosks are, and how digital kiosks can assist with visitor use management. How can we think of new ways to use this technology to encourage certain visitor use patterns?

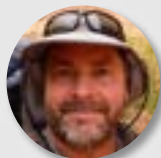


Chrysann Jaeger
Conservation Education Specialist (acting)
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests
USDA Forest Service

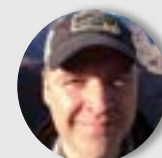
3:30-4:50 pm



Wilderness Values, Four Cornerstones, and Benefits



Ken Straley
Acting Wilderness and Wild & Scenic
Rivers Program Manager
Rocky Mountain Region
USDA Forest Service



Jason Taylor
Director
Aldo Leopold Wilderness
Research Institute
USDA Forest Service

[View Recording](#)

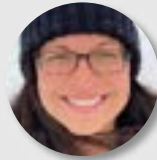
This session will look in depth at the Four Cornerstones of wilderness stewardship (preserve wildness and natural conditions; provide and use the minimum necessary; manage wilderness as a whole; and protect wilderness benefits). These foundational principles will be connected with values that are fundamental to those who work in wilderness as well as visit these special lands for diverse reasons. The final cornerstone, protection of wilderness benefits, will lead into discussion of a timely report on wilderness benefits to present and future generations of wilderness visitors and for those who value wilderness from afar.

TUESDAY, MAY 25TH

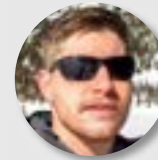
3:30-4:50 pm



Wilderness Character Monitoring - Implementing WCM with the USDA Forest Service



Kaitlin de Varona
Program Manager &
WCM Team Leader
Southern Appalachian
Wilderness Stewards



Mike Smith
WCM Team Leader
(Senior)
Society for Wilderness
Stewardship



Jacob Wall
Program Director
Society for Wilderness
Stewardship

*All Times in Eastern Time

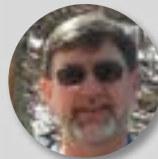
 [View Recording](#)

Implementing the Wilderness Character Monitoring (WCM) framework with the USDA Forest Service including legislative and administrative document compilation, narrative writing, measure selection, the USDA Forest Service WCM Technical Guide, and baseline assessment report writing (Wilderness Stewardship Performance points 2-8).

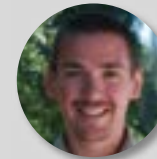
5:00-6:00 pm



Happy Hour – Trivia Night



Pete Irvine
Retired
USDA Forest Service



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

Trivia Night intentionally not recorded – play anytime using this link: <https://kahoot.it/challenge/005047229>

Join us for a fun evening of wilderness and wild & scenic rivers trivia! We will be using KaHoot! to host the game while sharing a screen with the questions and results. Instructions for joining the game:

1. On a smartphone, tablet or on your computer, go to <https://kahoot.it/challenge/005047229> (or scan the code to the right).
2. Type in a nickname.
3. The questions will be displayed with up to 4 answers to choose from. Each answer has an assigned color and shape.
4. Pick the matching color(s)/shape(s) on your separate screen to answer the question.
5. Points are determined by whether the correct answer was chosen and how fast the question was answered.



Scan Me

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26TH

*All times in Eastern Time

11:00-11:50 am



Coffee Hour – Exploring Native Land Acknowledgements

 [Resources](#)

 [View Recording](#)

Discussion will center around the concept of native land acknowledgements and offer resources and reflection points for Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers staff wanting to explore this.



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



Dr. Serra J. Hoagland
Acting Tribal Relations
Program Manager
Intermountain Region
USDA Forest Service

12:00-1:20 pm



Crosscut Saws II

 [View Recording](#)

Day two will explore binds and tension, setting your cut, compound cuts and spring polls



Bill Hodge
Executive Director
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation

12:00-12:25 pm

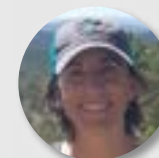


10 Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge

 [Website](#)

 [View Recording](#)

This session will include an overview of the national trail program (who's who and what we're all working on), and a synopsis of the 10 Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge (why it's needed, how it's structured, and what to expect).



Brenda Yankoviak
National Trail Program Manager
USDA Forest Service

Part I:
12:00-1:20 pm

Part II:
1:30-2:20 pm

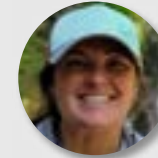
Part III:
2:30-3:20 pm



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



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



Angie Fuhrmann
River Training Center Coordinator
River Management Society

[View Recording](#)

Learn about core competencies, knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) needed for entry level river 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:

- I. Review the [Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council Technical Core Competencies for River Management Specialists and Non-Specialists](#) paper
- II. [Assess your own river KSAs](#)
- III. Learn about resources to further develop your KSAs: [USDA Forest Service](#); [Other River Rangers](#); [IWSRCC Resources](#)

12:30-1:20 pm



Lessons from the Field – Providing Up to Date Trail Conditions Via Electronic Formats



Joshua Simpson
Wilderness, Trails, Recreation and Noxious Weeds Program Manager
Krassel Ranger District, Payette National Forest
USDA Forest Service

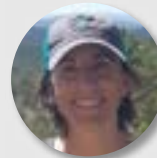
[View Recording](#)

An overview of mapping products that deliver real-time information to the public at large: ArcGIS online, trails data, maintenance schedules and reporting.

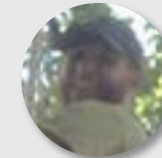
12:30-1:20 pm



Wilderness Stewardship Performance – Trails



Brenda Yankoviak
National Trail
Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



Matt Able
Assistant National Trails
Program Manager (Acting)
USDA Forest Service

[View Recording](#)

Provides attendees details about the five scoring components, with specific examples, of the Trails Wilderness Stewardship Performance element. From this presentation, participants will gain a better understanding of the Trails element and deliverables needed to improve element scores.

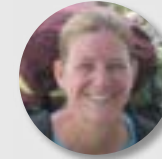
WEDNESDAY, MAY 26TH

*All Times in Eastern Time



1:30-2:20 pm



Solitude Monitoring



Dr. Troy Hall
Professor & Department Head
Forest Ecosystems & Society
Oregon State University

 [View Recording](#) **Apologies:** The beginning of this presentation was not recorded. We are working with Dr. Hall to record the beginning and upload the complete presentation at a later date.
 [Download .pdf version of full PowerPoint presentation](#)

Dr. Troy Hall will present on the legislative process involved in the passage of the Wilderness Act to explore how “outstanding opportunities” and its parts were historically understood. Specifically, Dr. Hall will dissect the parts of the phrase “outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation” (from Section 2[c] of the Wilderness Act) through an examination of how the terms “solitude,” “rugged,” “primitive,” and “unconfined” were represented and likely understood by participants in the wilderness bill hearings.

2:30-3:20 pm



Prohibited Uses and the Exceptions to Them



James Sippel
Wilderness Specialist
Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center
Bureau of Land Management

 [View Recording](#)

This session will review the Wilderness Act prohibitions, exceptions to them and special provisions.

2:30-3:20 pm



Wilderness Stewardship Performance – Opportunities for Solitude



Dr. Troy Hall
Professor & Department Head
Forest Ecosystems & Society
Oregon State University

 [View Recording](#)

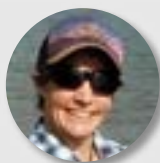
Provides attendees details about the five scoring components, with specific examples, of the Opportunities for Solitude Wilderness Stewardship Performance element. From this presentation, participants will gain a better understanding of the Opportunities for Solitude element and deliverables needed to improve element scores.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26TH

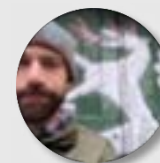
3:30-4:50 pm



Trail Management Objectives on the Trail: An Introduction to the Backend of Trail Work



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



*All Times in Eastern Time
MJ Crandall
Recreation Staff Officer
Hungry Horse-Glacier View
Ranger District
Flathead National Forest
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

This session will review Trail Management Objectives (TMO) in the context of field work and accomplishment reporting. The goal is to explain some of the national standardization of our trails system while acknowledging local variation. It is also meant to connect what field workers are doing on the ground with the bigger picture of trail system management. If you are novice to trail work, it will be helpful for you to take the Trail Maintenance Basics for Field Staff prior to attending this session.

3:30-4:50 pm



Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills & Ethics – Introductory

Subaru/Leave No Trace Team:



Brice Esplin



Erin Collier

 [View Recording](#)

This course provides an overview of Leave No Trace (LNT) principles that protect the outdoors while minimizing our impacts to the land, soil, vegetation, water, wildlife, cultural resources, and other visitors. Participants will learn about LNT guidelines to practice, promote, and share whether in the backcountry, front country, your favorite local parks, and natural areas or in your everyday life. Participants will also be introduced to programs and resources of the LNT Center for Outdoor Ethics and ways to get more involved. Lastly, the course will cover LNT recommendations to keep ourselves, our communities, and our outdoor spaces safe and healthy during COVID-19.

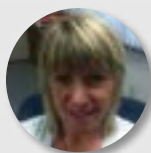
WEDNESDAY, MAY 26TH

*All Times in Eastern Time

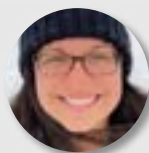
3:30-4:50 pm



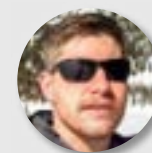
Wilderness Character Monitoring – Support & Resources



Julie King
National WCM
Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



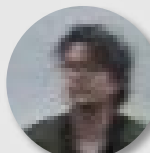
Kaitlin de Varona
Program Manager &
WCM Team Leader
Southern Appalachian
Wilderness Stewards



Mike Smith
WCM Team Leader
Society for Wilderness
Stewardship



Drew Lindsey
Data Service Specialist
USDA Forest Service



Jim Edmonds
Central Data Analyst
USDA Forest Service



Portia Jelinek
Wilderness and Wild
& Scenic Rivers NRM
Account Manager
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

An introduction to the USDA Forest Service Wilderness Character Monitoring (WCM) Central Team roles and responsibilities as well as a look at resources available to staff working on wilderness character monitoring.

5:00-8:00 pm



Happy Hour – Movie Night “The Dark Divide”



David Cross
Actor



Debra Messing
Actor



Tom Putnam
Producer



Dr. Robert Michael Pyle
lepidopterist, writer, teacher,
& founder of the Xerces Society for
Invertebrate Conservation

 [Trailer](#)

 [Rent or Purchase Movie for Viewing Online](#)

Post movie screening panel discussion intentionally not recorded

"The Dark Divide" is based on the true story of renowned butterfly expert Dr. Robert Pyle's (David Cross) perilous 1995 journey across one of America's largest undeveloped wildlands. At the urging of his dying wife Thea (Debra Messing), the shy author finds himself in over his head on an epic, life-changing expedition through Washington's Gifford Pinchot National Forest in search of new species of butterflies. Over the course of his six-week adventure Pyle battles self-doubt, the grueling trail, and the people and creatures who call this forest home. And, somewhere deep in the heart of The Dark Divide, he makes a discovery that challenges everything he knows about the natural world. Based on the book "Where Bigfoot Walks: Crossing the Dark Divide" by Robert Michael Pyle.

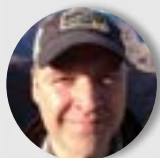
THURSDAY, MAY 27TH

*All times in Eastern Time

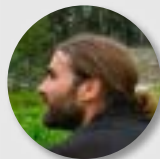
11:00-11:50 am



Coffee Hour – Topic Breakouts



Jason Taylor
Director
Aldo Leopold Wilderness
Research Institute
USDA Forest Service



Adam Hanson
NAWPA Facilitator &
Manager of Conservation
Programs
The WILD Foundation



Hanna Öllös
Carpathian Region &
Wilderness Specialist
European Wilderness
Society



Dylan McCoy
Lead Wilderness Ranger
McKenzie River Ranger District
Willamette National Forest
USDA Forest Service

Wilderness Research - This session will be an informal discussion, focused on addressing questions from attendees about the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, the use of science to support Wilderness or other public lands stewardship, science careers at resource management agencies, and other questions about research related to Wilderness. [View Recording](#)

International & Global Initiatives – Learn about various initiatives that are building global movements to protect wild places and rivers including updates on the World Wilderness Congress, international wilderness guidelines, rewilding projects, and inclusivity in the wilderness culture. [View Recording](#)

Using "Field Maps" Applications in Wilderness Management - Quick introduction to getting a GIS account, then talking about Field Maps mobile application, how it works, how it's been applied to Wilderness Management, it's capacity and limitations, lessons learned, and time for Q&A. Outcome is a better understanding of Field Maps and how it may be a tool folks can use to track management data. [View Recording](#)

12:00-1:20 pm



Crosscut Saws III



Dave Haberl
Crosscut Saw Instructor and Evaluator
Pre-Sale Forester, Rochester Ranger District
Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests
USDA Forest Service

[View Recording](#)

Day three will cover use and maintenance of the saw, ergonomics in using the saw, saw types and handle types

12:00-1:20 pm



The Sustainable Camping & Trail Management Toolbox

[Resources](#)

[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.



Dr. Jeff Marion
Recreation Ecologist
USDI U.S. Geological Survey
Eastern Ecological Science Center

12:00-1:20 pm



Introduction to “This is Who We Are”

[View Recording](#)

Learn about the USDA Forest Service’s “This Is Who We Are” program with engagement and reflection around the agency’s mission, purpose, and core values. There will be facilitated discussion intended to help participants envision how they and others deliver on the Forest Service’s mission and core values. All Forest Service employees AND partners are welcome.

[Booklet](#)

[Temporary Employee Orientation Activity Booklet Pages](#)

[Code and Commitments Double Sided](#)

[Code and Commitments Poster](#)



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

1:30-3:20 pm



Field Leadership Development: Giving Leader’s Intent and Field Briefings

[View Recording](#)

How to give and seek [Leader’s Intent](#) in moving and dynamic situations, give [Field Briefings](#), and facilitate [After Action Reviews](#).



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

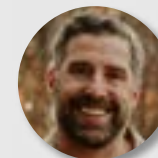
THURSDAY, MAY 27TH

*All Times in Eastern Time

1:30-2:20 pm



Lessons from the Field – The Central Cascades Wilderness Permit System



Jason Fisher
Wilderness Specialist
Deschutes National Forest
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

The Central Cascades Wilderness Permit System is a joint project between the Deschutes and Willamette National Forests to limit entry on both day and overnight use within three Wilderness areas in order to protect them for current and future generations. This presentation gives a brief history of the project and what the system looks like as it is implemented in May of 2021.

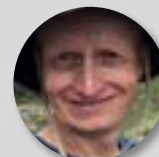
1:30-3:20 pm



Minimum Requirement Analysis/ Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG)



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



Dan Morris
Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers,
and Caves Program Manager
Intermountain Region
USDA Forest Service



John Campbell
Wilderness and Wild & Scenic
Rivers Program Manager
Southern Region
USDA Forest Service

 [View Recording](#)

Overview of Minimum Requirement Analysis, where it comes from, why we do it, and tips for how to complete.

2:30-3:20 pm



To Permit or Not to Permit: Addressing Visitor Capacity

 [Interagency VUM Council Website](#)

 [View Recording](#)



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

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.

THURSDAY, MAY 27TH

3:30-4:50 pm



Backpacking & Backcountry Nutrition



Katie Currier
Masters Candidate
University of Idaho
Former Program Manager
Southern Appalachian
Wilderness Stewards



Jessica Satterfield
Conservation
Education Specialist
Nez Perce-Clearwater
National Forests
USDA Forest Service



*All Times in Eastern Time
Carol A. Hennessey
Recreation, Trails,
Wilderness, Outfitter
& Guide & Rivers
Program Manager,
Nez Perce-Clearwater National
Forests, USDA Forest Service

[View Recording](#)

Katie has been Crew Member, Crew Leader, Field Operations Coordinator and Program Manager for backcountry programs in virtually every landscape across our public lands and she will share the what and how of packing your pack for extended time in the wilderness. Jesse has led and prepared crews for extended hitches in the backcountry and has established some best practices for preparing for feeding diverse (and hungry) crews, with critical decisions coming before ever leaving the workstation.

3:30-4:50 pm



Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills & Ethics – Teaching Tools for Responsible Recreation

Subaru/Leave No Trace Team:



Brice Esplin



Erin Collier

[View Recording](#)

This course is designed for park and recreation staff, outdoor educators, and guides who will gain skills and knowledge to incorporate Leave No Trace (LNT) into their work as well as teach LNT to all experience levels and in varied environments. Participants will receive an overview of LNT principles, practices, and ethics, including both the how's and whys behind the importance of practicing LNT. Participants will learn about LNT guidelines to practice, promote, and share whether in the backcountry, front country, your favorite local parks or in your everyday life. Instructors will cover tips, tools, and best practices for effectively communicating and teaching LNT to others (both online and in-person), including interactive activities and techniques such as Authority of the Resource. They will also review programs and resources of the LNT for Outdoor Ethics and ways to get more involved. Lastly, participants will learn about LNT recommendations to keep ourselves, our communities, and our outdoor spaces safe and healthy during COVID-19.

Note: Participants who are new to LNT or have not had LNT training in recent years are encouraged to participate in the Wednesday, May 26th Introductory session or complete the self-paced (30-45 minute) [LNT Online Awareness Course](#) in advance

THURSDAY, MAY 27TH

3:30-4:20 pm



Wilderness Stewardship Performance – Agency Management Actions



Bjorn Fredrickson
Public Services Staff Officer
Santa Fe National Forest
USDA Forest Service



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

*All Times in Eastern Time

 [View Recording](#)

Provide attendees details about the five scoring components, with specific examples, of the Agency Management Actions Wilderness Stewardship Performance element. From this presentation, participants will gain a better understanding of the Agency Management Actions element and deliverables needed to improve element scores.

Resources:

 [2 pt - Multiple Forest – Forest Supervisor Untrammelled Letter](#)

 [2pt - Suggestions for Forest Supervisor Untrammelled Quality Letter](#)

 [4pt-Trammeling Meeting Recommendations](#)

 [6pt - Agency Trammeling Action Tracker Instructions](#)

 [6pt - Agency Trammeling Action Tracker](#)

 [List of Potential Agency Trammeling Actions](#)

5:00-6:00 pm



Happy Hour – Regional Virtual Campfire Chats

Northern Region - northeastern Washington, northern Idaho, Montana, North Dakota & northwestern South Dakota

Rocky Mountain Region - Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas

Southwestern Region - Arizona & New Mexico

Intermountain Region - Utah, Nevada, western Wyoming, and southern Idaho

Pacific Southwest Region - California, Hawaii, and Pacific Islands

Pacific Northwest Region - Washington and Oregon

Southern Region - Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North & South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Puerto Rico

Eastern Region – Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Vermont, West Virginia,

Alaska Region - Alaska

Regional Virtual Campfire Chats intentionally not recorded

Join a breakout room based on your location to participate in 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.

FRIDAY, MAY 28TH

*All times in Eastern Time

11:00-11:50 am



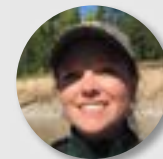
Coffee Hour –

Message from the USDA Forest Service Chief


Micro Mentoring






Vicki Christiansen
Chief
USDA Forest Service



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

Prior-year in person trainings slideshow  [View Recording](#)

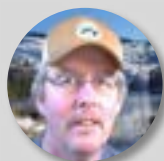
Message from the USDA Forest Service Chief: Chief Christiansen will be sharing some thoughts as we begin to wrap up the week with our last day of sessions. Be sure to join us for this special message.  [View Recording](#)

Mirro Menting: Get connected with a National Wilderness Skills Mentor to schedule for a micro-mentoring session. Micro-mentoring is typically 1 short (30-45 minute) session where a mentor and mentoree discuss perspectives, career goals, leadership, and personal challenges. Mentorees are encouraged to share with the mentoree before the mentoring session occurs a resume and a brainstorm of things they would like to discuss with the mentor. We will use the session at NWSI to match mentors and mentorees, and coach mentorees on how to be best prepared for the mentoring session they will then schedule.  [View Recording](#)  [Mentor List](#)

12:00-1:20 pm



Crosscut Saws IV



Pete Duncan
National Saw Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



Dave Haberl
Crosscut Saw Instructor and Evaluator
Pre-Sale Forester, Rochester Ranger District
Green Mountain & Finger Lakes National Forests
USDA Forest Service



Bill Hodge
Executive Director
Bob Marshall
Wilderness Foundation

 [View Recording](#)

Day four will be a tool overview, sharpening of the saw, and a recap of the week.

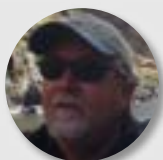
FRIDAY, MAY 28TH

*All Times in Eastern Time

12:00-12:50 pm



Funding Programs



Randy Welsh
Executive Director
National Wilderness
Stewardship Alliance



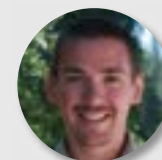
Kerry Morse
Conservation Awards
Manager
National Forest
Foundation



Sharon Seim
Alaska Region
Wilderness & Trails
Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



Brenda Yankoviak
National Trail
Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



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

 [View Recording](#)

We will hear from a panel of guests, all of whom have a connection to funding programs specific for wilderness and trail stewardship.

1:00-1:50 pm



Lessons from the Field – Overcoming Challenges and Continuous Improvement in Wyoming's Snake River Canyon



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

 [View Recording](#)

Visitor use reached over 200,000 boaters a season in the Snake River Canyon during the 1990's. While the quality of the river experience was dropping, conflicts were on the rise and stakeholders demanded change. Please join for a discussion of initial interventions and fine tuning that has followed.

1:00-1:50 pm



Wilderness Stewardship Performance



Eric Sandeno, Information Manager
Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers
Washington Office
USDA Forest Service



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

 [Table of Elements](#)

 [View Recording](#)

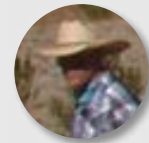
Provides attendees background of the Wilderness Stewardship Performance (WSP) measure, results from the first six years, accomplishment trends, and funding opportunities. From this presentation, participants will gain a better understanding of WSP, where to find resources, and possible funding opportunities. (**Note:** This class is also presented on Monday, May 24th at 2:00-2:50 pm)

FRIDAY, MAY 28TH

1:30-2:50 pm



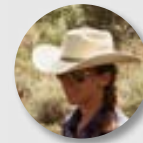
Pack Stock II



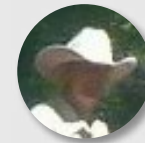
Ken Graves
Forest Packer
PSCOE Co-Director
Shasta-Trinity
National Forest



Doug Hunt
Retired Packer
Selway Bitterroot
Wilderness



Katy Bartzokis
PSCOE Lead Packer
Shasta-Trinity
National Forest



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

*All Times in Eastern Time

[View Recording](#)

This session will demonstrate and compare methods of packing the three pack saddles most commonly used in the United States: sawbuck, Salmon River, and decker. Watch demonstrations and join packers for what is sure to be a lively discussion comparing the advantages of each saddle.

2:00-2:50 pm



Wilds & Scenic Rivers Coalition



Risa Shimoda
Executive Director
River Management Society

[View Recording](#)

The mission of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Coalition is to protect and defend existing and potential Wild & Scenic Rivers and broaden the movement for their conservation by raising awareness about their value in terms of building greater capacity for river organizations to be more effective in advocating for Wild & Scenic protections; protecting and defending designated and potential Wild & Scenic Rivers and support the non-profit and agency river professionals who steward them, and improving communications amongst river organizations and with the public about the value of Wild & Scenic Rivers.

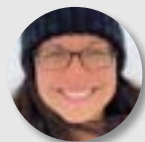
2:00-2:50 pm



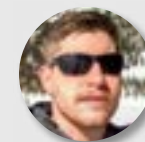
Wilderness Character Monitoring



Julie King
National WCM
Program Manager
USDA Forest Service



Kaitlin de Varona
WCM Team Leader,
Southern Appalachian
Wilderness Stewards



Mike Smith
WCM Team Leader,
Society for Wilderness
Stewardship

[View Recording](#)

Introduction to wilderness character, the 5 wilderness character qualities, and an overview of the monitoring framework.

FRIDAY, MAY 28TH

*All Times in Eastern Time

2:00-2:50 pm



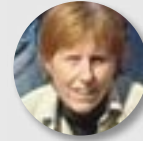
Wilderness Stewardship Performance -Round Robin



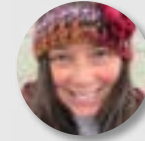
Eric Sandeno
Wilderness and
Wild & Scenic
Rivers Information
Manager, USDA
Forest Service



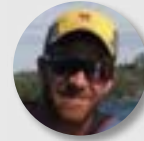
Nancy Taylor
Pacific Northwest
Wilderness, Wild &
Scenic Rivers, Cong.
Designated Areas,
USDA Forest Service



Kelly Pearson
Wilderness Tech. Hidden
Springs & Mississippi
Bluffs Ranger District,
Shawnee National
Forest, USDA FS



Christina Boston
Pacific Southwest
Region Wilderness and
Wild & Scenic Rivers
USDA Forest Service



Lee Johnson
Archaeologist
Superior National
Forest, USDA
Forest Service

Breakout rooms not recorded - please view the following recordings from previous webinars:

 [Education](#)

 [Invasive Species](#)

 [Motorized Equipment/Mechanical Transport Use Authorizations](#)

 [Cultural Resources](#)

Provide participants a quick 15-minute overview of elements as well as example deliverables associated with each. Participants will gain a better understanding of element presentations and deliverables needed to improve scores.

3:00-3:50 pm



What We Learned



Bill Hodge
Executive Director
Bob Marshall Wilderness Foundation

 [View Recording](#)

This session will take participants through a review of what was the 2021 National Wilderness Skills Institute. With a focus on having fun and making sure this community of practice stays connected we will provide some highlights from the week.

4:00-4:50 pm



Happy Hour – Take-Aways & Next Steps



NWSI Core Team

 [View Recording](#)

 [View “End Credits”](#)

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!!

Thank You!

What a wild week!

Thank you all for participating in the first ever Virtual National Wilderness Skills Institute. During the week, we are celebrating Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers, connecting with each other, and learning together – exploring our heritage, understanding the beginnings of public lands, 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 is meaningful to you, that there will be lasting professional network connections carried forward into the future, and that you build new skills that will guide your stewardship of these special and uniquely designated lands and waters.

As we look ahead to many new challenges on our ever more popular public lands, we wish you all the best in your next wilderness and river adventures – our time together is being well spent this week.

Thank you for investing your time and energy to join us in this community of practice - keep in touch, wild friends!

**NATIONAL
WILDERNESS
SKILLS INSTITUTE
CORE TEAM**

