



## Wilderness Cultural Resources



# Wilderness Cultural Resources

1. Both Wilderness Act and NHPA apply
2. Cultural resources may contribute to Wilderness Character
3. Minimum Requirements Analysis applies to cultural resource management activities in wilderness



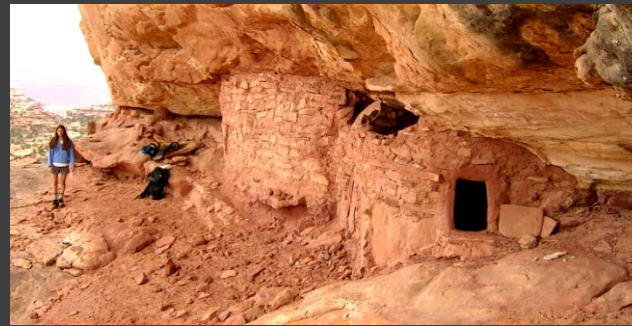




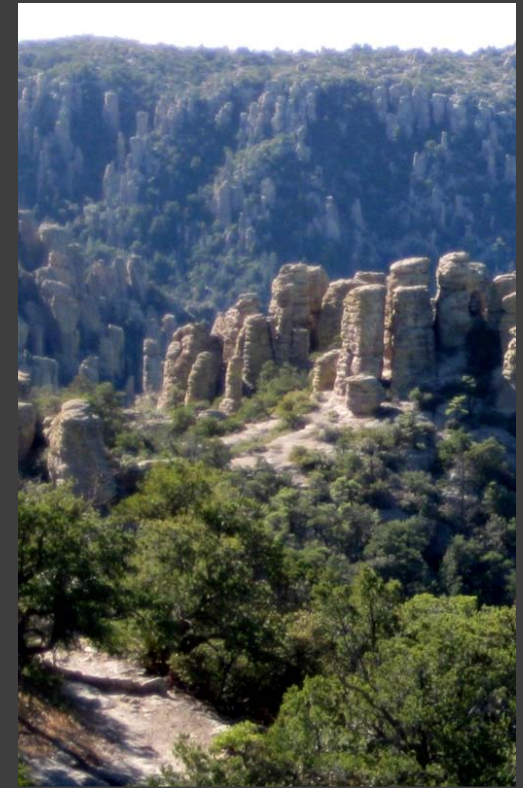




wilderness as  
pristine nature



wilderness contains  
cultural resources



wilderness as  
cultural landscape





# Legislative history



Looking towards Bandelier National Monument wilderness



## Legislative history

e.g. Death Valley National Park –

Wilderness legislation directs the park to protect and preserve “**historical and cultural values** of the California desert associated with ancient Indian cultures, patterns of western exploration and settlement, and sites exemplifying the mining, ranching, and railroading history of the Old West”



# Legislative history



1. Value of specific cultural features
2. Cultural significance of overall wilderness

## Law and Policy

### 1964 Wilderness Act

“may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or *historical* value. “



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Sections 110 and 106 apply in wilderness





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### National Park Service Management Policies

“Cultural resources that have been included within wilderness will be protected and maintained . . . “  
consistent with wilderness character





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Rocky Mountain  
Research Station

General Technical Report  
RMRS-GTR-212

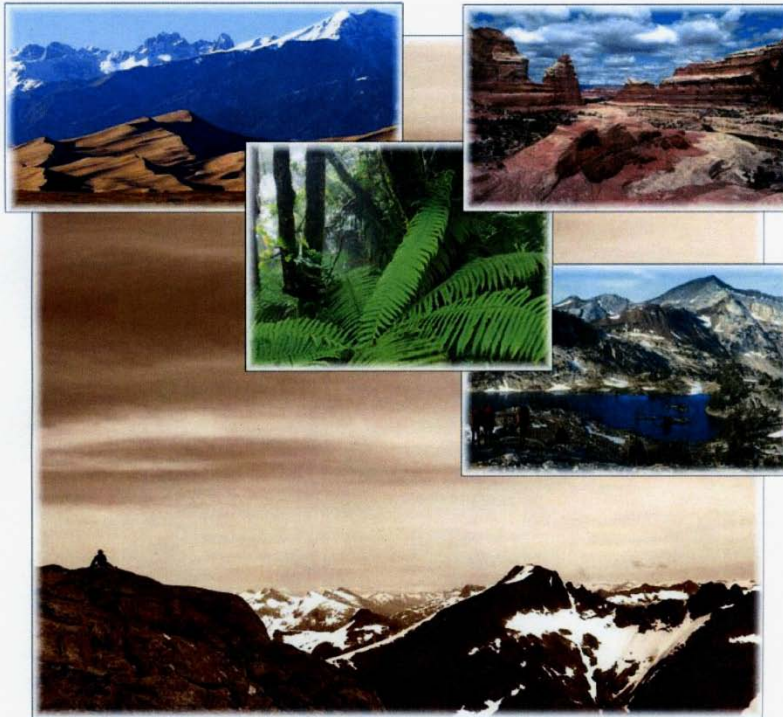
July 2008



# Keeping It Wild:

An Interagency Strategy to Monitor  
Trends in Wilderness Character Across the  
National Wilderness Preservation System

Peter Landres, Chris Barns, John G. Dennis,  
Tim Devine, Paul Geissler, Curtis S. McCasland,  
Linda Merigiano, Justin Seastrand, Ralph Swain



wilderness  
character



## Wilderness Character

1. **Natural** (managed to preserve its natural condition)
2. Opportunities for **solitude or a primitive and uncontrolled type of recreation**
3. **Undeveloped** (without permanent improvement or human habitation )
4. **Untrammeled** (free from human control) and





## Wilderness Character

1. **Natural** (managed to preserve its natural condition)
2. Solitude or a primitive and uncontrolled type of recreation (opportunities for)
3. **Undeveloped** (without permanent improvement or human habitation )
4. **Untrammeled** (free from human control)
5. **Other features** (“may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or *historical value*”)

Cultural resources are components of wilderness areas and may contribute positively to wilderness character



## Minimum Requirements Analysis

applies to the preservation and management of cultural resources

1. Is the activity needed?
2. If so, what is the Minimum tool? Minimum method?

Need to retain  
wilderness character







preserving integrated cultural and natural heritage  
in wilderness