Wilderness

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

BLM

California

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

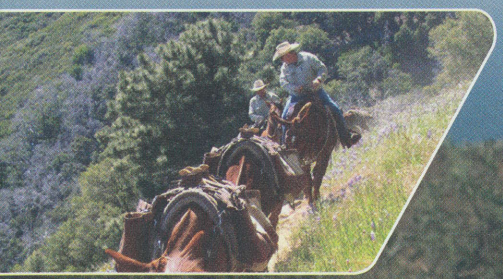
Wilderness:
Preserving and Providing

Many people use "wilderness" to describe any remote, rugged, and undeveloped land. Since passage of the 1964 Wilderness Act, the word has been defined in very specific terms. According to the Wilderness Act, federal lands must have special characteristics to be designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

"A Wilderness... is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain... retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions...." (*Wilderness Act of 1964*).

Wilderness areas are generally open to:

- hunting and fishing
- camping
- horseback riding
- float trips
- scientific research
- hiking
- backpacking
- use of pack animals
- canoeing and kayaking
- nature study



"Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed."

— Wallace Stegner

Wilderness areas help to maintain gene pools that provide a diversity of plant and animal life in our world and serve as a unique and irreplaceable "living laboratory" for medical and scientific research.

Wilderness areas are places where people can renew their spirits through contact with the natural world. With many uses, values, and scenic resources, wilderness has always been part of the American culture and character.

Wilderness Study Areas: Keeping Options Open

Wilderness Study Areas are managed to maintain their wilderness suitability until Congress either designates them as wilderness or denies this designation through legislative action. In the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Congress provided the Bureau with guidance on how to inventory roadless areas on public land and provide recommendations as to which qualify for wilderness designation.

National Landscape Conservation System:
America's Natural Treasures

The Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System contains some of the West's most spectacular natural areas. It includes over 850 federally recognized areas and approximately 27 million acres of national monuments, national conservation areas, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, national scenic and historic trails, and conservation lands of the California desert.

In California, the Bureau manages 88 wilderness areas encompassing almost four million acres, in addition to 69 wilderness study areas. These and California's other Conservation System areas are part of an active, vibrant landscape where people live, work, and play. They offer exceptional opportunities for recreation, solitude, wildlife viewing, exploring history, scientific research, and a wide range of traditional uses.

These landscapes spark the imagination. The Conservation System sustains these remarkable natural areas for the future and for everyone.

For more information about the National Landscape Conservation System, wildernesses, or wilderness study areas near you, contact our local field offices, call (916) 978-4400, or visit **www.blm.gov/ca/nlcs**

Backpackers at Mecca Hills Wilderness by Bob Wick
Inset: Equestrians at Ventana Wilderness

WILDERNESS AREAS

1 Jacumba
2 Carrizo Gorge
3 Coyote Mountains
4 Little Picacho
5 Sawtooth Mountains
6 Fish Creek Mountains
7 North Algodones Dunes
8 Picacho Peak
9 Indian Pass
10 Palo Verde Mountains
11 Santa Rosa
12 Little Chuckwalla Mountains
13 Chuckwalla Mountains
14 Orocopia Mountains
15 Mecca Hills
16 Palen/McCoy
17 Big Maria Mountains
18 Rice Valley
19 Riverside Mountains
20 San Gorgonio
21 Sheephole Valley
22 Cleghorn Lakes
23 Bighorn Mountain
24 Cadiz Dunes
25 Old Woman Mountains
26 Turtle Mountains
27 Whipple Mountains
28 Chemehuevi Mountains
29 Stepladder Mountains
30 Trilobite
31 Rodman Mountains
32 Clipper Mountain
33 Piute Mountains
34 Bigelow Cholla Garden
35 Newberry Mountains
36 Bristol Mountains
37 Kelso Dunes
38 Dead Mountains
39 Black Mountain
40 Grass Valley
41 Golden Valley
42 Hollow Hills
43 El Paso Mountains
44 Bright Star
45 Kiavah
46 Kingston Range
47 Mesquite
48 Stateline
49 North Mesquite Mountains
50 Saddle Peak Hills
51 Owens Peak
52 Chimney Peak
53 Domeland
54 Sacatar Trail
55 Argus Range
56 Manly Peak
57 Ibex
58 South Nopah Range
59 Pahrump Valley
60 Nopah Range
61 Resting Spring Range
62 Surprise Canyon
63 Coso Range
64 Funeral Mountains
65 Darwin Falls
66 Malpais Mesa
67 Inyo Mountains
68 Piper Mountain
69 Sylvania Mountains
70 Otay Mountain
71 Machesna Mtn
72 Santa Lucia
73 Ventana Additions
74 Cedar Roughs
75 Cache Creek
76 Yuki
77 South Fork Eel River
78 Elkhorn Ridge
79 Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel
80 King Range
81 Rocks and Islands
82 Trinity Alps
83 Ishi
84 Beauty Mountain
85 Pinto Mountains
86 Granite Mountain
87 Agua Tibia
88 White Mountains

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

WSA-1 Garcia Mountain
WSA-2 Black Mountain
WSA-3 Sheep Ridge
WSA-4 Milk Ranch/Case Mountain
WSA-5 Moses
WSA-6 Owens Peak
WSA-7 Sacatar Meadows
WSA-8 Rockhouse
WSA-9 Scodie
WSA-10 Caliente Mountain
WSA-11 Piute Cypress ISA
WSA-12 Cerro Gordo
WSA-13 Southern Inyo
WSA-14 Independence Creek
WSA-15 Crater Mountain
WSA-16 Symmes Creek
WSA-17 Chidago Canyon
WSA-18 Fish Slough
WSA-19 Volcanic Tablelands
WSA-20 Casa Diablo
WSA-21 Excelsior
WSA-22 Mount Biedeman
WSA-23 Bodie Mountain
WSA-24 Bodie
WSA-25 Slinkard
WSA-26 Machesna
WSA-27 Pit River Canyon
WSA-28 Tule Mountain
WSA-29 Tunnison Mountain
WSA-30 Bitterbrush ISA
WSA-31 Five Springs
WSA-32 Skedaddle
WSA-33 Dry Valley Rim
WSA-34 Poodle Mountains
WSA-35 Buffalo Hills
WSA-36 Twin Peaks
WSA-37 South Warner Contiguous
WSA-38 Wall Canyon
WSA-39 Sheldon Contiguous
WSA-40 Massacre Rim
WSA-41 Timbered Crater (& Baker Cypress ISA)
WSA-42 Lava
WSA-43 Yolla Bolly Contiguous
WSA-44 Merced River
WSA-45 Panoche Hills North
WSA-46 Panoche Hills South
WSA-47 Bear Mountain
WSA-48 Bear Canyon
WSA-49 San Benito Mountain ISA
WSA-50 Big Butte
WSA-51 Thatcher Ridge
WSA-52 Eden Valley
WSA-53 Rocky Creek/Cache Creek
WSA-54 Beauty Mountain
WSA-55 San Ysidro Mountain
WSA-56 San Felipe Hills
WSA-57 Sawtooth Mountains A
WSA-58 Sawtooth Mountains C
WSA-59 Carrizo Gorge
WSA-60 Table Mountain
WSA-61 Hauser Mountain
WSA-62 Carson-Iceberg
WSA-63 Avawatz Mountains
WSA-64 Kingston Range
WSA-65 Soda Mountains
WSA-66 Death Valley - 17
WSA-67 Great Falls Basin
WSA-68 Cady Mountains
WSA-69 White Mountains

BLM Wilderness

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

Land Status
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- National Park Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Military
- State
- Reservations and Rancherias
- California Desert Conservation Area
- BLM Field Office Boundary

Federal Wilderness
- Bureau of Land Management
- Wilderness Study Areas
- US Forest Service
- National Park Service

BLM FIELD OFFICE
- Cities/Towns
- National Landscape Conservation System
  NM=National Monument
  NCA= National Conservation Area
  ONA=Outstanding Natural Area

Leave No Trace:
Step Up and Step Lightly

America's recreation lands, from state parks to vast wilderness areas, are being used and enjoyed by more people each year. Non-motorized use, be it hiking, camping, river-running, hunting, or other outdoor activities, leaves marks on the land.

We must do more than pick up litter and extinguish campfires. Leave No Trace, a national outdoor skills and ethics education program, promotes land stewardship, minimum-impact skills, and wilderness ethics for America's public lands.

By following the seven Leave No Trace principles, you can help preserve our cherished natural areas:

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Dispose of Waste Properly

Leave What You Find

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Respect Wildlife

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Learn more at Leave No Trace:
www.lnt.org/programs/principles
www.lnt.org

leave no trace
CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS

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For more information visit:
www.blm.gov/ca/nlcs

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Cache Creek Wilderness
Photo by Bob Wick