

# **Wild Rogue Wilderness And Rogue River Corridor Education Plan**

By Benjamin D. Watts

# Introduction



# What is a Wilderness Education Plan?

## Wilderness Interpretation & Education Plan Green Mountain National Forest



Approved by: /s/ Jeff Munn - March 2010  
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Prepared By: Recreation Planner Douglas Brown

## Apache Sitgreaves National Forests Wilderness Education Plan



Mt. Baldy Wilderness



Staubwasser Falls  
Blue Range Primitive Area



Escudilla Wilderness

January 2006

## Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area Education Plan

FY 2014-2016



*I believe that at least in the present phase of our civilization we have a profound, a fundamental need for areas of wilderness—a need that is not only recreational and spiritual but also educational and scientific, and withal essential to a true understanding of ourselves, our culture, our own natures, and our place in all nature.*

Howard Zahniser, *The Need for Wilderness Areas*, 1955

Authorized By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Charnon, District Ranger, Glacier Ranger District

Prepared by Tim Lydon

# Why Educate?

## ⦿ Basis in law and US Forest Service Policy

- Wilderness Act
- US Forest Service Manual
- Inform Public of Issues
- Mitigate Impacts

*“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”*

*- The Wilderness Act, 1964*



# Background



Colby Hankinson (BLM, left) and Ben Watts (USFS, at the oars) set out from Grave Creek for a three-day Rogue River patrol.  
Photo: Lorelei Hawkness



## Northwest Focus

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## Agency Partners on the Rogue

by Benjamin Watts (with Ross Parsons and Colby Hankinson)

Oregon's Rogue River has earned a reputation as one of America's premier multi-day river trips, and rightfully so. With a colorful (and at times sordid) history of murderous miners and human habitation dating back 10,000 years, stunning vistas, abundant wildlife including robust salmon and black bear populations, and rapids like Rainie Falls

nearly every named rapid between Grant's Pass and Agness) and authors like famed Western novelist Zane Grey (whose work largely contributed to the popularity of the Rogue). For wildlife enthusiasts and sportsmen, the Rogue hosts impressive runs of salmon and steelhead and is home to bustling black bear and deer populations. It is also one

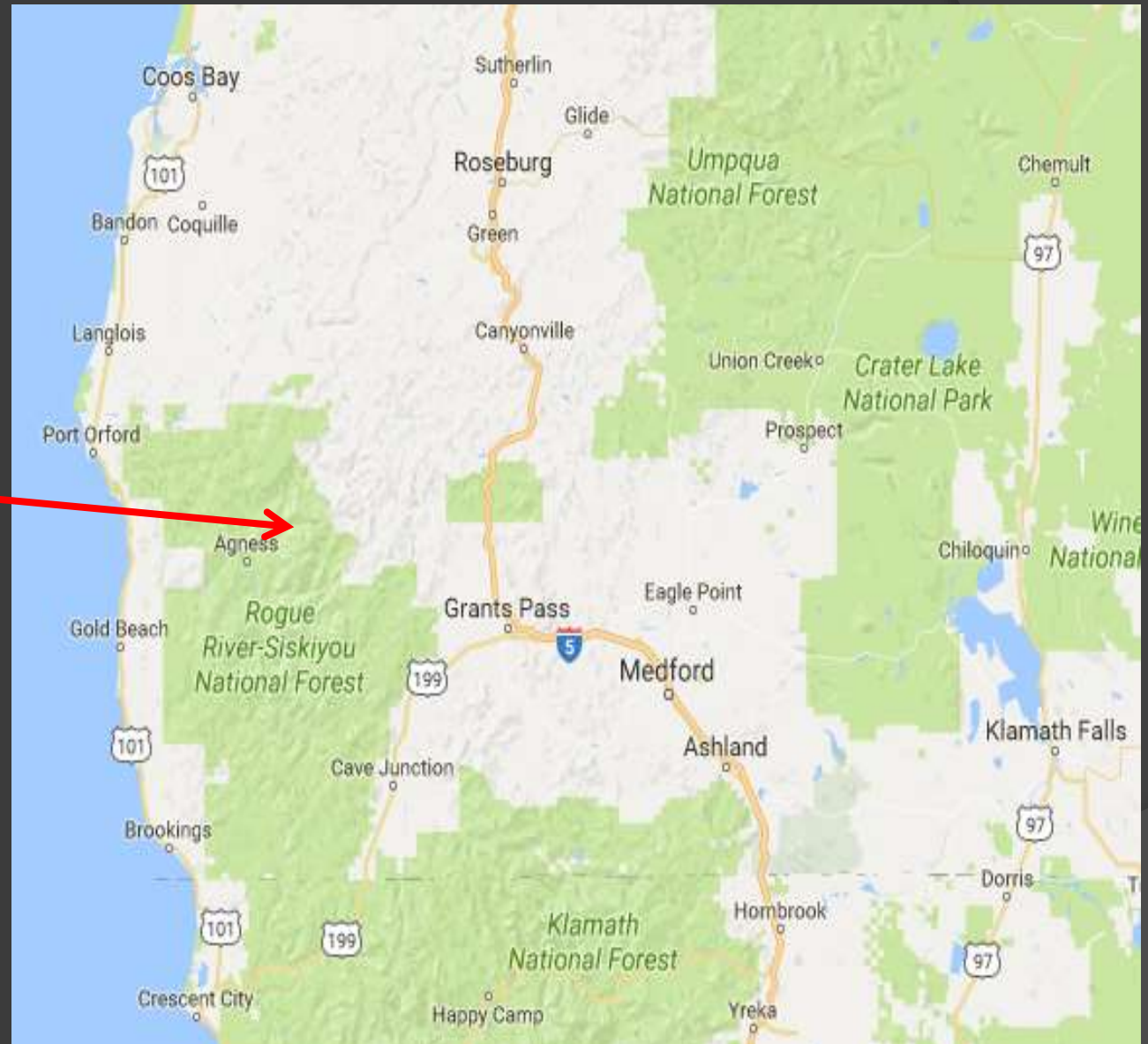
# Location

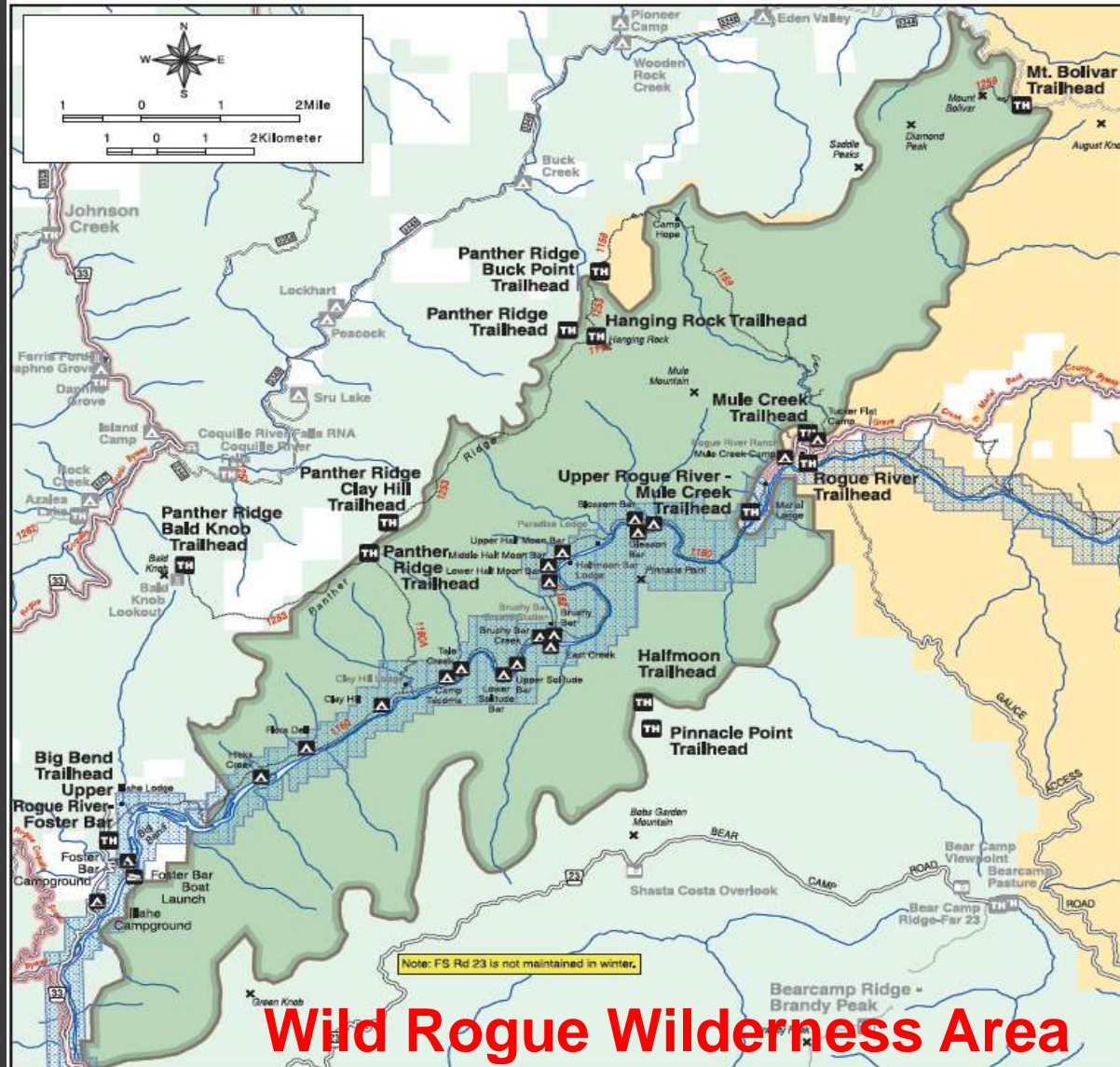
Wild Rogue Wilderness Area





## Wild Rogue Wilderness Area





# Wild Rogue Wilderness Area

## LEGEND

- |                          |   |  |                                      |
|--------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
|                          | Wild Rogue Wilderness Boundary          |  | Forest Service Arterial Road Number  |
|                          | US Forest Service Wild Rogue Wilderness |  | Forest Service Collector Road Number |
|                          | Existing Wild and Scenic River          |  | Forest Service Trail Number          |
| <b>Administered Land</b> |   |  |                                      |
|                          | US Forest Service                       |  | Road                                 |
|                          | Bureau of Land Management               |  | Trail                                |
|                          | Private or Other                        |  |                                      |





# Recreation

## Rafting



Blossom Bar

# Recreation

## Hiking



Rogue River Trail



# Recreation

## Jet Boating



Jerry's Jets



# Recreation

## Fishing



Steelhead

# Audience/User Groups

- ◉ Commercial Operators
- ◉ Educational Institutions
- ◉ Private Float Permit Holders
- ◉ Private Motorized Boat Permit Holders
- ◉ Hunter & Anglers
- ◉ Area Non-Profits, Community Organizations, & Special Interest Groups
- ◉ Hikers
- ◉ Local Government Entities
- ◉ Internet Forums & Groups

# The Issues

- ⦿ Human Waste
- ⦿ Campsite Competition
- ⦿ Pit Toilets
- ⦿ User Conflict
- ⦿ Lack of Wilderness Appreciation and Land Designation
- ⦿ Social Trails & Barren ground
- ⦿ Alteration of Spawning Tributaries
- ⦿ Redd Disruption
- ⦿ Problem Bears
- ⦿ Fire Rings and Illegal Fires
- ⦿ Leave No Trace
- ⦿ Pets



# Leave No Trace

## Leave No Trace.... on the Rogue



Thousands of people visit the Rogue River Canyon each year. Everyone wants to see the river in a clean and natural state. Please do your part to protect vegetation, wildlife, and the wild river experience. Practicing Leave No Trace skills and ethics will help everyone have a better trip.

### Dispose of Waste Properly

**Pack it in, pack it out:** Carry out all garbage including fishing line and micro-trash, like cigarette butts and small food scraps. Set a good example and pick up litter left by others. Keeping a clean camp shows consideration for other visitors and keeps wildlife, especially bears, from altering their natural eating patterns. Even small amounts of food scraps can attract camp pests such as ants, yellow jackets, raccoons, mice, and snakes. Secure food, garbage, and toiletries at night to prevent bears and other pests from leaving their mark in your camp.

**Human waste disposal:** All boating parties are required to carry a portable toilet. Help put an end to unsightly, unsanitary "toilet paper gardens" by setting-up and using your portable toilet when stopping at sites without government-provided toilets. All solid human waste needs to be deposited into a toilet. Urine can be carried out in a toilet, deposited into the main river flow, or at least 200 feet from camp, creek, and the trail. Please pack out all toilet paper and feminine hygiene products. **Waste water** includes soapy and dirty water from bathing, dish washing, tooth brushing, and unwanted liquids from canned foods. Dish water should be strained to remove the solid food particles which are then carried out with your trash. Discard strained waste water directly into the main river flow, or scatter it on the land over a broad area away from camp, and at least 200 feet from side streams. Choose a biodegradable soap and use it sparingly, if at all.

**Minimize Campfire Impacts:** The safest, cleanest choice is to use a camp stove for cooking. If you choose to have a campfire, fire pans are required year-round within 400 feet of the river. The intent is to contain campfire materials and keep the beaches clean. Burn only dead and down wood or bring your own. Please carry out all excess fire residue, charcoal and ash. Be aware of current fire regulations, campfires are usually banned during fire season.

**Fireworks and Firearms:** Discharging fireworks and the following are prohibited: Discharging a firearm as follows: (1) In or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, or (2) Across or on a public road or across or on a trail or body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result in such discharge. Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations 8351.3-1 and Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations 261.10(d).

**Leave What You Find:** Leave natural, historical, and archeological features unspoiled and intact for others to enjoy. It is illegal to remove or disturb remnants of the past found on public lands according to the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

**Be Considerate of Other Visitors:** At boat ramps, wait patiently for your turn. Use ramps only for loading and unloading, and put gear and boats together away from the ramp. Allow others to go before you if all they want to do is put a loaded boat into the water and take off. Small groups should use small camps and leave large camps for large groups, or be prepared to share a large site with another group. Respect anglers by not boating over their fishing line or disturbing their fishing holes. Non-motorized boats usually have the right-of-way over motorized boats. However, non-motorized boats should move out of the main channel to allow motorized boats to pass, especially near rapids as motorized boats have to travel faster than the rapid to maintain control. Sound travels easily on the river, so keep camp noise to a minimum and let natural sounds prevail.

Please Keep the Wild Rogue *wild* ...Leave No Trace

For more information contact Medford District BLM, Grants Pass Office 541/471-6734 or [www.blm.gov/rogueinfo](http://www.blm.gov/rogueinfo)



2005

LNT Sign

## LNT Principles

- 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



# Leave No Trace



**Campfires**



**Alteration of Tributaries**



**Human Waste**



**Problem Bears**



# Leave No Trace





# Current Methods

- LNT signage at trailheads/toilet sites
- Visitors Center
- Educational Video
- LNT information included in float permit information
- Education in the field
- Agency Websites



Smullin Visitor Center (BLM)

# Proposed Methods/Measures

- Require Boaters Watch Educational Video
- Emphasize Micro-litter
- Inventory/Update Existing Signage
- Reach Out to Area Schools/Educational Institutions
- Engage Audience Groups at Relevant Events, Gatherings, etc.
- Target Internet Forums/Groups
- Partner with other Organizations (REI, Government Entities, Interest Groups, etc.)

# Campsite Competition



Clay Hill Campsite



# Current Methods

- ⦿ Boater Educational Video
- ⦿ Voluntary Campsite Occupancy Board
- ⦿ Campsite Monitoring
- ⦿ Education in the Field



# Proposed Methods/Measures

- ◉ Require Large Groups  
Utilize Campsite  
Occupancy Board
- ◉ Require Boaters  
Watch Educational  
Video
- ◉ Internet  
Forums/Sites
- ◉ Reservation System
- ◉ Replicate BLM  
Monitoring Program  
on USFS

# Lack of Wilderness Appreciation

*“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life. And see if I could not learn what it had to teach and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.”*

*- Henry David Thoreau*

***“The wild places are where we began. When they end, so do we.”***

***-David Brower***

*“Wilderness is not a luxury, but a necessity of the human spirit.”*

*-Edward Abbey*

*“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.”*

*-John Muir*



# Current Methods

- LNT Signage
- Agency Websites
- Interpretive Signage
- Agency Assumptions of Public Understanding of Wilderness

# Proposed Methods/Measures

- ◉ Develop Protocol for Education in the Field
- ◉ Emphasize Micro-litter
- ◉ Inventory/Update Existing Signage
- ◉ Outreach to Area Schools/Educational Institutions
- ◉ Engage Visitors
- ◉ Engage Audience Groups at Relevant Events, Gatherings, etc.
- ◉ Target Internet Forums/Groups
- ◉ Partner with other Organizations (REI, Government Entities, Interest Groups, etc.)
- ◉ Visitor Center

# Conclusion

- To continue to preserve Wilderness character, agencies must evolve and adapt their management techniques and objectives.
- Stop assuming, be proactive



Questions?