Book Review

Wilderness Management (4th Edition): Stewardship and Protection of Resources and Values

Chad P. Dawson and John C. Hendee
Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing, 2009
US \$65.00, 525 pages, softcover

Published under the auspices of the International Wilderness Leadership (WILD) Foundation, *Wilderness Management* is a definitive tome for anyone involved with wilderness stewardship and protection. The fact that this wonderful book has achieved a 4th edition is testimony to its relevance and the determination of its authors. Chad Dawson and John Hendee are superbly qualified to provide us with guidance on the history, legislation, policies, and practices of wilderness planning and stewardship practiced by the 4 federal agencies—Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service—responsible for more than 107 million acres entrusted to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness Management opens with a Publisher's Preface, in which is noted the relevance of wilderness to a well-balanced natural resource program and why humankind benefits from the existence and preservation of wild places. As stated in the Foreword, the US Wilderness Act directs our agencies to manage wild and natural places, "to keep them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness." The various chapters of the book lay out the facts and issues, and intelligently make use of history, existing situations, case studies and references to help the reader understand the complexity, activities, risks, and opportunities that are part and parcel of wilderness management.

As stated, the book's specific objectives are:

- 1) To describe the evolution of the US National Wilderness Preservation System: its philosophical, historical, and legal origins; its current size, number of areas, and distribution; and its probable future. The authors also describe state wilderness in the United States and some wilderness systems in other countries.
- 2) To provide a common reference for managers, students, scientists, educators, and citizens, who must work together to steward the US National Wilderness Preservation system, state wilderness systems, and wilderness in other countries to protect their resources and values.

- 3) To propose principles and concepts from which management policy and actions to preserve wilderness might be derived and to describe current wilderness management approaches, policies, procedures, and techniques.
- 4) To introduce readers to pressing wilderness management issues, impacts, the implications of alternative methods of dealing with them, pertinent literature, current problems, solutions, and research.
- 5) To describe differences and interrelationships between wilderness designation and wilderness management and between management of wilderness and management of contiguous nonwilderness lands.

The book is divided into 17 chapters within the following sections:

- 1) The Setting
- 2) US Legal Authority and Process for Wilderness
- 3) Wilderness Management and Planning Concepts
- 4) Wilderness Resources, Values, and Threats to Them
- 5) Wilderness Uses and Their Management
- 6) The Future

Study Questions and Reader Exercises are used to evoke consideration of what has been presented and to allow a self-assessment of comprehension and evocation of personal views. Throughout the book, the reader is reminded that there is integration necessary between the anthropocentric and biocentric philosophies inherent in any consideration of wilderness-related topics. New to this edition are case studies, which range from a tale of an adventure trip in a remote area to a factual explanation of a wilderness stewardship situation.

What becomes clear quickly is the complexity of legislation and special interests that dominate the landscape. There is a wealth of information for environmentalists, mostly in the description of threats to wilderness and wildlife, description of visitor impacts, and other explanations of human intrusion. While the extrapolation is not purely one-to-one, correctly applied wilderness management techniques would likely be useful in nonwilderness areas as well.

This is an important book for scientists, students, policy makers, resource managers, and wilderness users who will play a role in management and stewardship of wilderness areas.

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