

Appendix D



Bill Zimm/USFWS

Magalloway River

Wilderness Review

Wilderness Review

Introduction

A wilderness review is the process we follow to identify and recommend for congressional designation Refuge System lands and waters that merit inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). Wilderness reviews are a required element of comprehensive conservation plans (CCPs), and we conduct them in accordance with the refuge planning policy outlined in 602 FW 1 and 3, including interagency and tribal coordination, public involvement and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance.

The wilderness review process is conducted in three phases: inventory, study, and recommendation. We identify refuge lands and waters owned by the Service in fee simple that meet the minimum criteria for wilderness in the inventory phase of the review. These areas are called Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). In the study phase, we evaluate WSA's to determine if they are suitable for wilderness designation. The findings of the study phase determine whether we will recommend the area for designation as wilderness in the final CCP. In the recommendation phase, we forward our wilderness recommendations from the Director to the Secretary of Interior (Secretary). The Secretary next forwards the final proposal to the President for consideration. The President is then responsible for formally transmitting to both houses of Congress recommendations for wilderness designation.

We will conduct a wilderness review on a given refuge every 15 years through the CCP process, or sooner if significant new information becomes available affecting wilderness potential, or if a major refuge expansion occurs that warrants a reevaluation.

Wilderness Inventory

The wilderness inventory is a broad look at each planning area (Wilderness Inventory Area [WIA]) to identify WSAs. A WSA is required to be a roadless area or a roadless island of any size, meet the size criteria, appear natural, and provide for solitude or primitive recreation. Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act provides the following definition.

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his 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. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions, and which: (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

We began the Wilderness inventory process by establishing a Refuge Wilderness Review Team comprised of agency personnel. After evaluating the refuge land base and transportation corridors, the review team partitioned the refuge up into contiguous blocks that were separated by major roads and other motorized corridors, including the rivers. The team's first objective was to identify contiguous areas as large as possible that met the roadless criteria. Only lands currently owned by the Service in fee title were evaluated. The review team identified thirteen WIAs (map D.1).

Evaluation of the Roadless Criteria

Permanent roads are prohibited in wilderness under Section 4(c) of the Act. For the purposes of the wilderness inventory, a "roadless area" is defined as: "A reasonably compact area of undeveloped Federal land that possesses the general characteristics of a wilderness and within which there is no improved road that is suitable for public

travel by means of four-wheeled, motorized vehicles intended primarily for highway use. A route maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.”

As such, a WSA is required to be a roadless area or a roadless island of any size. The presence of any improved road suitable and maintained for public travel by means of motorized vehicles primarily intended for highway use would preclude WSA consideration. In addition, the review team also excluded from consideration other motorized corridors, such as the rivers and lake. The rivers and lake in the project area are state jurisdiction waters where motorized boating and use of personal motorized watercraft is allowed. Motorized vehicles and motorized equipment are prohibited refuge uses in wilderness areas.

The following factors were the primary considerations in evaluating the roadless criteria.

- A. The area does not contain improved roads suitable and maintained for public travel by means of motorized vehicles primarily intended for highway use.
- B. The area is an island, or contains an island that does not have improved roads suitable and maintained for public travel by means of motorized vehicles primarily intended for highway use.
- C. The area is in Federal fee title ownership.

Evaluation of the Size Criteria

The size criteria can be satisfied if an area has at least 5,000 acres of contiguous roadless public land, or is sufficiently large that its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition is practicable.

The following factors were the primary considerations in evaluating the size criteria.

- A. An area of more than 5,000 contiguous acres. State and private lands are not included in making this acreage determination.
- B. A roadless island of any size. A roadless island is defined as an area surrounded by permanent waters or that is markedly distinguished from the surrounding lands by topographical or ecological features.
- C. An area of less than 5,000 contiguous Federal acres that is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, and of a size suitable for wilderness management.
- D. An area of less than 5,000 contiguous acres that is contiguous with a designated wilderness, recommended wilderness, or area under wilderness review by another Federal wilderness managing agency such as the Forest Service, National Park Service, or Bureau of Land Management.

The review team calculated the acreage of each of the WIAs which were evaluated during the roadless evaluation, to see if they met the size criterion for wilderness character. The team found that all of the WIAs were less than 5,000 acres (Table D.1) and none of the WIAs were of sufficient size or could be made of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, and of a size suitable for wilderness management.

Wilderness Inventory Conclusions

The Refuge Wilderness Review Team inventoried the lands and waters in fee title ownership within the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, and found that no lands met the minimum criteria to be WSAs.

The review team identified a total of thirteen WIAs within the refuge, and found that each WIA was less than 5,000 contiguous Federal acres. The team considered various configurations of the land base to see if a larger roadless WIA could be created, but determined none could be made larger. The team considered refining the WIAs by eliminating areas with no obvious Wilderness character; however, they determined that further refinement of the WIAs would result in much smaller areas with unmanageable boundaries. Boundary posting

would be a challenge. From a refuge administration and management standpoint, effective law enforcement, visitor services, and public safety programs within the refined areas would not be practicable. As a result, the team concluded that refining the size of the WIAs would not make practicable their preservation and use in an unimpaired condition, and they would not be of a size suitable for wilderness management.

The team determined that the thirteen WIAs, as identified on map D.1, and listed in Table D.1, do not meet the size criteria for a WSA as defined by the Wilderness Act. The thirteen WIAs will not be considered further as part of this Wilderness review. In conclusion, we do not recommend any WIAs be evaluated further as WSAs.

**Table D. 1. Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge
Wilderness Inventory Areas**

Wilderness Inventory Area (WIA)	Size*
WIA 1	1,352 Acres
WIA 2	2,106 Acres
WIA 3	2,336 Acres
WIA 4	720 Acres
WIA 5	1,395 Acres
WIA 6	1,384 Acres
WIA 7	677 Acres
WIA 8	738 Acres
WIA 9	239 Acres
WIA 10	3,103 Acres
WIA 11	886 Acres
WIA 12	1,249 Acres
WIA 13	721 Acres

*All Wilderness Inventory Areas include only Service fee title ownership.

