

Wilderness Management: Philosophies, Goals, and Principles

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the management of classified wilderness, areas protected under a variety of laws including the 1964 Wilderness Act, the 1975 Eastern Wilderness Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. It is hoped, however, that the principles, philosophies, goals, and management techniques discussed address the broader issue of human use of the unmodified landscape. Because wilderness management involves the interactions of humans and a natural environment, various philosophies concerning the relationship of man and nature are investigated and critically analyzed. The philosophies to be discussed include determinism, possibilism, romanticism and ecological conservationism. A comprehensive philosophy is then formulated and the implications of this philosophy for wilderness management are considered.