

# Lifeline for learning: The interagency Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center

By Jennifer Lutman

**“THE ONLY THING THAT INTERFERES** with my learning is my education,” said Albert Einstein. So where do managers turn to learn about wilderness? Nearly 10,000 managers and field staff have sought out the interagency Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center for support. From one-day to one-week classroom courses, from online interactive training to topical wilderness stewardship toolboxes, you will find what you need to address the increasingly challenging wilderness stewardship issues you face.

Established in 1993, the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center empowers agency employees and the public to preserve their wilderness heritage through training, information, and education. The Carhart Center staff of seven includes representatives from the four wilderness management agencies: the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, and National Park Service. Using an interagency team approach to improve consistency and coordination, the staff works with experts within and outside agency ranks to develop solutions to critical wilderness stewardship issues. The center has developed 18 classroom and online courses, including Evaluating Scientific Proposals in Wilderness, and is developing 7 more online courses to help you develop knowledge and skills in six wilderness technical core competency areas:

- Wilderness History, Law, Regulation, and Policy: Interpreting and implementing the history and laws of the National Wilderness Preservation System and agency wilderness stewardship regulations and policies.
- Managing Special Provisions: Managing the special provisions identified in

the 1964 Wilderness Act and in subsequent enabling legislation.

- Wilderness Planning: Addressing wilderness stewardship needs in programmatic and project-level planning processes.
- Wilderness Field Skills: Accomplishing specific field tasks in a variety of wilderness settings.
- Visitor Use Management and Monitoring: Managing and monitoring visitor use in wilderness.
- Natural and Cultural Resources Management and Monitoring: Managing and monitoring natural and cultural resources in wilderness.

If information is what you’re looking for, look no further than [www.wilderness.net](http://www.wilderness.net). Through a partnership with the University of Montana’s Wilderness Institute and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, the Carhart Center has developed the most comprehensive clearinghouse of wilderness information and management tools available anywhere. On [www.wilderness.net](http://www.wilderness.net) you will find “Toolboxes” with outlines, guidelines, examples, templates, and other resources to help you quickly and successfully address specific wilderness stewardship issues. Other sections are dedicated to wilderness law, policy, research, education, images, maps, and data.

If you want expert advice from managers who have addressed the issues you are facing, check out [connect.wilderness.net](http://connect.wilderness.net). Wilderness Connect is the only social networking site for the professional wilderness community and a place where you can have real-time discussions with government employees, academia, and educators concerning science, research, management, and other wilderness issues.

As the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act approaches, one question arises: What will the next 50 years look like for wilderness? The fate of the National Wilderness Preservation System depends largely on the value younger generations put on our wild places, so future Carhart Center efforts include expanding outdoor education efforts and exploring new opportunities in the world of social media and online training.

As long as there are wild places to protect, the Carhart Center will continue to support the field through training, information, and education efforts. Learn more about the Carhart Center at <http://carhart.wilderness.net>.

## About the author

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