

Information Crossfile

NEW TOOLS TO ACCESS WILDERNESS RESEARCH INFORMATION

While many scientists conduct research relevant to wilderness, the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute (Leopold Institute) is entirely focused on wilderness. This federal interagency (National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Geological Survey) institute is dedicated to developing and communicating knowledge needed to sustain the many ecological and social values of wilderness, parks, and similarly protected areas.

The Leopold Institute's Research Application Program strives to facilitate wilderness management decisions that are based on sound knowledge of current and relevant science by ensuring that research information is readily available to managers, policymakers, and others interested in wilderness management. Many land managers have limited time to search for and access the primary research literature; however, they can base their decisions on the best available scientific knowledge only if they are aware of current and relevant science and how it fits into their management goals. This article highlights three efforts recently undertaken to facilitate access to research information.

Expanded Website

The Leopold Institute's revised website, <<http://leopold.wilderness.net>>, includes information that addresses the challenges of maintaining and restoring fire to wilderness, managing for naturalness vs. wildness, the effects of fish stocking, understanding and managing day use and high-density recreation use, recreation user fees, understanding visitor experiences, and managing recreation site impacts. The site features a database of institute publications that is searchable by author, year, keyword, and subject. It also provides information about the institute's research and research application programs, staff activities, current and completed projects, and links to other relevant websites. Most information on the site is categorized by subject to facilitate finding relevant information quickly. This site was designed to provide information to a wide audience as soon as it becomes available.

Annotated Reading Lists

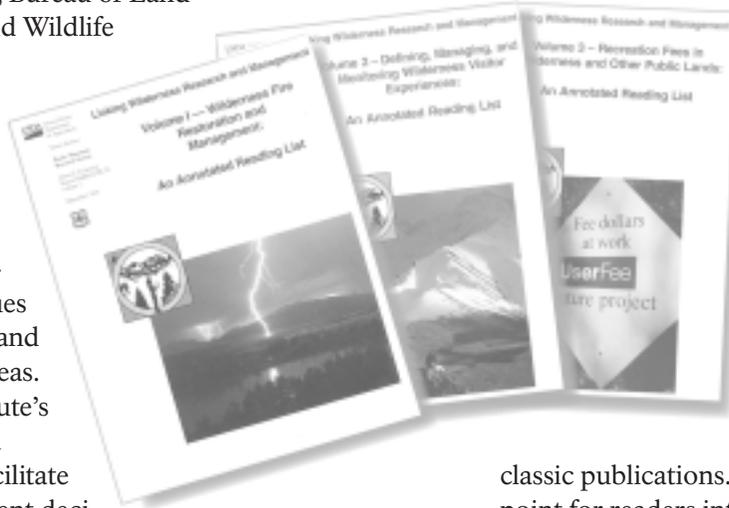
The *Linking Wilderness Research and Management* series of annotated reading lists was developed to help land managers and others wade through the plethora of potentially relevant research on specific wilderness issues. Each volume begins with background references necessary to understand the overall issue. Then, useful references for identifying management goals, understanding influences on those goals, and selecting and

implementing management approaches are provided. Within each section, articles are annotated to clarify their relevance to that section and to highlight their importance for wilderness management.

Rather than produce comprehensive bibliographies, which may be unwieldy for those with limited time, the authors included overviews, the most current examples of literature addressing pertinent concepts, and frequently cited

classic publications. These lists can provide a starting point for readers interested in more detail on specific subjects to conduct their own literature reviews.

To date the first four volumes in the series have been completed: Volume 1: *Wilderness Fire Restoration and Management*, Volume 2: *Defining, Managing, and Monitoring Wilderness Visitor Experiences*, Volume 3: *Recreation Fees in Wilderness and other Public Lands*, and Volume 4: *Understanding and Managing Invasive Plants in Wilderness and Other Natural Areas*. A fifth volume will address *Backcountry Recreation Impacts to Wildlife*. All volumes are available at <<http://leopold.wilderness.net/resapp.htm>>.



Research in a Nutshell

This effort summarizes research findings into an easy-to-read and accessible format so that readers can decide whether the more detailed publications are relevant to their objectives. The *Research in a Nutshell* series includes brief overviews of selected Leopold Institute research projects that highlight research results and management implications and list associated publications or products. These web-based summaries are also available at <http://leopold.wilderness.net/resapp.htm>.

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