MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS ANALYSIS FRAMEWORK WORKBOOK

*“…except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act…”*

— Section 4(c), Wilderness Act of 1964

# Introduction

The Minimum Requirements Analysis (MRA) is designed to examine whether a project truly needs to occur in wilderness, and if so, how to accomplish it with the least impact to the wilderness resource. The framework below is intended to help managers: 1) evaluate actions proposed in wilderness involving a use otherwise prohibited by the Wilderness Act; and 2) consider appropriate choices about administrative actions they might take. Like the previous version of this document (the Minimum Requirements Decision Guide (MRDG)), the MRA Framework (MRAF) is based on the Wilderness Act and is consistent with agency policy. The MRAF incorporates lessons learned by agency employees as they used the MRDG over the years. The goal of the MRAF is to help provide consistency in the way wilderness-managing agencies consider actions to address threats to wilderness, and to ensure that agencies strive to preserve wilderness character through their on-the-ground decisions.

This document is intended for uses prohibited by Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act in designated wilderness, but it can be used to analyze all projects in wilderness. Check agency policy to determine if this workbook may be appropriate for other proposals in wilderness.

If applicable, per agency policies, collaborate and coordinate with associated Tribe(s) and/or Tribe(s) with historical, treaty, or related ties to the area.

Note: For each fillable field, click or tap on the arrow that will appear to the left of the Word “HELP” for more instructions. Please read the [full instructions](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwinapps.umt.edu%2Fwinapps%2Fmedia2%2Fwilderness%2FNWPS%2Fdocuments%2FMRDG%2FMRAF%2520Instructions_508%2520Conformant_06.01.2023.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) before proceeding. Delete this note before finalizing the document.

# Title

Enter title here. Do not include a proposed action or outcome. Include wilderness name.

# Step 1: Determine If Administrative Action May Be Necessary

## **Issue Statement**

Describe the issue here.

### HELP - “Issue Statement”

The description should explain the issue that may require some action in a specific wilderness. The issue may be a problem, situation, opportunity, or other circumstance that requires consideration. It is not a proposed action, tool, or solution.

## **Options Outside of Wilderness**

Is this issue wilderness dependent, or can an action occur outside of wilderness to properly resolve the issue now or over time?

### HELP – “Options”

Some issues will require analysis of alternate sites before answering “yes” or “no.”

### *Can the issue be resolved or addressed outside of wilderness?*

[ ]  yes **stop – explain below and do not take action**

[ ]  no **explain below and proceed to the next section**

Explain if options outside of Wilderness are or are not possible here.

## **Criteria for Determining Necessity**

### HELP - “Determining Necessity”

Based on the legal requirements in Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act, one or more of the factors A-D below must be met for any action to be considered.

### *Do any of the criteria below apply?*

#### Wilderness Character

*Based on the Issue Statement, are any of the qualities of wilderness character degraded, impaired, or threatened to a degree that it is necessary to analyze potential action otherwise prohibited by Section 4(c) to address the issue?*

##### untrammeled

Select your answer.

[ ]  YES

[ ]  NO

Explain if the untrammeled quality is degraded, impaired, or threatened here.

###### HELP - “Untrammeled” Definition

The "earth and its community of life" are essentially unhindered and free from modern human control or manipulation, "in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape."

###### HELP - “Untrammeled” Explanation

Is there ongoing action that intentionally controls or manipulates the components or processes of ecological systems? An unauthorized water impoundment, for example.

##### undeveloped

Select your answer.

[ ]  YES

[ ]  NO

Explain if the undeveloped quality is degraded, impaired, or threatened here.

###### HELP - “Undeveloped” Definition

Wilderness retains its "primeval character and influence" and is essentially "without permanent improvements" or modern human occupation.

###### HELP - “Undeveloped” Explanation

Are there structures or installations within wilderness that have not previously been determined to be the minimum requirement or a part of the area’s wilderness character?

##### natural

Select your answer.

[ ]  YES

[ ]  NO

Explain if the natural quality is degraded, impaired, or threatened here.

###### HELP - “Natural” Definition

A wilderness area is to be "protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions." Wilderness ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization.

###### HELP - “Natural” Explanation

Are there unnatural (caused by modern humans) changes to ecological conditions or processes? What is the certainty of human causation and the range of natural conditions?

##### outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation

Select your answer.

[ ]  YES

[ ]  NO

Explain if the outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation quality is degraded, impaired, or threatened here.

###### HELP - “Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation” Definition

The Wilderness Act defines wilderness as having “outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.”

###### HELP - “Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation” Explanation

Are opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreation unacceptably degraded?

##### other features of value

Select your answer.

[ ]  YES

[ ]  NO

Explain if the other features of value quality is degraded, impaired, or threatened here.

###### HELP - “Other Features of Value” Definition

A wilderness “may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical use” that reflect the character of the area as wilderness.

###### HELP - “Other Features of Value” Explanation

Is there a tangible feature: 1- identified in legislation? 2 - on a national register? 3 - that is integral to the meaning of this wilderness? 4 - identified in a local management plan? Is the feature degraded or threatened?

#### Valid Existing Rights

Select your answer.

*Is action necessary to satisfy a valid existing right? If so, cite the specific right, terms and conditions, and source.*

[ ]  YES

[ ]  NO

Explain if action is necessary to satisfy a valid existing right here.

##### HELP - “Valid Existing Rights” Definition

Valid existing rights are created by a legally binding conveyance, lease, deed, contract, or law.

##### HELP - “Valid Existing Rights” Explanation

Identify the valid existing right and explain how it requires action in wilderness.

#### Special Provisions of Wilderness Legislation

*Is action necessary to satisfy a special provision in wilderness legislation (i.e., Section 4(d) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 or subsequent wilderness-enabling laws) that requires action? Cite law and section.*

[ ]  YES

[ ]  NO

Explain if action is necessary to satisfy a special provision in wilderness legislation here.

##### HELP - “Special Provisions” Explanation

If there is language regarding a special provision, is it stated in terms of "shall" or "must"? If there is special provision language, is it specific about a type of use, tool, location, or time?

#### Requirements of Other Federal Laws

*Not including special provisions found in wilderness-enabling laws, does another Federal law, by itself or as implemented or interpreted through EO, court order, etc.,* ***require*** *action? Cite law and section.*

[ ]  YES

[ ]  NO

Explain if action is necessary to satisfy a requirement of other federal laws here.

##### HELP - “Requirements of Other Federal Laws” Explanation

Few laws contain affirmative direction that requires action in wilderness areas. If other laws apply, are they in terms of "shall" or "must"? If other laws apply, are they specific about type of use, tool, location, or time?

## **Step 1: Determination – Is Administrative Action Necessary in Wilderness?**

*Based on the responses and detailed explanations in A through D above, is there a need to proceed to Step 2? If at least one criterion in B through D in Step 1 has been met, or at least one quality of wilderness character is threatened, check the “Yes” box and provide a thorough explanation of the rationale described in A through D. It may also be helpful to describe in this determination how action would be consistent with the public purposes of wilderness or satisfy a specific agency obligation. If none of the criteria have been met, action is not necessary. Check the “No” box, explain why the proposed project does not meet the criteria, and stop your analysis.*

[ ]  yes **explain below and complete step 2 of the mraf**

[ ]  no **stop – explain below and do not take action**

Summarize your “Determination” responses here.

### HELP - “Determination” Explanation

Based on the legal requirements in Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act, were one or more of the factors in A-D above met?

# Step 2: Determine the Minimum Activity

## **Other Direction**

*Is there “special provisions” language in legislation or other congressional direction that explicitly allows consideration of (but does not require) a prohibited use? (Step 1 has a similar question in Section C, but that question is specific to other legislation requiring action in wilderness; this question is specific to other legislation addressing* ***consideration of prohibited uses)****.*

***and/or***

*Has the issue been addressed or prescribed in agency policy, management plans, or legal directive (e.g., treaty, EO, court order, or other binding agreement with federal, state, or local agencies or authorities)?*

[ ]  yes **describe other direction**

[ ]  no **skip to “uncontrollable timing requirements” below**

Provide and describe other direction here.

### HELP - “Other Direction” Description

Focus on other direction that constrains or identifies alternatives that can be considered.

## **Uncontrollable Timing Requirements**

*What, if any, are the considerations that would dictate* *timing of the action?*

Describe uncontrollable timing requirements here.

### HELP – “Uncontrollable Timing Requirements” Description

For example, to avoid a critical bird nesting season. Do not include availability of workers, available funding, or other administrative considerations.

## **Workflow Components**

*What are the distinct* *components or phases of the action?*

| Example | *Transportation of personnel to the project site* |
| --- | --- |
| Component 1 | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Component 2 | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Component 3 | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Component 4 | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Component 5 | Click or tap here to enter text. |

### HELP - “Workflow Components”

These components are the logical phases of the action. While they may often be the same for each alternative, this is not always true.

## **Feasibility of Alternatives**

Only include feasible alternatives in this section. Some alternatives that are not feasible may warrant documentation in the “Alternatives Considered but Dismissed” section to provide a brief description and explanation of why it was dismissed and not considered in detail.

Possible reasons for dismissal include alternatives that are [impossible](#_Impossible), have [unacceptable impacts](#_Unacceptable_Impacts), are [unsafe](#_Unsafe), are proven [ineffective](#_Ineffective), have [excessive costs](#_Excessive_Costs), or whose [timing](#_Timing) would cause degradation to wilderness character.

The alternatives should also be reasonable. For example, there is no need to include helicopters in an alternative for equipment transport when that equipment can be easily carried by people or pack stock along a maintained trail.

Refer to the [MRAF instructions](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwinapps.umt.edu%2Fwinapps%2Fmedia2%2Fwilderness%2FNWPS%2Fdocuments%2FMRDG%2FMRAF%2520Instructions_508%2520Conformant_06.01.2023.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) regarding [alternatives](#_Alternatives) and the effects to each of the comparison criteria.

### HELP - Certain “Feasibility of Alternatives” Definitions

#### Impossible

If research shows an alternative is impossible to accomplish by any means, it should not be analyzed in detail.

#### Unacceptable Impacts

Alternatives that would clearly result in inappropriate adverse impacts to wilderness character should not be analyzed in detail.

#### Unsafe

Most safety issues can be mitigated so that the risk is reduced to an appropriate level. Those alternatives that involve risks for workers or the public that cannot be mitigated should be considered but dismissed.

#### Ineffective

Alternatives that have been determined to be ineffective in addressing the issue under similar circumstances should not be analyzed in detail.

#### Excessive Costs

Cost is not a factor in determining feasibility unless an alternative is so costly that the funds cannot be obtained, resulting in the issue not being addressed. The amount of funding obtained prior to writing an MRA cannot be used for dismissal.

#### Timing

Dismiss alternatives that would require time allocations incongruent with urgent situations. This only applies where a gradual or lengthy response would clearly result in unacceptable hazards or significant degradation to wilderness character.

#### Alternatives

In the MRAF, alternatives are a full range of options that best preserve wilderness character, whereas in a NEPA analysis, the alternatives disclose and compare the environmental effects.

## **Step 2: Alternatives**

## **Alternative 1**

Enter the name of Alternative 1 here.

### Component Methods

*How will each of the components of the action be performed under this alternative?*

| Component | [Workflow Components](#_Workflow_Components) | Component Methods for this Alternative |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Example: Transportation of personnel to the project site.* | *Example: Workers walk to work site.* |
| 1 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 2 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 3 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 4 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 5 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

#### HELP - “Component Methods”

Identify the components of the action first, then develop the alternatives. Separating an action into components provides a foundation for building well-thought-out alternatives (and promotes consistency among alternatives).

#### HELP - “Workflow Components”

Enter the workflow components from Step 2. These will be the same for every alternative.

### Description of the Alternative

*What are the details of this alternative? When, where, and how will the action occur? What mitigation measures will be taken?* *Provide a complete narrative description of the Component Methods identified above.*

Enter a complete description of Alternative 1 here.

### Wilderness Character

| Component Number | For each component number, indicate the impact the **method** **for this alternative** will have on each of the five qualities of Wilderness:Positive = P, Negative = N, No Effect = 0 *Describe in detail the impacts to each of the* *five qualities in the narrative section below* | Untrammeled | Undeveloped | Natural | Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation | Other Features of Value |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Example:* Workers walk to work site. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*What is the effect of each Component Method on the qualities of wilderness character? What* *[mitigation measures](#_Mitigation_Measures) will be taken? Include cumulative impacts in the explanation.*

UNTRAMMELED: Explain the intensity of the action that would intentionally control, manipulate, or hinder the conditions or processes of ecological systems:

Describe the effect of Alternative 1 to the untrammeled quality here.

#### HELP - Untrammeled

Examples include suppression of natural fire or managing vegetation or wildlife, even if it improves the Natural Quality (e.g., eliminating a non-native species). Any manipulation of the biophysical environment has a negative impact to this quality.

### UNDEVELOPED: Explain the effects to this quality in terms of how “the imprint of man’s work [would] remain substantially unnoticeable,” and how wilderness will continue to be in contrast with other areas of “growing mechanization”:

Describe the effect of Alternative 1 to the undeveloped quality here.

#### HELP - Undeveloped

Examples include describing: 1. Type and degree of structures and installations: number, duration, and how advanced are materials and technology. 2. Motorized tools or mechanical transport: number, duration, and the power of the tool to modify the landscape.

### NATURAL: Explain the effects to this quality in terms of protection, degradation, or restoration of natural conditions:

Describe the effect of Alternative 1 to the natural quality here.

#### HELP - Natural Help

Examples of negative impacts include allowing establishment of non-native species or suppressing natural fire. Examples of preservation of this quality include the removal of non-native species, restoration of native species, or allowing natural fire.

### OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE and UNCONFINED RECREATION: Explain how opportunities for visitors to experience solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation will be protected or degraded. As appropriate, describe solitude, primitive recreation, and unconfined recreation separately:

Describe the effect of Alternative 1 to the outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation quality here.

#### HELP - Outstanding Opportunities

Actions that have a negative impact are those that increase visitor encounters, facilities, or other modern developments or tool use, or restrictions on visitors. Decreasing encounters, reducing development, or repealing regulations have a positive impact.

### OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE: Explain any effects to features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that are not accounted for in the above qualities, including cultural and paleontological resources that are integral to wilderness character:

Describe the effect of Alternative 1 to the other features of value quality here.

#### HELP – “Other Features of Value”

Examples of negative impacts include degradation of cultural or paleontological features. Actions that preserve of otherwise recognize the Other Features of Value Quality would produce positive impacts.

##### Mitigation Measures Help

Mitigation can be used to: avoid impacts by not implementing part of an action; minimize impact by limiting the magnitude of the action; rectify impact by rehabilitating the affected environment; or monitor and adapt management to reduce impacts.

### Alternative 2:

Enter the name of Alternative 2 here.

#### Component Methods

*How will each of the components of the action be performed under this alternative?*

| Component | [Workflow Components](#_Workflow_Components) | Component Methods for this Alternative |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Example: Transportation of personnel to the project site.* | *Example: Workers walk to work site.* |
| 1 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 2 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 3 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 4 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 5 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

##### HELP - “Component Methods”

Identify the components of the action first, then develop the alternatives. Separating an action into components provides a foundation for building well-thought-out alternatives (and promotes consistency among alternatives).

##### HELP - “Workflow Components”

Enter the workflow components from Step 2. These will be the same for every alternative.

#### Description of the Alternative

*What are the details of this alternative? When, where, and how will the action occur? What mitigation measures will be taken? Provide a complete narrative description of the Component Methods identified above.*

Enter a complete description of Alternative 2 here.

#### Wilderness Character

| Component Number | For each component number, indicate the impact the **method** **for this alternative** will have on each of the five qualities of Wilderness:Positive = P, Negative = N, No Effect = 0 *Describe in detail the impacts to each of the* *five qualities in the narrative section below* | Untrammeled | Undeveloped | Natural | Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation | Other Features of Value |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Example:* Workers walk to work site. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*What is the effect of each Component Method on the qualities of wilderness character? What* [*mitigation measures*](#_Mitigation_Measures) *will be taken? Include cumulative impacts in the explanation.*

UNTRAMMELED: Explain the intensity of the action that would intentionally control, manipulate, or hinder the conditions or processes of ecological systems:

Describe the effect of Alternative 2 to the untrammeled quality here.

#### HELP - Untrammeled

Examples include suppression of natural fire or managing vegetation or wildlife, even if it improves the Natural Quality (e.g., eliminating a non-native species). Any manipulation of the biophysical environment has a negative impact to this quality.

### UNDEVELOPED: Explain the effects to this quality in terms of how “the imprint of man’s work [would] remain substantially unnoticeable,” and how wilderness will continue to be in contrast with other areas of “growing mechanization”:

Describe the effect of Alternative 2 to the undeveloped quality here.

#### HELP - Undeveloped

Examples include describing: 1. Type and degree of structures and installations: number, duration, and how advanced are materials and technology. 2. Motorized tools or mechanical transport: number, duration, and the power of the tool to modify the landscape.

### NATURAL: Explain the effects to this quality in terms of protection, degradation, or restoration of natural conditions:

Describe the effect of Alternative 2 to the natural quality here.

#### HELP - Natural

Examples of negative impacts include allowing establishment of non-native species or suppressing natural fire. Examples of preservation of this quality include the removal of non-native species, restoration of native species, or allowing natural fire.

### OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE and UNCONFINED RECREATION: Explain how opportunities for visitors to experience solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation will be protected or degraded. As appropriate, describe solitude, primitive recreation, and unconfined recreation separately:

Describe the effect of Alternative 2 to the outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation quality here.

#### HELP - Outstanding Opportunities

Actions that have a negative impact are those that increase visitor encounters, facilities, or other modern developments or tool use, or restrictions on visitors. Decreasing encounters, reducing development, or repealing regulations have a positive impact.

### OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE: Explain any effects to features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that are not accounted for in the above qualities, including cultural and paleontological resources that are integral to wilderness character:

Describe the effect of Alternative 2 to the other features of value quality here.

#### HELP - Other Features of Value

Examples of negative impacts include degradation of cultural or paleontological features. Actions that preserve of otherwise recognize the Other Features of Value Quality would produce positive impacts.

#####  Mitigation Measures Help

Mitigation can be used to: avoid impacts by not implementing part of an action; minimize impact by limiting the magnitude of the action; rectify impact by rehabilitating the affected environment; or monitor and adapt management to reduce impacts.

###### Mitigation Measures

Mitigation can be used to: avoid impacts by not implementing part of an action; minimize impact by limiting the magnitude of the action; rectify impact by rehabilitating the affected environment; or monitor and adapt management to reduce impacts.

###### Examples of Mitigation Measures re: Untrammeled Quality

Examples include suppression of natural fire or managing vegetation or wildlife, even if it improves the Natural Quality (e.g., eliminating a non-native species). Any manipulation of the biophysical environment has a negative impact to this quality.

###### Examples of Mitigation Measures re: Undeveloped Quality

Examples include describing 1. Type and degree of structures and installations: number, duration, and how advanced are materials and technology. 2. Motorized tools or mechanical transport: number, duration, and the power of the tool to modify the landscape

###### Examples of Mitigation Measures re: Natural Quality

Examples of negative impacts include allowing establishment of non-native species or suppressing natural fire. Examples of preservation of this quality include the removal of non-native species, restoration of native species, or allowing natural fire.

###### Examples of Mitigation Measures re: Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Unconfined Recreation Quality

Actions that have a negative impact are those that increase visitor encounters, facilities, or other modern developments or tool use, or restrictions on visitors. Decreasing encounters, reducing development, or repealing regulations has a positive impact.

###### Examples of Mitigation Measures re: Other Features of Value Quality

Examples of negative impacts include degradation of cultural or paleontological features. Actions that preserve of otherwise recognize Other Features of Value would produce positive impacts.

### Alternative 3:

Enter the name of Alternative 3 here.

#### Component Methods

*How will each of the components of the action be performed under this alternative?*

| Component | [Workflow Components](#_Workflow_Components) | Component Methods for this Alternative |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Example: Transportation of personnel to the project site.* | *Example: Workers walk to work site.* |
| 1 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 2 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 3 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 4 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| 5 | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

##### HELP - “Component Methods”

Identify the components of the action first, then develop the alternatives. Separating an action into components provides a foundation for building well-thought-out alternatives (and promotes consistency among alternatives).

##### HELP - “Workflow Components”

Enter the workflow components from Step 2. These will be the same for every alternative.

#### Description of the Alternative

*What are the details of this alternative? When, where, and how will the action occur? What mitigation measures will be taken? Provide a complete narrative description of the Component Methods identified above.*

Enter a complete description of Alternative 3 here.

#### Wilderness Character

| Component Number | For each component number, indicate the impact the **method** **for this alternative** will have on each of the five qualities of Wilderness:Positive = P, Negative = N, No Effect = 0 *Describe in detail the impacts to each of the* *five qualities in the narrative section below* | Untrammeled | Undeveloped | Natural | Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation | Other Features of Value |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Example:* Workers walk to work site. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | Click or tap here to enter text. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*What is the effect of each Component Method on the qualities of wilderness character? What* [*mitigation measures*](#_Mitigation_Measures) *will be taken? Include cumulative impacts in the explanation.*

UNTRAMMELED: Explain the intensity of the action that would intentionally control, manipulate, or hinder the conditions or processes of ecological systems:

Describe the effect of Alternative 3 to the untrammeled quality here.

#### HELP – “Untrammeled”

Examples include suppression of natural fire or managing vegetation or wildlife, even if it improves the Natural Quality (e.g., eliminating a non-native species). Any manipulation of the biophysical environment has a negative impact to this quality.

### UNDEVELOPED: Explain the effects to this quality in terms of how “the imprint of man’s work [would] remain substantially unnoticeable,” and how wilderness will continue to be in contrast with other areas of “growing mechanization”:

Describe the effect of Alternative 3 to the undeveloped quality here.

#### HELP – “Undeveloped”

Examples include describing: 1. Type and degree of structures and installations: number, duration, and how advanced are materials and technology. 2. Motorized tools or mechanical transport: number, duration, and the power of the tool to modify the landscape.

### NATURAL: Explain the effects to this quality in terms of protection, degradation, or restoration of natural conditions:

Describe the effect of Alternative 3 to the natural quality here.

#### HELP – “Natural”

Examples of negative impacts include allowing establishment of non-native species or suppressing natural fire. Examples of preservation of this quality include the removal of non-native species, restoration of native species, or allowing natural fire.

### OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR PRIMITIVE and UNCONFINED RECREATION: Explain how opportunities for visitors to experience solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation will be protected or degraded. As appropriate, describe solitude, primitive recreation, and unconfined recreation separately:

Describe the effect of Alternative 3 to the outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation quality here.

#### HELP – “Outstanding Opportunities”

Actions that have a negative impact are those that increase visitor encounters, facilities, or other modern developments or tool use, or restrictions on visitors. Decreasing encounters, reducing development, or repealing regulations have a positive impact.

### OTHER FEATURES OF VALUE: Explain any effects to features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value that are not accounted for in the above qualities, including cultural and paleontological resources that are integral to wilderness character:

Describe the effect of Alternative 3 to the other features of value quality here.

#### HELP – “Other Features of Value”

Examples of negative impacts include degradation of cultural or paleontological features. Actions that preserve of otherwise recognize the Other Features of Value Quality would produce positive impacts.

#####  Mitigation Measures Help

Mitigation can be used to: avoid impacts by not implementing part of an action; minimize impact by limiting the magnitude of the action; rectify impact by rehabilitating the affected environment; or monitor and adapt management to reduce impacts.

###### Mitigation Measures

Mitigation can be used to: avoid impacts by not implementing part of an action; minimize impact by limiting the magnitude of the action; rectify impact by rehabilitating the affected environment; or monitor and adapt management to reduce impacts.

###### Examples of Mitigation Measures re: Untrammeled Quality

Examples include suppression of natural fire or managing vegetation or wildlife, even if it improves the Natural Quality (e.g., eliminating a non-native species). Any manipulation of the biophysical environment has a negative impact to this quality.

###### Examples of Mitigation Measures re: Undeveloped Quality

Examples include describing 1. Type and degree of structures and installations: number, duration, and how advanced are materials and technology. 2. Motorized tools or mechanical transport: number, duration, and the power of the tool to modify the landscape

###### Examples of Mitigation Measures re: Natural Quality

Examples of negative impacts include allowing establishment of non-native species or suppressing natural fire. Examples of preservation of this quality include the removal of non-native species, restoration of native species, or allowing natural fire.

###### Examples of Mitigation Measures re: Solitude or Primitive Unconfined Recreation Quality

Actions that have a negative impact are those that increase visitor encounters, facilities, or other modern developments or tool use, or restrictions on visitors. Decreasing encounters, reducing development, or repealing regulations has a positive impact.

###### Examples of Mitigation Measures re: Other Features of Value Quality

Examples of negative impacts include degradation of cultural or paleontological features. Actions that preserve of otherwise recognize Other Features of Value would produce positive impacts.

### Additional Alternatives

*To add more alternatives, copy and paste a blank alternative from above. Delete this note before finalizing the document.*

# Step 2: Alternatives Considered but Dismissed

*What alternatives were considered but dismissed?* *[Why were they dismissed](#_Why_were_they)?*

[Explain](#_Explanation_Help):

Describe alternatives that were considered but dismissed here.

## HELP - “Why Were They Dismissed?”

Reasons for dismissing an alternative include: not responsive to the issue; causes greater harm to wilderness character; so costly that it could not be implemented immediately, and wilderness character would be degraded due to delay; or safety cannot be mitigated.

## HELP - “Explain”

Do not eliminate alternatives from full consideration simply because implementation would take more time, money, or personnel, or because the skills or equipment needed are not readily available on the local unit.

# Step 2: Determination – What is the Minimum Activity?

Refer to the [MRAF instructions](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwinapps.umt.edu%2Fwinapps%2Fmedia2%2Fwilderness%2FNWPS%2Fdocuments%2FMRDG%2FMRAF%2520Instructions_508%2520Conformant_06.01.2023.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) before identifying the selected alternative and explaining the rationale for its selection.

## **Selected Alternative**

Enter the name of the selected alternative here.

Explain rationale for selection, including a comparison of the selected alternative with other alternatives:

Based on the analysis of alternatives in the “Alternatives” section, summarize the impacts of each alternative and compare them here. Explain why the selected alternative above best preserves wilderness character as a whole as compared to the other alternatives considered. See instructions.

| Approved? | Prohibited Use | Quantity, Timing, Frequency, or Duration |
| --- | --- | --- |
|[ ]  Mechanical Transport: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|[ ]  Motorized Equipment: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|[ ]  Motor Vehicles: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|[ ]  Motorboats: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|[ ]  Landing of Aircraft: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|[ ]  Temporary Roads: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|[ ]  Structures: | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|[ ]  Installations: | Click or tap here to enter text. |

Describe mitigation measures as well as monitoring and reporting requirements, if appropriate:

Describe mitigation measures here.

### HELP - “Explain Rationale for Selection”

Which of the prohibited uses found in Section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act are approved in the selected alternative? Describe limits on quantity, timing, frequency, or duration.

# Approvals

**Project Title** (from page 2)**:**

Enter the name of project title here.

Refer to agency policies for the following signature authorities:

**Prepared by:**

Name Click or tap here to enter text. Position Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature Date

**Reviewed by:**

Name Click or tap here to enter text. Position Click or tap here to enter text.

Enter reviewer comments here.

Signature Date

**Reviewed by:**

Name Click or tap here to enter text. Position Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature Date

Enter reviewer comments here.

**Approved by:**

Name Click or tap here to enter text. Position Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature Date