

## PART 19—WILDERNESS PRESERVATION

### Subpart A—National Wilderness Preservation System

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AUTHORITY: 78 Stat. 890, R.S. 2478; 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136, 43 U.S.C. 1201.

SOURCE: Circ. 2203, 31 FR 3011, Feb. 22, 1966, unless otherwise noted.

### Subpart A—National Wilderness Preservation System

#### § 19.1 Scope and purpose.

This subpart sets forth sections dealing with the administration by the Department of the Interior of certain provisions of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131-1136).

#### § 19.2 Definitions.

As used in this subpart the term:

(a) *National Forest Wilderness* means an area or part of an area of national forest lands designated by the Wilderness Act or by a subsequent act of Congress as a wilderness area.

(b) *National Park System* means all federally owned or controlled areas administered by the Secretary through the National Park Service.

(c) *National Wilderness Preservation System* means the Federally owned areas designated by the Wilderness Act or subsequent acts of Congress as wilderness areas.

(d) *National Wildlife Refuge System* means those lands and waters administered by the Secretary as wildlife refuges, wildlife ranges, game ranges, wildlife management areas, and water-

fowl production areas established under any statute, proclamation, executive order, or public land order.

(e) *Roadless area* means a reasonably compact area of undeveloped Federal land which 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.

(f) *Roadless island* means a roadless area that is surrounded by permanent waters or that is markedly distinguished from surrounding lands by topographical or ecological features such as precipices, canyons, thickets, or swamps.

(g) *Secretary* means the Secretary of the Interior or an official of the Department of the Interior who exercises authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior.

(h) *Wilderness* means a wilderness as defined in section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act.

#### § 19.3 Reviews of roadless areas and roadless islands.

(a) The Secretary is required by section 3(c) of the Wilderness Act to review every roadless area of 5,000 contiguous acres or more in each unit of the National Park System and every roadless area of 5,000 contiguous acres or more and every roadless island in the national wildlife refuges and game ranges of the National Wildlife Refuge System, which was under the supervision of the Secretary on September 3, 1964. The Secretary is further required to recommend to the President whether each such area and island is suitable or not suitable for preservation as wilderness. Reports and recommendations must be submitted by the Secretary in time to permit the President to advise the Congress of his recommendations thereon:

(1) Covering not less than one-third of such areas and islands by September 3, 1967;

(2) Covering not less than an additional one-third by not later than September 3, 1971; and

(3) Covering the remainder by not later than September 3, 1974.

(b) The primary objective of the Department of the Interior's review of

roadless areas and roadless islands pursuant to section 3(c) of the Wilderness Act and the regulations of this part shall be to identify and recommend for preservation as wilderness, by inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, those areas which, after consideration of all relevant factors, it is concluded will achieve the policy of the Congress, as expressed in section 2(a) of the Wilderness Act.

(c) Nothing in the sections of this part shall, by implication or otherwise, be construed to lessen the authority of the Secretary with respect to the maintenance of roadless areas within units of the National Park System or the maintenance of roadless areas and islands within units of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

**§ 19.4 Liaison with other governmental agencies and submission of views by interested persons.**

(a) When a review is initiated under the provisions of section 3(c) of the Wilderness Act and the sections of this part, arrangements shall be made for appropriate consideration of problems of mutual concern with other Federal agencies and with regional, State, and local governmental agencies.

(b) Any person desiring to submit recommendations as to the suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness of any roadless area in any unit of the National Park System, or of any such area or any roadless island in any unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System, may submit such recommendations at any time to the superintendent or manager in charge of the unit. Such recommendations will be accorded careful consideration and shall be forwarded with the report of review to the Office of the Secretary.

**§ 19.5 Hearing procedures.**

(a) Before any recommendation of the Secretary concerning the suitability or nonsuitability of any roadless area or island for preservation as wilderness is submitted to the President, a public hearing or hearings shall be held thereon at a location or locations convenient to the area or areas affected. If the lands involved are located in more than one State, at least one such hearing shall be held in each

State. At least 30 days before the date of any such hearing, public notice thereof shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and in newspapers of general circulation in the area. The public notice shall contain or make reference to a map of the lands involved and a definition of boundaries and a statement of the action proposed to be taken by the Secretary thereon.

(1) Any hearing held under this section shall be presided over by a hearing officer designated by the Secretary.

(2) Any person may present testimony at the hearing orally or in writing, or both, by notification to the hearing officer in accordance with the published notice of the hearing. Witnesses shall not be subjected to cross-examination but the hearing officer may invite responses by witnesses to questions he may ask for the purpose of clarifying the testimony presented.

(3) The witnesses shall not be sworn, but statements made by them orally or in writing are subject to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. 1001, which makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any agency of the United States any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

(4) A verbatim record of the hearing shall be kept.

(5) The hearing officer may be instructed by the Secretary to prepare and submit a recommendation concerning the suitability or nonsuitability of the area or areas for preservation as wilderness.

(6) A copy of the transcript of the hearing record, and of any recommendation made by the hearing officer as a result thereof, shall, during the pendency of the subject matter, be maintained for public examination (i) in an office of the Department of the Interior convenient to the area or areas affected and (ii) in the headquarters office of the Department in Washington, DC.

(7) The Secretary reserves the right at all times to consider information available to his office from any source not limited to the record of the public hearing or hearings, in the further consideration of proposed recommendations concerning the suitability or the