**Checklist for Developing Cultural Resource Information**

**for**

**National Park Service Wilderness Narratives**

By Karen Mudar and Jeff Rasic

Updated July 2020

(This checklist may be adapted for specific wilderness areas.)

1. **Compile data about human use of the wilderness, and any identified stewardship issues.**
	* Assess summary data in other park documents for use in narrative
		+ GMP/Foundation document
		+ Cultural Resource Management Plan
		+ Fire Management Plan
		+ Records from NPS information systems (CRIS, FMSS, National Register, etc.)
	* Conduct Background Research (in the event that no summary information is available***)***
	* Examine gray literature in regional NPS offices, SHPOs, THPOs, non-federal repositories, and park library
	* Examine historic context studies within the park
	* Examine ethnographic materials – oral histories, ethnographic overviews, place name studies, etc.
	* Compile locational data from incident reports that document vandalism and looting
2. **Assess the quality of the data.**
	* Identify gaps in information about cultural resources within wilderness boundaries, such as unsurveyed areas, cultural resources unevaluated for National Register significance, lack of cultural resources reports, etc.
		+ Do the data reflect all time periods in which the land was occupied or used?

(For example, you suspect that there was 19-20th century mining and trapping in the area, but the only cultural resource data you have is about prehistoric archeological sites.)

* Do the data cover all geographical areas of the wilderness?

(If you found the results of only a single small survey next to trailhead of a large wilderness, you might conclude that your knowledge of cultural resources in the area is limited.)

* Do you know who currently uses the wilderness and for what reasons?

(If no one has talked to local communities, you might be missing information about sacred sites and TCPs.)

* + Address gaps in knowledge through additional data collection – more archival research or field survey:
* Consult with groups affiliated with the wilderness area
* Survey
* Archival research
* Develop predictive models for the undocumented/unsurveyed locations in wilderness
1. **Collect additional data, if needed and if possible*.***
* Consultation (who in local communities is going to wilderness areas to maintain traditional lifeways? Visit graves? Collect plant materials from former homesteads?)
* Field inventory (i.e. pedestrian survey, shovel testing, etc.) (keep in mind that fieldwork will require a Minimum Requirements Analysis)
* Remote survey (aerial survey, LIDAR survey, etc.) (keep in mind that methods may require a Minimum Requirements Analysis)
* Modeling of resource distribution (remember the mining and trapping sites that you think should be in the wilderness? Here’s your opportunity to predict their locations)
* Documentation of buildings
* Primary records research.
1. **Identify cultural resources that are integral to the character of the wilderness.**
* Cultural resources that previously have been identified as important in some way:
* Listed, eligible to be listed, or potentially eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places
* Listed in the park’s enabling legislation
* Identified through consultation as important to federally-recognized Indian tribes with ties to the park
* Identified through consultation or through research as being important to groups with affiliation to the park
* Cultural resources that are in some way ‘special’ (as defined in the Wilderness Act) because they:
	+ Make scientific contributions
	+ Have educational potential
	+ Exhibit scenic or iconic qualities
	+ Have historic qualities, and tie a group associated with the wilderness to their past.
* Cultural resources that support aspects of the other wilderness qualities:
* Natural
* Undeveloped
* Untrammeled
* Opportunities for solitude and unconfined and primitive recreation
* Cultural resources that elicit an emotional response in visitors and staff
	+ that people have affection for
	+ that people associate with the specific wilderness
	+ that make the wilderness unique