Wilderness Access Request & Questionnaire

**for**

Scientific Research and Collecting Permits

**Zion National Park**

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Per NPS policy, over eighty percent of all National Park Service lands are managed as Wilderness. Though [NPS Wilderness](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/wilderness/index.htm) categories vary across the Service, Zion National Park is one of the 50 national park units containing designated Wilderness. On March 30, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act into law designating 124,406 acres of Zion National Park as Wilderness, meaning the vast majority of the Park is managed to preserve [wilderness character](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1981/wilderness-character.htm). In 2007, a [Wilderness Stewardship Plan](https://www.nps.gov/zion/learn/management/zion-backcountry-management-plan-and-environmental-assessment-available-for-review.htm) was developed to guide management decisions on activities occurring within [ZION Wilderness](https://www.nps.gov/zion/learn/nature/zion-wilderness.htm). Using the hyperlinked information above, please answer the following questions to provide the ZION Group Scientific Research and Wilderness Review Committees with sufficient information to effectively evaluate your research proposal:

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| 1. **Could the proposed research take place on other publicly owned land managed for multiple uses such as those administered by the U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Bureau of Land Management? Explain.** | | |
| **If ZION is the only place this research can occur, why the park has been selected?** | | |
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| **Detail why other locations with similar resources have been dismissed from consideration.** | | |
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| 1. **Could the proposed research be conducted outside of land managed as wilderness? Explain.** | | |
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| 1. **How does the proposed research benefit the field of science as a whole? Explain.** | | |
|  | | |
| 1. **Would the results address an urgent Wilderness stewardship issue?** | | |
|  | Not Urgent | |
|  | Not urgent now but might be in the future | |
|  | Urgent now but threat or issue appears to be static or decreasing | |
|  | Urgent now and threat or issue likely to continue at its current state | |
|  | Urgent now and threat or issue likely to accelerate | |
|  | Present crisis that may be at the point of irreversibility | |
| **Explain** |  | |
| 1. **Would the results address an important Wilderness stewardship issue?** | | |
|  | Not important | |
|  | Not important but might be in the future | |
|  | Important but occurs over a relatively small area or timeframe | |
|  | Important and occurs over a relatively large area or long timeframe | |
|  | Important, affecting one or more key biophysical or social aspects over a large area or long timeframe; potential concern for human health/safety | |
|  | Important, affecting irreversible changes to key biophysical or social aspects over a large area or long timeframe; major concern for human health/safety | |
| **Explain** |  | |
| 1. **Would the results be applicable immediately to Wilderness stewardship?** | | |
|  | Basic research that does not appear to be applicable to a current stewardship issue | |
|  | Basic research that has slight apparent applicability to a current stewardship issue | |
|  | Basic research that has moderate apparent applicability to a current stewardship issue | |
|  | Applied research that has slight to moderate apparent applicability to a current stewardship issue | |
|  | Applied research that has moderate to high apparent applicability to a current stewardship issue | |
|  | Research is specifically designed to answer a current stewardship issue | |
| **Explain** |  | |
| 1. **Would the results likely be applicable to future Wilderness stewardship issues?** | | |
|  | Basic research that is highly unlikely to be applicable in the future | |
|  | Basic research that is unlikely to be applicable in the future | |
|  | Research that is unlikely to be applicable in the future except as a baseline to assess future change | |
|  | Research is moderately likely to be applicable in the future | |
|  | Research is likely to be applicable in the future | |
|  | Research is highly likely to be applicable in the future | |
| **Explain** |  | |
| 1. **Would the results allow effective action on a Wilderness stewardship issue?** | | |
|  | Managers would likely not be able to take any actions that affect the issue | |
|  | Managers could affect the issue only by trying to influence broad societal changes | |
|  | Managers could take effective action only by changing management priorities | |
|  | Managers could take effective action only with significant costs to other wilderness values | |
|  | Managers could take effective action with minimal cost to other wilderness values | |
|  | Managers could easily and immediately take effective action with no cost to other wilderness values | |
| **Explain** |  | |
| 1. **Would the results improve the stewardship of this local Wilderness?** | | |
|  | Results are not applicable to the wilderness in which the research is conducted | |
|  | Results are slightly applicable to the wilderness in which the research is conducted | |
|  | Results are slightly to moderately applicable to the wilderness in which the research is conducted | |
|  | Results are moderately applicable to the wilderness in which the research is conducted | |
|  | Results are highly applicable to the wilderness in which the research is conducted | |
|  | Results are specifically applicable to the wilderness in which the research is conducted | |
| **Explain** |  | |
| 1. **How broad geographically would the results benefit science? Select one & explain:** | | |
|  | Results benefit science in only a small geographic area or portion of the wilderness | |
|  | Result benefit science in the whole wilderness | |
|  | Results benefit science in the whole region | |
|  | Results benefit science in the whole country | |
|  | Results benefit science in similar bioregions globally | |
|  | Results benefit science across the entire planet | |
| **Explain** |  | |
| 1. **How far over time would the results benefit science? Select one & explain:** | | |
|  | Results provide a short term benefit | |
|  | Results provide a short to moderate term benefit | |
|  | Results provide a moderate term benefit | |
|  | Results provide a moderate to long term benefit | |
|  | Results provide a long term benefit | |
|  | Results provide a permanent benefit | |
| **Explain** |  | |
| 1. **How many different types of people would benefit from the results? Select one & explain:** | | |
|  | Results benefit only a few scientists and managers | |
|  | Results benefit only visitors, scientists, or mangers in the specific wilderness | |
|  | Results benefit visitors, scientists, and managers in any wilderness | |
|  | Results benefit local visitors, residents, scientists, and managers | |
|  | Results benefit regional visitors, residents, scientists, and managers | |
|  | Results benefit people nationally or globally | |
| **Explain** |  | |
| 1. **How important is the activity to the scientific field of study? Select one & explain:** | | |
|  | Similar research has been conducted many times before and attempts to answer relatively trivial questions | |
|  | Similar research has been conducted many times before and attempts to answer relatively minor questions | |
|  | Research expands slightly on previous work and attempts to answer relatively minor questions | |
|  | Research expands significantly on previous work and attempts to answer major questions | |
|  | Research is groundbreaking or precedent setting for the field and attempts to answer major questions | |
|  | Research is groundbreaking or precedent setting for the field and attempts to answer fundamental questions | |
| **Explain** |  | |
| 1. **What is the breadth of scientific inquiry? Select one & explain:** | | |
|  | Research is conducted on a single, minor component of the ecosystem or social system with little effect on other components | |
|  | Research is conducted on a single component of the ecosystem or social system with little effect on other systems | |
|  | Research is conducted on a single process of the ecosystem or social system that affects a moderate number of other components | |
|  | Research is conducted on a single process of the ecosystem or social system that affects many components | |
|  | Research is conducted on many ecosystem or social processes and components | |
|  | Research is conducted on ecosystem or social processes and components comprehensively | |
| **Explain** |  | |
| 1. **If handling or collecting specimens, could the number of specimens be reduced?** | | |
| **If not, why not?** | | |
|  | | |
| **If yes, are you willing to reduce the number of specimens? Explain how the reduction number was deduced.** | | |
|  | | |
| 1. **How will the proposed research impact the various elements of wilderness character?** | | |
| **Would your research benefit or help preserve wilderness character? Explain.** | | |
|  | | |
| **Identify expected and unintentional impacts (beneficial and adverse) for each wilderness characteristic:** | | |
| Natural | |  |
| Untrammeled | |  |
| Undeveloped | |  |
| Solitude or Unconfined Recreation | |  |
| Other Features of Value: Cultural Resources | |  |
| **How would these impacts be mitigated?** | | |
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| 1. **For each member of the research team, indicate the level of experience conducting research in areas managed as wilderness.** | | |
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