

# Wilderness: Is It What You Think It Is?

What do the terms wilderness and Wilderness mean to you?

If you're like most people, wilderness is pretty much as Webster defines it: "... a tract of land or a region uncultivated and uninhabited by human beings."

But what about Wilderness? With a capital "W." It means a lot more than most people realize. In fact, the exact meaning of Wilderness is spelled out by a federal law, the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Specifically, this law says that Wilderness is "... an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." Furthermore, Congress decreed that areas of such Wilderness should be at least 5,000 acres in size, that there should be no roads and that access should be by foot, horseback or non-motorized boat.

Since 1964, Congress has set aside 16.6 million acres (23,000 square miles) as Wilderness. This land contains some of the most spectacular scenery to be found anywhere in the country. And there are still other areas that deserve to be included in this special classification.

The U.S. Forest Service currently is conducting its second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RAE II) to determine which National Forest lands are best suited for addition to the Wilderness system. The initial phase of this survey turned up some 62.1 million acres (103,500 square miles) which meet the basic criterion of being roadless.

The Forest Service has developed 10 alternative approaches for allocating the 62.1 million acres into three categories—to be recom-

mended for Wilderness, to be returned to multiple-use management and to be held for further study. It is to make a final allocation recommendation to Congress by January 1979.

While few people argue the merits of having a Wilderness system, the potential size of the proposed additions pose some problems for many.

Wilderness provides recreation for those strong enough and brave enough to tackle Mother Nature on her own terms, using only sturdy arms and legs, a compass and whatever supplies can be carried on their backs, the back of an animal or in a canoe.

But what about the millions of Americans who enjoy recreational vehicles and a few comforts for their family camping and hiking? For practical purposes, Wilderness is off limits to them. Under law, Wilderness areas have no roads, campgrounds or recreational facilities, such as ski areas. And motorized vehicles—including campers, boats and aircraft—are not allowed.

A national survey on Wilderness attitudes conducted for the American Forest Institute (AFI) turned up some interesting but conflicting viewpoints. It showed that most Americans are confused, not only about what Wilderness is but also about what most of them want in the way of outdoor recreational opportunities.

"People seem terribly afraid the country is running out of something they want: the chance for outdoor experiences," explained George C. Cheek, executive vice president of AFI. "And they seem unaware that designating lands as federal Wilderness areas will not really increase the kinds of recreation they say they want."



When survey respondents were asked what type of outdoor recreation should be expanded, picnic areas, camping grounds, bicycle trails and accessible hiking trails headed the list.

"One in five Americans believes he or she has visited a Wilderness area, although attendance figures from the Wilderness areas show that is clearly impossible," said Cheek, explaining that many of these visits actually were to parks, forests or other non-Wilderness areas.

"The point is that most people don't have to go into a designated federal Wilderness to have what they believe is a wilderness experience. Wilderness clearly is whatever an individual believes it is."

Support for "bigger" Wilderness really is support for more recreation sites available for desirable activities, the study noted. New proposals for Wilderness are automatically endorsed by the public because the principle is popular.

Aside from the recreational paradox of Wilderness, there are economic considerations, too, in devoting such large areas to unproductive use.

The majority of the land already set aside, or proposed, as Wilderness is federally owned, part of our National Forest system. Ordinarily, National Forests

are managed under a multiple-use policy to provide for recreation, timber production, watershed protection, wildlife, even grazing.

Reclassification of land from multiple-use to Wilderness effectively eliminates both timber production and the forms of recreation most popular with the general public. It severely restricts grazing and mineral development and eliminates protection of the area from fire, insects and diseases.

While there is a tendency to dismiss the value of our

National Forests in supplying the nation's wood and paper products, several points are worth keeping in mind:

- Several thousand miles of roads are constructed annually in National Forests as part of timber harvesting activities. These same roads provide access for recreational activities. In fact, the Forest Service requires that most of these roads exceed standards needed for harvesting, so that they will be available for recreation and other access in the future, including fire protection.

- To some people, Wilderness is a way of "preserving" forests. But trees are living things. They sprout, grow, mature and then die from old age, disease, fire or insects.

- Our National Forests contain 51 percent of the nation's entire timber resource inventory suitable for construction lumber and plywood. Home building is the largest use for this timber. America needs Wilderness, but it also needs to use

## Bow and Arrow Is Effective Hunting Tool

Contrary to old wives' tales, a modern bow and arrow is an incredibly efficient hunting tool—even bit as effective in stopping game as a rifle. The key to success with bow or gun is using the proper equipment and placing a shot correctly. In both forms of hunting, an accurate shot with adequate gear will drop an animal quickly and humanely.

The vast majority of bowhunters go after deer, which means they need bows of fairly heavy draw weight. This ensures flat arrow trajectory for surer hits on animals at unknown ranges and also produces maximum arrow penetration for maximum effectiveness. As a rough rule of thumb, an average-sized man should hunt deer with a recurve bow which has a minimum draw weight of 50 pounds, and a woman should use a recurve bow with a draw weight of no less than 45 pounds. Since modern compound bows are easier to pull back than recurve bows, virtually any man can shoot a compound without undue muscle strain. A woman can usually shoot a 50-pound compound bow of 55 or 60 pound bow with equal ease. These minimum deer-hunting draw weights will en-

sure deep arrow penetration when a top-quality hunting arrow is used, dropping well-hit animals with incredible speed.

The correct place to hit any big game animal is the vital chest cavity, no matter whether you use bow or gun. Hunters who use bows as well as guns will testify that a hit in this vital zone with bullet or arrow will drop an animal in seconds. A bow-shot animal may run a little farther because it has not been upended by bullet impact, but it will expire just as quickly and humanely.

Another important key to humane bowhunting is using a razor-sharp broadhead. A multi-edged arrowhead which will easily shave hair. A shaving-sharp broadhead yields maximum penetration and damage in game for a razor-sharp broadhead. Bowhunters still devote hours and hours to sharpen their broadheads with files and whetstones, but the majority of modern bowhunters prefer convenient factory sharpened broadheads available at any archery store. These do a fine job and eliminate the hassle involved in painstakingly sharpening broadhead edges by hand. However, no matter what kind of broadheads a

bowhunter buys, he should always use shaving-sharp broadheads. This cannot be overstressed.

Old myths about bowhunting are fast disappearing as more and more sportsmen discover how quickly and humanely modern bows and arrows do the job. A large share of the bowhunting challenge is preparing for the hunt, learning to shoot and getting within good bow-range of an animal. However, what happens after that depends on the equipment you're using and where you aim your arrow. If your aim is true, your broadheads are sharp and your bow and arrow is a fast-shooting design, your animal should drop within seconds without fuss or muss.

The American Archery Council has recently published an excellent booklet called the ABC's of Bowhunting, a complete beginner's manual which will answer any additional questions you may have about the effectiveness of modern bowhunting gear. To obtain your copy of this informative little publication, contact the American Archery Council, 200 Castlewood Road, North Palm Beach, FL 33402.

**don't miss 'em!**  
**the**  
**BOB HARMON**  
**'FOOTBALL,**  
**FORECAST'**  
**and**  
**our own**  
**'FOOTBALL**  
**FOCUS'**  
**(every Thursday)**  
**in your**

**Observer & Eccentric**  
**Newspapers**



## Sportsmen Pay For Better Fishing

Across the United States, the number of anglers competing for space on the water has been growing at a rate much faster than the population itself. With more than 60 million people fishing and enjoying the outdoors, the value of fish restoration and management programs is obvious and likewise vital to the improvement of sport fishing nationwide.

In 1950, the nation's fishermen, in cooperation with fishing tackle manufacturers, worked with Congressman John Dingell of Michigan and Senator Edwin Johnson of Colorado to successfully develop the Federal Aid in Fish

Restoration Act, popularly known now as the Dingell-Johnson or D-J Act. This program provides for a self-imposed, 10 percent manufacturer's excise tax on rods, reels, creels, and artificial lures, baits and flies. The money collected is given back to the states for worthwhile programs and projects such as improving lake environments, building lakes, improving stream habitat and fish populations, and new spawning areas. Through the years, every state in the union has benefited from the foresight and planning of the original legislation.

In assuring that sport

fishermen enjoy fishing and recreation, more than \$180 million—\$20 million in 1975 alone—has been paid by fishing tackle manufacturers to the Federal government, earmarked for the state's programs. Also helping fishermen, is the fact that state fish and game departments have cooperated with the D-J program to publish information on when and how to fish; maps of the lakes and streams; provided boat launching and ramp facilities and access to public waters; and insured protection of fishing sites and lakes for fishermen.

Certainly, the challenge of providing the highest

quality of sport fishing possible is a tremendous job. Fishermen have "paid their way" and are increasingly doing their part to assure better fishing.

But, the job will never be really done and "stop gap" efforts for fish restoration which are usually poorly-financed must be avoided in view of the real solutions of fact-finding research and money which allow the job to be done properly, notes Thomas R. Schedler, executive vice president, American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association.

It is becoming apparent that the Dingell-Johnson program, including the de-

termined efforts and financial support of the fishing tackle manufacturers will be even more important in the coming years. Better fishing and enjoyment of our wonderful outdoor world is what this is really all about, both today and tomorrow. "I think we can provide fishing opportunities for everyone who wants to go fishing and more importantly, the chance to relax, have fun and catch fish," Schedler concluded.