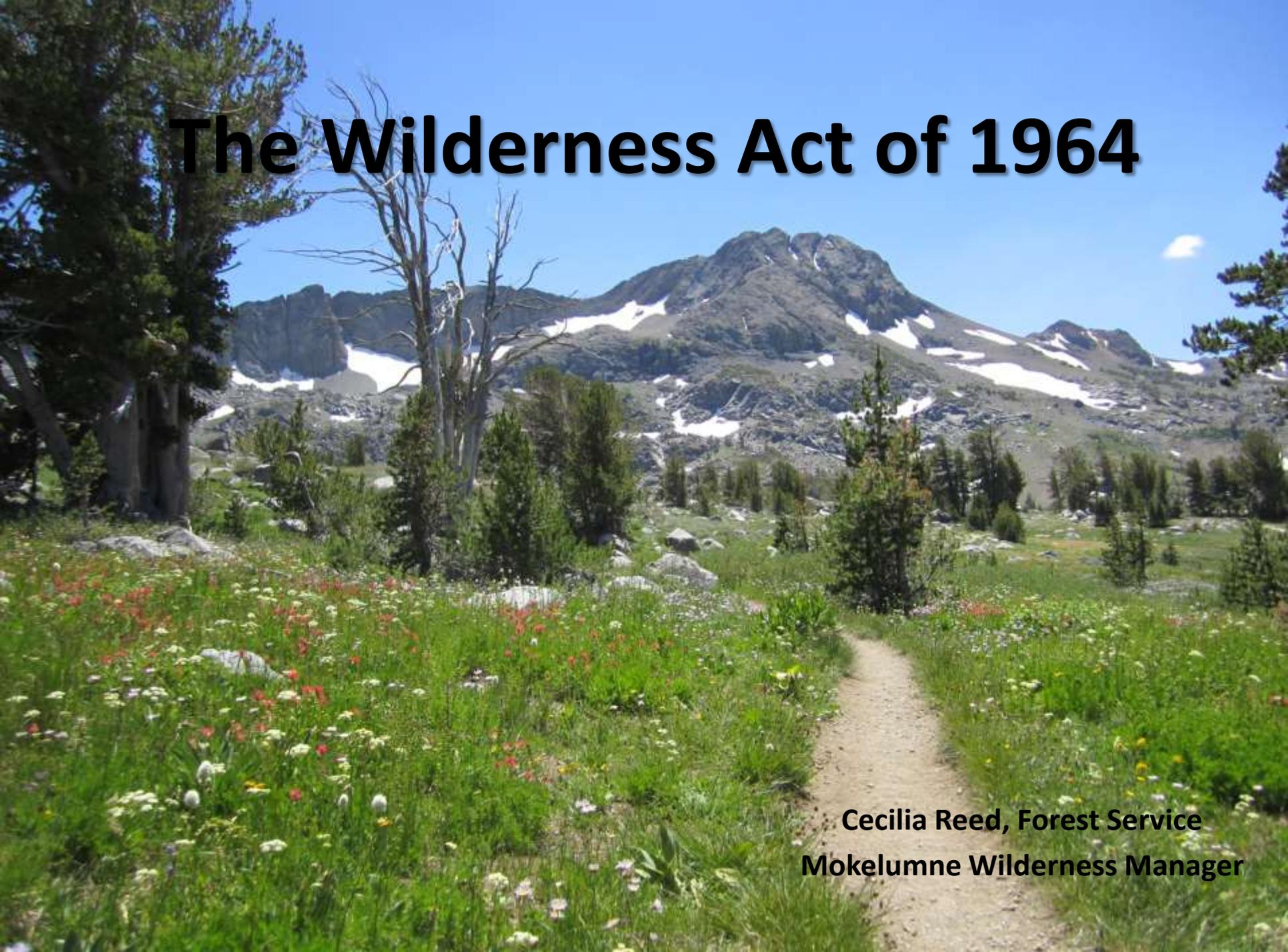
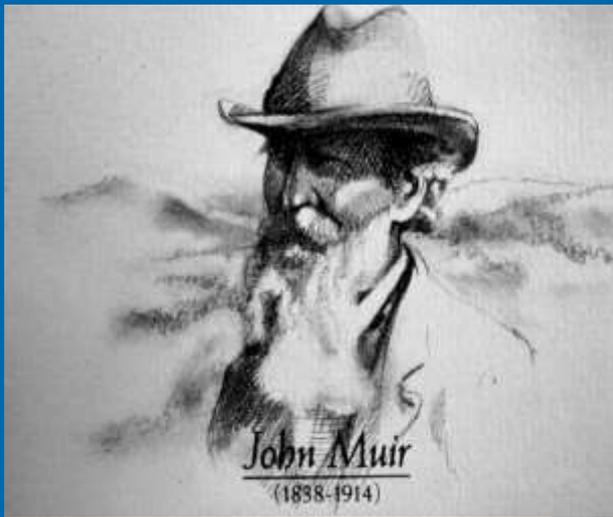


# **The Wilderness Act of 1964**



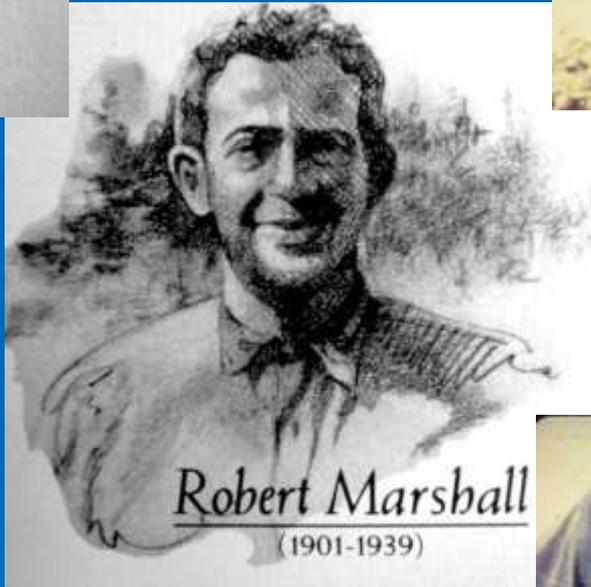
**Cecilia Reed, Forest Service  
Mokelumne Wilderness Manager**



*John Muir*  
(1838-1914)



Aldo Leopold



*Robert Marshall*  
(1901-1939)

Arthur Carhart



Teddy Roosevelt



# The Wilderness Act of 1964

After much debate and compromise...after 66 drafts, 18 public hearings...8 years, Congress in 1964 passed the Wilderness Act and established the **National Wilderness Preservation System**



- In 1964, 9.1 million acres of wilderness preserved. Today, there are over 109 million acres of wilderness, an area slightly larger than the state of California

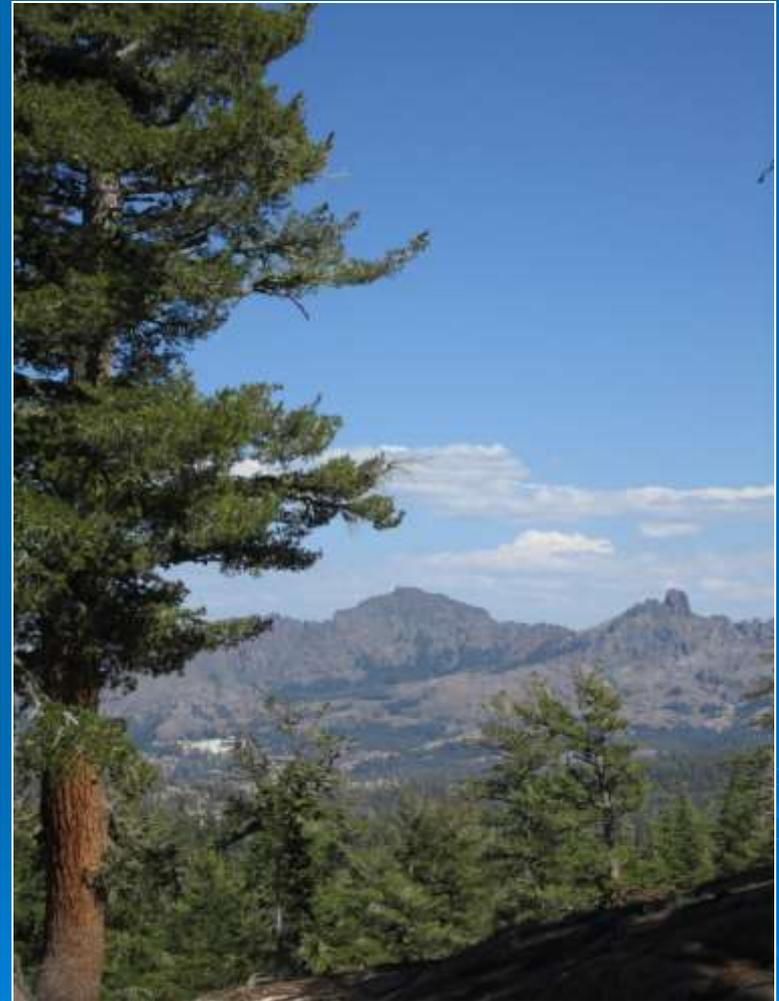
# What is Wilderness?

- “An area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain...”



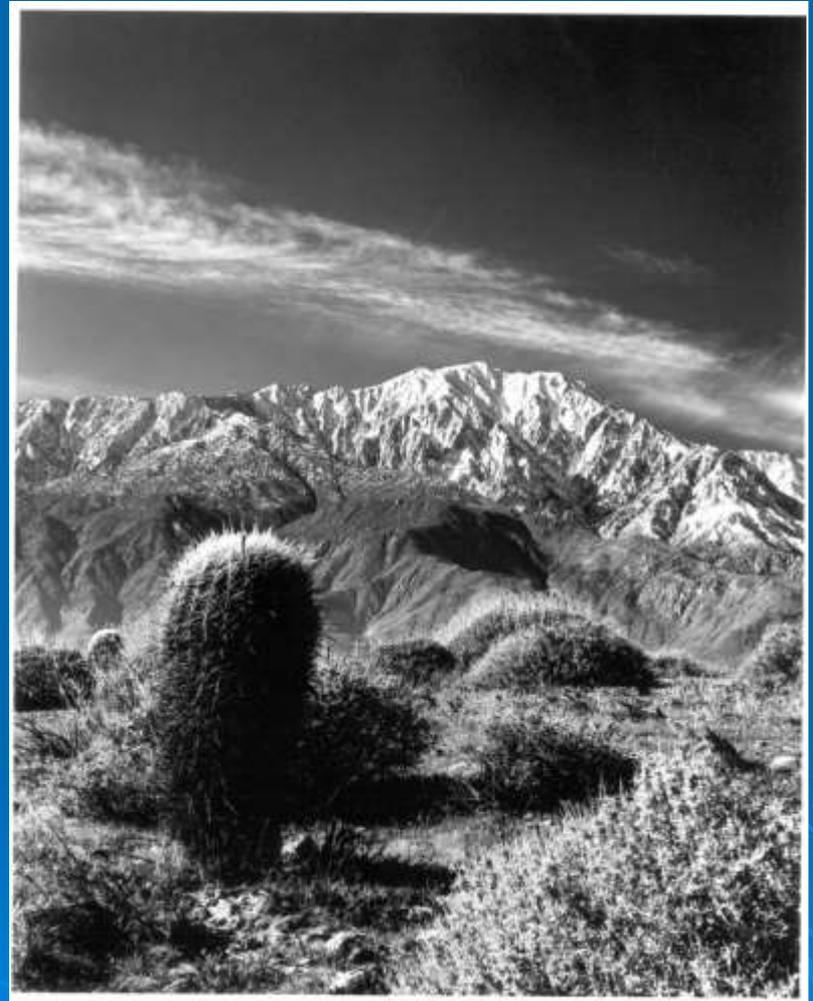
# What is Wilderness?

- An area affected primarily by forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable
- An area with outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation



# What is Wilderness?

- “Wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use”





# **Wilderness Regulations**

## **Preserving Wilderness Character**

# No Commercial Enterprise

- Special Provisions
- Commercial services may be performed .....for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.



# No Permanent Road

- Special Provisions
  - Mineral Leases & Claims  
“reasonable ingress & egress”
  - Water Resources & grazing



# No Mechanized or Motorized Equipment

- Includes bicycles, motorboats, over-snow vehicles, strollers, gamecarts, and chainsaws
- Except as necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area.



# No Landing of Aircraft

- Some Wilderness areas have additional fly over limits.
- May be allowable by the Secretary of Agriculture in the control of fire, insects, and disease.



# No Structure or Installation

- Except as necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area.



# Evaluating Scientific Proposals in the Wilderness



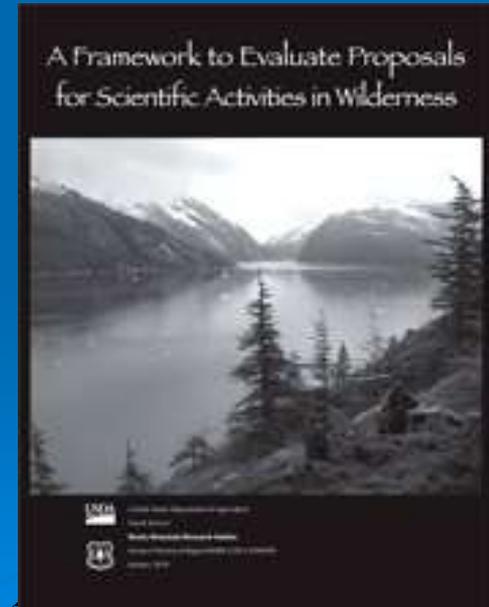
# Communication

- Communication is necessary between managers and scientists
- In order to develop proposals that benefit science & Wilderness



# A Framework to Evaluate Proposals for Scientific Activities in Wilderness

- Developed by an interagency team as a tool to use in evaluating proposals
- Wilderness.net
  - Tools for managers
  - Toolboxes
  - Research & Science



# Minimum Requirements Decision Process

- Wilderness Act Guidance
- Section 4c of the Wilderness Act of 1964
- “except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area”
- A decision guide to determine the minimum activity, method & tool
- Not for emergency situations. Emergencies are addressed in Emergency Plans

# Minimum Requirements Decision Process

- Designed to assist with NEPA, but not a substitute for NEPA.
- Provides a method to determine the necessity of an action and how to minimize impacts
- Is the action necessary and/or is it necessary to preserve Wilderness Character?
- Are there options outside of the Wilderness?
- Develop alternatives

# Whitebark Pine (*Pinus albicaulis*)

## Naturalness vs. Wildness



# Preserving Wilderness Character

- In its natural condition
- Earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man
- Affected primarily by the forces of nature



# Naturalness vs. Wildness

- Does protecting and/or restoring whitebark pine (WBP) in the Wilderness “preserve natural conditions”?
- Does not managing WBP in Wilderness promote “Wild Conditions”?
- Is trammeling resulting from restoration acceptable to achieve more natural conditions?



**“It took more than three thousand years to make some of the trees in these Western woods — trees that are still standing in perfect strength and beauty, waving and singing in the mighty forests of the Sierra. Through all the wonderful, eventful centuries ... God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods; but he cannot save them from fools — only Uncle Sam can do that.”**

**John Muir, The American Forests**



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