WORKING ACROSS AGENCY LINES
TO IMPROVE VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS
Presentation Overview

- History and mission of the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council (the Council)

- Update on the council’s activities
• History and mission of the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council (the Council)
• Update on the council’s activities
The Challenge of Litigation

National Park Service, Advocacy Groups Reach Settlement Over Merced Wild and Scenic River Litigation in Yosemite National Park

Kayakers, conservation groups not happy with Forest Service ruling

American Whitewater lawsuit thrown out of court!

The Chattooga Conservancy’s Proposed Restrictions for Boating the Chattooga Headwaters

American Whitewater Rejects Chattooga Conservancy’s offer to help open Chattooga River headwaters with restrictions
The Challenge of Implementation

Inconsistent and inadequate implementation of VUM and capacity methodologies across the agencies:

- Not meeting agencies’ missions
- Reduced accountability
- Confusion in the field
- Inability to demonstrate success
- Litigation
Importance of Visitor Use Management

Proactively planning for visitor use maximizes the ability of agencies to encourage access and protect resources and values.
The Interagency Visitor Use Management Council

Mission:

Provide guidance on long-term visitor use management policies and give direction on the most pressing needs by building technical competencies and improving interagency coordination.
Expected Outcomes

• Consistent guidance across agencies
• Elevate the professional and scientific approach to managing visitor use
• Increased communication and collaboration
• Cost savings and improved efficiency
• More defensible decision-making
• History and mission of the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council (the Council)

• Update on the council’s activities
Work Plan

1. Establish guidance directives
2. Develop tools
3. Conduct training
4. Communicate effectively
5. Build institutional capacity
Council Product and Activities

Communication
Outreach to share information on the council and visitor use management.

Position Paper, Volume One: Visitor Use Management
Guidance for policy and the basic positions that inform council products and activities.

Position Paper, Volume Two: Visitor Capacity

Visitor Use Management Framework
A planning process for visitor use management, that can be incorporated into existing agency planning and decision-making processes.

Visitor Capacity Guidebook
How-to guidebooks that support the framework in greater detail.

Indicators, Thresholds, and Monitoring Guidebook

Training
Training will be developed in the future based on all other council products and activities.
Council Website

http://visitorusemanagement.nps.gov/

Welcome
Six federal agencies—the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—collaborate on the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council. Council collaboration is designed to increase awareness of and commitment to proactive, professional, and science-based visitor use management on federally-managed lands and waters. Providing a consistent approach to visitor use management better serves the public by creating seamless connections between lands and waters managed by different federal agencies.

Council Vision
Providing a unified voice for excellence in visitor use management on our nation’s federally-managed lands and waters to sustain resources and quality visitor experiences.
QUESTIONS?