

Science and Stewardship to Protect and Sustain Wilderness Values

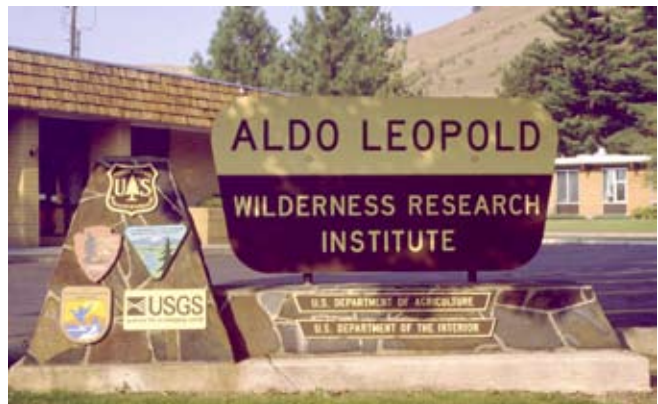
*Proceedings of the
Ninth World Wilderness Congress Symposium*

BY BROOKE B. McBRIDE

WILD9 convened in Meridá, Yucatán, Mexico, in 2009 with a challenging agenda. For more than eight days, 1,800 delegates from more than 50 nations gathered to FEEL, THINK, and ACT (SIENTE, PIENSA, ACTÚA) on many important conservation issues requiring international cooperation. The compilation of papers from the Symposium on Science and Stewardship to Protect and Sustain Wilderness Values is now available online, in hard copy, and on CD by mail order.

The WILD9 proceedings comprise 32 papers that are organized into seven sections:

1. *Empowering Young People* highlights the promise of youth service programs as a powerful tool for global conservation. This section traces the history of the youth conservation service movement in the United States and provides an overview of its current programs. Similar programs in the developing world are also making substantial contributions to conservation and human well-being.
2. *Promoting Involvement of Local Communities* presents strategies for maximizing the involvement of indigenous communities in conservation planning, management, and decision making. Case studies and examples from Mexico, Uganda, and the United States are provided, and the potential impacts of climate change on such relationships are given special consideration.
3. *Enhancing Transboundary Conservation Goals* details



regional and international efforts to span both geographic and cultural boundaries in order to protect natural and cultural resources. Successfully implemented projects in Africa, Europe, and between Canada and the United States are discussed. New cooperative partnerships between Mexico and the United States, and across even larger hemispheric scales, are strongly urged.

4. *Exploring Wilderness Meanings* investigates sociocultural meanings of wilderness and the implications for management. Questions about the meanings and importance of wilderness to humans in many different parts of the world are explored through different cultural, theoretical, and spiritual lenses.

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but there is a need to broaden the protection focus to accommodate the likely reality of a future population less engaged with the outdoors than were the preceding generations. This means putting more focus on initiatives to encourage people to participate in the outdoors, providing a means for strengthening the outdoor recreation community, and growing a renewed constituency with national values for

wilderness. At the close of the conference, the president of FMC concluded that the future focus for efforts should emphasize participation, conservation, and conservation funding.

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5. *Monitoring and Predicting Change* offers different strategies for assessing and monitoring impacts, as well as projecting future scenarios, in a rapidly changing world. The values of different tools, such as ecosystem services valuation (ESV) and geographical information systems (GIS), for identifying and representing this information are described in-depth.

6. *New Directions in Wilderness Stewardship* includes different models and case studies aimed at the long-term conservation of significant landscapes. Models provided by the U.S. National Landscape Conservation System

and National Wildlife Refuge System are evaluated. Case studies from South Africa, the Great Lakes in the United States, and Taiwan provide new insights.

7. *A Tribute to "Wilderness Dan" Henning* (1931–2009), features Henning's final contribution to our international wilderness community through a description of some of the values associated with tropical rain forests in their natural and near-natural conditions.

The WW9 proceedings are available at www.leopold.wilderness.net or can be obtained by writing to Publications, Leopold Institute, 790 E. Beckwith Ave., Missoula, MT 59801, USA. The Aldo Leopold

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