

Bill Vanderberg

WTC *Leave No Trace* Presentation



What Is Leave No Trace?

- Leave No Trace is simply about enjoying your world responsibly.
- Leave No Trace is not a set of rules or regulations.
- It's a set of science-based guidelines that can help easily protect the outdoor places where you enjoy spending time.
- Leave No Trace is relevant for ANYONE who spends time outside!



Leave No Trace *Program Roots*

- The Leave No Trace program originated in backcountry and federally-designated Wilderness areas in the 1960's, following the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964.
- In the 1970's, the federal agencies began to develop educational brochures. The program was slogan-based, with little national leadership or inter-agency coordination.
- Early names for the program included: Wilderness Manners, Wilderness Ethics, Minimum-Impact Camping and No-Trace Camping.



Federal Agency Partners



- The Center for Outdoor Ethics is under a Memorandum of Understanding with the five largest land management agencies in the U.S. to provide Leave No Trace education on public lands.
- Each agency has staff trained in Leave No Trace who train other agency personnel and the general public.
- The federal agencies have national Leave No Trace coordinators who serve as non-voting advisors on the Center's Board of Directors and the Review & Research Network.
- The agencies play a critical role in providing Leave No Trace information to millions of outdoor enthusiasts each year.

Cumulative Impacts

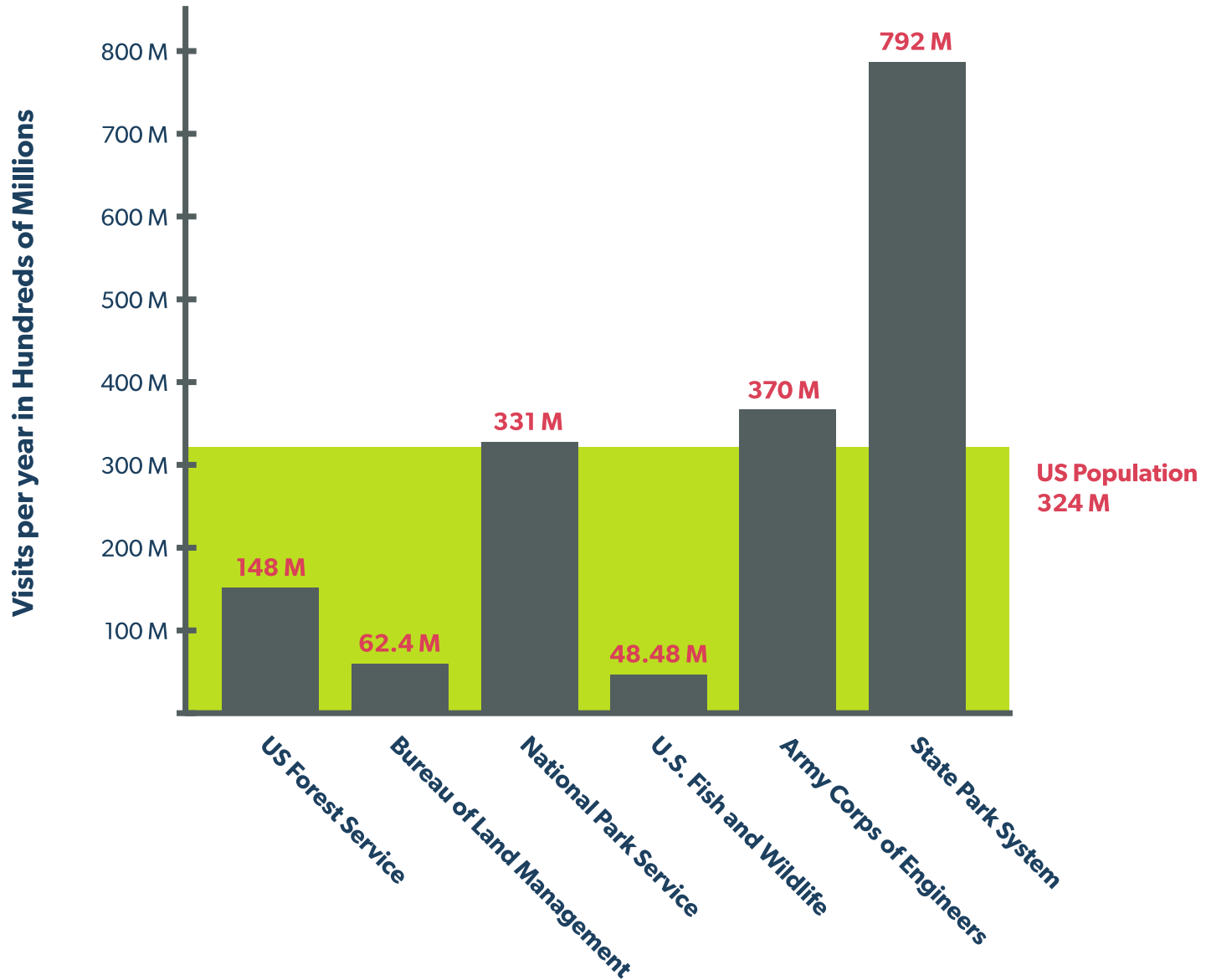


- Leave No Trace education is critical when you consider the combined effects of millions of outdoor visitors.
- One poorly located campsite or campfire may have little impact, but thousands of such instances can degrade natural resources and recreation experiences.
- To protect our resources, it is important to recreate responsibly and educate ourselves on the practices of Leave No Trace.

THE LEAVE NO TRACE SPECTRUM

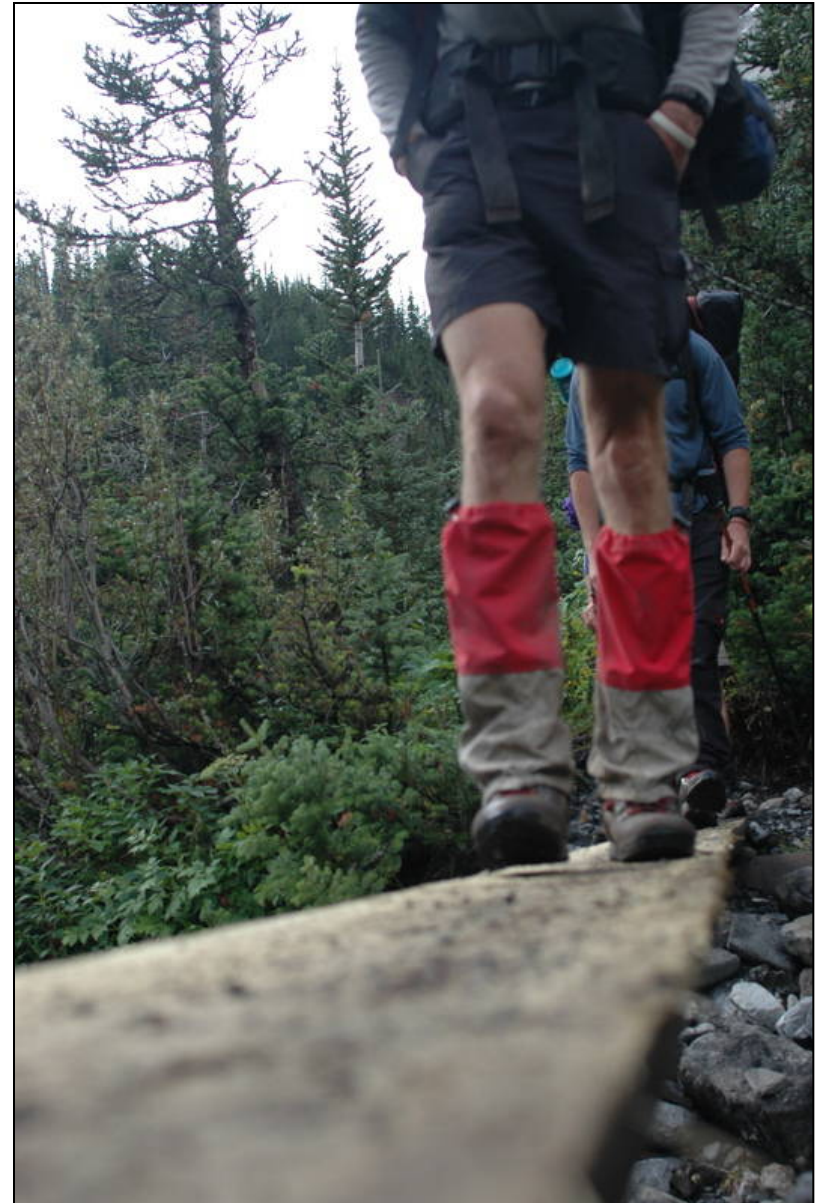


Public Land Use



The Seven Leave No Trace Principles

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors



Plan Ahead and Prepare Overview



- *The “Why”:*
 - Ensures the safety of your group.
 - Adds to the enjoyment of the experience.
 - Helps you minimize your impact on the land.
- *The “How”:*
 - Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you’ll visit.
 - Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
 - Consider traveling with a smaller group to minimize social and resource impacts.
 - Plan your meals carefully to avoid leftovers.
 - Repackage food to minimize waste.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Selecting Appropriate Gear

- Learn about the areas you plan to visit before you go. A lot of information is available via the internet.

- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards and emergencies.
- Bring a map and compass and plan where you are going. Let others know when you plan to return!



Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Overview

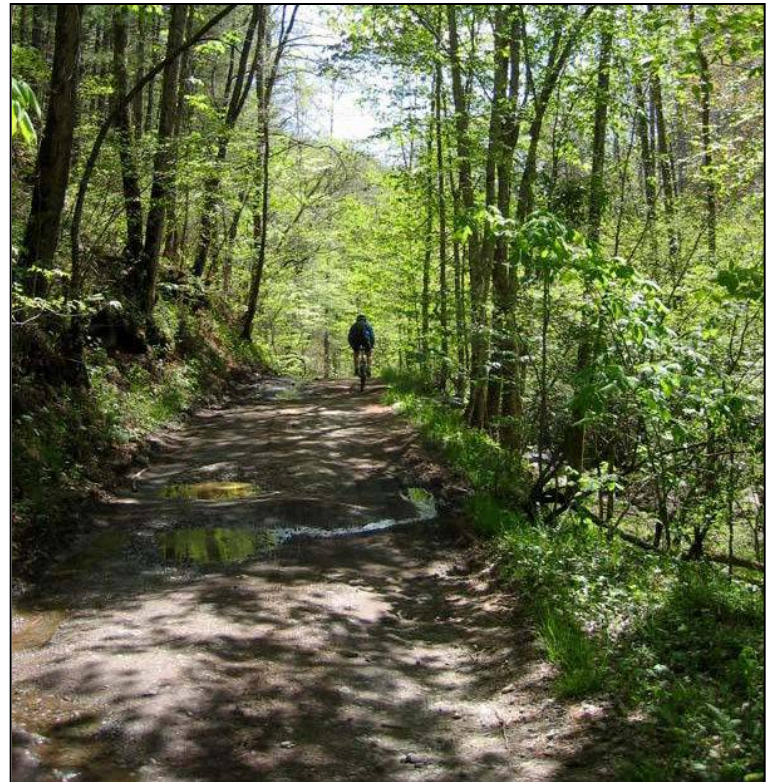


- *The “Why”:*
 - Prevents soil erosion and vegetation damage.
 - Prevents the establishment of trails and campsites.

- *The “How”:*
 - Stick to established trails and campsites.
 - Choose to travel on durable surfaces such as rock, gravel, dry grasses and sand.
 - Select durable campsites that are big enough to accommodate your group.
 - Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

Durable Surfaces

- Established trails and campsites
- Rock/Gravel/Sand
- Dry Grasses
- Snow
- Impacted Areas





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Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces *Popular Areas*

- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites when provided.
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.
- Stay on established, resistant sites. Keep campsites small. Focus activities in areas where vegetation is absent or where site is most impacted.



Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces *Pristine Areas*

- Spread out and travel on resistant surfaces when off trail or in pristine areas. This will prevent the creation of new trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.
- Choose a pristine campsite with resistant surfaces. Disperse activities to avoid impacts.



Dispose of Waste Properly Overview

- *The “Why”:*
 - Avoids pollution of water sources.
 - Minimizes spread of disease.
 - Protects local plants and animals.
 - Avoids the possibility of others encountering it.
- *The “How”:*
 - Pack it in, Pack it out—even what others left behind.
 - Properly dispose of trash, human waste and dirty dish water.



Dispose of Waste Properly

Human Waste

- Walk at least 200 ft. from water, campsites and trails and use the “cat-hole” method to bury human waste 6-8 inches deep.
- Carry out toilet paper to avoid creating “TP flower gardens.”



Leave What You Find Overview



■ *The “Why”:*

- Increases enjoyment and sense of discovery for others.
- Prevents lasting damage to trees, plants, historical and cultural sites.

■ *The “How”:*

- Leave flowers, rocks and cultural artifacts as you find them.
- Treat living plants with respect. Picking or damaging them prevents reproduction and survival.
- The best campsites are found not made. Avoid altering your campsite.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Overview



- *The “Why”:*
 - Campfires can cause lasting impacts on the land, such as forest fires.
 - Trash in fire rings can attract wildlife.
- *The “How”:*
 - Use a lightweight stove for cooking and a candle or gas lantern for light.
 - Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans or mound fires.
 - Keep fires small. Use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
 - Burn all wood to ash and out campfire completely.

Respect Wildlife

Overview



- *The “Why”:*
 - Maintains the safety of your group.
 - Maintains the health of the ecosystem and its inhabitants.

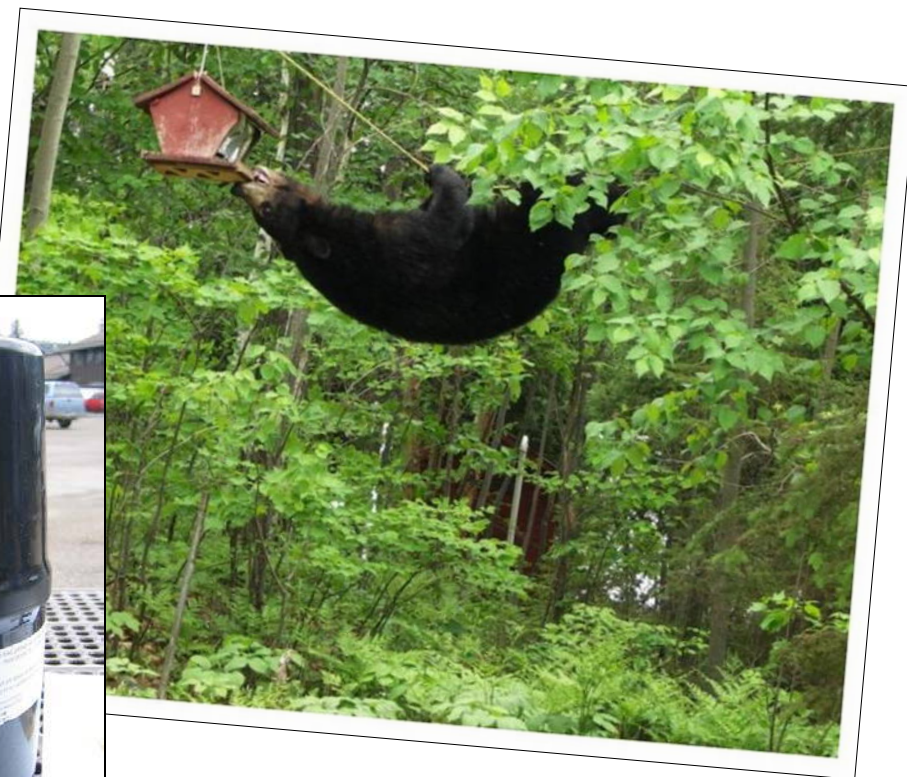
- *The “How”:*
 - Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
 - Never feed animals.
 - Protect wildlife by storing your food and trash securely.
 - Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young or winter.



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Respect Wildlife

Bear Country



- Protect your food and bears by hanging bear bags or use bear-proof food containers.
- Bears that obtain human food become “problem bears” that must be relocated or euthanized.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Overview



- *The “Why”:*
 - Everyone enjoys the outdoors in a different way.
 - All outdoor visitors are sharing a common, finite space.
 - Consideration helps everyone have a positive experience.
- *The “How”:*
 - Be courteous. Yield to other users when necessary.
 - Take breaks and camp away from other visitors when possible, and avoid stopping or camping on the the trail.
 - Let nature’ s sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Diverse User-Groups

- Be considerate of other visitors and their experience.
- Respect other types of recreational use.
- Don't be afraid to ask other groups where they're planning on camping. Save big sites for larger groups.



The Leave No Trace Challenge



- Prevent avoidable resource and social impacts.
- Minimize unavoidable impacts.
- Preserve the quality of resources and recreation experiences.



**Leave
No
Trace™**

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Leave No Trace is about enjoying the outdoors responsibly. It starts with you!