Backcountry Recreation Impacts to Wildlife: An Application of The Wildlife Society's Online Bibliography™

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As part of the Leopold Institute's Linking Wilderness Research and Management series, we're developing an annotated reading list on the effects of backcountry recreation on wildlife. Within a national context, we're organizing the literature into a framework for assessing and managing these impacts. This includes describing the value of wilderness to wildlife, the value of wildlife to wilderness, impacts to individuals, populations or communities, and potential management approaches. The searchable database developed by the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society served as a valuable starting point for gathering literature on this topic. We will describe our experience accessing information in the database and review the types of information it did and did not contain. After clarifying differences between the TWS database and our reading list, we summarize the information we compiled. Impacts of recreation on wildlife include increased energetic demands during critical times, loss of habitat and exposure to predators as a result of human presence, and loss of habitat through vegetation alteration by recreational activities. Management

approaches include direct actions such as restricting visitor numbers, activities, or access to some areas, as well as the indirect management of visitors using techniques such as visitor education or the careful location and design of trails, trailheads, and adjacent roads and campgrounds. Our intent with this volume is to (1) promote improved understanding of backcountry recreation impacts on wildlife, (2) familiarize readers with current literature on various management approaches, and (3) facilitate access to references focused on this topic.