



Key Definitions modified from Appendix A, “Enhanced” Protocol for Monitoring Opportunities for Solitude in Wilderness (USDA Forest Service 2016):

Encounter:

A “travel encounter” occurs when an observer sees or hears at least one other person, regardless of the duration or proximity of the contact. Encounters are recorded at two resolutions, as individual people and groups seen or heard while the observer is within a monitoring area. Travel encounters can include:

- Someone seen across a lake
- People camped at a site that you pass while hiking
- People who hike past you on the trail

Occupied Campsite:

A campsite is considered occupied if there is evidence that recreational visitors are currently camping there, even if no people are present at the time the camp is observed.

Monitoring Area:

A monitoring area is a defined geographical location within a designated Wilderness within which the observer collects encounter data. Historically, solitude monitoring data in the Bridger-Teton and Caribou-Targhee National Forests has been collected from along trail corridors.

Monitoring Session:

A monitoring session includes travel encounter data collection on any given day, as long the observer is within the boundary of the monitoring area. A monitoring session can be either one continuous block of time, or broken up into multiple blocks throughout a given day, as long as the total time requirements are met. You must spend a minimum of 4 hours in the monitoring area to qualify as a “session”.