Chief's 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge Elements

The goal of the Chief's 10-Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge is that within 10 years, every Forest Service unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System will meet at least 6 of 10 stewardship elements. Currently, only 18 percent of the FS wilderness units meet minimum standard. Following are the current stewardship elements and potential questions that must be addressed to meet the element:

1. Wilderness is covered by a fire plan that allows for the full range of management responses.
   - What are the effects of fire exclusion?
   - What are the fuels in wilderness?
   - What are the logical (natural) fire boundaries?
   - What is the pattern of lightening?
2. Wilderness is successfully treated for noxious/invasive plants.
   - Where are the invasive species?
   - What are the ecosystem effects of invasive species?
   - How do we effectively treat invasive species?
3. Air quality monitoring is conducted and baseline is established.
   - Which lakes, lichens are sensitive to acid deposition?
   - What is the special pattern of ozone? Where it forms and where it hits is important.
4. Wilderness education plans are implemented.
   - Where do we find the capacity to make visitor contacts at the trailhead and within wilderness to inform visitors about proper behavior to minimize impacts to the resource?
5. Wilderness has adequate standards, in which monitored conditions are within forest plan standards, and opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation are stable or increasing.
   - Identify quiet places, are they changing?
6. Wilderness has completed recreation site inventory.
   - What are the baseline site inventories?
   - What is the connection between use, sites and changes?
7. Outfitter and guide permit operating plans are in place that direct outfitters to model appropriate wilderness practices and incorporate appreciation for wilderness values in their interaction with clients.
   - How can we help outfitter/guides and their clients understand wilderness?
   - What is the performance of outfitter/guides in the field?
8. Wilderness has a full-range of adequate standards which prevent degradation of the wilderness resource.
   - What are the Forest Plan standards for wilderness?
9. Wilderness managers have their priority information needs addressed through data collection and corporate applications.
   - How can we get the data we already have entered and analyzed?
10. Wilderness has a baseline workforce (from workforce assessment) in place for each wilderness.
    - How do we figure out how many people are needed to accomplish the work of wilderness?