

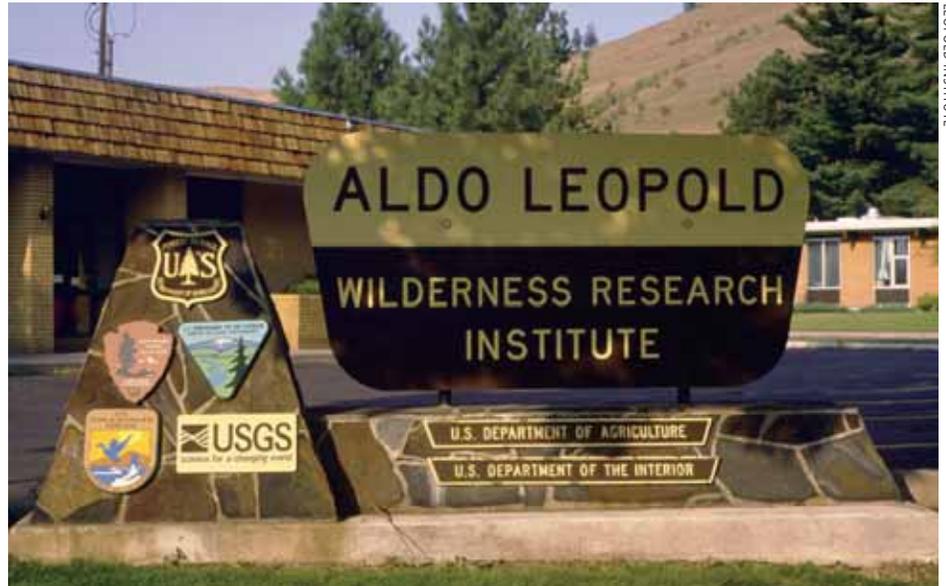
What would Aldo do? The Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute

By staff of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute

THE SCIENCE AND APPLICATION STAFF

at the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute often pause to look back to seek guidance from the teachings of our namesake. Aldo Leopold lived in a very different time and situation than we do now, but he recognized the looming threats to our nation's ethical relationship with wild places. We are thankful for his foresight and commitment, as well as for his contribution to motivating others to protect these places we call wilderness. We also acknowledge the influence of his teachings on our science program today.

The creation of the Leopold Institute in 1993 placed U.S. Forest Service wilderness scientists at an interagency institute designed to be more responsive to the National Park Service (NPS), the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by making the science needed to support management decision making more accessible. The Leopold Institute is managed by the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, but since its beginning has added U.S. Geological Survey scientists, hired a director formerly with the National Park Service, and expanded scientific and application staff in response to growing scientific issues across the National Wilderness Preservation System. As of 2011 the institute has a fire ecologist, a social scientist, a zoologist, a recreation ecolo-



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gist, a landscape ecologist, and a vibrant technical and application staff focused on GIS applications, monitoring support, and getting information out to managers. We have grown just as the challenges to wilderness have grown.

To capture the growing recognition of the scientific values of wilderness and to understand the flow of off-site benefits to varied stakeholders require continued growth in intellectual capacity at the Leopold Institute. The institute continues to be at the heart of everything wilderness in the United States and around the world, anxious to understand changing threats to wilderness and new opportunities to

bring benefits to the current and future public. The Leopold Institute has been at the center of development and publication of the *International Journal of Wilderness*, the World Wilderness Congress, and wilderness science conferences and workshops in the United States. Science and application staff make many presentations on scientific findings and application every year. To view current information on the Leopold Institute work program, to access publications, or to identify the correct person to contact for information, please visit the Leopold Institute Web site at www.leopold.wilderness.net.

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