



Basic Solitude Monitoring Protocol modified from “Enhanced” Protocol for Monitoring Opportunities for Solitude in Wilderness (USDA Forest Service 2016):

1. Monitoring requires a Solitude Monitoring Form (digital or paper). At the beginning of each monitoring session, record initial information at the top of the form, including:
 1. Observer’s name
 2. Total number of people in group (including yourself)
 3. Monitoring area and Wilderness (only applicable if within the BTNF)
 4. Date
2. Once at the boundary of the monitoring area, record the start time for the session.
3. Begin tallying travel encounters on the form as the number of people per group. You may also tally the number of dogs per group. Count all people seen or heard, no matter how close or far you are from them as long as you are within the monitoring area.
 1. If you hike past a group camped, include the number of people you see as traveling encounters. If you can’t get an exact count of the number of people (for example, if they are off in the distance), make your best estimate.
 2. If you encounter stock users, tally the number of riders within the group. You may record the number of riders per stock on the monitoring form using a backslash. For example, 2 riders each leading a pack horse would be recorded as 2/4, meaning 2 riders per 4 horses in the group.
 3. If you see the same group more than once during a monitoring session and more than 15 minutes have passed since the last interaction, record the group as a new encounter.
4. At the end of the monitoring session, record stop time and total hours monitored, write notes in the comments section, and tally the total number of hikers & backpackers, dogs, and stock users in the far-right column. Tally the total number of groups encountered in the bottom row.
5. Submit your completed form to carlie@wildwyo.org. Photos of the form or scans are all acceptable as long as the information is clear and legible.