Camping is a common recreational activity in backcountry areas. Camping can change soil and vegetation. It can also affect other visitors, local residents, and managers. For these reasons and others, backcountry campsites are some of the more important locations for public land managers to address.

This manual is a guide to surveying or assessing backcountry campsites and similar areas. ‘Backcountry’ refers to largely undeveloped or predominately natural wildlands. The following methods may also apply during assessments of areas that are not as remote as a backcountry location, such as full-scale campgrounds or multiple site picnic areas.

Read the full assessment manual