

Wilderness Swimming Site Field Assessment Tool

Section 7-2.11(a)(5) requires the camp to assess a wilderness swim site prior to use to assure that the water velocity, bottom slope and water clarity are acceptable and that the area is free of sharp drop-offs, jagged rocks or under water obstructions. In addition, the perimeter of the swimmer and non-swimmer areas must be designated.

Items needed to conduct assessment:

- Small stick or other floating object
- Watch or stopwatch
- Tape Measure or measuring device, such as a weighted rope or a marked paddle or stick

Water Velocity – Measure and mark a distance of 30 feet on the shoreline. Drop a stick or other floating object into the water at the upstream point. Using a watch or stopwatch, determine and record below how many seconds it takes the floating object to travel between the two points. **The Swim area is unacceptable if less than 10 seconds.**

Time Taken for Object to Travel 30 Feet: _____ N/A – Non-flowing body of water

Bottom Slope – Measure and mark the 1 foot water depth location. Record the water depth in the table below as measured in 8ft. intervals from the 1-foot water depth mark to the outer limits* of the proposed swim area. **The swim area is unacceptable if the water depth exceeds the depth listed in the corresponding ‘Maximum Depth’ column.**

Feet From 1 ft. Depth	Water Depth	Maximum Depth
8 ft.		2 ft.
16 ft.		3 ft.
24 ft.		4 ft.
32 ft.		5 ft.
40 ft.		5 ft.
48 ft.		5 ft.
56 ft.		5 ft.
64 ft.		5 ft.
72 ft.		5 ft.

* Outer perimeter must be no more than 75 feet from shore and no deeper than 5 ft.

Water Clarity – Place a measuring device, such as a weighted rope or a marked paddle or stick, into the water at various points within the designated swim area. **Swim area is unacceptable if the marking is not visible at a depth of less than 4 feet.**

Bottom, or to at least a depth of 4 feet below the water surface, is visible throughout swim area.

Yes No

Underwater Hazards – Lifeguarding staff must enter the water and check the swim area for underwater hazards such as jagged rocks or other obstructions. Check the appropriate box below indicating results:

- No hazards found
- Underwater hazards found – swim area is unacceptable

Swim Area: <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptable		<input type="checkbox"/> Unacceptable	
Assessed By: _____		Title: _____	
Trip Location: _____		Date: ___/___/___	
		Time: _____	