

FOREST PLAN

APPENDIX G

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM

OVERVIEW

When the goal of the recreationist is to obtain satisfying experiences, the goal of the recreation resource manager becomes one of providing the opportunities for obtaining these experiences. By managing the natural resource settings, and the activities which occur within it, the manager is providing the opportunities for recreation experiences to take place. Therefore, for both the manager and the recreationist, recreation opportunities can be expressed in terms of three principal components: the activities, the setting, and the experience.

For management and conceptual convenience possible mixes of activities, settings, and probable experience opportunities have been arranged along a continuum. The continuum is called the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) and is divided into six classes. The six classes and the accompanying class names have been selected and conventionalized because of their descriptiveness and utility in Land and Resource Management Planning and other management applications.

ROS SETTING CHARACTERIZATION

Primitive

Area is characterized by essentially unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. Interaction between users is very low and evidence of other users is minimal. The area is managed to be essentially free from evidence of human-induced restrictions and controls. Motorized use within the area is not permitted.

Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized

Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate-to-large size. Interaction between users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is not permitted.

Semi-Primitive Motorized

Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate-to large size. Concentration of users is low but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is permitted.

Roaded Natural

Area is characterized by predominantly natural-appearing environments with moderate evidences of the sights and sounds of man. Such evidences usually harmonize with the natural environment. Interaction between users may be low to

moderate, but with evidence of other users prevalent. Resource modification and utilization practices are evident, but harmonize with the natural environment. Conventional motorized use is provided for in construction standards and design of facilities.

Rural

Area is characterized by substantially modified natural environment. Resource modification and utilization practices are to enhance specific recreation activities and to maintain vegetative cover and soil. Sights and sounds of humans are readily evident, and the interaction between users is often moderate to high. A considerable number of facilities are designed for use by a large number of people. Facilities are often provided for special activities. Moderate densities are provided far away from developed sites. Facilities for intensified motorized use and parking are available.

Urban

Area is characterized by a substantially urbanized environment, although the background may have natural-appearing elements. Renewable resource modification and utilization practices are to enhance specific recreation activities. Vegetative cover is often exotic and manicured. Sights and sounds of humans, on-site, are predominant. Large numbers of users can be expected, both on-site and in nearby areas. Facilities for highly intensified motor use and parking are available with forms of mass transit often available to carry people throughout the site.

ROS EXPERIENCE CHARACTERIZATION

Primitive

Extremely high probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sound of humans, independence, closeness to nature, tranquility, and self-reliance through the application of woodsman and outdoor skills in an environment that offers a high degree of challenge and risk.

Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized

High, but not extremely high, probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of humans, independence, closeness to nature, tranquility and self-reliance through the application of woodsman and outdoor skills in an environment that offers challenge and risk.

Semi-Primitive Motorized

Moderate probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of humans, independence, closeness to nature, tranquility, and self-reliance through the application of woodsman and outdoor skills in an environment that offers challenge and risk. Opportunity to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment. Opportunity to use motorized equipment while in the area.

Roaded Natural

About equal probability to experience affiliation with other user groups and for isolation from sights and sound of humans. Opportunity to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment. Challenge and risk opportunities associated with more primitive type of recreation are not very important. Practice and testing of outdoor skills might be important. Opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation are possible.

Rural

Probability for experiencing affiliation with individuals and groups prevalent, as is the convenience of sites and opportunities. These factors are generally more important than the setting of the physical environment. Opportunities for wildland challenges, risk-taking, and testing of outdoor skills are generally unimportant except for specific activities like downhill skiing, for which challenge and risk-taking are important elements.

Urban

Probability for experiencing affiliation with individuals and groups is prevalent, as is the convenience of sites and opportunities. Experiencing natural environments, having challenges and risks afforded by the natural environment, and the use of outdoor skills are relatively unimportant. Opportunities for competitive and spectator sports and for passive uses of highly human-influenced parks and open spaces are common.

FOREST PLAN APPLICATION

The Forest Plan is built around the concept of management prescriptions. Each management prescription defines and describes a future condition for managing National Forest System lands. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum is a tool used to define the recreation program objectives for each management prescription.

The following table shows how ROS classes and management prescriptions relate.

<u>Primitive</u>	<u>Semi-Primitive NM</u>	<u>Semi-Primitive M</u>	<u>Roaded Natural</u>	<u>Rural</u>	<u>Urban</u>
5.1	6.1	6.2	(3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 4.1, 9.1)	3.3, 4.2	-

The other MTNF Management Prescription areas are not shown above for the following reasons. Prescription 8.1 areas are usually small areas of 10 acres to 100 acres and, as such, don't have the size required for one of the six ROS classes. Prescription 9.1 was not used in the final Plan. Prescription 6.3 is a temporary classification for a variety of areas that have the potential for a special classification.