

Appendix E

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM

Nationally, the Forest Service uses a system called the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) to inventory NFS lands. ROS classifies the range of recreational experiences, opportunities, and settings available on a given area of land. Classifications include: Primitive, Semiprimitive Motorized, Semiprimitive Nonmotorized, Roded Natural, Rural, and Urban.

Table E.1 describes the recreational setting for each ROS class and estimated acres.

Table E.1

ROS CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND ESTIMATED AREA

ROS Class	Description of Recreation Opportunity Setting	Acres
Primitive	Very high probability of solitude and closeness to nature, challenge and risk; essentially unmodified natural environment; minimal evidence of others; few restrictions evident; non-motorized access and travel on trails or cross country; no vegetation alterations; at least 5,000 acres in size; at least 3 miles from the nearest road or trail with motorized use.	0
Semiprimitive Non-motorized	High probability of solitude, closeness to nature, challenge, and risk; natural appearing environment; some evidence of other users; subtle restrictions and controls are evident; non-motorized access and travel on trails; vegetative alterations occur but are widely dispersed and not too evident; at least 2,500 acres in size; at least 0.5 mile from all roads, railroads, or trails with motorized use.	5,201 ¹
Semiprimitive Motorized	Moderate probability of solitude, and closeness to nature; high degree of challenge and risk using motorized equipment; predominately natural appearing environment; few users but evidence on trails; minimum or subtle on-site controls; vegetative alterations occur but are few; at least 2,500 acres in size; at least 0.5 mile from all roads, railroads, or trails with motorized use, but may contain roads that are usually closed.	13,153 ²
Roded Natural	Some probability of solitude; little challenge and risk; mostly natural appearing environment; moderate concentration of users at developed and dispersed campsites; some obvious site restrictions and user controls are present; access is motorized; vegetative alterations completed to maintain desired visual characteristics; no size restrictions.	171,447
Rural	High interaction with other users; little challenge or risk; natural environment is culturally modified; high concentration of users at developed campsites; obvious site restrictions and controls are present; access is motorized; no size restrictions.	6,296

ROS Class	Description of Recreation Opportunity Setting	Acres
Urban	Opportunity to be with others is very important as are facilities and convenience. Challenge and risk are unimportant except for competitive sports; urbanized environment that may have a natural appearing backdrop; high interaction among large number of users; intensive onsite controls; access and travel facilities are highly intense; motorized use often includes mass transit supplements; vegetation may be planted and maintained; no size restrictions.	0

¹ All 5,201 acres are in the Charles C. Deam Wilderness, Management Area 5.1 only the interior portion of the Wilderness qualifies.

² Includes 855 acres in the Charles C. Deam Wilderness Management Area 5.1, 5,865 acres in Nebo Ridge, Management Area 6.2, 6,025 acres in Mogan Ridge, Management Area 6.4, and 408 acres in Oil Creek, Management Area 2.4.

The Hoosier provides few Semiprimitive recreational opportunities and no Primitive recreational opportunities. Major reasons for the lack of remote recreational opportunities include:

- The scattered ownership patterns on the Forest do not provide 5,000 or 2,500 acres in consolidated tracts as would be needed to provide remote recreational opportunities.
- There is a high density of public roads, especially non-Forest Service jurisdiction roads.
- Power lines and pipelines bisect many areas.

There is little opportunity to increase Semiprimitive and Primitive recreational opportunities in the near future. Aggressive land acquisition and road closure programs would be required to make any gains in Semiprimitive and Primitive recreational opportunities.