

Appendix 19: National Quality Standards for Recreation Site Management and Best Management Practices

(formerly known as Meaningful Measures Standards)

National Quality Standards for developed sites have been established for the Key Measures: Health and Cleanliness, Safety and Security, Condition of Facilities, Responsiveness, Resource Setting. Critical National Standards are identified with an asterisk (*). If not met, the resulting conditions pose a high probability of immediate or permanent loss to people or property.

Key Measure: HEALTH AND CLEANLINESS

1. *Visitors are not exposed to human waste.
2. *Water, wastewater, and sewage treatment systems meet federal, state and local water quality regulations.
3. Garbage does not exceed the capacity of garbage containers.
4. Individual units and common areas are free of litter including domestic animal waste.
5. Facilities are free of graffiti.
6. Restrooms and garbage locations are free of objectionable odor.
7. Constructed features are clean.

Key Measure: RESOURCE SETTING

8. *Effects from recreation use do not conflict with environmental laws (such as ESA, NHPA, Clean Water, TES, etc).
9. Recreation opportunities, site development, and site management are consistent with Recreation management system (ROS, SMS, BBM) objectives, development scale, and the Forest land management plan.
10. Landscape character at the developed recreation site is consistent with the Forest scenic integrity objectives.
11. Visitors and vehicles do not exceed site capacity.

Key Measure: SAFETY & SECURITY

12. *High-risk conditions do not exist in developed recreation sites.
13. *Utility inspections meet federal, state, and local requirements.
14. Laws, regulations and special orders are enforced.
15. Visitors are provided a sense of security

Key Measure: RESPONSIVENESS

16. *When signed as accessible, constructed features meet current accessibility guidelines.
17. Visitors feel welcome.
18. Information boards are posted in a user-friendly and professional manner.
19. Visitors are provided opportunities to communicate satisfactions (needs, expectations).
20. Visitor information facilities are staffed appropriately during seasons of use and current information is available.

21. Recreation site information is accurate and available from a variety of sources and outlets.

Key Measure: CONDITION OF FACILITIES

22. Constructed features are serviceable and in good repair throughout the designed service life.
23. Constructed features in disrepair due to lack of scheduled maintenance, or in non-compliance with safety codes (e.g. life safety, OSHA, environmental, etc.) or other regulatory requirements (ABA/ADA, etc.), or beyond the designed service life, are repaired, rehabilitated, replaced, or decommissioned.
24. New, altered, or expanded constructed features meet FS design standards and are consistent with an approved site development plan, including an accessibility transition plan.

Public Service Maintenance Standards

The following standards should be met in sites offering services to the public. These standards are necessary to ensure a pleasant recreation experience for the visitor.

25. Toilets, showers, and dressing areas
 - Toilet bowls, risers, seats, seat covers, and urinals free of deposits on surfaces
 - Building interiors free of dirt, trash, graffiti, insects (dead and alive), and spider webs
 - Floors free of standing water
 - Chromeware clean and bright
 - Toilet paper, towels, and seat covers (where provided), stocked to last until next day and/or cleaning
 - Unpleasant odors (both sewage and chemical) minimized
26. Toilets and other buildings (exterior)
 - Walkways and trails clean and clear of obstructions for public safety and accommodating people with disabilities
 - Floor mats clean
 - Exterior walls free of graffiti
 - Roof generally free of leaves and branches
 - Eaves free of wasp nests, bird nests, and spider webs
27. Toilet vaults
 - Vaults not more than three-fourths full
 - During pumping, the vaults should be cleaned as thoroughly as possible to help prevent the production of odors.
28. Tables and benches
 - Tops and seats free of dirt, grease, and large carvings
 - Under portion free of spider webs, etc.
 - Tops, seats, and legs secure and functional
29. Fireplaces, char-grills, fire rings, and stoves
 - No more than half-full of ashes
 - All ashes and partially burned wood confined to fireplace or grill

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- Grill surface free of grease and food particles at time of ash removal
- Pedestals and bases straight and secure, and components functional
- Leftover firewood stacked beside unit.
- 30. Garbage cans and depositories
 - Plastic liner half-full or less
 - Cans clean on the outside; all litter and debris picked up around cans or container
- 31. Hand-pumps, fountains, and hydrants
 - All units free of grease or residue
 - All units secure and drip-free
 - Catch basins (drains) free of food particles, soaps, grease, debris, standing water, and functioning properly

Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices (BMP's) to protect soil and water quality that are applicable to all campgrounds. Implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of BMP's is important to meet requirements and agreements the Forest Service is responsible for as directed by the State of California Water Quality Control Board (Basin Plans) and the Federal Clean Water Act, Section 208 and 319 and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Applicable Best Management Practices for Developed Sites (to be implemented into permit conditions/operating plan)

Surface Erosion Control at Facility Sites (PRACTICE: 2-28)

- **Objective:** Reduce the amount of surface erosion taking place on developed sites and the amount of soil entering streams.
- **Explanation:** On lands developed for administrative sites, ski areas, campgrounds, parking areas, or waste disposal sites, substantial acreage may be cleared of vegetation. Erosion control methods must be implemented to keep the soil in place, and to minimize suspended sediment delivery to streams. Some examples of erosion control methods that could be applied at a site for keeping the soil in place would be applying grass seed, erosion blankets, tackifiers, hydromulch, paving, or rocking of the roads, water bars, cross drains, or retaining walls.

To control the amount of soil entering streams, the natural drainage pattern of the area should not be changed; sediment basins and sediment filters will be established to filter surface runoff; and diversion ditches, and berms will be built to divert surface runoff around bare areas. Construction activities will be scheduled to avoid periods of the year when heavy runoff is likely to occur.

- **Implementation:** This management practice is used as a preventative and remedial measure for any site development project that will remove the existing vegetation

and ground cover and leave exposed soil. This practice is applied during the planning phase for NFS projects, or by special use permit requirements for private development on public land.

Mitigation measures will be developed by the IDT and incorporated in the project by the design engineer. Project crew leaders and supervisors will be responsible for implementing force account projects to construction specifications and project criteria.

Contracted projects are implemented by the contractor or operator. Compliance with plans, specifications, and operating plans is ensured by the COR, ER, and FSR.

Control of Sanitation facilities (PRACTICE: 4-4)

- Objective: The objective is to protect surface and subsurface water from bacteria, nutrients, and chemical pollutants resulting from the collection, transmission, treatment and disposal of sewage at Forest Service sites.
- Explanation: Toilet facilities are provided at developed recreation sites. The type and number depends on the capacity of a given site. Sanitation facilities (which may vary from a portable toilet to a sophisticated treatment plant) will be planned, located, designed, constructed, operated, inspected and maintained to minimize the possibility of water contamination. Toilet facilities may also be made available at dispersed sites with the same goal of preventing water contamination.
- Implementation: The appropriate disciplines will perform field investigations to evaluate soil, geological, vegetative, climatic, and hydrological conditions. The location, design, inspection, operation and maintenance must be performed, or controlled by qualified personnel who are trained and familiar with the sanitation system and operational guidelines. Proximity of toilets to open water and other sensitive areas will follow guidelines.
- State and local authorities will be consulted prior to the installation of new sanitation facilities, or modification of existing facilities to ensure compliance with all applicable State and local regulations. All phases of sanitation management (planning, design, inspection, operation, and maintenance) will be coordinated with State and local Health Departments and RWQCB representatives.

Control of Solid Waste Disposal (PRACTICE: 4-5)

- Objective: The objective is to protect water from nutrients, bacteria, and chemicals associated with solid waste disposal.

- **Explanation:** Encourage the users of NFS recreation facilities to cooperate in the proper disposal of solid waste, and to burn their combustible trash in fireplaces, or stoves. Receptacles are provided for unburnables at most developed sites. Garbage and trash must be “packed out” by those who use dispersed sites and wilderness areas where receptacles are not available.
- **Implementation:** The final disposal of collected garbage will be at properly designed and operated county, or state sanitary landfill. Each landfill site will be located where groundwater and surface waters are at a safe depth and distance from the site, as prescribed in the provisions of the California Administrative Code, Title 23, chapter 3, Subchapter 15, and the State, or local regulations.

Sanitation at Hydrants and Water Faucets Within Developed Recreation Sites

(PRACTICE: 4-8)

- **Objective:** To maintain high water quality standards around hydrants and faucets, which provide water for consumptive use in developed recreation site.
- **Explanation:** The regulations prohibit the cleaning, or washing of any personal property, fish, animal, or food at a hydrant, or at a water faucet not provided for that purpose. The public must be informed of their responsibilities concerning sanitary regulations. Acceptable designated cleaning areas are located away from consumptive water sources and where effluent from the washing operation can be disposed of properly.
- **Implementation:** The Forest Officer authorized to administer developed recreation site regulations will inform the public of their sanitary responsibilities by posting signs, on recreation site bulletin boards and at hydrants or faucets, by notices in newspapers and by person contact. Authorized Forest Officers may issue citations to violators.

Protection of Water Quality Within Developed and Dispersed Recreation Areas

(PRACTICE: 4-9)

- **Objective:** To protect water quality by regulating the discharge and disposal of potential pollutants.
- **Explanation:** This practice prohibits placing in, or near a stream, lake, or other water body, substances which may degrade water quality. This includes, but is not limited to, human and animal waste, petroleum products, other hazardous substances and sediment eroded from the site. Areas will be closed in order to restrict use or until the problem is mitigated.

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- Implementation: Encourage the public through the use of signs, pamphlets, and public contact to conduct their activities in a manner that will not degrade water quality. Forest officers may accept and act on violations observed and reported by private citizens. Forest Officers may issue citations to violators.