

**USDA Forest Service Pacific Region
Six Rivers National Forest
Recreation Niche – 8/14/2007 Niche Statement (for coming decade)**

Rivers to Ridges for Fun and Renewal!

The name says it all – Six Rivers National Forest – six major rivers intersect one million acres and flow from the coastal mountains to the ocean. Specially designated areas celebrate the uniqueness of these rivers and the botanic, geologic and wildlife diversity of the forest. Visitors escaping the misty coast find clear skies, and clean rivers & lakes with outstanding water-based opportunities. Travelways showcase dramatic scenery and provide access to solitude both in and out of wilderness. Rich cultural stories to be shared are as ancient as the rivers and flow through time to the contemporary culture of today.

Six Rivers National Forest Area Settings, Special Places, and Values: More than 1/3 of CA's Wild and Scenic Rivers, expansive Wilderness, Smith River NRA, Scenic Byways and Scenic Botanic areas celebrate the uniqueness of this forest landscape. The northern temperate rain forests in rugged, steep river canyons transition in the south to drier, more open oak grasslands, gentler valleys and glades. Outstanding salmon and steelhead fisheries, growing elk and turkey populations and possibly Bigfoot call this forest home. You can see from the ocean to Mt. Shasta from key ridgeline locations on this inland mountain forest. Close to rural coastal communities and Native American tribes, the forest has a rich history of uses and activities that continue today.

Rivers & Routes – Six major river corridors and travel routes including: Smith R. – one of the last undammed river systems in CA, 3 scenic Byways, and Ruth Lake – a warm water fishery with outstanding watchable wildlife.

Wild – Includes most of the Smith R NRA, designated Wilderness, and Bear Basin Butte Lookout with views that extend from the ocean to the mountains. Scenery, pristine rivers and solitude prevail.

Dispersed Uses – Includes rugged mountains and gentler valleys, old trees in the moist forest as well as the drier oak grassland landscapes. Forest roads provide easy access within this setting. Many forest roads and trails provide opportunity for systems of motorized and mechanized routes.

Six Rivers National Forest -wide Activities/Opportunities/Experiences: The forest is truly a backyard for coastal towns and valley communities. Within an hour coastal residents can be out of the fog and into the warm sun. Large land areas offer hunting, driving for pleasure, viewing wildlife & scenery, fishing, hiking, group areas, dispersed camping, gathering of forest products, mountain biking. Cultural history (including Native American, logging and mining) and natural resource interpretation is done collaboratively with tribal partners as well as state, local and other federal agencies. A quality recreation program is delivered through outfitter-guides and volunteers. Visitors receive forest information & stewardship messages along key travel routes. Solitude and the ability to “get away” are just down the road.

Rivers & Routes – Non-motorized water activities – kayaking, rafting, swimming; fishing – steelhead and salmon; developed camping w/a rustic feel, hiking, winter snow play area near Eureka. I&E is focused in this setting.

Wild – Hiking, backpacking, scenic driving outside wilderness.

Dispersed Uses – Gathering forest products and dispersed camping along roads are more focused in this setting. Pilot Creek area provides single track routes and other shared-use routes that are used primarily by locals. OHV use associated with hunting and dispersed camping are in this setting.

Primary Visitors

Backyard	North Coast and interior valley communities
Urban	Northern California including the Bay area, southwestern Oregon
North Coast Package	Visitors whose destination is the Redwoods NP, Six Rivers NF, BLM, State and County Parks

Six Rivers National Forest - Niche Bridge for Developed Recreation

Niche Emphasis: **clean rivers & lakes with outstanding water-based opportunities. Travelways showcase dramatic scenery and provide access to solitude both in and out of wilderness. Rich cultural stories to be shared**

Question #1

SETTING NAMES:		Rivers and Routes		Wild		Dispersed Uses	
SETTING PRIORITY Which setting(s) best support recreation sites? <i>Question #2</i>		High		Low		Medium	
SITE FUNCTION/THEME: How sites are designed & managed to best meet the Niche <i>Question #3</i>		Provide access: for river activities, through the forest, and into the interior, showcase interpretation & orientation.		Provides access to Wilderness and other wild areas.		Facilitate resource protection while providing for exploration and dispersed uses.	
KEY ACTIVITIES: In support of the Niche for the coming decade <i>Question #4</i>		Non-motorized water activities – kayaking, rafting, swimming; fishing – steelhead and salmon; developed camping w/a rustic feel, hiking, winter snow play area near Eureka. I&E is focused		Hiking, backpacking, scenic driving outside wilderness.		Gathering forest products and dispersed camping along roads are more focused in this setting. Pilot Creek area provides single track routes and other shared-use routes that are used primarily by locals. OHV use associated with hunting and dispersed camping are in this setting.	
INFRASTRUCTURE	SITE TYPE/ DEVELOPMENT SCALE Needed to provide key activities <i>Question #5 & #6</i> (Sites will be the lowest dev scale possible to maintain visitor experience & protect the resource)	Site Type	Dev Scale	Site Type	Dev Scale	Site Type	Dev Scale
		Trailheads	3	Trailheads	1-2	Camp sites	1-2
		Vista points/I&E	3	Vista points/I&E	1-2	Trailheads	1-3
		Water Access Pts	2-3			Vista Poitns/I&E	1-2
		Campgrounds/group camps	3-4				
	SITE CAPACITY Low <50, Medium 50–100, High >100 <i>Question #6</i>	Low - Medium		Low		Low	

Programmatic Strategies:

Forest Supervisor Signature and Date: