

## RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM (ROS)

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) is a system for classifying and managing recreation opportunities based on the following criteria: physical setting, social setting, and managerial setting. The combination of the three criteria results in six different ROS classes which are described below. A map of ROS classes is included in the map packet accompanying these documents.

### PRIMITIVE

The area is 3 miles or more from all roads and trails with motorized use and generally 5,000 acres or greater in size or larger. The setting is essentially an unmodified natural environment with some evidence of trails. Motorized use is prohibited. The social setting provides for less than 6 parties encountered on trails and less than 3 parties visible from campsites. Capacities range from 0.5 to 1.0 RVD/acre/year. On-site controls are extremely limited with most regulation accomplished off-site. Typical activities include hiking, horse packing, fishing, hunting and camping. The compatible VQO is preservation.

### SEMI-PRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED

The area is 1/2 mile from all roads or trails with motorized use and generally exceeds 2,500 acres to 5,000 acres in size unless contiguous to wilderness. The area can include primitive roads and trails if they are usually closed to motorized use. Access roads are Level 1. The natural setting may have subtle modifications that would be noticed but would not draw the attention of an observer in the area. Structures are rare and isolated. The social setting provides for 6 to 15 parties encountered per day on trails and 6 or less parties visible at campsites. On-site controls are present but subtle. Interpretation is through self-discovery with some use of maps, brochures and guide books. Typical activities include hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing,

canoeing, hunting and fishing. The compatible VQO is retention.

### SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED

The area is generally 2,500 acres to 5,000 acres in size, and 1/2 mile from Level 3 or better roads. There is strong evidence of roads and motorized use of roads and trails. Access roads are usually Level 1 or 2 roads. The natural setting may have moderately dominant alterations, but would not draw the attention of motorized observers. Structures are rare and isolated. The social setting provides for a low to moderate contact with other parties. Capacity ranges from 1.5 to 2.5 RVDs/acre/year. On-site controls are present, but subtle. Interpretation is through very limited on-site facilities along with the use of guide maps, brochures and guide books. Typical activities include OHV touring, snowmobiling, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, hunting and fishing. The compatible VQOs are retention and partial retention.

### ROADED NATURAL

The area is 1/2 mile or less from roads and trails open to motorized use. Resource modifications and utilization practices are evident but are harmonious with the natural environment. The social setting provides for moderate to high frequency of contact on roads and low to moderate frequency on trails away from roads. Capacity ranges from 10 to 20 RVDs/acre/year. On-site use controls are noticeable, but are harmonious with the natural environment. Typical activities include, but are not limited to: hiking,

horseback riding, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, OHV touring, trailer camping, hunting and fishing. The compatible VQOs are modification, partial retention and retention.

## **RURAL**

The natural environment is substantially modified to the point that developments are dominant to the sensitive observer. Structures are readily evident and may range from scattered to small dominant clusters.

Pedestrian or other slow moving observers are constantly within view of culturally changed landscapes. The social setting provides for moderate to high visitor contact. Capacity is estimated at 75 RVDs/acre/year. Controls and regulations are obvious, and law enforcement visible. Interpretation may be through more complex wayside exhibits including small lighted structures. Typical activities or facilities include, but are not limited to: camping, fishing, information centers, convenience stores and resorts. The compatible VQOs are modification, partial retention and retention.

## **URBAN**

There are no areas classified as “Urban” on the Forest.