
Appendix C – Design Criteria

Existing Management Direction – Alternative 2

Management Area 8.1 – Wild and Scenic River Corridor

Contribution to Desired Condition

This management area contributes to the desired condition by providing Recreational and Scenic River segments with outstanding water-based recreational opportunities, such as boating, swimming, fishing, hunting, sightseeing and hiking. They are free of hydroelectric water development projects and dams or diversions. Some segments provide key habitat for endangered aquatic species including the federally listed northern riffleshell and the clubshell mussels. The wetlands and riparian (stream-side) corridors of these rivers provide an important transition from the terrestrial to the aquatic environment. These areas provide unique habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. The wetlands and riparian corridors are healthy, vegetated and stable stream-sides that provide aquatic and terrestrial habitat, erosion control, forage, late season stream flow, and improved water quality.

Vegetation is influenced by both natural processes and humans. The density of open Forest Service roads remains near the current level or less. Commonwealth and township roads occasionally bridge the rivers. All management activities within the corridor are compatible with the outstandingly remarkable values for the river.

Scenic Segments

Scenic river segments generally contain long stretches of shorelines that are largely primitive and undeveloped. Access is provided by roads in some places, however, long, conspicuous and well-traveled roads do not closely parallel the riverbank. The landscape character is “natural appearing” with a very high scenic integrity level. A wide variety of recreational activities takes place. Recreation facilities are provided primarily for visitor safety, access and to protect river resources. Facilities include parking areas, trailheads, rustic campgrounds, interpretive kiosks, signage, rest rooms, and trails including bike, horse and hiking/backpacking/cross-country skiing. Facilities are understated in appearance and designed to complement the natural environment in scale, character, line, form, and color.

Management of the scenic river segments provides a Roded Natural ROS class. The sights and sounds of human activities are present; however, they do not dominate the area. Encounters with others may be higher on weekends, but few encounters are expected mid-week, off-season, or away from trails. Existing fields or openings for wildlife are present and maintained. The river corridor contains a variety of riparian, shade tolerant and intermediate species in the understory with mostly mid to late structural forest dominating the overstory.

Recreational Segments

Recreational river segments range from natural appearing to transitional-mixed use. There may be substantial evidence of human activity and development along the shores

of these river segments. On adjoining private lands, modern residential development, commercial structures, and a full range of agricultural and forestry uses may be evident. On National Forest System lands, visitors enjoy a natural-appearing setting with a range of recreational developments. Utility transmission corridors, communication facilities, and/or signs of mineral development, and private residences off ANF lands may be observed. Roads and road noise may dominate the setting and recreational experience in some locations.

The recreational river corridor provides outstanding opportunities for people to enjoy a wide variety of river oriented recreation opportunities in an attractive setting. The river is readily accessible by roads and may be accessed by railroads, as well. Transportation facilities parallel the river for long stretches.

Management of the recreational river segments provides a Rural ROS class. The sights and sounds of other visitors are evident, and opportunities to encounter other visitors are moderate to high. Visitors seeking solitude may find it difficult to achieve, particularly in peak use seasons. Trails and facilities may be highly developed, including hardened trails for a high level of accessibility of persons of all abilities.

These river segments, including portions of private lands, provide for a diversity of habitats with ANF lands providing late structural conditions and private lands providing for early and mid structural conditions. These conditions support a wide variety of species that favor, or are tolerant of, habitat edges and human disturbances.

MA 8.1 Suitability Summary**S = Suitable and U = Unsuitable**

Use or Activity	Suitability
Timber Harvest	
Timber Production	U
Harvest for Other Resource Purposes	S
Salvage/Sanitation Harvest	S
Road Management	
Existing Forest Service Road Reconstruction or Maintenance	S
New Road Construction	S
Pit Development or Expansion	U
Gathering of Special Forest Products	
Commercial	S
Personal	S
Firewood Collection	S
Special Use Permits	
New Communication Towers	U
New Road Rights of Way, Pipelines, and Utility Lines	S
Fire Activities	
Wildland Fire Use	S
Prescribed Fire	S

MA 8.1 Recreation Suitability Summary**S = Suitable and U = Unsuitable**

Trail Use or Activity	Suitability
Interpretive Trails	S
Snowmobiling	S
ATV/OHM (in IUAs only)	U
Bicycling	S
Equestrian Use	
On Trails/Routes	S
Cross-country	S
Other Recreational Use or Activity	
Dispersed Camping	S
Developed Camping	S
Vista Management	S

MA 8.1 – Design Criteria

Both Scenic and Recreational River Segments

2300 Recreation

Standards

Manage the Allegheny River corridor consistent with this Forest Plan and the Comprehensive River Management Plan. In the case of conflicting management direction, this Forest Plan shall take precedence.

Where Wild and Scenic Rivers overlap with wilderness, national recreation area, or other management areas, the most restrictive standards and guidelines will apply.

Consult with the USFWS regarding the proposed installation and operation of any new access sites (e.g. recreational boating) to be authorized, funded, or constructed by the Forest Service on the Allegheny River.

2400 Vegetation

Standards

Timber harvest associated with forest vegetation management shall be limited to address recreation and scenery management activities, user safety, wildlife concerns, forest health, or catastrophic events such as wind or ice storms. Changes resulting from vegetation management activities shall be kept as naturally appearing as possible. Vegetation management is generally infrequent and may take place for any of the following reasons:

- To improve habitat for species with viability concerns; restore terrestrial or aquatic ecosystem composition and structural characteristics; or maintain existing unique or important wildlife features or plant communities.
- Maintenance and/or expansion of existing facilities, trails, vistas, and overlooks.
- Conservation, research, and/or interpretive purposes on or around heritage sites.
- Appropriate administrative use.
- Timber salvage and associated reforestation techniques.
- The cutting, sale, or removal of timber is incidental to the implementation of another suitable management activity (e.g. removal of timber for trail construction).

Even-aged or uneven-aged management is acceptable, depending on management objectives and forest types involved. The choice of system should be based on individual site analysis in conjunction with landscape level objectives and the desired condition for this MA.

For salvage harvest, utilize existing roads. Where existing roads do not provide adequate access, utilize aerial harvest methods. Salvage harvest and associated reforestation activities are allowed within these areas as long as the immediate river environment, water quality, scenic, fish, wildlife, plants or other outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated is protected.

2800 Minerals and Geology

Guidelines

All Federal minerals (including oil and gas) shall not be available for leasing.

Tank batteries should be located outside of the river corridor where possible. Where lease configuration and technology permit, tanks and separators should be located on one site in the development.

7700 Transportation System

Standards

Roads shall be limited to those needed for public access and use of the site or for service and maintenance of the area.

Roads shall not be constructed on islands in the rivers.

New road construction shall be limited to that required for designated special uses or by law to provide access to non-Federal land or valid existing mineral rights.

A transportation system will be planned as an integral part of the recreation development, and be designed and constructed to safely and comfortably accommodate both specialized recreation vehicles and associated service vehicles.

Mitigate or decommission roads that are causing environmental damage, degrading outstandingly remarkable values, or to manage visitor use and access.

Scenic River Segments Only

2300 Recreation

Standards

Recreation trails and other developments shall be constructed and maintained to the appropriate development level associated with a Roded Natural ROS class.

Guidelines

New recreation facilities including campgrounds, picnic areas, day use sites, parking areas, toilets and other such features should be screened from the river.

2360 Heritage

Guidelines

Archaeological excavations should be permitted only when they will not alter the scenic integrity of the area. Excavation sites should be restored to natural conditions.

2400 Vegetation

Guidelines

Vistas and permanent or temporary openings created by vegetation management activities should be no larger than one-half acre.

5100 Fire

Standards

Wildfire shall be suppressed.

Guidelines

Utilize low impact techniques for suppression activities.

Prescribed fire may be used to help restore or maintain fire dependent ecosystems.

Recreational River Segments Only

2300 Recreation

Standards

Recreation trails and other developments shall be constructed and maintained to the appropriate development level associated with a Rural ROS class.

Construction of new, large scale development level 4 or higher recreational facilities shall be allowed.

7700 Transportation System

Standards

A transportation system will be planned as an integral part of the recreation development, and be designed and constructed to safely and comfortably accommodate both specialized recreation vehicles and associated service vehicles.

Management Direction Proposed For Alternatives 1 and 3

Management Area 8.1.1 – Clarion Wild and Scenic River Corridor

Contribution to Desired Condition

This management area contributes to the desired condition by providing Recreational and Scenic River segments with outstanding water-based recreational opportunities, such as boating, swimming, fishing, hunting, sightseeing and hiking. They are free of hydroelectric water development projects and dams or diversions. Some segments provide key habitat for species with viability concerns. The wetlands and riparian (streamside) corridors of these rivers provide an important transition from the terrestrial to the aquatic environment. These areas provide unique habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. The wetlands and riparian corridors are healthy, vegetated, and stable streambanks that provide aquatic and terrestrial habitat, erosion control, forage, late season stream flow, and improved water quality.

Vegetation is influenced by both natural processes and humans. The density of open Forest Service roads remains near the current level or less. Commonwealth and township roads occasionally bridge the rivers. All management activities within the corridor are compatible with the outstandingly remarkable values for the river.

Scenic Segments

Scenic river segments generally contain long stretches of shorelines that are largely primitive and undeveloped. Access may be provided by roads in some places, however, long, conspicuous and well-traveled roads do not closely parallel the riverbank. Access is more likely to be provided by trails that are designed, constructed, and maintained to lay lightly on the land and be visually unobtrusive while still providing for a variety of non-motorized uses. The landscape character is “natural appearing” with a high scenic integrity level. A wide variety of recreational activities takes place. Primitive campsites are limited and either located in small clusters or dispersed such that they are generally not visible from each other. Recreation facilities, when provided, are primarily for visitor safety and to protect river resources, with limited access. Facilities include parking areas, trailheads, rustic campgrounds, interpretive kiosks, signage, rest rooms, and trails. Facilities are understated in appearance and designed to complement the natural environment in scale, character, line, form, and color. They are located such that they are visually unobtrusive as viewed from the river.

Management of the scenic river segments provides a Semi-primitive Motorized Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class. The sights and sounds of human activities are present; however, they do not dominate the area. Encounters with others may be higher on weekends, but few encounters are expected mid-week, off-season, or away from trails. Existing fields or openings for wildlife are present and maintained. The river corridor contains a variety of riparian, shade tolerant and intermediate species in the understory with mostly mid to late structural forest dominating the overstory.

Recreational Segments

Recreational river segments range from natural appearing to transitional-mixed use. There may be substantial evidence of human activity and development along the shores of these river

segments. On adjoining private lands, modern residential development, commercial structures, and a full range of agricultural and forestry uses may be evident. On National Forest lands, visitors enjoy a natural appearing setting with a range of recreational developments. Utility transmission corridors, communication facilities, and/or signs of mineral development, and private residences off ANF lands may be observed. Roads and road noise may dominate the setting and recreational experience in some locations.

The recreational river corridor provides outstanding opportunities for people to enjoy a wide variety of river oriented recreation opportunities in an attractive setting. The river is readily accessible by roads and may be accessed by railroads, as well. Transportation facilities parallel the river for long stretches.

Management of the recreational river segments provides a Roaded Natural ROS class. The sights and sounds of other visitors are evident, and opportunities to encounter other visitors are moderate to high. Visitors seeking solitude may find it difficult to achieve, particularly in peak use seasons. Trails and facilities may be highly developed, including hardened trails for a high level of accessibility of persons of all abilities.

These river segments, including portions of private lands, provide for a diversity of habitats with ANF lands providing late structural conditions and private lands providing for early and mid structural conditions. These conditions support a wide variety of species that favor, or are tolerant of, habitat edges and human disturbances.

MA 8.1.1 Suitability Summary (Scenic and Recreational sections unless noted)

S = Suitable and U = Unsuitable

Use or Activity	Suitability
Timber Harvest	
Timber Production	U
Harvest for Other Resource Purposes	S
Salvage/Sanitation Harvest	S
Road Management	
Existing Forest Service Road Reconstruction or Maintenance	S
New Road Construction	
Scenic	U
Recreational	S
Pit Development or Expansion	U
Gathering of Special Forest Products	
Commercial	U
Personal	S
Firewood Collection	U
Special Use Permits	
New Communication Towers	U
New Road Rights of Way, Pipelines, and Utility Lines	S
Fire Activities	
Wildland Fire Use	S
Prescribed Fire	S

MA 8.1.1 Suitability Summary (Scenic and Recreational sections unless noted)

S = Suitable and U = Unsuitable

Trail Use or Activity	Suitability
Hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing	S
Interpretive Trails	S
Snowmobiling	U
ATV/OHM	U
Bicycling	
On Trails	S
Cross-Country	U
Equestrian Use	
On Trails/Routes	S
Cross-country	U
Other Recreational Use or Activity	
Dispersed Camping	S
Developed Camping	
Scenic	U
Recreational	S
Vista Management	S

MA 8.1.1 – Design Criteria

Both Scenic and Recreational River Segments

2080 Non-native Invasive Species

Guidelines

Activities and facilities required for the control of aquatic invasives (plants and animals) are allowed within the WSR corridor; as long as such activities and facilities are necessary for their control and do not adversely affect the identified river values. Coordination with agencies that have jurisdiction over and/or may be affected by activities and facilities such as the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the Department of Conservation of Natural Resources will occur.

2300 Recreation

Recreation Setting, Experience and Social Interaction

Standards

Management of the river and upland river corridor within the established boundary shall be consistent with the desired condition and Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification.

Manage the Clarion River corridor consistent with the Forest Plan and the Clarion River Comprehensive River Management Plan. In the case of conflicting management direction, the Comprehensive River Management Plan shall take precedence.

Developed Recreation and Access

Both Segments

Standards

ROS shall be utilized to guide the design and development level of on-site facilities and access sites.

New construction or reconstruction of recreational facilities shall be consistent with the “FS-710 Built Environment Image Guide” and the PA Wilds Design Guide, and shall be accessible to people with disabilities to the extent feasible.

Scenic Segment

Standards

No additional facilities or boat access sites shall be constructed (except below Cooksburg). New facilities or boat access may be created if a currently existing site is in poor condition and the location is closed and rehabilitated. There will be no net accumulation of boat access sites. New facilities must be consistent with Development Level (DL) 2. New sites shall be screened from the river to make facilities visually inconspicuous in summer months.

Existing access sites and facilities between Portland Mills and Irwin Run may be maintained, enhanced, and/or reconstructed, as long as the design is consistent with a semi-primitive motorized ROS and the development level does not exceed DL2.

Existing access sites and facilities at and below Irwin Run may be maintained, enhanced, and/or reconstructed, as long as the design is consistent with a roaded natural ROS and the development level does not exceed DL3.

Recreational Segment

Standards

As facilities are repaired, replaced, or added, emphasis on site protection and comfort of the user is equal. The design emphasis shall be a rustic style which enhances the river corridor's natural appearing character.

Existing access sites and facilities may be constructed, maintained, enhanced and/or reconstructed, as long as the design is consistent with a roaded natural ROS and development level does not exceed DL3.

Guidelines

New sites shall be screened from the river to make facilities visually inconspicuous in summer months.

Primitive Camping

Both Segments

Standards

Primitive camping shall be allowed at designated sites only.

Designated primitive campsites shall be marked on-the-ground with appropriate markers or signs consistent with ROS and included on maps for use by visitors. Sites will be marked from the river and from local access roads, such as River Road, as applicable.

Primitive sites shall be allowed as long as the impacts from this use are within acceptable social, biological, and physical limits.

Primitive camping sites shall not dominate the landscape.

Guidelines

Disturbed or existing sites shall be emphasized for management and designation rather than creation of new sites on undisturbed ground.

Sites measured under David Cole's Wilderness Campsite Parameters and Ratings will have the following actions taken:

If no barren core, impact area is $< 1300 \text{ ft}^2$, mineral soil increase and vegetation loss ratings are 1, overall score is 13 or less:

- Close the site and allow to revegetate naturally.

If barren core is $< 300 \text{ ft}^2$, impact area is $< 2500 \text{ ft}^2$, mineral soil increase and vegetation loss ratings are 2, overall score is 14-20:

- Manage the site and monitor.

If barren core is $> 300 \text{ ft}^2$, impact area is $> 2500 \text{ ft}^2$, mineral soil increase and vegetation loss ratings are 3, overall score is 18 or more:

- Rehabilitate the site to bring it within the "manage" range.

Scenic Segment

Standards

The quantity and location of primitive sites shall be regulated to ensure low-density visitation and to protect remote characteristics and outstanding scenery.

Campsites shall not be within sight or sound of another campsite.

No more than 3 campsites per river mile, average.

Parties shall be limited to 10 people per site at one time, and no more than 6 watercraft per site at one time, except by permit or letter of authorization by the land managing agency.

Guidelines

Minor modification of primitive sites is allowed. Sites may be subtly hardened to minimize resource impacts and may include permanent fire rings.

Parties on the river should be responsible for human waste disposal and *Leave no Trace* camping practices.

Sites should be subordinate to the scenery and generally hidden from the watercourse view.

Recreational Segment

Standards

The quantity and location of primitive sites shall be regulated to ensure moderate density visitation and to provide both solitary and social settings in predominantly natural scenery.

Campsites shall be both clustered and dispersed to provide a range of social settings.

No more than 5 campsites per river mile, average.

Parties shall be limited to 12 people per site at one time. The number of vehicles for land access camping will be limited by the capacity of the designated parking for that site, and no more than 8 watercraft per site at one time for river access camping.

Guidelines

Site hardening may be dominant but in harmony with the environment.

Campsites may be within sight or sound of another campsite.

Trails

Standards

Equestrian and bicycle use shall be limited to trails designated for that use.

No ATV/OHM and/or snowmobile use within the corridor.

Guidelines

Trail planning and development should be guided by an integrated multi-jurisdictional trail plan.

All trails that traverse public lands should have a cooperative management agreement.

All trail connections across private lands should have a recorded easement from the landowner, or at least signed permission.

Scenic Segment

Standards

No new river access trails shall be constructed (except below Cooksburg).

Guidelines

The quantity and location of trails should be limited to ensure low-density visitation and to protect remote characteristics and outstanding scenery.

Trails are maintained and/or constructed primarily for resource protection. Hand tools, chainsaws, and brush-clearing power tools may be used.

Trails should not dominate the landscape. Trails should be subordinate to the scenery along the river and generally hidden from view.

To the extent feasible, trails should be located outside of the scenic river boundary.

Until defined in a subsequent trail plan, trail densities should not exceed 2 miles of trail per square mile.

Recreational Segment

Guidelines

Some trails may be highly developed, including hardened trails for a high level of accessibility of persons of all abilities.

Until defined in a subsequent trail plan, trail densities should not exceed 5 miles of trail per square mile.

Signing, Regulation and Safety

Both Segments

Standards

Signs which are necessary for public health and safety shall be allowed. Signs may also be allowed that indicate areas available or not available for public use.

Guidelines

Signing of the river should be guided by an integrated multi-jurisdictional sign plan.

An integrated summary of rules and regulations for all public lands shall be posted at all information sites.

Scenic Segment

Standards

Visitor management controls or regulations shall be subtle and limited to those needed to protect river resources.

Guidelines

Signs should be visually inconspicuous in summer months as viewed from the river.

Outfitters and Guides

Both Segments

Standards

Permits from the appropriate agency shall be required for both commercial and non-commercial outfitters and guides who use public lands and/or facilities. Non-commercial groups include schools, universities, churches, or non-profit organizations who lead trips on public lands.

Outfitters/guides shall use designated boat launch or day use sites only, and in a manner consistent with their purpose.

Permits from one agency will be honored by all other agencies.

Permits shall be managed to protect the characteristics of the river set forth in the desired condition and consistent with ROS.

Existing uses that are not compatible with desired conditions shall be brought into compliance upon issuance or renewal of permits.

Guidelines

Cost recovery should be included in the issuance/administration of commercial special use permits.

Visitor Information, Conservation Education and Interpretation

Both Segments

Standards

Conservation, education and interpretation programs shall be consistent with the desired condition and ROS class.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers logo shall appear on all conservation, education, and interpretation products related to the Clarion River.

Guidelines

Interpretative planning and development should be guided by an integrated multi-jurisdictional interpretive plan and include such themes as social, ecological, economic, and land use history, protection of ORVs and other resources, recreation and cultural interest opportunities, available goods and services, distribution, roles and differences of land owners and agencies found in the Clarion River Corridor.

Nationally adopted conservation and education programs, such as *Leave No Trace*, should be promoted to river visitors to create a better understanding of the river environment and to reduce impacts to river resources.

Conservation, education and interpretation should utilize a wide range of technologies to provide a range of media for the dissemination of information related to the health, safety, education, preservation, and enjoyment of the river.

Internal or external partner development of new conservation, education, and interpretation products related to the river should be reviewed by appropriate resource groups for consistency and quality of messages prior to being finalized.

2300 Scenery

Both Segments

Guidelines

Native materials (sandstone, siltstone, conglomerate, etc.) and natural colors currently found within the WSR corridor shall be used in construction/restoration work. Limestone should be limited to road surfacing within the corridor unless not visible from the river or is used as fill material and covered over with soil and revegetated.

Scenic Integrity Level is high.

2360 Heritage

Scenic Segment

Guidelines

Archaeological excavations should be permitted only when they will not alter the scenic integrity of the area. Excavation sites should be restored to natural conditions.

2400 Vegetation

Both Segments

Standards

Current management activities, such as those used to provide wildlife habitat, shall continue under the authority and guidelines of the associated agency.

Prior to ground disturbing or vegetation management activities, sites should be surveyed for plant species with viability concerns to determine habitat suitability and/or occupancy.

Scenic Segment

Guidelines

Vistas and permanent or temporary openings created by timber management activities should be no larger than one-half acre.

2800 Minerals and Geology

Both Segments

Standards

For all federally owned minerals, no surface occupancy shall be allowed in the river corridor.

Guidelines

For privately owned minerals under public land, there shall be no waivers for setbacks on perennial streams within the river corridor.

5100 Fire

Scenic Segment

Standards

Wildfire shall be suppressed.

Guidelines

Utilize low impact techniques for suppression activities.

Prescribed fire may be used to help restore or maintain fire dependent ecosystems.

7700 Transportation System

Both Segments

Standards

Mitigate or decommission roads that are unnecessary or are causing environmental damage, degrading outstandingly remarkable values, or to manage visitor use and access.

Scenic Segment

Standards

No new roads will be built within the river corridor.

Recreational Segment

Standards

A transportation system will be planned as an integral part of the recreation development, and be designed and constructed to safely and comfortably accommodate both specialized recreation vehicles and associated service vehicles.

New road construction shall be limited to that required for designated special uses or by law to provide access to private land or valid existing mineral rights.