

Coconino National Forest Plan Revision
Developed Recreation

Desired Conditions

- Developed recreation facilities such as campgrounds and picnic areas are clean, safe, and in good repair. Most meet current accessibility guidelines. Developed sites blend with the natural setting and uses at these areas do not cause damage to ecologically sensitive areas. Potable water is provided in high-use areas.
- Developed camping facilities provide a primitive or semi-primitive setting with a minimal level of amenities, while providing climatic relief and escape from urban life.
- Developed campgrounds are located outside of floodplains and away from areas prone to flash flooding.
- Most campgrounds are part of a centralized strategy which consolidates developed recreation opportunities and protects resources.
- Trails in developed sites connect users to a variety of dispersed recreation opportunities.
- Developed sites near riparian areas are pre-dominantly day use. Amenities in sites adjacent to water protect water quality and prevent vegetation damage, soil erosion and compaction from fishing, boating, swimming, and other activities.
- Non-native invasive weeds and aquatic organisms are not established or transported
- Group sites in a variety of settings are provided across the Forest. Sites may vary in capacity including providing space for groups of more than 75 people. These sites offer users a place to gather near towns and communities and provide adequate sanitation and safety amenities. Group sites may be co-located with developed campgrounds or day use facilities. These sites are strategically located to protect resources and minimize the need for large group gatherings in the dispersed recreation areas.
- Visitor centers are open to the public on busy days and provide places where visitors can find information and learn about natural and cultural resources on the Coconino National Forest (NF). They are located in strategic locations to best serve the public.
- Where there are high levels of visitor use, most NF visitor activities occur at developed sites and on trails designed for high levels of use. High levels of developed recreation use occurring along upper and Lower Lake Mary and in Oak Creek Canyon are accommodated by facilities which balance resources protection with recreation demand.

Working Draft – text under development, subject to change
Public input is welcome and would be most useful if received by December 10, 2010.
No text is final until Plan approval in Fall 2012.

- Recreation sites within these corridors also emphasize safety and minimize user conflict along highways. Designated parking spots are provided along these highways to prevent resource damage and erosion into nearby waterbodies.

Objectives

- Reduce the backlog of recreation deferred maintenance by 20 percent within 5 years of plan approval.

Guidelines

- The public should be notified with signs when water quality has not met State and Federal Standards at designated swimming sites and fishing areas where it is reasonable to expect reoccurrence to protect human health and safety.
- The United States Forest Service's (USFS) Built Environment Image Guide (BEIG) or subsequent guides for facility design should be used for public and private facilities across the Forest in order to provide for consistency in design of recreation facilities.

Management Approach

- Patrol areas regularly for such things as public safety, facility/resource protection, and fee compliance checks. Sites are operated during their heavy use season and to the current standards such as those outlined in Forest Service publication "Cleaning Recreation Sites (7/80).
- Facilities and infrastructure are maintained and replaced as needed using a sustainable mix of federal and other funds and partners.
- Fee areas and concessionaires may be used as appropriate to maintain and manage developed facilities, particularly in high-use areas.
- Area-specific BEIG's may be developed to manage specific design issues associated with special areas or unusual circumstances.

Management Area-Specific Direction

Walnut Canyon **Desired Condition**

- Manage the Canyon Vista area to provide parking, day-use trails, and overnight camping for individuals and groups. Facilities at the site limit resource impacts and provide a camping experience at the less developed end of the spectrum for developed campgrounds.

Sedona/Oak Creek Ecosystem Area **Desired Condition**

- Day-use activities are emphasized across the Management Area, with a few campgrounds in the Oak Creek Canyon area.
- Facilities serve large numbers of people at main vista/trail access points while conserving the natural environment and providing views of outstanding scenery in an atmosphere where the natural environment prevails and opportunities exist for quiet and contemplation.