

## Recreation Suitability

The provisions of the 1982 planning rule call for identification of the characteristics that make land suitable for recreation opportunities. A broad spectrum of outdoor recreation opportunities are provided on the Prescott National Forest, and the opportunities provided are to be consistent with desired conditions set forth in the forest plan. The identification of an area as suitable for various uses is *guidance* for project and activity decision making, and is *not a resource commitment or final decision* approving projects and activities. Final decisions on resource commitments are made at the project level.

An area or setting is deemed suitable if it is appropriate for the activity, regardless of whether the opportunity exists. This does not mean that the activity will occur over the entire area. National Forest System lands are generally suitable for a variety of uses, including recreation, unless restricted by Presidential, Congressional or administrative constraints. Therefore, it was assumed that general forest land is suitable for recreation and it is not listed in the accompanying suitability matrix.

A setting is not suitable if it is not appropriate for the activity or the activity is not allowed by law, regulation, or policy within the area. Areas that are permitted for other resource use, such as communication sites, electric sub-stations, mining operations, or energy development, are not suitable for recreation; these settings are also not listed in the suitability matrix.

The following table indicates suitability of various recreational activities within the various identified settings. Definitions have been provided below to clarify the meaning and intent of each setting and activity.

### Recreation Suitability Definitions

Suitable – the area or setting is appropriate for the activity, whether the opportunity is currently available or not.

Not Suitable – the area or setting is not appropriate for the activity or the activity is not allowed by law or regulation within the area.

### Activity Definitions

Developed Recreation – recreation that is dependent upon facilities provided by the Forest Service. Examples include camping in developed campgrounds, picnicking, or group activities.

Dispersed Camping – camping outside of a developed campground, including designated dispersed camping, dispersed vehicular camping, or back-country camping.

Education / Interpretation – recreation based on the pursuit of knowledge and understanding. Ranges from formal displays and programs sponsored by the Forest Service, to outdoor classrooms , interpretive field trips, and citizen-scientist projects.

Motorized Recreation – the operation of motorized vehicles such as All Terrain Vehicles, Off-Highway Vehicles, or motorcycles for recreation as opposed to transportation.

Non-Motorized Dispersed Recreation – a wide range of activities which are not dependent upon developed facilities or motorized equipment, including hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife viewing, rock climbing, or mountain biking.

Water-based Recreation – on-water and water adjacent activities such as rafting, tubing, kayaking, swimming, wading, and fishing.

## Setting Definitions

Administrative Facilities – buildings and areas where the primary purpose is to support Forest Service functions and administration. Examples include Forest Supervisor and District offices, Work Centers, and the Aviation Facility.

Designated OHV Area – an area set aside for motorized cross-country travel as identified in the Prescott National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map. Includes Hayfield Draw and Alto Pit.

Developed Recreation Facilities – buildings or structures designed to enhance the visitor’s recreation experience and provide a greater level of convenience at the site. These include campgrounds and picnic areas with designated sites, day use areas with toilet facilities, designated shooting ranges, and developed trailheads.

Forest System Trails – Motorized – trails that have been identified on the Prescott National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map as open for motorized use.

Forest System Trails – Non-motorized – trail that are constructed or maintained by the Forest Service and which are open for travel by foot, horse, or bicycle.

Heritage Interpretive Area – an area with unique opportunities to expand cultural or historic knowledge such as the Lynx Creek Ruin.

Wild & Scenic River – existing and eligible segments of the Verde River. Wild and Scenic River designation has three classifications - Wild, Scenic, and Recreational – that are dependent upon access, shoreline development, and flow restrictions.

Wilderness – refers to the eight existing designated Wilderness areas and any future proposed wilderness.

		<b>Activities</b>					
		<u>Developed Recreation</u>	<u>Dispersed Camping</u>	<u>Non-Motorized Dispersed Recreation</u>	<u>Motorized Recreation</u>	<u>Water-based Recreation</u>	<u>Education / Interpretation</u>
		– recreation that is dependent upon facilities provided by the Forest Service. Examples include developed camping, picnicking, or group activities.	– camping outside of a developed campground, including designated dispersed camping, dispersed vehicular camping, or back-country camping.	– a wide range of activities which are not dependent upon developed facilities or motorized equipment, including hiking, backpacking, hunting, wildlife viewing, rock climbing, or mountain biking.	– the operation of motorized vehicles such as passenger vehicles, All Terrain Vehicles, Off-Highway Vehicles, or motorcycles for recreation as opposed to transportation.	– on-water and water adjacent activities such as rafting, tubing, kayaking, swimming, wading, and fishing.	– recreation based on the pursuit of knowledge and understanding. Ranges from formal displays and programs sponsored by the Forest Service, to outdoor classrooms, interpretive field trips, and citizen-scientist projects.
<b>Suitable</b> – the area or setting is appropriate for the activity, whether the opportunity is currently available or not.							
<b>Not Suitable</b> – the area or setting is not appropriate for the activity or the activity is not allowed by law or regulation within the area.							
<b>Settings</b>	Developed Recreation Facilities	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
	Heritage Interpretive Area e.g. Lynx Creek Ruin	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable
	Wilderness	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable Non- mechanized only	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
	Wild & Scenic River	Suitable (Recreational Segments)	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable
	Grapevine Botanical Area	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable
	Forest System Trails – Non-motorized	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable
	Forest System Trails – Motorized	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable (Multi-use trails where indicated)	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable
	Designated OHV Area	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable
	Administrative Facilities	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable