

RESULTS STEP 2 - OPPORTUNITY ZONES

The following zones generally flow from low recreational use (Pristine Zone) to high recreational use (Concentrated Use Zone).

Opportunity Zone	Resource Condition	Social Condition	Managerial Condition
<p>Pristine</p>	<p>Natural ecological processes are dominant. There are no developed maintained trails or roads. When recreational uses do occur, impacts are temporary and typically recover from year to year. Evidence of human activity is not readily apparent.</p>	<p>There is a high level of solitude and isolation. High opportunity for risk and challenge as self-reliance and outdoor skills are very important. Groups are small and there is a low probability of interaction with other humans.</p>	<p>Very low level of managerial presence. Emphasis is on off-site management. Visitor use of this area will not be prohibited neither will it be encouraged. Necessary rules, regulations, and information on Leave No Trace practices will be communicated to visitors outside of this area, such as at trailheads or other suitable locations. No signs or structures unless absolutely needed to protect resources.</p>
<p>Primitive</p>	<p>Natural ecological processes are dominant. There are no developed maintained trails or roads. Impacts from recreational use are generally temporary. Most impacts typically recover from year to year, although some may persist from year to year. Evidence of human activity is not readily apparent.</p>	<p>There is a moderate to high level of solitude and isolation. High opportunity for risk and challenge as self-reliance and outdoor skills are very important. Groups are small and there is a low probability of interaction with other humans.</p>	<p>Low level of managerial presence. Emphasis is generally on off-site management. Visitor use of this area will not be prohibited neither will it be encouraged. Necessary rules, regulations, and information on Leave No Trace practices will usually be communicated to visitors outside of this area, such as at trailheads or other suitable locations. No signs or structures unless absolutely needed to protect resources.</p>
<p>Semi-Primitive</p>	<p>Predominantly natural appearing environment. Network of low use developed trails and dispersed recreation use opportunities. Recreational use is apparent in this zone, with associated environmental impacts generally low. Impacts from recreational use often persist from year to year, but ecological and natural processes are only minimally affected.</p>	<p>Some opportunity for solitude but evidence of, and interaction with, other visitors occurs. Users have the opportunity for a high degree of interaction with the natural environment, though opportunities for risk and challenge are generally not high.</p>	<p>Moderate level of managerial presence. Moderate amount of on-site management. On-site management will generally be limited to occasional routine visitor contacts by FS personnel and/or volunteers, and directional signs at trail junctions. Necessary rules and regulations will be communicated to users off-site, except in person where violations are evident. Trails will be maintained to accommodate a relatively light amount of use. Signs and structures may be provided for resource protection reasons or visitor safety.</p>

Opportunity Zone	Resource Condition	Social Condition	Managerial Condition
<p>Roaded Natural</p>	<p>Characterized by natural landscapes modified to accommodate heavy use although setting will still be predominantly natural appearing. Network of moderate to heavily used developed trails and roads. Impacts from recreational use often persist from year to year. Various modes of travel may be present.</p>	<p>There is little opportunity for solitude or isolation from the sights and sounds of human use, though there is opportunity for a relatively high degree of interaction with the natural environment. Moderate to high probability of contact with other people. Large groups may be encountered. Opportunity for risk and challenge are generally not high. There is a greater opportunity for those with disabilities in this zone.</p>	<p>Moderate to high degree of USFS managerial presence and on-site regulation. There is moderate to high probability of visitors encountering FS personnel and/or volunteers. Signs and structures may be provided for resource protection, visitor safety, and visitor convenience reasons.</p>
<p>Concentrated Use</p>	<p>Characterized by natural landscapes obviously modified to accommodate heavy use. This area consists primarily of developed trailhead areas, but can include other areas of high visitation. These may include permanent facilities such as parking areas, toilet buildings, campsites, information boards, and roads. These areas may be hardened to withstand heavy visitor use. Recreational impacts persist from year to year.</p>	<p>There is little opportunity for solitude or isolation from the sights and sounds of human use. This zone contains areas of concentrated use resulting in a high probability of contacts with other visitors. There is little opportunity for risk and challenge. Self-reliance and outdoor skills are of little or no importance. There is a greater opportunity for those with disabilities in this zone.</p>	<p>Managerial presence is high. Signs are prevalent, especially on information boards and directional signs for trails. On-site visitor strategies are used for visitor education, safety and resource protection. These strategies may include education and interpretation. High probability of visitors seeing Forest Service management personnel/volunteers. Structures are provided for resource protection, visitor safety, and visitor convenience reasons.</p>

Note: Originally, the LAC group had developed an opportunity zone called “Critical Habitat Resource”. After much deliberation, the LAC group decided to drop this zone. The Tight Hollow area moved from Critical Habitat Resource zone to Pristine. The Sargent’s Branch Critical Habitat zone moved to Concentrated Use.