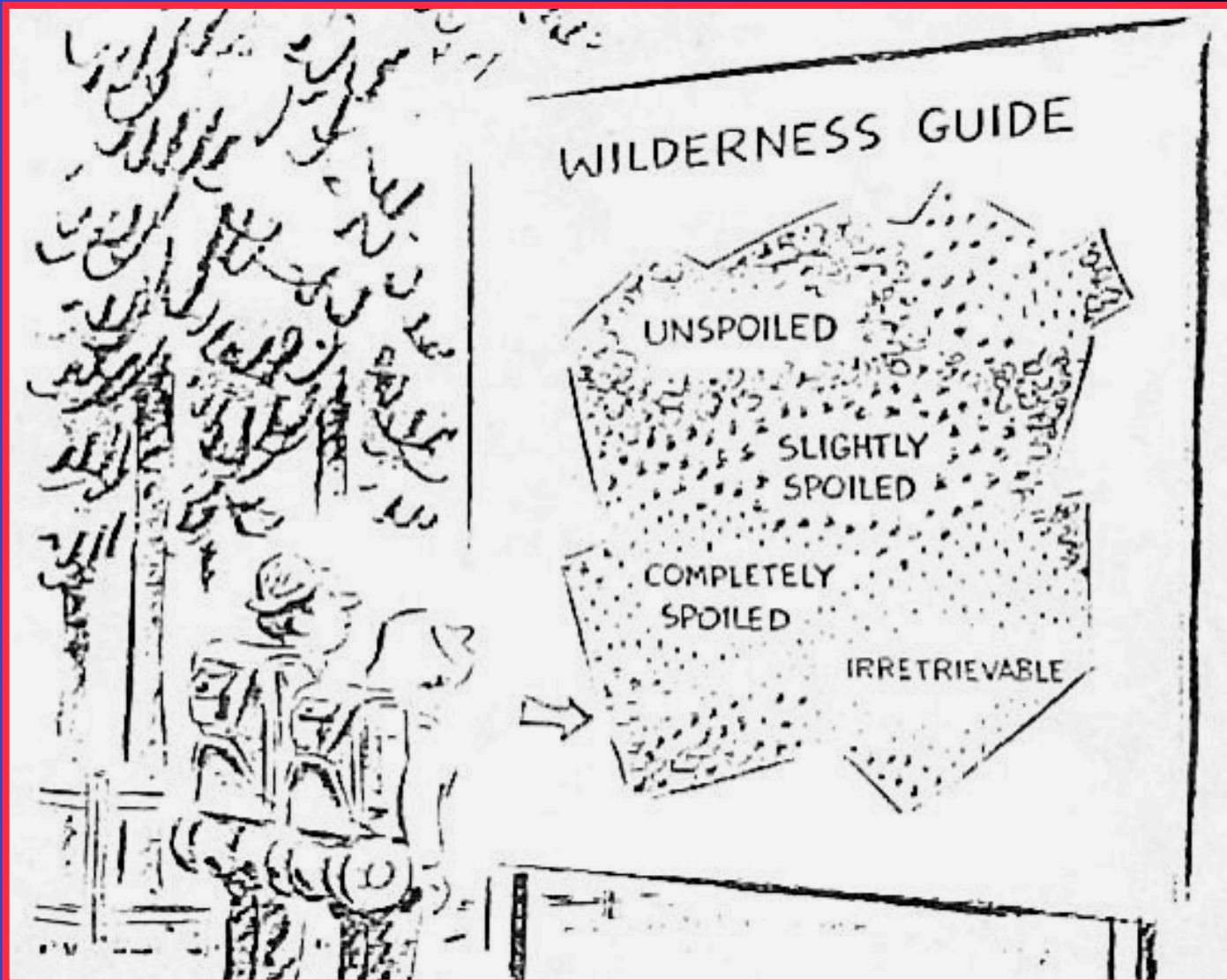


What is LAC?

<

“Limits of Acceptable Change”

What level of impact are we willing to accept?



What is Limits of Acceptable Change?

- < LAC is a process to define:
- < What kind of Resource conditions
and
- < What kind of Social conditions are acceptable?
and
- < To prescribe Actions to protect or achieve those conditions.

Why Use LAC?

- < LAC process focuses on maintaining Desired Future Conditions:
 - Resource conditions,
 - Social Conditions,
 - Managerial Conditions
- < It provides for stability over time.
- < It is trackable and traceable.

What is the Desired Future Condition for the Red River Gorge?

- < The recently revised Daniel Boone National Forest Plan lists Desired Future Conditions for different areas of the Forest.
- < There are four main prescription areas in the Red River Gorge. Each one has a Desired Future Condition.

The four main prescription areas for the Red River Gorge area are:

- Red River Gorge Geological Area – 29,000 acres
- Clifty Wilderness – 13,000 acres (overlaps the Geological Area)
- Cliffline Community – A zone anywhere on the Forest where there are cliffs (100' from top of cliff to 200' below the cliff)
- Habitat Diversity Emphasis – mostly the Indian Creek area

How does LAC Work?

- < It follows a nine-step process designed by USFS
- < It includes public input & involvement at all steps.
- < It moves from broad descriptions to specific prescriptions.
- < It requires setting standards & monitoring conditions.

The Nine-Step Process

1. Identify area issues & concerns

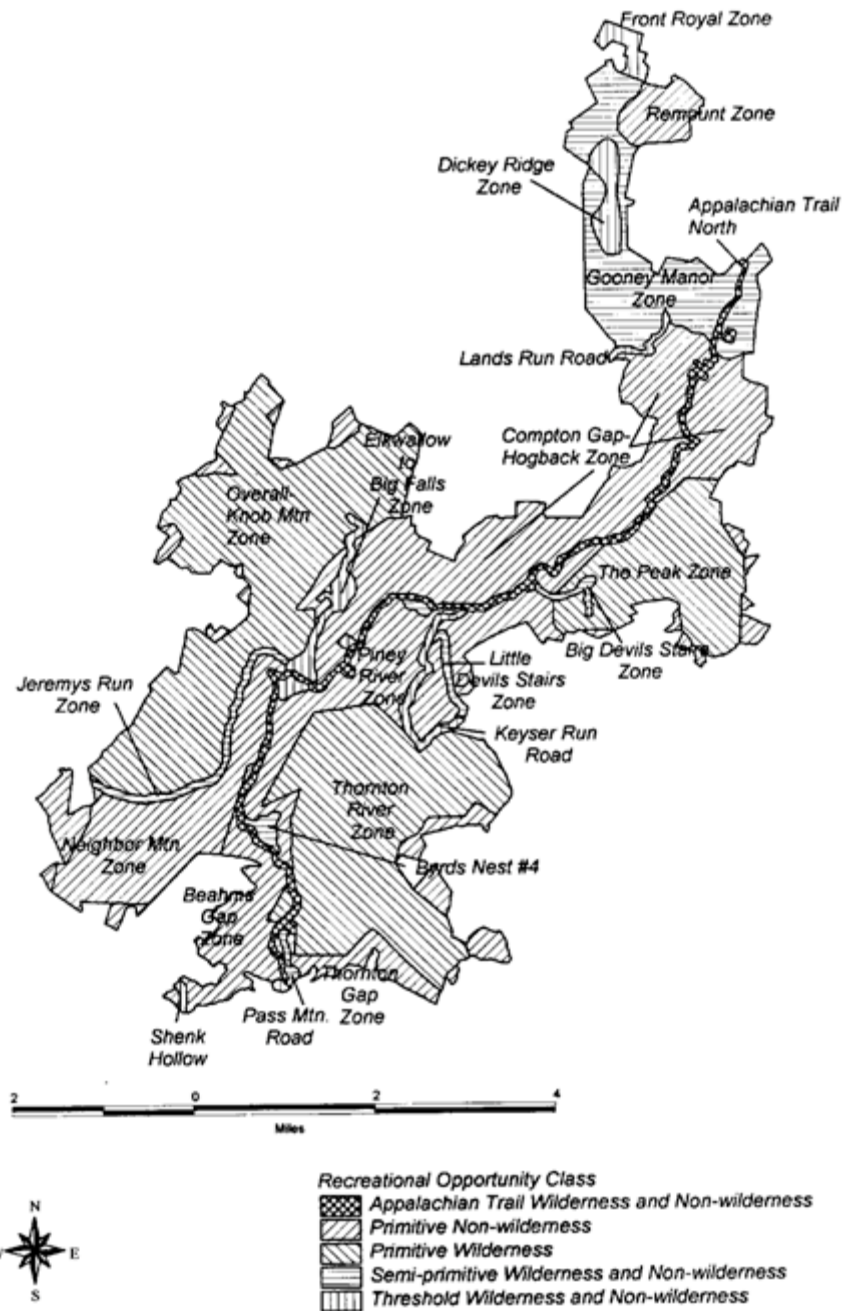
Everybody has issues that are important to them



The Nine-Step Process

1. Identify area issues & concerns
- 2. Define & describe opportunity zones**

The Red River Gorge will be zoned



The Nine-Step Process

1. Identify area issues & concerns
2. Define & describe opportunity zones
- 3. Select indicators of resource & social conditions**

Identify Indicators

- < An indicator is simply something you can measure.
Possible examples:
- < Number of campsites per 1,000 acres
- < Number of groups encountered per day
- < Square feet of bare ground at climbing routes

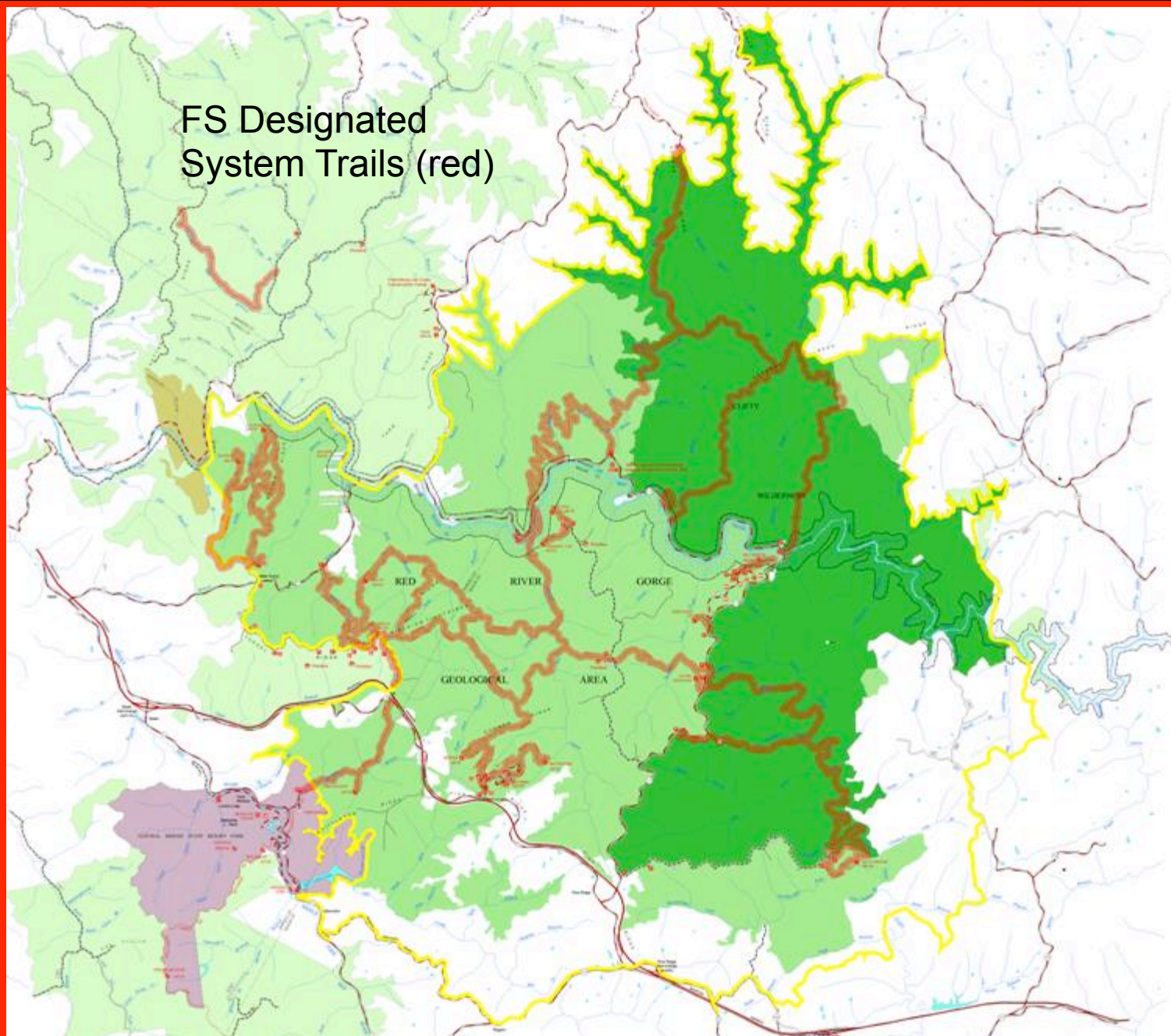
The Nine-Step Process

1. Identify area issues & concerns
2. Define & describe opportunity zones
3. Select indicators of resource & social conditions
4. **Inventory resource & social conditions**

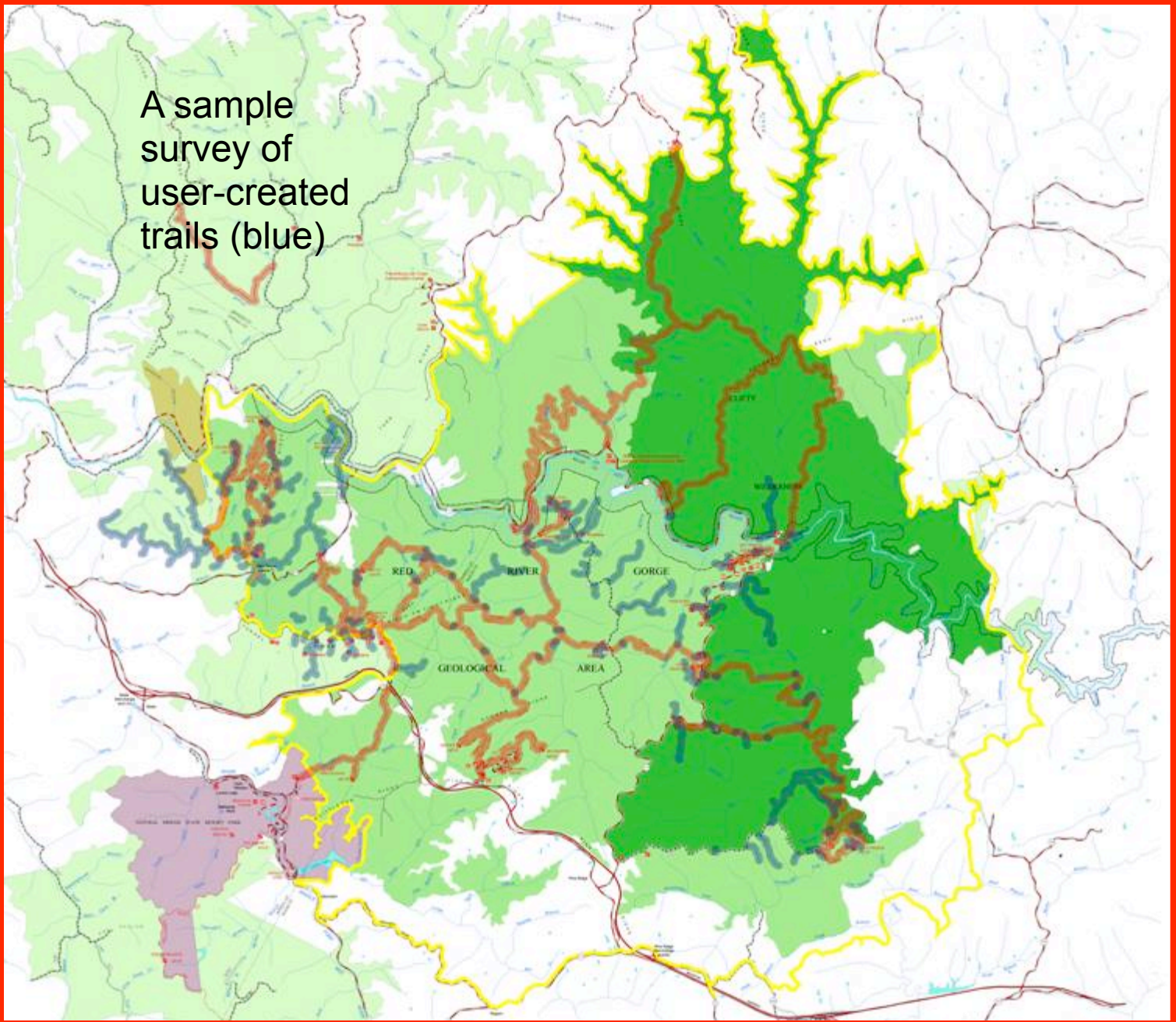
Inventory is a BIG step

- < Need to inventory resources such as user-created trails, campsites, & climbing routes
- < Need to inventory archaeological sites
- < Need to inventory other resources that may be affected by use such as plants & wildlife
- < Also need social inventory. Who uses the Gorge? Where do they go? How big of a group? What do they do?
- < Need to know visitor perceptions: Is it too crowded? Do visitors find solitude in Clifty Wilderness?

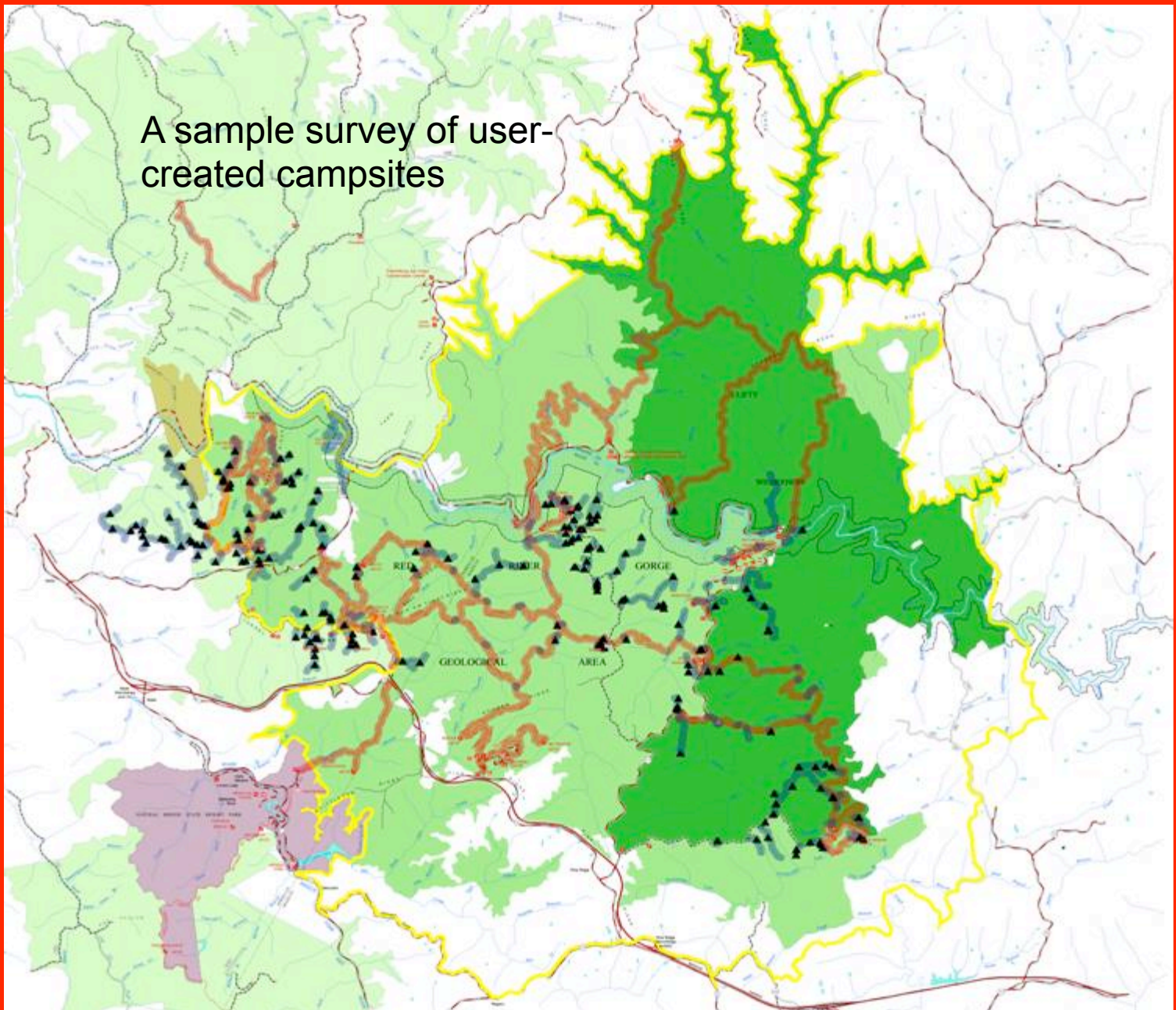
FS Designated
System Trails (red)



A sample survey of user-created trails (blue)



A sample survey of user-created campsites



The Nine-Step Process

1. Identify area issues & concerns
2. Define & describe opportunity zones
3. Select indicators of resource & social conditions
4. Inventory resource & social conditions
- 5. Specify standards for resource & social conditions**

Standards (The Heart of LAC)

- < The point at which an indicator tells us that the change is *acceptable* or *not*.
- < Exceeding the standard should trigger a management action.
- < “If it isn’t broken, don’t fix it!”
- < Management actions can be traced back to specific problems (via indicators).
- < Some possible examples:
 - < 1) No more than 10 campsites per 1,000 acres
 - < 2) Encounter no more than 4 groups per day
 - < 3) No more than 50 square feet of bare ground at climbing route

The Nine-Step Process

1. Identify area issues & concerns
2. Define & describe opportunity zones
3. Select indicators of resource & social conditions
4. Inventory resource & social conditions
5. Specify standards for both
- 6. Identify alternative opportunity zone allocations**

Alternatives

- < There are usually several alternative themes selected to be analyzed.
- < These could be themes such as “improve access” or “emphasize primitive characteristics” or “no action” etc...

The Nine-Step Process

1. Identify area issues & concerns
2. Define & describe opportunity zones
3. Select indicators of resource & social conditions
4. Inventory resource & social conditions
5. Specify standards for both
6. Identify alternative opportunity zone allocations
7. **Identify management actions for each alternative**

Management Actions

- < A “tool box” of possible management actions will be developed.
- < When a standard is exceeded, that will trigger a management action.
- < Examples of possible management actions may be:
 - < 1) increased education efforts
 - < 2) designated campsites
 - < 3) closing trails or climbing routes
 - < 4) relocating trails away from sensitive areas
 - < 5) redirect use to certain areas
 - < 6) hardening of archaeological sites
 - < 7) fencing of archaeological or biological sites
 - < 8) permit system

The Nine-Step Process

1. Identify area issues & concerns
2. Define & describe opportunity zones
3. Select indicators of resource & social conditions
4. Inventory resource & social conditions
5. Specify standards for both
6. Identify alternative opportunity zone allocations
7. Identify management actions for each alternative
- 8. Evaluate & select a preferred alternative**

Selecting preferred alternative

- < Analyze pros and cons of each alternative
- < Forest Supervisor will select the preferred alternative after reviewing all the pros and cons of each alternative that the LAC team developed.

The Nine-Step Process

1. Identify area issues & concerns
2. Define & describe opportunity zones
3. Select indicators of resource & social conditions
4. Inventory resource & social conditions
5. Specify standards for both
6. Identify alternative opportunity zone allocations
7. Identify management actions for each alternative
8. Evaluate & select a preferred alternative
- 9. Implement actions & monitor conditions**

Implement & monitor

<

Just do it!

Everybody has a chance to share their bright ideas



Public meetings are consensus driven (No voting)





Advantages of using LAC

- Public input at all stages
- Desired Future Conditions clearly defined
- Relevant Indicators & Standards selected
- Management Actions address specific problems & you can evaluate effectiveness
- Trackable & traceable
- Public becomes partners in management

- LAC workshops started 6/1/04 and are expected to continue until the end of 2006.
- As of 12/15/05 Step 4 is winding down and we have begun Step 5.