

**Forest Service Manual
National Headquarters - Washington Office
Washington, DC**

**Forest Service Manual 2300 – Recreation, Wilderness, And Related Resource Management
Chapter 2310 - Sustainable Recreation Planning**

Amendment: 2300-2020-1

Effective date: April 23, 2020

Duration: This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

Approved by: Tina J. Terrell, Associate Deputy Chief, NFS

Date approved: April 22, 2020

Responsible Staff:

Last Change: 2300-90-1 to 2310

Superseded Document(s): 2310, Amendment 2300-90-1, June 1, 1990

Digest: Following is an explanation of the changes throughout the directive by section.

2310: Changes chapter title from “Planning and Data Management” to “Sustainable Recreation Planning” and sets forth direction throughout chapter.

2311: Replaces obsolete direction on Resource Opportunities in Recreation Planning with direction on Corporate Data and Tools that have been in place for over 20 years.

2312-2314: Removes sections containing obsolete direction on: Recreation Information Management (RIM); Recreation Planning and Knutson-Vandenberg (K-V) Act; and Coordinating Water Resource Developments.

Table of Contents

2310.1 - Authority.....	3
2310.2 - Objectives	4
2310.3 - Policy	6
2310.4 - Responsibilities	7
2310.41 - Chief, Forest Service.....	8
2310.42 - Washington Office, Directors	8
2310.43 - Regional Forester	9
2310.44 - Forest Supervisor	9
2310.45 - District Ranger	10
2310.5 - Definitions.....	10
2311- Corporate Forest Service Data, Tools, and Applications	18

The chapter provides recreation planning-related policy, direction, and guidance that integrates the full suite of programs within FSM 2300, as well as guidance that integrates recreation with other multiple uses and resource values, to achieve desired and sustainable social, economic, and ecological outcomes.

This chapter of the manual supplements planning-related guidance contained in other 2300 directives, and complements sustainable recreation requirements and direction contained in the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219), implementing directives (FSM 1920 and FSH 1909.12), and other 1900 directives.

2310.1 - Authority

Recreation resources are integral to planning and managing National Forest System (NFS) lands. The authorities requiring the consideration of recreation resources in planning are imbedded in law, regulation, and in the Forest Service directives. Specifically:

1. The Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act (MUSYA) of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 528–531).
This act authorizes and directs that national forests be managed under the principles of multiple use to produce a sustained yield of products and services, and for other purposes. Outdoor recreation is one of the five multiple uses identified.
2. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (16 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).
The NEPA declares a national policy that encourages a “productive and enjoyable harmony” between humans and their environment. This act sets forth requirements to: use a systematic interdisciplinary planning approach; consider the environmental impact of proposed actions; identify adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided; consider alternatives to the proposed action; consider the relationship between local short-term uses of the human environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity; and identify any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources (FSM 1950).
3. The Forest and Rangelands Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.). This act directs the Secretary of Agriculture to periodically assess the national situation of the forest and rangeland resources. See FSM 1906 and FSM 1910 for detailed requirements.
4. The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.).
This act amended the Renewable Resource Planning Act (RPA) to address the impacts of clear-cutting to both aesthetics and wildlife habitat. NFMA requires the Secretary of Agriculture to: evaluate forest system lands; develop a management program based on multiple-use and sustained-yield principles; and implement a resource management plan for each National Forest System unit.
5. Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 219. Often referred to as the 2012 Planning Rule, this regulation replaces the 1982 Planning Rule. The regulations defines sustainable

recreation and outline the required content of land management plans, including those related to sustainable recreation.

6. FSM 1920 and FSH 1909.12. These are the implementing directives for the 2012 Planning Rule. The directives provide direction and guidance to address sustainable recreation in land management plans and identify other relevant directives related to recreation.

7. FSM 2301. Outlines laws and regulations that govern recreation-related programs on NFS lands.

8. FSM 1011.1. This directive lists a more comprehensive list of laws governing the general planning and management of NFS lands.

2310.2 - Objectives

The overarching objective of sustainable recreation planning is to inform decisions that result in sustainable recreation outcomes. To be sustainable, recreation settings, opportunities, and benefits must:

1. Be compatible with other multiple uses;
2. Protect cultural and natural resources; and
3. Be responsive to public demands while complementing recreation opportunities of the broader landscape; and garner the support, advocacy, and shared stewardship of the public.

These ecological and socio-economic outcomes are not only important to the sustainability of recreation, but also contribute to the sustainability of the unit and Agency as a whole. Additional objectives are listed below.

1. Sustainable recreation settings, opportunities, and benefits consider and integrate the full suite of programs contained in the 2300 directives systems. Policy and direction specific to each program are contained in the following chapters of FSM 2300:

- a. 2320 - Wilderness Management;
- b. 2330 - Publicly Managed Recreation Opportunities;
- c. 2340 - Privately Provided Recreation Opportunities;
- d. 2350 - Trail, River, and Similar Recreation Opportunities;
- e. 2360 - Heritage Program Management;
- f. 2370 - Special Recreation Designations;
- g. 2380 - Landscape Management; and
- h. 2390 - Interpretive Services.

2. Sustainable recreation settings, opportunities, and benefits are the result of integrating recreation-related issues, concerns, and opportunities with those of other multiple uses and resource values. In addition to the policy and direction contained in FSM 1900 and FSM 2300, the directives of other relevant multiple uses and resources are considered and incorporated. For example, it may be necessary to consider and integrate policy and direction contained in:

- a. 2020 - Ecological Restoration and Resilience
- b. 2500 - Watershed Management
- c. 2700 - Special Uses Management
- d. 7300 - Buildings and Structures
- e. 7700 - Travel Management

3. In addition to considering other multiple uses and resource values within the plan area, sustainable recreation planning considers the sustainability of communities, including underserved populations, and ecosystems in the broader landscape.

4. Inclusive and meaningful participation by local communities, including racial and ethnic minority populations, and State, local, and tribal governments, reveals the diversity of recreation interests, needs, and values. This in turn informs decisions to more equitably: connect people with their national forests; create and foster shared stewardship values; build capacity to achieve sustainable outcomes (such as, desired conditions); protect or enhance valued cultural and natural resources; and contribute to the health, wellbeing, and sense of place within the plan area and in the broader landscape. (Reference: 36 CFR 219.4, 219.8(b)(6), and 219.10(a)(10); FSM 1921.03; and FSH 1909.12 sections: 11.31, 21.14, 23.23a, and 31.2).

5. Sustainable recreation is integral to achieving the 2012 Planning Rule requirements including: sustainability (36 CFR 219.8); plant and animal diversity (36 CFR 219.9); the delivery of multiple uses (36 CFR 219.10 and FSH 1909.12, sec. 23.23a and f); and timber requirements (36 CFR 219.11). Also reference FSH 1909.12, sec. 21.12 (4).

6. In a land management plan context, plan components for sustainable recreation function with all other plan components to support and perpetuate the unit's distinctive roles and contributions, and achieve/move toward desired conditions and objectives.

7. Land management plans provide context, direction, and sideboards for smaller-scale recreation decisions (reference 36 CFR 219.15). For example, the mapped desired recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) classes of a land management plan inform project decisions such as: travel route designations; complementary road and trail management objectives, and the appropriate development scale(s) of recreation sites.

8. Resource program plans (such as, travel management plans, and so forth), area plans (for example, Comprehensive River Management Plans, and so forth) and project

decisions implement, support, and are consistent with relevant land management plan(s) decisions. FSH 1909.12, sec. 24

9. Corporate recreation-related data, tools, and protocols must be used to create nationally consistent information about existing and desired recreation settings, opportunities, visitation, and associated benefits. This allows comparisons and contrasts to be made across individual forests or grasslands; within States, regions, or other larger scale contexts; and/or nationally. Relevant corporate data must be:

- a. Up to date, using the latest national survey, inventory, and/or mapping standards and protocols;
- b. Maintained and accessible in the latest corporate database such as, the Natural Resource Manager (NRM) and the Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW).
- c. Supported by the best available scientific information;
- d. Shared, verified, and built upon through inclusive public engagement;
- e. Utilized at the appropriate planning scale(s); and
- f. Applied in each phase of planning, NEPA, and monitoring.

10. Relevant place-based information supplements corporate recreation-related data to characterize diverse human uses, values, meanings, and attachments (spiritual, aesthetic, cultural, and so forth) that visitors and communities, including underserved populations, have to specific locations and areas. This information can be used to inform the unit's distinctive roles and contributions, plan components, and land allocations. Reference FSH 1909.12, sections: 22.21, 22.23, 22.23a (h), and 23.23f (b).

2310.3 - Policy

1. Units shall review and use relevant land management plan decisions to guide and inform smaller-scale planning decisions. To ensure attainment of sustainable recreation, all projects and activities must be consistent with the applicable plan components of the land management plan (36 CFR 219.15 (d)).

2. Relevant corporate data and tools (see section 2311) must be used in each phase of planning, NEPA, and monitoring to:

- a. Define and map existing recreation-related conditions, use, and trends;
- b. Engage the public;
- c. Assess the plan area's recreation resources and uses with those in the broader landscape;

- d. Inform the plan area's niche or distinctive roles and contributions;
 - e. Overlay and integrate recreation information with the data of other multiple uses and resources values to identify issues, concerns, and/or opportunities;
 - f. Inform the Need to Change for land management planning or Purpose and Need for project planning;
 - g. Convey and map desired conditions;
 - h. Delineate and describe the plan area's allocation structure such as: geographic areas, management areas, designated areas, recommended areas for designation, desired ROS settings, desired scenic character, desired scenic integrity objectives, and other relevant allocations;
 - i. Define and/or evaluate the effects of no action and other alternatives; and
 - j. Serve as monitoring indicators to measure progress in achieving desired sustainable recreation outcomes and inform adaptive management.
3. Utilize inclusive public engagement strategies to help define relevant place-based information as appropriate for scope and scale of planning effort. This information must complement corporate data and information and can be used to: describe important values and attachments to the plan area, portion(s) of the plan area, or specific place; reveal specific issues, concerns, and opportunities; inform the plan area's distinctive roles and contributions; identify recreation-related benefits, including key ecosystem services; design direction for the plan area; (such as, plan components in a land management plan context); delineate land allocations (such as, Geographic Areas, Management Areas, Designations Areas, and so forth); define and evaluate alternatives; and focus monitoring indicators.
4. Consider changed conditions and monitoring results to inform adaptive management actions that: maintain or move toward desired sustainable recreation outcomes; verify assumptions; and/or redefine desired conditions.

2310.4 - Responsibilities

General responsibilities for land management planning are found in: 36 CFR sections 219.1 and 219.2; and FSM 1920 sections 21.04 and 26.04.

Responsibilities for wilderness and wild and scenic rivers evaluations are found in FSM 1923, and 1924 respectively. Additional requirements and guidance for these and other designated areas (such as, National Scenic and Historic Trails, National Recreation Areas, National Monuments, Scenic Byways, and so forth) are contained in: FSM 2300, chapters: 20, 50, 60, and 70; and FSH 1909.12, chapters: 10, 20, 70 and 80.

2310.41 - Chief, Forest Service

1. The Chief of the Forest Service is responsible for national planning, such as the preparation of the Forest Service Strategic Plan, required under the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 306; 31 U.S.C. 11151125; 31 U.S.C. 9703-9704).
2. The Chief of the Forest Service delegates responsibility for Recreation and Heritage planning to the Director of Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources at the Washington Office, and the responsibility for Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers planning to the Director of Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers at the Washington Office.

2310.42 - Washington Office, Directors

The Washington Office Directors of Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources; and Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers are responsible for assisting the Chief, through the Deputy Chief for the NFS, to:

1. Integrate the goals, objectives, strategies, and performance measures of Recreation, Heritage, Volunteers, Wilderness, and Wild and Scenic Rivers programs with revisions and updates to the Forest Service Strategic Plan.
2. Coordinate national performance oversight and accountability for sustainable recreation planning by developing performance measures that align with the Forest Service Strategic Plan's goals and objectives.
3. Update the Forest Service Sustainable Recreation Framework when there is a need to: align with department and agency priorities; incorporate the best available scientific information; address changes in socio-economic, and/or ecological conditions; and/or ensure relevance, understanding, advocacy, and shared stewardship of the public.
4. Incorporate program-related questions and indicators with the latest National Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment Strategy.
5. Develop, update, and deliver sustainable recreation planning policy, guidance, tools, and training that complement NFMA and NEPA laws, regulations, policies, and direction.
6. Annually develop and integrate the program of work for Recreation, Heritage, Volunteers, Wilderness, and Wild and Scenic Rivers programs with agency priorities to leverage funding, create efficiencies, and promote sustainability.

2310.43 - Regional Forester

The Regional Forester, with the assistance of the Regional Recreation, Heritage, Volunteer Services, Wilderness, and Wild and Scenic Rivers Director(s) is responsible for:

1. Coordinating, assisting, and guiding sustainable recreation planning efforts that involve multiple forest service units, and/or crossing adjacent agency boundaries, jurisdictions, or municipalities.
2. Ensuring issues, concerns, and opportunities related to sustainable recreation are integrated with relevant planning efforts at the regional, forest, landscape, and project scales.
3. Ensuring corporate data related to sustainable recreation planning is accurate, maintained, accessible, and complete.
4. Developing and integrating sustainable recreation management questions and indicators for broad-scale monitoring plans.
5. Establishing administratively designated areas and/or recommend areas for statutory designation, within the authority of the Regional Forester. Reference FSH 1909.24, exhibit 01 for various designated areas and relevant planning and recreation directives.
6. Developing sustainable recreation planning requirements and protocols to address specific regional needs, where needed. Examples may include regionally defined ROS subclasses, scenic character descriptions, and place-based planning guidance.

2310.44 - Forest Supervisor

The Forest Supervisor, with the assistance of Forest Recreation, Heritage, Volunteer Services, Wilderness, and Wild and Scenic Rivers staff is responsible for:

1. Maintaining accurate and up-to-date corporate data relating to sustainable recreation.
2. Ensuring desired sustainable recreation outcomes and benefits are addressed in the unit's Land Management Plan.
3. Recommending areas for statutory or administrative designation, within the authority of the Forest Supervisor. Reference FSH 1909.24, exhibit 01 for various designated areas and relevant planning and recreation directives.
4. Ensuring program-specific plans (such as, travel management plans, interpretive plans, and so forth), area plans (such as, designated area plans), and project plans (such as, new recreation site developments, trail construction projects, and so forth) are consistent with relevant plan components of the Land Management Plan.

5. Monitoring progress in achieving the desired conditions and other plan components related to sustainable recreation.
6. Identifying and amending the Land Management Plan where changed conditions and/or monitoring results warrant a change in direction.
7. Facilitating public engagement that is inclusive, representing diverse perspectives and needs.

2310.45 - District Ranger

The District Ranger, with the assistance of District staff responsible for Recreation, Heritage, Volunteer Services, Wilderness, and Wild and Scenic Rivers is responsible for:

1. Ensuring sustainable recreation is integrated with biophysical considerations during project planning including: during the development of the purpose and need, and in the design of the proposed action and alternatives.
2. Coordinating with relevant Forest and District Staff to ensure planning efforts consider, integrate, and address recreation-related issues, concerns, and opportunities.
3. Ensuring decisions and implementation of resource, area, and project plans are consistent with the land management plan's plan components including desired ROS settings, scenic integrity objectives, and other plan components related to sustainable recreation,
4. Engaging the public throughout the planning process to ensure recreation programs equitably serve the needs of local communities and visitors; foster shared stewardship values; build capacity for implementation and maintenance; and contribute to the local fabric and sense of place.

2310.5 - Definitions

The following definitions are for reference when interpreting this chapter of the manual.

Adaptive Management. The general framework encompassing the three phases of planning: assessment, plan development, and monitoring (36 CFR 219.5). This framework supports decision-making that meets management objectives while simultaneously accruing information to improve future management by adjusting the plan or plan implementation. Adaptive management is a structured, cyclical process for planning and decision making in the face of uncertainty and changing conditions with feedback from monitoring, which includes using the planning process to actively test assumptions, track relevant conditions over time, and measure management effectiveness. (FSH 1909.12, sec. 05 and 06).

Assessment. An analysis and interpretation of the socio-economic, and/or ecological characteristics of an area using scientific principles to describe existing conditions as they affect sustainability. In a land management planning context, assessments rapidly evaluate existing information about relevant socio-economic and ecological conditions, trends, and sustainability and their relationship to the land management plan within the context of the broader landscape to derive a need to change. (36 CFR 219.5(a)(1) and 219.6(a)).

Best Available Scientific Information (BASI). In the context of BASI, “available” means the information currently exists in a form useful for the planning process without further data collection, modification, or validation. BASI includes relevant ecological and socio-economic scientific information. The Responsible Official determines the BASI using three criteria:

1. Accuracy in estimating, identifying, or describing true conditions,
2. Reliability in providing consistent results, and
3. Relevance to issues under consideration. (FSH 1909.12, zero code, sec. 07)

Broader landscape. An area that includes the plan area and the lands surrounding the plan area. The spatial extent of the broader landscape varies depending upon the socio-economic and/or ecological issues under consideration. (FSH 1909.12, zero code, sec.05).

Designated Area. An area or feature identified and managed to maintain its unique character or purpose. There are two types of designations: statutorily designated (such as, wilderness, national heritage areas, national recreation areas, national scenic and historic trails, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness study areas) and administratively designated areas (such as, experimental forests, research natural areas, scenic byways, botanical areas, and significant caves). (36 CFR 219.19 and FSH 1909.12, zero code sec. 05).

Development Scale. A classification system for recreation sites that distinguishes the degree of site amenities and alteration present. Development scales range from 0 (no Forest Service investment or amenities) to 5 (designed developed site with significant Forest Service investment and delineation). Reference FSH 2309.13, sec. 10.5 and 10.8.

Distinctive Roles and Contributions. A description of an area’s key attributes and associated benefits & outcomes (uses, values, products, and services) that NFS lands are: uniquely poised to provide when viewed within a larger context; important and relevant at the local, regional and/or national levels; and contribute toward socio-economic and ecological sustainability. It serves as a unifying context under which integrated desired conditions and other plan components are designed to support. Reference FSH 1909.12, chapter 20, section 22.32.

Forest Service Manual 2300 – Recreation, Wilderness, And Related Resource Management
Chapter 2310 - Sustainable Recreation Planning
Amendment: 2300-2020-1
Effective date: April 23, 2020

Ecological Sustainability. The capability of ecosystems to maintain ecological integrity. (36 CFR 219.19)

Economic Sustainability. The capability of society to produce and consume or otherwise benefit from goods and services including contributions to jobs and market and nonmarket benefits. (36 CFR 219.19)

Ecosystem Services. Benefits people obtain from ecosystems, including:

1. Provisioning services, such as clean air and fresh water, energy, fuel, forage, fiber, and minerals;
2. Regulating services, such as long term storage of carbon; climate regulation; water filtration, purification, and storage; soil stabilization; flood control; and disease regulation;
3. Supporting Services, such as pollination, seed dispersal, soil formation, and nutrient cycling; and
4. Cultural Services: such as educational, aesthetics, spiritual and cultural heritage values, recreational experiences and tourism opportunities. (36 CFR 219.19 and FSH 1909.12, zero code, 05)

Integrated resource management. Multiple use management that recognizes the interdependence of ecological resources and is based on the need for integrated consideration of ecological, social, and economic factors. (36 CFR 219.19)

Key Ecosystem Services. The Ecosystem Services provided by the plan area that are important in the broader landscape outside the plan area and are likely to be influenced by the plan. (FSH 1909.12, zero code, sec. 05)

Land Management Plan (LMP). A document or set of documents that provide management direction for an administrative unit of the NFS developed under the requirements of the planning rule (36 CFR 219.19). Land Management Plans guide sustainable, integrated resource management of the resources within the plan area in the context of the broader landscape, giving due consideration to the relative values of the various resources in particular areas (36 CFR 219.1 (b))

Landscape. A defined area irrespective of ownership or other artificial boundaries, such as a spatial mosaic of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, landforms, and plant communities, repeated in similar form throughout such a defined area. (36 CFR 219.19)

Monitoring. A systematic process of collecting information to evaluate actions or changes in conditions and relationships. (36 CFR 219.19)

Natural Resource Manager (NRM). A system of database tools for managing Agency data across the Forest Service. There are four database categories. They include:

1. Infrastructure (INFRA), providing corporate data and analysis tools related to Forest Service infrastructure such as: roads, trails, recreation sites, administrative sites, and others;
2. Timber Information Manager (TIM) data and tools to support timber-related business requirements such as: Sale Contracts; Salvage Sales; Stewardship Contracts; and Special Forest Products Permits, in addition to service-wide reporting needs;
3. Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS) data and analysis tools to support requirements related to the Chief's performance reporting, and Freedom of Information Act requests; and
4. Natural Resource Information System (NRIS), providing corporate data and analysis tools to support: land management planning; forest and rangeland health assessments; watershed restoration projects; hazardous fuels mitigation; biological evaluations; and landscape assessments at multiple planning scales.

National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM). A statistically sound survey sampling process to estimate annual recreation use levels (number of visits) and characteristics (demographic information, satisfaction levels, types of activities engaged in, and spending information). Data is collected and analyzed at the forest or grassland scale. NVUM surveys are conducted in a 5-year cycle and include all forests and grasslands in the nation.

Niche. A description of the plan area, or portion of the plan area, that reflects the integration of recreation demand and supply to reveal unique or distinctive attributes and roles when viewed within a larger context or market area. It is derived through public engagement and institutional knowledge of: special places; unique recreation opportunities and activities; key attractions; visitor destinations; distinct landscape characteristics; community connections; cultural and heritage resources; and resulting benefits to local communities and of potential regional and national significance. In a land management planning context, the plan area's recreation niche can be used to inform the land management plan's distinctive roles and contributions.

Place-based Information. Characterizes the attachments (values, attitudes, and connections: spiritual, sights, sounds, smells, and so forth) that visitors and communities have to specific locations and areas. Place-based information often identifies unique characteristics (for example, physical, biological, cultural, historic, and so forth), or social qualities and attachments when viewed within a larger context. In a land management plan context, place-based information can: inform a unit's distinctive roles and contributions; describe and/or delineate allocations (for example, geographic areas, recommended designated areas, and/or other distinct places); and focus plan direction to

ensure the values and connections people have with identified places are maintained for future generations. Recognizing valued places can also create a foundation for building strategic partnerships and citizen stewardship.

Plan Components. The parts of a land management plan that guide future project and activity decision-making. Specific plan components may apply to the entire plan area, to specific management areas or geographic area, or to other areas identified in the plan. Plan components include: desired conditions, goals (optional), objectives, standards, guidelines, and suitability of lands. (36 CFR 219.19)

Project. An organized effort to achieve an outcome on NFS lands identified by location, tasks, outputs, effects, times, and responsibilities for execution. (36 CFR 219.19)

Recreation Access. Visitor access to and within National Forest system lands, through a variety of legally-authorized travel modes (FSH 2309.13, sec.10.5). Travel modes (foot, horse, bicycle, motorized vehicle, boat, or plane) and associated infrastructure (trails, roads, boat launches, airstrips, and parking areas) are for the purpose of engaging in recreation activities in specific recreation settings on NFS lands.

Recreation Benefits. Positive experiences and other positive outcomes that people derive from participating in outdoor settings. Benefits include those derived from the natural environment (ecosystem services), the built environment, and/or from specific program management and services. Examples include improved: physical and mental health, family cohesion, social integration, child development, economic stimulation, work productivity, resource stewardship, and conservation ethic. (Also reference Ecosystem Services).

Recreation Experience. The perceptions, feelings, and reactions that a visitor has before, during, and after a visit to an area. (Interagency Visitor Use Management Framework, A guide to Providing Sustainable Outdoor Recreation, Edition One, July 2016)

Recreation Opportunity. An opportunity to participate in a specific recreation activity in a particular recreation setting to enjoy desired recreation experiences and other benefits that accrue. Recreation opportunities include non-motorized, motorized, developed, and dispersed recreation on land, water, and in the air. (36 CFR 219.19 and FSH 1909.12, zero code, sec. 05)

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). A system, by which existing and desired recreation settings are defined, classified, inventoried, and monitored. Recreation settings are divided into six distinct classes (primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, road natural, rural, and urban). Classifications are based on physical, social, and managerial setting characteristics (reference ROS Setting Characteristics in the section). The underlying premise of the ROS is that visitors choose a specific setting and activity to derive desired experience(s) and other benefits.

ROS Class Characteristics. The physical, social, and managerial features that function collectively to define a specific recreation opportunity spectrum setting (ROS class). Because setting characteristics may change by season, the corresponding ROS class may also change by season. Both summer and winter setting characteristics for each of the six primary ROS classes are summarized in section 2311, exhibit 01.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Classes. There are six, nationally defined, Recreation Opportunity Classes or Settings. They are defined by the social, managerial, and physical characteristics (reference ROS Setting Characteristics Table in this section) of a place that, when combined, provide distinct recreation opportunities. (36 CFR 219.19 and FSH 1909.12, zero code, sec. 05) The terms “recreation setting” and “recreation class” are synonymous and used interchangeably throughout this manual). Each of the six primary ROS settings/classes is defined below:

1. Primitive settings encompass large, wild, and predominately unmodified landscapes. Their size and configuration create remoteness from the sights and sounds of human activities, management, and development. Signs and other structures are minimal and constructed of rustic, native materials. Motorized travel does not occur. Encounters with other users is very low, offering visitors the opportunity for solitude, self-reliance, closeness with nature, challenge, risk, and discovery. Many primitive settings coincide with designated wilderness areas in which mechanized equipment is not present. Additional primitive settings may also occur outside of wilderness areas. Mechanized travel and motorized equipment may occur in non-wilderness primitive settings.
2. Semi-Primitive Non-motorized settings are characterized by predominantly natural or natural-appearing landscapes. The size of these areas facilitate distance from more heavily used and developed areas, creating a sense of remoteness. Interaction with other users is low. These settings provide opportunities for self-reliance and utilizing wildland skills. Motorized vehicles are not present, while mountain bikes, and other mechanized equipment may be present. Although some roads may be evident, they do not dominate the landscape. Vehicular use is infrequent. Occasional administrative use occurs on these roads for the purpose of natural and cultural resource protection and management.
3. Semi-Primitive Motorized classes are characterized as predominately natural or natural appearing backcountry settings. Motorized travel by off-highway vehicles (OHVs) or high clearance vehicles occurs on designated routes and areas. Motorized routes are typically maintenance level 0-2 roads or motorized trails, offering a high degree of self-reliance, challenge, and risk in exploring these large backcountry settings. Mountain bikes, other mechanized equipment, and non-motorized uses, are also present. Limited rustic facilities are present for the purpose of visitor safety, sanitation and resource protection.

4. Roaded Natural settings are characterized by predominately natural-appearing settings, with moderate sights and sounds of human activities and development. The overall perception is one of naturalness. Evidence of human activity varies from area to area and may include: improved highways and high maintenance level roads; developed campgrounds and other recreation sites; small resorts and summer homes; and evidence of other multiple uses and management activities such as livestock grazing, timber harvesting, mining, watershed restoration activities, and oil and gas operations. Roads, motorized equipment, and vehicles are common in this setting. Non-motorized uses are also present. The density of use is moderate except at developed sites, where concentrations of use are higher. Regulations pertaining to user behaviors are common but generally less restrictive than those in the Rural and Urban ROS classes.

5. Rural settings are characterized as modified natural environments. While these landscapes often contain geometric patterns created by management activities, there is a dominant sense of open, green-space, typically characterized as pastoral farm and ranch lands. Facilities are common and may include: resorts and summer home complexes; administrative sites and work centers; and highly developed campgrounds, interpretive sites, trailheads, picnic areas, and other recreation facilities. The sights and sounds of human activity and management are readily evident and the level of interaction with other users ranges from moderate to high.

6. Urban settings are characterized as highly modified landscapes, dominated by structures and other infrastructure. Clustered facilities contain amenities for user convenience and comfort. There is a preponderance of on-site regulations that direct and limit the behavior of visitors. Very high and concentrated use levels are common. These settings are typically small in overall size and not common on forest system lands. Large ski areas, visitor centers, and resorts are sometimes classified as urban ROS settings.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Subclass. Areas within one of the six primary desired ROS classes that exhibit unique or distinct characteristics that occur in more than one location across the unit, region, or nation. The purpose of subclasses is to better convey desired setting characteristics (physical, social, and/or managerial) so that management direction and actions can be designed to maintain or achieve those desired characteristics and associated benefits. Reference FSH 1909.12, sec. 23.23a, 2.a.

Resource Program and area plans. Plans that address a specific multiple use or resource program on the forest or grassland, or portion of one or more forests or grasslands. The plan area can be delineated by ecological units (such as, watersheds, wildlife habitat areas, riparian areas, geological formations or features, and so forth), and/or by socio-economic considerations (such as, market area, designated area, urban interface area, administrative units such as a ranger district, and so forth). Common examples of recreation-related resource program plans include: facilities plans, travel management plans, interpretive plans, etc. Area-specific plans include: National Scenic or Historic

Forest Service Manual 2300 – Recreation, Wilderness, And Related Resource Management
Chapter 2310 - Sustainable Recreation Planning
Amendment: 2300-2020-1
Effective date: April 23, 2020

Trail Plans, National Monument Plans, Comprehensive River Management Plans, National Recreation Area Plans, etc. Resource program and area plans must be consistent with land management plan direction. Reference 36 CFR 219.15.

Scenic Character. A combination of the physical, biological, and cultural images that gives an area its scenic identity and contributes to its sense of place. Scenic character provides a frame of reference from which to determine scenic attractiveness and to measure scenic integrity. (36 CFR 219.19) The term scenic character replaces the term landscape character, as defined and referenced in FSM 2380 and Agriculture Handbook 701.

Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIOs). The minimum degree to which desired scenic character attributes are to remain intact (Agriculture Handbook 701, page 20 and 5-9). There are four, nationally defined Scenic Integrity Objectives (SIOs) that can serve as desired conditions, and one (Very Low) used only in describing existing (not desired) conditions. Each is defined below.

Very High	The landscape is intact with only minor changes from the valued attributes described in the scenic character.
High	Management activities are unnoticed and the landscape appears unaltered.
Moderate	Management activities are noticeable but are subordinate to the scenic character. The landscape appears slightly altered.
Low	The landscape appears altered. Management activities are evident and sometimes dominate, but are designed to blend with surroundings by repeating form, line, color, and texture of attributes described in the scenic character.
Very Low	Used to describe landscapes that are heavily altered and in which the valued attributes described in the scenic character are not evident. Very Low is used only to describe the existing scenic integrity. It is NOT used as an SIO or desired condition.

Scenery Management System (SMS). The Scenery management system provides a systematic approach to inventory, analyze, monitor, and define desired conditions for the scenic resources on NFS lands. Reference FSM 2380 and Agriculture Handbook 701.

Scenic Stability/Sustainability. The degree to which the valued scenic character and its scenery attributes can be sustained through time and ecological progression. Reference the Scenic Stability/Sustainability Technical Guide, sometimes referred to as Appendix J.

Sense of Place (SOP). The cultural and physical attributes of an area that provide meaning or value to communities and visitors. SOP characterizes the connection people have with specific landscapes. In a Land Management Plan context, SOP can help inform a unit's distinctive roles and contributions, describe valued places, and focus plan

components to ensure the values and connections people have with the plan area are maintained for future generations.

Sustainability. The capability to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

1. Ecological sustainability refers to the capability of ecosystems to maintain ecological integrity;
2. Economic sustainability refers to the capability of society to produce and consume or other benefit from goods and services including contributions to jobs and market and nonmarket benefits; and
3. Social sustainability refers to the capability of society to support the network of relationships, traditions, culture, and activities that connect people to the land and to one another, and support vibrant communities. (36 CFR 219.19).

Sustainable Recreation. The set of recreation settings and opportunities on the National Forest System that is ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable for present and future generations. (36 CFR 219.19 and FSH 1909.12, zero code, sec. 05). At the forest scale, sustainable recreation is derived through the integrated planning process and emerges as the resultant set of desired recreation opportunities spectrum classes and other plan components. (FSH 1909.12, ch. 20, 23.23 1.d.).

Trail Class. The prescribed scale of development for a trail, representing its intended design and management standards (FSM 2353.05). Trail Classes are general categories reflecting trail development scale, arranged along a continuum, ranging from the least developed (Trail Class 1) to the most developed (Trail Class 5).

2311- Corporate Forest Service Data, Tools, and Applications

In addition to policy related to recreation-related data and tools (FSM 2310.3, 2.), there are discrete requirements related to the inventory and applications of specific tools and data.

1. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) must be used to:
 - a. Map and convey the existing condition of recreation settings, opportunities, and predicted experiences and other associated benefits across the plan area. (Reference, FSH 1909.12, sec. 23.23a, ex. 01; sec. 23.23a 1d and 2a). The characteristics of each ROS setting (class) are displayed in exhibit 01.
 - (1) Use the latest National ROS inventory protocols to map existing ROS classes for summer, and where relevant, winter settings: http://fsweb.datamgt.fs.fed.us/current_data_dictionary/index.shtml.

(2) Review decisions from Subpart B (for example, Motor Vehicle Use Maps) and Subpart C (for example, Over-Snow Vehicle Use Maps) of the Travel Management Rule to inform existing summer and winter ROS settings. (FSH 1909.12, sec. 23.23l, 2 and 23.23l, 3a & c)

b. Map and convey desired recreation settings and opportunities. Desired ROS classes must be:

(1) Derived using an interdisciplinary process;

(2) Informed by Subpart A of the Travel Management Rule. (FSH 1909.12, sec. 23.23l, 2 and 23.23l 3a & c);

(3) Compatible with the desired conditions of other multiple uses and resource values;

(4) Reflective of seasonal changes by describing and mapping desired winter ROS classes where relevant (for example, for those units subject to 36 CFR 212.81);

(5) Refined where unique or valued biophysical, social, managerial, and/or cultural attributes warrant special protection or enhancement. This is accomplished through the development of desired ROS sub-classes (FSH 1909.12, sec. 23.23a. 1d.(1)).

(a) Each desired ROS sub-class must tier to one of the 6 primary ROS classes.

(b) Review and approval of proposed sub-classes should be coordinated with the Regional Director of Recreation to facilitate regional consistency and enable their use beyond the boundaries of one forest or grassland; and

(6) Used to assess and guide project consistency (such as, specific motorized route and area designations made in travel management planning). Reference: FSH 1909.12, sec. 23.23a, 2.d and sec. 23.23l.

Forest Service Manual 2300 – Recreation, Wilderness, And Related Resource Management
Chapter 2310 - Sustainable Recreation Planning
Amendment: 2300-2020-1
Effective date: April 23, 2020

2311– Exhibit 01: Physical, Managerial, and Social Characteristics for each ROS Setting

ROS	Setting	Summer Characteristics	Winter Characteristics
Primitive (P) ROS Class	Physical	Theme: Predominately unmodified, naturally evolving, vast, and remote	
		Remoteness: 3 miles or more from designated motorized routes and areas	
		Size: 5,000 or more acres	
		Infrastructure (access and facilities) Access - Non-motorized trails; typically trail class 1; Travel on foot and horse; no motorized travel; no mechanized travel within designated Wilderness Rec sites – Typically development scale 0, no improvements. Sanitation – no facilities, leave no trace; Water supply – undeveloped, natural; Signing – minimal, constructed of rustic natural materials. Interpretation - through self-discovery Water crossing – minimal, pedestrian only, made of natural materials.	Access – No roads or motorized trails. User-created ski and snow shoe routes, No motorized over-snow vehicles are present. No mechanized travel within designated wilderness is present. No other infrastructure or facilities typically present.
		Vegetation: Natural, no treatments except for fire use.	
		Scenic Integrity: Very high.	
	Managerial	Little to no on-site regimentation, few encounters with Forest Service personnel or partners/ volunteers working on behalf of the agency. Visitor use management is largely off-site and accomplished through regulation, permitting, and other visitor use management techniques.	
	Social	Very high probability of solitude; closeness to nature; self-reliance, high challenge and risk; little evidence of people. Typically 6 or less encounters with other parties on trails, and less than 3 parties visible from camping sites.	

Forest Service Manual 2300 – Recreation, Wilderness, And Related Resource Management

Chapter 2310 - Sustainable Recreation Planning

Amendment: 2300-2020-1

Effective date: April 23, 2020

ROS	Setting	Summer Characteristics	Winter Characteristics
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM) ROS Class	Physical	Theme: Predominately natural/natural appearing; rustic improvements to protect resources.	
		Remoteness: ½ mile or more from designated motorized routes and areas.	
		Size: 2,500 or more acres	
		Infrastructure (access and facilities) Access - Non-motorized routes; trail classes 1-2 typical. Foot/horse/mountain bike use - no motorized travel. Closed and temporary roads may be present. Rec sites – Typically development scale 0-1, sometimes development scale 2. Minor investments to protect natural and cultural resources. Sanitation – no facilities, leave no trace Water supply – undeveloped, natural Signing – rustic, natural materials. Interpretation - typically self-discovery Water crossing – rustic structures for foot/horse and bicycle traffic.	Access – Ungroomed non-motorized trails with some trail markers, user created routes and areas for ski or snow-shoe use. No over-snow vehicles are present. No other infrastructure or facilities typically available.
		Vegetation: Treatments enhance forest health and mimic natural vegetation patterns.	
		Scenic Integrity: Typically High	
	Managerial	Minimum or subtle signing, regulations, or other on-site regimentation. Low encounters with Forest Service personnel or partners/volunteers working on behalf of the agency.	
	Social	High probability of solitude, closeness to nature, self-reliance. High to moderate challenge and risk. Usually 6-15 encounters with other parties on trails. 6 or less parties visible from camping sites.	

Forest Service Manual 2300 – Recreation, Wilderness, And Related Resource Management

Chapter 2310 - Sustainable Recreation Planning

Amendment: 2300-2020-1

Effective date: April 23, 2020

ROS	Setting	Summer Characteristics	Winter Characteristics
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) ROS Class	Physical	Theme: Predominately natural appearing, motorized use visible and audible.	
		Remoteness: ½ mile or more from maintenance level 3-5 roads but containing ML 2 roads and motorized trails and/or designated motorized areas	½ mile or more from plowed road.
		Size: 2,500 or more acres	
		Infrastructure (access and facilities) Access - Motorized routes: maintenance level 2 roads and trail class 2 typical; Off-highway vehicles allowed on designated routes and areas Rec sites – Typically development scales 0-2; Purpose of investments (infrastructure) is to protect natural and cultural resources. Sanitation - limited facilities, outhouses may be in areas of concentrated use. Water supply - undeveloped natural Signing - rustic, made of natural materials Interpretation - self-discovery, located off-site or at trailheads; Water crossing - rustic structures or bridges.	Access – ungroomed but marked over-snow vehicle routes and areas. Ungroomed ski trails. Over-snow vehicle use on designated routes/areas. Few, if any, facilities or services available.
		Vegetation: treatments improve forest health and mimic natural vegetation patterns.	
		Scenic Integrity: Typically High to Moderate	
	Managerial	Minimum, subtle on-site controls; designated motorized routes/areas	Minimum, subtle on-site controls; designated routes and areas for over-snow vehicles.
	Social	Moderate to high probability of solitude. High to moderate degree of risk/challenge. Usually 6-15 encounters with other parties on trails. 6 or less parties visible from camping sites.	

ROS	Setting	Summer Characteristics	Winter Characteristics
Roaded Natural (RN) ROS Class	Physical	Theme: Natural appearing with nodes and corridors of development such as campgrounds, trailheads, boat launches, and rustic, small-scale resorts.	
		Remoteness: Within ½ mile of maintenance level 3-5 roads. Maintenance level 2 roads may also be present.	
		Size: NA	
		Infrastructure (access and facilities): Access – Typically: maintenance level 3-5 roads. Maintenance level 2 roads may also be present. Typically trail classes 3-4, Highway vehicles, off-highway vehicles, and other motorized travel on designated routes Rec sites – Typically development scales 0-3, sometimes development scale 4. Sanitation – typically vault toilets Water supply – often developed Signing – variety of materials, blend with natural setting Interpretation – simple roadside signs, some interpretive displays Water crossings – bridges, natural materials	Access – Some plowed roads and groomed over-snow vehicle routes. Groomed ski trails may also exist. Warming huts, cabins, and rustic facilities may be present.
		Vegetation: Vegetation treatment are evident but in harmony with the scenic character.	
		Scenic Integrity: Ranges from High to Low. Note that low scenic integrity is typically in highly manipulated settings where the evidence of mining, extensive timber harvest, or other management activities that are dominant on the landscape.	
	Managerial	Signs and regulations present but typically subordinate to the setting. Moderate likelihood of encountering Forest Service personnel or volunteers/partners working on behalf of the agency.	
	Social	Moderate evidence of human sights and sounds; moderate concentration of users at developed recreation sites; little challenge or risk is expected in these outdoor settings due to nearby amenities and management controls (see above physical and managerial characteristics). Opportunities to socialize.	

Forest Service Manual 2300 – Recreation, Wilderness, And Related Resource Management

Chapter 2310 - Sustainable Recreation Planning

Amendment: 2300-2020-1

Effective date: April 23, 2020

ROS	Setting	Summer Characteristics	Winter Characteristics
Rural (R) ROS Class	Physical	Theme: Altered landscapes with cultural emphasis such as: rural, pastoral, and/or agricultural. Administrative sites, historic complexes, and moderately developed resorts such as local ski areas, are typical.	
		Remoteness: not remote, often near other (non-FS) rural settings and communities.	
		Size: n/a but typically small parcels within larger roaded natural settings.	
		Infrastructure (access and facilities): Access – Typically maintenance level 3-5 roads and trail classes 3-5, Mass transit sometimes available Rec sites – Typically development scale 4-5 Sanitation – Flush toilets Water supply – developed, showers common Signing – natural and synthetic materials Interpretation –roadside exhibits, interpretive. programs, etc. Water crossings – bridges that accommodate: highway vehicles, recreation vehicles and heavy equipment.	Access – Groomed over-snow vehicle routes, groomed cross-country skiing, skate skiing, and downhill ski/snowboard trails. Over-snow vehicle use on designated routes and areas, Full service facilities: and resorts often present.
		Vegetation: treatments often visible, blend with landscape	
		Scenic Integrity: Ranges from High to Low.	
	Managerial	Obvious signing (regulation and information), education and law enforcement staff. Motorized and mechanized travel common and often separated.	
	Social	High interaction among users is common. Other people in constant view. Little challenge or risk associated with being outdoors.	

Forest Service Manual 2300 – Recreation, Wilderness, And Related Resource Management
Chapter 2310 - Sustainable Recreation Planning
Amendment: 2300-2020-1
Effective date: April 23, 2020

ROS	Setting	Summer Characteristics	Winter Characteristics
Urban (U) ROS Class	Physical	Theme: Highly developed site modifications and facilities. Regionally significant ski areas and other destination resorts as well as large, highly developed visitor centers are examples of urban nodes within NF System lands.	
		Remoteness: often close to towns and cities.	
		Size: n/a but typically small nodes	
		Infrastructure (access and facilities): Access – Typically maintenance level 4-5 roads and trail classes 4-5, mass transit often available Rec sites – Typically development scale 5, sometimes development scale 4. Sanitation – flush toilets. Water supply – Hot water, showers Signing – extensive. Interpretation –exhibits in staffed visitor centers, highly developed and formalized exhibits. Water crossings - bridges for: highway vehicles, buses, recreation vehicles, and heavy equipment.	Access – Groomed over-snow vehicle routes, groomed cross-country skiing, skate skiing and downhill ski/snowboard trails. Full service facilities: visitor centers, resorts and lodging often present.
		Vegetation: often planted, manicured, and maintained	
		Scenic Integrity: Ranges from High to Low	
	Managerial	Intensive on-site management, obvious signs, and staffing, education and law enforcement available. Motorized and mechanized travel on designated routes.	
	Social	High degree of interaction with people. People are in constant view. Challenge and risk are unimportant except for competitive sports.	

2. The Scenery Management System (SMS) must be used to:

- a. Convey and map the existing condition and trends of the scenery resources. Elements of the inventory should include: scenic character; how intact the attributes of the scenic character are (scenic integrity and/or scenic stability/sustainability); the degree of scenic diversity (scenic attractiveness); how and where people view the scenery (distance zones); and the importance of scenery to those viewing it (concern levels). Reference: FSM 1921.03, 2c; FSH 1909.23.23f; FSM 2380; and Agriculture Handbook 701.
- b. Convey and map the desired scenic character. Scenic Integrity objectives should be allocated to convey the degree to which desired attributes of the scenic charter are to remain intact. Scenic integrity objectives are not the same as plan component “objectives” defined in the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CRF 219.19). Scenic integrity

- objectives should be allocated in forest plans as desired conditions (FSH 1909.12, sec. 23.23f 2(1)) and complement desired ROS settings. Scenic integrity objectives define the maximum allowable deviation from attributes described in the desired scenic character. Reference: FSM 1921.03, 2c; FSH 1909.23.23f; and Agriculture Handbook 701, pages 20 and 5-9.
3. National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) data and tools are in the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) database of the Natural Resource Manager (NRM) data system. NVUM data is statistically sound at the forest scale and is used to:
 - a. Describe existing and trending: recreation visits; visitor demographics; satisfaction levels; participation rates for various recreation activities (such as, hiking, OHV use, viewing scenery, fishing, and so forth); and economic contributions from recreation use.
 - b. Assess, compare and contrast the plan area's visitors and activities with those in the broader landscape. This can inform the plan area's niche or distinctive roles and contributions.
 - c. Focus direction and guidance (for example, plan components) to improve or maintain visitor satisfaction levels, remove barriers for participation by underserved populations; and
 - d. Monitor progress in meeting desired conditions to inform adaptive management. For example, NVUM data may reveal a need to:
 - (1) Increase management focus on specific recreation setting or site characteristics (such as, road conditions, signing, sanitation, and so forth) that have lower satisfaction ratings than importance ratings;
 - (2) Adjust the type, quantity, and/or capacity of recreation sites where use levels are very low (a potential indicator of demand); and
 - (3) Identify underserved populations to inform public engagement strategies that are more inclusive and result in a better understanding and responsiveness to the recreation-related needs and desires of all market area populations.
 4. Natural Resource Manager (NRM) data related to recreation sites, trails, roads, and facilities is in the Infrastructure (INFRA) database and is used to:
 - a. Describe the existing: number and types of recreation sites; existing miles and types of trails and roads; deferred maintenance levels; capacity and occupancy levels by recreation site type; whether sites and trails are accessible to people with disabilities and so forth. This may inform the land management plan's Need to Change (quantity, quality, type, mix, and distribution) or the Purpose and Need of other planning efforts; and

- b. Design Land Management Plan direction (for example, plan components) to: better align infrastructure with existing and predicted needs and demands; address resources related impacts; reduce deferred maintenance backlogs; and complement opportunities provided in adjacent lands and surrounding communities.
5. Data related to Cultural and Heritage resources is in the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) database of the Natural Resource Manager (NRM) data system. Cultural and Heritage resource data is used to:
- a. Quantify and describe the existing and trending conditions of cultural resources, often integral to associated recreation settings, opportunities, and benefits;
 - b. Supplement information from existing cultural resource overviews, reports, and local knowledge; and
 - c. Integrate and assess cultural resources with recreation-related data and other resource information to identify issues, concerns, and opportunities. This may inform the Need to Change in a Land Management Plan context; or the Purpose and Need in project planning. For example:
 - (1) Identify areas or sites requiring protection and/or maintenance,
 - (2) Identify areas or sites at risk,
 - (3) Identify opportunities for interpretation of cultural resources; and
 - d. Design direction and guidance to protect, maintain, or enhance the plan area's cultural resources.
 - e. Subdivide and/or zone the plan area, such as geographic areas or management areas in a land management plan context; highlight areas for designation; or identify places requiring discrete direction, guidelines, or sideboards. Where cultural resources are prevalent in a specific ROS class, consider establishing a ROS sub-class with a cultural resource theme (such as: Civilian Conversation Corps (CCC) Roaded Natural, or Rural Heritage).
6. Recreation Special Uses data and tools are in the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) database of the Natural Resource Manager (NRM) data system. Data is used to:
- a. Describe and spatially convey the existing types (such as, hunting outfitter-guides, permitted river rafting shuttle system, and so forth) of recreation services provided;
 - b. Convey current use levels of permitted activities and resulting contributions to local, regional and national economies;

- c. Quantify other socio-economic and ecological contributions of recreation special uses;
 - d. Consider how the provided recreation special uses (RSUs) interface with other uses and resource values to identify issues, concerns, and/or opportunities that may inform the Need to Change in a Land Management Plan context; or the Purpose and Need in project planning. For example, the data may:
 - (1) Identify potential areas of conflict between permitted uses and general public use;
 - (2) Identify potential needs or opportunities to adjust RSUs to better meet identified recreation demands;
 - (3) Identify opportunities to expand, alter, or introduce RSUs that complement the sense of place of local communities and their economies.
 - e. Inform direction, guidance, and sideboards (such as, plan components in a land management plan) that address issues, concerns, and opportunities, and ensure recreation services support the plan area's niche or distinctive roles and contributions.
7. Natural Resource Manager (NRM) data and tools related to Congressionally Designated Areas (such as: Wilderness, National Scenic and Historic Trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and so forth) and/or Administratively Designated Areas (such as, Scenic Areas, Historic Areas, Recreation Areas, Scenic Byways, and so forth) are used to:
- a. Describe the existing and trending conditions of specific designated areas (36 CFR 219.19 and FSH 1909.12, sec. 24, ex. 01); and
 - b. Identify area-specific issues, concerns, and opportunities:
 - (1) Identify resource values that require additional protection.
 - (2) Identify opportunities for improving recreation opportunities, experiences, and other benefits.
 - c. Design direction, guidance, and sideboards (plan components in a land management plan context) to protect, maintain, or enhance the valued attributes and characteristics of designated areas and/or areas recommended for designation; and
 - d. Ensure area specific management plans are consistent with land management plan direction. Where inconsistencies occur, either amend the land management plan or make changes to the area specific plan. Reference 36 CFR 219.15, FSH 1909.12, section 24.3.
 - e. Monitor compliance with statutory or administrative requirements for congressionally or administratively designated areas.