

Appendix Q. Recreation Settings and Descriptions

Setting prescriptions are a way of describing the desired conditions for recreation resources in an SRMA's RMZs. The LSFO has identified a spectrum of four generalized settings for this planning area, and uses the terms "community interface," "passage," "front country," and "back country" to describe them. Each setting is defined by nine components. The four setting definitions do not change from alternative to alternative, but the combination of settings and the amount of each is prescribed individually for each RMZ to achieve the desired outcomes of each alternative. To simplify the discussion below, only the four generalized settings are used to describe the setting prescription.

The following discussion explains the prescribed settings displayed on the allocation decision maps that follow. The four prescribed settings (community interface, front country, passage, and back country) represent different combinations of the nine components of recreation resource settings. Actions that take place within these settings can only be allowed if they remain within the criteria for each of the nine components.

Q.1. Community Interface

The Community Interface setting represents public lands bordering or surrounded by communities and their associated urban infrastructure. This setting will also include lands projected to be influenced by the increasing urbanization of the planning area over the next 15 to 20 years. The setting is generally natural in appearance, but the landscape is subject to change from intensive recreation activities and other land use authorizations.

Physical Conditions

Remoteness - Not remote, directly adjacent to urban and rural housing and communities.

Naturalness - This setting can be natural in appearance, but the landscape is subject to high evidence of human change.

Facilities - Degree of developed user facilities will be moderate to high. Rustic facilities at camping areas may expand outer limits of camping areas as needed to meet demand.

Social Conditions

Contacts - There is a moderate to high level of interaction among users. Visitors may encounter more than 150 people per day.

Group size - Up to 75 people, and associated equipment in existing, and/or designated, vehicle parking, staging, and camping areas that are large enough to accommodate the group size without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area, may be permitted and encountered. Large group events are generally appropriate to occur here. On case-by-case basis, larger groups may be authorized under SRP or at specific large group sites designated for that purpose.

Evidence of use - Impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year to year.

Administrative Conditions

Mechanized use - Motorized and mechanized use on designated routes. Motorized routes and non-motorized trails may be established based on recreation objectives.

Management controls - High management presence. Moderate to high on-site controls.

Visitor services - Visitor information provision levels are high.

Q.2. Front Country

The Front Country setting is where most locations for intensive resource-dependent recreation uses and facilities are found. The lands are generally natural in appearance and may see minor to moderate alterations over the life of the LUP due to land use authorizations and BLM management actions.

Physical Conditions

Remoteness - Not remote, within a one to two hour drive to urban and rural communities.

Naturalness - Mostly natural environment with low to high evidence of human changes.

Facilities - The extent of developed user facilities will be low to high. Rustic facilities at camping areas may expand outer limits of camping areas as needed to meet demand.

Social Conditions

Contacts - There is a moderate to high level of interaction among users. Visitors may encounter between 50 to 150 individuals singly or in groups per day.

Group size - Up to 75 people, and associated equipment in existing, and/or designated, vehicle parking, staging, and camping areas that are large enough to accommodate the group size without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area, may be permitted and encountered. On case-by-case basis, larger groups may be authorized under SRP or at specific large group sites designated for that purpose.

Evidence of use - Some impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year to year.

Administrative Conditions

Mechanized use - Motorized and mechanized use on designated routes. Motorized routes and non-motorized trails will be established based on recreation objectives and resource protection needs.

Management controls - Low to moderate management presence. Low to high on-site controls.

Visitor services - Visitor information levels are low to moderate.

Q.3. Passage

The Passage setting is found along a motorized travel and transportation corridor entering or traversing RMZs. The Passage setting coincides with and is centered on motorized travel routes designated for public use. The Passage setting is 200-feet wide (100 feet each side of the route centerline). Except for the route itself, the lands are generally natural in appearance and may see minor to moderate alterations over the life of the LUP due to land use authorizations and BLM management actions.

Physical Conditions

Remoteness - Remote setting, within a several hour drive from communities to access areas.

Naturalness - This setting is mostly natural with low to moderate evidence of human induced change.

Facilities - The degree of developed user facilities will be low to moderate. Facilities at camping areas will be rudimentary. Rustic or primitive sites may be developed for resource protection or public safety purposes.

Social Conditions

Contacts - There is a moderate level of interaction among visitors. Visitors may encounter between 25 to 75 individuals or groups per day and occasionally higher numbers particularly in the transitions to Front Country or Community Interface settings.

Group size - Up to 75 people, and associated equipment in existing, and/or designated, vehicle parking, staging, and camping areas that are large enough to accommodate the group size without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area, may be permitted and encountered. On case-by-case basis, larger groups may be authorized under SRP or at specific large group sites designated for that purpose.

Evidence of use - Some impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year to year. Resource changes are evident but harmonious with the natural environment.

Administrative Conditions

Mechanized use - Motorized and mechanized allowed on designated routes only. Non-motorized trailheads to trails transitioning into Back Country settings may be established. Existing motorized routes and non-motorized trails could be maintained; additional trails may established where they meet the desired recreational or resource protection objectives. Existing routes could be re-aligned to improve resource management or public safety. Routes in the Passage setting that are closed or reclaimed for any reason over the life of the plan will automatically reclassify as Back Country settings and with Back Country management prescriptions.

Management controls - Low to moderate management presence. Subtle on-site controls.

Visitor services - Visitor information levels are low to moderate.

Q.4. Back Country

Back Country

Back Country areas are large and natural landscapes. Noticeable human-induced modifications are uncommon. Designated motorized and mechanized travel routes entering or crossing Back Country Zones are allocated to the Passage RMZ. The landscapes are mainly natural in appearance.

Physical Conditions

Remoteness - Area is remote and primitive.

Naturalness - Predominantly natural environment of moderate to large size. Human modifications occasionally evident, but not intrusive.

Facilities - The degree of developed user facilities will be low to none. Typically no camping facilities.

Social Conditions

Contacts - There is a low level of interaction among visitors. Visitors encounter an average of 2-30 individuals singly or in groups per day on designated trails transitioning to Community Interface, Front Country, or Passage settings and 10 or fewer individuals singly or in groups per day in more remote off-trail settings.

Group size - Up to 25 people in areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics, and up to 50 visitors in other Back Country settings, in areas large enough to accommodate the group without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area and for cross-country use in areas that are resilient enough to support that use. Larger groups may be encountered in this setting if authorized under SRP on case-by-case basis or at specific large group sites designated for that purpose.

Evidence of use - Most impacts to soil and vegetation recover yearly or are small areas, typically in areas of light and dispersed use such as desirable camping areas and trails.

Administrative Conditions

Mechanized use - Motorized use is not allowed. Mechanized use is allowed on designated trails. Existing non-motorized trails are maintained; additional trails are established where they meet the desired recreational setting. New motorized or mechanized routes could be designated in this setting, outside of closed OHV designation areas, to resolve public safety or resource protection needs, or to meet specific recreation objectives. These routes would be authorized through travel, transportation, public access, and OHV route planning and processes. If this happens, affected lands would reclassify as Passage settings with Passage management prescriptions.

Management controls - Low management presence. Minimum on-site controls.

Visitor services - Visitor information levels are low.

Q.5. Description Matrix

Table Q.1. Description of Recreation Management Settings for Lower Sonoran and SDNM

Setting Description	Community Interface	Front Country	Passage	Back Country
Setting Description	Community Interface represents public lands bordering or surrounded by communities and their associated urban infrastructure. This zone will also include lands projected to be influenced by the increasing urbanization of the planning area over the next 15 to 20 years.	Front Country offers the main setting and locations for intensive resource-dependent recreation uses and facilities. Motorized and mechanized vehicles must remain on existing or designated routes.	Passage setting provides a motorized travel corridor traversing the Back Country setting. This corridor is 200 feet wide (100 feet each side), centered on a motorized travel route designated for public use, and is available for management infrastructure in response to resource concerns and visitor demand.	Back Country areas are large and natural landscapes. Noticeable human-induced modifications are uncommon. Designated motorized and mechanized travel routes entering or crossing Back Country settings are allocated to the Passage setting.
	The zone can be natural in appearance, but the landscape is subject to change from intensive recreation activities and other land use authorizations.	The lands are generally natural in appearance and may see minor to moderate alterations over the life of the LUP due to land use authorizations and BLM management actions.	The lands are generally natural in appearance and may see minor to moderate alterations over the life of the LUP due to land use authorizations and BLM management actions.	The landscapes are mainly natural in appearance.
Prescribed Setting Character				
<i>Physical Conditions</i>				
Remoteness	Not remote, directly adjacent to urban and rural housing and communities.	Moderately remote, within a one to two hour drive from urban and rural communities.	Remote setting, within a several hour drive from communities to access areas.	Area is remote and primitive.
Naturalness	This zone can be natural in appearance, but the landscape is subject to high evidence of human change.	Mostly natural environment with low to high evidence of human changes at specific attractions.	This zone is mostly natural with low to moderate evidence of human induced change.	Predominantly natural environment of moderate to large size. Human modifications occasionally evident, but not intrusive.
Facilities	Degree of developed user facilities will be moderate to high.	The extent of developed user facilities will be low to high.	The degree of developed user facilities will be low to moderate.	The degree of developed user facilities will be low to none.
<i>Social Conditions</i>				

Contacts	Generally there is high level of interaction among users. Visitors may encounter more than 150 people per day.	Moderate to high level of interaction (average 25-150 individuals singly or in groups per day).	Generally the level of interaction among visitors is low (up to 25 individuals per day) but occasionally up to 150 individuals singly or in groups per day.	The level of interaction among visitors is low. Visitors encounter up to 25 individuals singly or in groups per day on designated trails or near Community Interface, Front Country, or Passage settings and 10 or fewer individuals singly or in groups per day in more remote off-trail settings.
Group Size	Generally the maximum group size would be up to 200 individuals.	Generally the maximum group size would be up to 75 individuals, but groups of up to 200 may be encountered under permit.	Generally up to 25-50 individuals with the occasional group size reaching 200 individuals.	Generally a maximum group size up to 50 individuals.
Evidence of Use	In local areas (1-5 acres or less) moderate impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year to year.	In local areas (1 acre or less) minor impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year to year.	In local areas (1 acre or less) minor impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year to year.	Impacts to soil and vegetation recover yearly or are negligible in extent (.1 acre).
<i>Social Conditions</i>				
Contacts	Generally there is high level of interaction among users. Visitors may encounter more than 150 people per day.	Moderate to high level of interaction (average 25-150 individuals singly or in groups per day).	Generally the level of interaction among visitors is low (up to 25 individuals per day) but occasionally up to 150 individuals singly or in groups per day.	The level of interaction among visitors is low. Visitors encounter up to 25 individuals singly or in groups per day on designated trails or near Community Interface, Front Country, or Passage settings and 10 or fewer individuals singly or in groups per day in more remote off-trail settings.
Group Size	Generally the maximum group size would be up to 200 individuals.	Generally the maximum group size would be up to 75 individuals, but groups of up to 200 may be encountered under permit.	Generally up to 25-50 individuals with the occasional group size reaching 200 individuals.	Generally a maximum group size up to 50 individuals.

Evidence of Use	In local areas (1-5 acres or less) moderate impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year to year.	In local areas (1 acre or less) minor impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year to year.	In local areas (1 acre or less) minor impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year to year.	Impacts to soil and vegetation recover yearly or are negligible in extent (.1 acre).
<i>Administrative Conditions</i>				
Mechanized Use	Motorized and mechanized use on designated routes.	Motorized and mechanized use on designated routes.	Motorized and mechanized on designated routes.	Motorized use is not allowed. Mechanized use is allowed on designated trails.
Management Controls	High management presence.	Moderate to high management presence.	Low to moderate management presence.	Low management presence.
Visitor Services	Visitor information provision levels are high.	Visitor information levels are moderate to high.	Visitor information levels are low to moderate.	Visitor information levels are low.
Management Actions and Allowable Uses				
Dispersed, Undeveloped Camping and Parking	Vehicle-based day use is primary use.	Vehicle-based day and overnight use occur.	Vehicle-based day and overnight use occur.	No vehicle-based camping.
	Vehicle-based parking and camping must occur within 100 feet of road or along the immediate route shoulder where parking will not damage vegetation, unless otherwise limited.	Vehicle-based parking and camping must occur within 100 feet of road or along the immediate route shoulder where parking will not damage vegetation, unless otherwise limited.	Vehicle-based parking and camping must occur within 100 feet of road or along the immediate route shoulder where parking will not damage vegetation, unless otherwise limited.	N/A
	Non-vehicle-based camping may occur anywhere across the landscape unless otherwise limited.	Non-vehicle-based camping may occur anywhere across the landscape unless otherwise limited.	Non-vehicle-based camping may occur anywhere across the landscape unless otherwise limited.	Non-vehicle-based camping may occur anywhere across the landscape unless otherwise limited.
	Certain areas may be closed to camping or parking or restricted to designated sites for resource protection.	Certain areas may be closed to camping or parking or restricted to designated sites for resource protection.	Certain areas may be closed to camping or parking or restricted to designated sites for resource protection.	Certain areas may be closed to camping or restricted to designated sites for resource protection.

Designated Camping Areas	Established in areas with high volumes of use, high levels of impacts, and at recreation destinations.	Established in areas with high volumes of use, high levels of impacts, and at recreation destinations.	Established in areas with high volumes of use, high levels of impacts, and at recreation destinations.	Designated camping areas or single-party campsites established when needed to maintain recreation setting or for resource protection.
	Moderate to high on-site controls, rustic facilities at camping areas may expand outer limits of camping areas as needed to meet demand.	Low to high on-site controls, rustic facilities at camping areas may expand outer limits of camping areas as needed to meet demand.	Subtle on-site controls, rudimentary facilities at camping areas.	Minimum on-site controls, typically no facilities.
Developed Campgrounds	Established in areas with demand for facilities or services, high volumes of use, high levels of impacts, and at recreation destinations.	Established in areas with demand for facilities or services, high volumes of use, high levels of impacts, and at recreation destinations.	Rustic or primitive sites may be developed for resource protection or public safety purposes. The number of campsites installed will be limited to the minimum needed to achieve resource protection and public safety goals.	No developed campgrounds.
Day and Overnight Group Use (non-commercial and non-competitive)	Unless otherwise limited, up to 75 people, and associated equipment in existing, and/or designated, vehicle parking, staging, and camping areas that are large enough to accommodate the group size without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area.	Unless otherwise limited, up to 75 people, and associated equipment in existing, and/or designated, vehicle parking, staging, and camping areas that are large enough to accommodate the group size without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area.	Unless otherwise limited, up to 75 people, and associated equipment in existing, and/or designated, vehicle parking, staging, and camping areas that are large enough to accommodate the group size without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area.	Unless otherwise limited, up to 50 people and associated animals in areas large enough to accommodate the group without increasing the footprint of the disturbance area and for cross-country use in areas that are resilient enough to support that use. Up to 25 people and associated animals in areas managed to maintain wilderness characteristics.
	Large group events are generally appropriate and larger groups will be authorized under SRP or at specific large group sites designated	Larger groups authorized under SRP or at specific large group sites designated for that purpose on case-by-case basis.	Larger groups authorized under SRP or at specific large group sites designated for that purpose on case-by-case basis.	Larger groups authorized under SRP or at specific large group sites designated for that purpose on case-by-case basis.

	for that purpose on case-by-case basis.			
	Group size limits and use areas may be adjusted based on monitoring to maintain desired setting, protect resources, and manage changing uses.	Group size limits and use areas may be adjusted based on monitoring to maintain desired setting, protect resources, and manage changing uses.	Group size limits and use areas may be adjusted based on monitoring to maintain desired setting, protect resources, and manage changing uses.	Group size limits and use areas may be adjusted based on monitoring to maintain desired setting, protect resources, and manage changing uses.
Commercial, Competitive, and Vendor Use (in addition to SRP requirements)	Commercial, competitive, and vendor use are generally encouraged to use this zone and permits will be authorized on a case-by-case basis	Commercial, competitive, and vendor use will be authorized on a case-by-case basis.	Commercial, competitive, and vendor use will be authorized on a case-by-case basis.	Commercial and competitive non-motorized permits issued on case-by-case basis. Motorized uses are not allowed and no vendor permits are issued. In addition, in wilderness areas, only commercial services such as guiding for hunting and outfitting are allowed.
	Permit users must use designated portals to public lands.	Permit users must use designated portals to public lands.	Permit users must use designated portals to public lands.	Permit users must use designated portals to public lands.
	Commercial non-motorized (repetitive) permits required to remain on existing trails (no cross-country travel).	Commercial non-motorized (repetitive) permits required to remain on existing trails (no cross-country travel).	Commercial non-motorized (repetitive) permits required to remain on existing trails (no cross-country travel).	Commercial non-motorized (repetitive) permits must remain on existing trails (no cross-country travel).
Firewood collection (dead, down, and detached only)	Firewood collection is prohibited. Campfires are allowed if wood is brought from off-site, unless otherwise prohibited. Monitor disturbances and temporarily or permanently suspend campfires to prevent resource damage.	Collection of a reasonable amount of dead, down, and detached wood for on-site campfire use is allowed, unless otherwise prohibited. Monitor vegetation use and disturbance and temporarily or permanently suspend such use to prevent resource damage.	Collection of a reasonable amount of dead, down, and detached wood for on-site campfire use is allowed, unless otherwise prohibited. Monitor vegetation use and disturbance and temporarily or permanently suspend such use to prevent resource damage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of a reasonable amount of dead, down, and detached wood for on-site campfire use is allowed, unless otherwise prohibited. Monitor vegetation use and disturbance and temporarily or permanently suspend such use to prevent resource damage. • Collection of firewood and use of campfires is prohibited in the

				Sierra Estrella Wilderness Area.
Recreational Target Shooting	Permitted except where otherwise prohibited. See also Standard Operating Procedures.	Permitted except where otherwise prohibited. See also Standard Operating Procedures.	Permitted except where otherwise prohibited. See also Standard Operating Procedures.	Permitted except where otherwise prohibited. See also Standard Operating Procedures.
Motorized Routes and Non-motorized Trails	Motorized routes and non-motorized trails will be established based on recreation demand.	Motorized routes and non-motorized trails will be established based on recreation demand and resource protection needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-motorized trailheads to trails in the Back Country RMZ are established. Existing motorized routes and non-motorized trails could be maintained; additional trails are established where they meet the desired recreational setting or meet resource protection needs. • Existing routes could be re-aligned to improve resource management or public safety. • Routes closed or reclaimed in the Passage • RMZ for any reason over the life of the plan will automatically revert to the Back Country RMZ and its associated management prescriptions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing non-motorized trails are maintained; additional trails are established where they meet the desired recreational setting. • New motorized or mechanized routes could be designated in this zone, outside of closed OHV designation areas, to resolve public safety or resource protection needs, or to meet specific recreation objectives. These routes would be authorized through travel, transportation, public access, and OHV route planning and processes. Affected lands would re-allocate to Passage RMZ and its associated management prescriptions.