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**APPENDIX Q**  
**RECREATION SETTINGS AND**  
**DESCRIPTIONS**



# APPENDIX Q

## RECREATION SETTINGS AND DESCRIPTIONS

Setting prescriptions are a way of describing the desired conditions for recreation resources in an SRMA or ERMA. 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. These settings are described in **Table Q-1**, Description of Recreation Management Settings for Lower Sonoran and SDNM.

Each setting is defined by nine criteria: three condition classes (physical, social and operational) which are further broken down by three components that identify the attributes within the classes. It is the combination of these nine criteria that are determined and prescribed for each RMA to achieve the desired characteristics and outcomes for each area. Proposed management actions and allowable uses identified for each RMA (see **Appendix R**, Special and Extensive Management Area Worksheets) can only be allowed if they remain within the criteria that have been identified for each of the three components within the condition classes. The settings criteria for each class and component are described in **Table Q-2**, Recreation Setting Classes Prescriptions for Lower Sonoran and SDNM.

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

<b>Community Interface</b>	<b>Front Country</b>	<b>Passage</b>	<b>Back Country</b>
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. Lower Sonoran: this corridor is 200 feet wide (100 feet each side of centerline), centered on a motorized travel route designated for public use, and is available for management infrastructure in response to resource concerns and visitor demand. SDNM: the passage setting is a very narrow corridor limited to the reasonable use of the shoulder of the route (in accordance with state policy). In most areas, this distance would not exceed 50 feet (25	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.

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

<b>Community Interface</b>	<b>Front Country</b>	<b>Passage</b>	<b>Back Country</b>
		feet on each side of centerline) thereby limiting infrastructure to small pulloffs and signing.	
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.

**Table Q-2**  
**Recreation Setting Classes Prescriptions for Lower Sonoran and SDNM**

	<b>Community Interface</b>	<b>Front Country</b>	<b>Passage</b>	<b>Back Country</b>
<b>Setting Prescription Criteria</b>				
<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 at recreation sites.	The extent of developed user facilities will be moderate to high at recreation sites.	The degree of developed user facilities will be low to moderate at recreation sites.	The degree of developed user facilities will be low to none.
<i>Social Conditions</i>				
Contacts	<u>Lower Sonoran:</u> Generally there is high level of interaction among	<u>Lower Sonoran:</u> Moderate to high level of interaction (average 25-75	<u>Lower Sonoran:</u> Generally the level of interaction among visitors is low (up to	<u>Lower Sonoran and SDNM:</u> The level of interaction among visitors is low.

**Table Q-2  
Recreation Setting Classes Prescriptions for Lower Sonoran and SDNM**

	<b>Community Interface</b>	<b>Front Country</b>	<b>Passage</b>	<b>Back Country</b>
	users. Visitors may encounter more than 150 people per day.  <u>SDNM</u> : N/A	individuals singly or in groups per day with the occasional group nearing 150 individuals.).  <u>SDNM</u> : Moderate to high level of interaction (average 25-75 individuals singly or in groups per day). Visitors may encounter	25 individuals per day) but occasionally up to 150 individuals singly or in groups per day.  <u>SDNM</u> : Generally the level of interaction among visitors is low (up to 25 individuals per day) but occasionally up to 75 individuals singly or in groups per day.	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	<u>Lower Sonoran</u> : Generally the maximum group size would be up to 75 individuals but groups of up to 400 may be encountered under permit at recreation sites designed for such use. On average group size would be 12-25.  <u>SDNM</u> : n/a	<u>Lower Sonoran</u> : Generally the maximum group size would be up to 75 individuals, but groups of up to 200 may be encountered under permit. On average, group size would be 8-20 individuals.  <u>SDNM</u> : Generally the maximum group size would be up to 75 individuals, but groups of up to 200 may be encountered under permit. On average group size would be 8-20 individuals	<u>Lower Sonoran</u> : Generally up to 25-50 individuals with the occasional group size reaching 200 individuals. On average group size would be 4-15 individuals  <u>SDNM</u> : Generally up to 25-50 individuals with the occasional group size reaching 75 individuals. On average group size would be 4-10 individuals.	<u>Lower Sonoran</u> : Generally a maximum group size up to 50 individuals with the occasional group size reaching 75 individuals.. On average groups size would be 2-8 individuals.  <u>SDNM</u> : Generally a maximum group size up to 25 individuals with the occasional group size reaching 50 individuals. On average groups size would be 2-8 individuals.
Evidence of Use	In local areas (1-5 acres or less) moderate impacts to soil and vegetation persist from year to	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).

**Table Q-2**  
**Recreation Setting Classes Prescriptions for Lower Sonoran and SDNM**

	<b>Community Interface</b>	<b>Front Country</b>	<b>Passage</b>	<b>Back Country</b>
	year.			
<i>Operational 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	Potentially high management presence with increased staffing of park rangers, campground hosts and law enforcement. Increase in regulatory restrictions and signing likely.	Moderate to high management presence with increased staffing of park rangers, campground hosts and law enforcement. Increase in regulatory restrictions and signing possible.	Low to moderate management presence. The occasional park ranger and law enforcement may be present. Limited regulatory restrictions and signing.	Low management presence from staffing however regulatory restrictions and signing likely at access points.
Visitor Services	Visitor information provision levels are high. On-site assistance at developed recreation sites likely year round.	Visitor information levels are moderate to high. On-site assistance at developed recreation sites likely during seasonal use periods.	Visitor information levels are low to moderate.	Visitor information levels are low.