APPENDIX 16—NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION SETTINGS

Table A16-1 represents a generalized conceptual framework of available of recreation settings. Within the desired recreation setting, recreation management actions are prescribed to achieve targeted activities, experiences, and benefits.

Table A16-1. Natural Resource Recreation Settings: Criteria for Classification and Prescriptions

Physical – Resources & Facilities: ***Character of the natural landscape***

	Primitive		Back Country	Middle Country	Front Country	Rural	Urban
	Pristine	Transition					
a. Remoteness:	More than 10 mi. from any road	More than 3 mi. from any road	More than ½ mile from any kind of road, but not as distant as 3 miles, and no road is in sight.	On or near four-wheel drive roads, but at least ½ mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight	On or near improved country roads but at least ½ mile from all highways	On or near primary highways, but still within a rural area	On or near primary highways, municipal streets, and roads within towns or cities
b. Naturalness:	Undisturbed natural landscape		Naturally-appearing landscape having modifications not readily noticeable	Naturally-appearing landscape except for obvious primitive roads	Landscape partially modified by roads, utility lines, etc., but none overpower natural landscape features	Natural landscape substantially modified by agriculture or industrial development	Urbanized developments dominate this landscape
c. Facilities:	None		Some primitive trails made of native materials such as log bridges and carved wooden signs	Maintained and marked trails, simple trailhead developments, improved signs, and very basic toilets	Improved yet modest, rustic facilities such as campgrounds, restrooms, trails, and interpretive signs	Modern facilities such as campgrounds. group shelters, boat launches, and occasional exhibits	Elaborate full-service facilities such as laundry, groceries, and book stores

Social – Visitor Use & Users: ***Character of recreation and tourism use***

	Primitive		Back Country	Middle Country	Front Country	Rural	Urban
	Pristine	Transition					
d. Group Size: (other than your own)	Fewer than or equal to 3 people per group		4-6 People per group	7-12 people per group	13-25 people per group	26-50 people per group	Greater than 50 people per group

	Primitive		Back Country	Middle Country	Front Country	Rural	Urban
	Pristine	Transition					
e. Contacts: (with other groups)	Fewer than 3 encounters/day at campsites and fewer than 6 encounters/day on travel routes		3-6 encounters/day off travel routes (campsites) and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes	7-14 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., staging areas) and 15-29 encounters/day en route	15-29 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., campgrounds) and 30 or more encounters/day en route	People seem to be everywhere, but human contact is still intermittent	Other people constantly in view
f. Types of Encounters:	Users plan trips to avoid others altogether	Take evasive actions for face-to-face avoidance	Users step aside to avoid unsafe conditions or user conflicts, sometimes grudgingly	Users may be unnerved but may not necessarily move off routes, areas, or sites to accommodate others	Users here routinely expect, welcome, and accommodate other visitors	Because crowd tolerance is a necessary condition for being here, encounters tend to be impersonal	Here people accept but routinely ignore multiple crowd interactions
g. Personal Gear & Equipment:	Very basic gear, cell phones usually don't work here	Some convenience gear like cell phones but not radios	Expect hiking, climbing, & mountain bike gear (e.g., colorful sportswear, bicycle helmets, etc.) Radios may also be playing	Expect to see gear associated with vehicle or off-highway vehicle use (e.g., coolers, body armor, etc.) Radios & music also	Variety of traditional camper trailers, pop-up tents & conventional tents, radios & music common	Upscale motor homes common, dependant on utility hookups or having generators to support home conveniences and gadgetry	Very specialized gear dependent on service provider assistance (e.g., boat slips, grounds keepers, caretakers)
h. Evidence of Use	Only footprints may be observed		Footprints plus slight vegetative trampling at campsites and travel routes. Only infrequent litter	Vehicle tracks and occasional litter and soil erosion. Vegetation becoming worn	Well-worn soils & vegetation but often gravel surfaced for erosion control.	Paved routes protect soils & vegetation, but noise, litter & facility impacts are pervasive	A busy place with what seems like constant noise. Unavoidable litter seems to be a lifestyle choice

Administrative – *Administrative & Service Setting*: How Public Land Managers, County Commissioners and Municipal Governments, and Local Businesses Care for the Area and Serve Visitors and Local Residents

	Primitive		Back Country	Middle Country	Front Country	Rural	Urban
	Pristine	Transition					
i. Visitor Services:	None is available on-site		Basic maps but area personnel seldom available to provide on-site assistance	Area brochures & maps, plus area personnel occasionally present to provide	Information materials describe recreation areas and activities. Area personnel are	Everything described to the left in this row, and describes experiences/benefits available. Area	Everything described to the left in this row, plus regularly scheduled on-site outdoor

	Primitive		Back Country	Middle Country	Front Country	Rural	Urban
	Pristine	Transition					
				on-site assistance	periodically available	personnel do on-site education	skills, demonstrations, and clinics
j. Management Controls:	No visitor controls apparent. Enforcement presence very rare		Signs at key access points on basic user ethics. May have back-country user restrictions. Enforcement presence rare	Occasional regulatory signing. Motorized & mechanized use restrictions. Random enforcement presence	Rules clearly posted with some seasonal or day-of-week use restrictions. Periodic enforcement presence	Regulations prominent. Total use limited by permit, reservation, etc. Routine enforcement presence	Continuous enforcement to redistribute use and reduce user conflicts, hazards, and resource damage
k. Domestic Animals:	No domestic animals allowed here	Dogs & pack livestock on designated routes in designated areas only	livestock (horses & llamas) allowed but only on designated routes & areas. Dogs under control & pack routes	No controls on dogs & pack livestock other than standard regulations prohibiting wildlife harassment, etc.	Dogs on leash and pack livestock only in designated areas within recreation sites. Both under control elsewhere	Dogs on leash everywhere and pack livestock allowed only in designated areas	Dogs on leash everywhere and pack livestock allowed only under specific use restrictions (e.g., horse diapers, parades)
l. Individual User Fees:	No individual user fees		Individual user fees charges within certain back country areas	Additional fees charged individuals at some developed recreation sites, but not for any dispersed recreation uses	Individual user fees charged at all developed sites, but not yet for any dispersed recreation use	Individual user fees charged at all developed sites and for dispersed use within high-use areas only	Individual user fees routinely charged for recreation use.
m. Mechanized Use:	None whatsoever		Mountain bikes and perhaps other mechanized use, but all is non-motorized	Four-wheel drives, all terrain vehicles, dirt bikes or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized, mechanized use,	Two-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also four-wheel drives and non-motorized, mechanized use	Ordinary highway auto and truck traffic is characteristic	Wide variety of street vehicles and highway traffic is ever-present

Physical – Resources & Facilities: *Character of the natural landscape*

	Primitive		Back Country	Middle Country	Front Country	Rural	Urban
	Pristine	Transition					
a. Remoteness:	More	More than	More than ½ mile	On or near four-	On or near	On or near primary	On or near primary

	Primitive		Back Country	Middle Country	Front Country	Rural	Urban
	Pristine	Transition					
	than 10 mi. from any road	3 mi. from any road	from any kind of road, but not as distant as 3 miles, and no road is in sight.	wheel drive roads, but at least ½ mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight	improved country roads but at least ½ mile from all highways	highways, but still within a rural area	highways, municipal streets, and roads within towns or cities
b. Naturalness:	Undisturbed natural landscape		Naturally-appearing landscape having modifications not readily noticeable	Naturally-appearing landscape except for obvious primitive roads	Landscape partially modified by roads, utility lines, etc., but none overpower natural landscape features	Natural landscape substantially modified by agriculture or industrial development	Urbanized developments dominate this landscape
c. Facilities:	None		Some primitive trails made of native materials such as log bridges and carved wooden signs	Maintained and marked trails, simple trailhead developments, improved signs, and very basic toilets	Improved yet modest, rustic facilities such as campgrounds, restrooms, trails, and interpretive signs, primitive and developed boat launches	Modern facilities such as campgrounds. group shelters, boat launches, and occasional exhibits	Elaborate full-service facilities such as laundry, groceries, and book stores

Social – Visitor Use & Users: *Character of recreation and tourism use*

	Primitive		Back Country	Middle Country	Front Country	Rural	Urban
	Pristine	Transition					
d. Group Size: (other than your own)	Fewer than or equal to 3 people per group		4-6 People per group	7-12 people per group	13-25 people per group	26-50 people per group	Greater than 50 people per group
e. Contacts: (with other groups)	Fewer than 3 encounters/day at campsites and fewer than 6 encounters/day on travel routes		3-6 encounters/day off travel routes (campsites) and 7-15 encounters/day on travel routes	7-14 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., staging areas) and 15-29 encounters/day en route	15-29 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., campgrounds) and 30 or more encounters/day en route	People seem to be everywhere, but human contact is still intermittent	Other people constantly in view
f. Types of Encounters:	Users plan trips	Take evasive	Users step aside to avoid unsafe	Users may be unnerved but may	Users here routinely expect, welcome,	Because crowd tolerance is a	Here people accept but

	Primitive		Back Country	Middle Country	Front Country	Rural	Urban
	Pristine	Transition					
	to avoid others altogether	actions for face-to-face avoidance	conditions or user conflicts, sometimes grudgingly	not necessarily move off routes, areas, or sites to accommodate others	and accommodate other visitors	necessary condition for being here, encounters tend to be impersonal	routinely ignore multiple crowd interactions
g. Personal Gear & Equipment:	Very basic gear, cell phones usually don't work here	Some convenience gear like cell phones but not radios	Expect hiking, climbing, & mountain bike gear (e.g., colorful sportswear, bicycle helmets, etc.) Radios may also be playing	Expect to see gear associated with vehicle or off-highway vehicle use (e.g., coolers, body armor, etc.) Radios & music also	Variety of traditional camper trailers, pop-up tents & conventional tents, radios & music common	Upscale motor homes common, dependant on utility hookups or having generators to support home conveniences and gadgetry	Very specialized gear dependent on service provider assistance (e.g., boat slips, grounds keepers, caretakers)
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i. Visitor Services:	None is available on-site		Basic maps but area personnel seldom available to provide on-site assistance	Area brochures & maps, plus area personnel occasionally present to provide on-site assistance	Information materials describe recreation areas and activities. Area personnel are periodically available	Everything described to the left in this row, and describe experiences/benefits available. Area personnel do on-site education	Everything described to the left in this row, plus regularly scheduled on-site outdoor skills, demonstrations, and clinics
j. Management Controls:	No visitor controls apparent. Enforcement presence very rare		Signs at key access points on basic user ethics. May have back-country user restrictions.	Occasional regulatory signing. Motorized & mechanized use restrictions. Random	Rules clearly posted with some seasonal or day-of-week use restrictions. Periodic	Regulations prominent. Total use limited by permit, reservation, etc. Routine enforcement presence	Continuous enforcement to redistribute use and reduce user conflicts, hazards, and resource

	Primitive		Back Country	Middle Country	Front Country	Rural	Urban
	Pristine	Transition					
			Enforcement presence rare	enforcement presence	enforcement presence		damage
k. Domestic Animals:	No domestic animals allowed here	Dogs & pack livestock on designated routes in designated areas only	livestock (horses & llamas) allowed but only on designated routes & areas. Dogs under control & pack routes	No controls on dogs & pack livestock other than standard regulations prohibiting wildlife harassment, etc.	Dogs on leash and pack livestock only in designated areas within recreation sites. Both under control elsewhere	Dogs on leash everywhere and pack livestock allowed only in designated areas	Dogs on leash everywhere and pack livestock allowed only under specific use restrictions (e.g., horse diapers, parades)
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