

## **Appendix E**

BLM Recreation Guidelines to Meet Public Land  
Health Standards in Colorado

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Classes



Appendix E

<b>E-1. BLM Recreation Guidelines to Meet Public Land Health Standards in Colorado</b>
<b>Recreation Guidelines to Meet Public Land Health Standards 1 and 2</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Manage recreational activities to maintain sufficient vegetation on upland areas to protect the soil from wind and water erosion and to buffer temperature extremes.</li><li>2. Minimize disturbances and manage recreation use in riparian areas to protect vegetation, fragile soils, springs, and wetlands.</li><li>3. Plan and locate routes, trails, and developments away from riparian and wetland areas and highly erodible soils.</li><li>4. Reduce stream crossings to the minimal number dictated by the topography. Reduce sedimentation and compaction associated with stream crossings.</li><li>5. Manage watercraft types and uses as appropriate to protect riparian systems and water quality from adverse impacts.</li></ol>
<b>Recreation Guidelines to Meet Public Land Health Standard 3</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Manage recreational use on public lands to promote the survival and health of native plants and animals.</li><li>2. Protect against the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.</li><li>3. Protect wildlife habitat by preserving connectivity and avoiding fragmentation.</li><li>4. Minimize wildlife disturbances and artificial attractions such as feeding wild animals or improper disposal of garbage.</li><li>5. Protect plant and animal communities by limiting recreational use by type, season, intensity, distribution, or duration.</li></ol>
<b>Recreation Guidelines to Meet Public Land Health Standard 4</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Protect habitat for Federal and State threatened or endangered species and other special-status species.</li></ol>
<b>Recreation Guidelines to Meet Public Land Health Standard 5</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Manage recreational uses in coordination with other uses on public lands to achieve or exceed applicable water quality standards.</li><li>2. Control water quality impacts resulting from recreational use, such as human waste, trash, and other elements.</li></ol>

Appendix E

<b>E-2. BLM Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Classes</b>				
<b>ROS Class</b>	<b>Physical Setting Description</b>	<b>Social Setting Description</b>	<b>Administrative Setting Description</b>	
<b>Urban</b>	Near urban areas. Substantially modified environment. Numerous facilities to manage and accommodate intensive use.	High concentrations of people commonplace. In constant contact with other people.	Onsite management controls and regulations are numerous and cannot go unnoticed. Intensively managed. Multiple activities may occur. Regular highway vehicles are present	
<b>Rural (previously Semi-Urban)</b>	Within 0.5 mile developed areas and primary highways. Substantially modified environment having natural and manmade features (includes agricultural lands). Moderate number of facilities to manage use may exist.	Moderate to high degree of contact with others. Culturally modified landscape. People are almost continually in view.	Onsite management controls and regulations are numerous and easy to see. Land uses obvious.	
<b>Front Country (previously Roaded Natural)</b>	Within 0.5 mile of light-duty roads and areas with high route density. Resource modifications evident but balanced by the surrounding natural appearing environment.	Moderate to high degree of contact with others. See an average of 30 or more groups per day and fewer when away from roads. Human use alterations may be dominant.	Visitor management controls are noticeable but harmonize with the landscape. Basic visitor information facilities are present. Land uses like grazing are evident but fit into the natural landscape. OHV use occurs.	
<b>Middle Country (previously Semi-Primitive Motorized)</b>	Within 0.5 mile of primitive motorized routes (4wd, high clearance). Resource modifications evident but balanced by the surrounding natural appearing environment. Some rustic facilities such as bulletin boards signs and motorized trails.	Moderate to high degree of contact with others. See an average of 15 or more groups per day and less when away from roads. Human use alterations easily noticeable.	A few subtle management controls or visitor information facilities present. Land uses are still subtle but still easy to see. Motorized use occurs (4wds, ATVs, and motorcycles).	

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<p><b>Back Country</b> <b>(previously Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized)</b></p>	<p>At least ½ mile from primitive motorized routes but not greater than 3 miles from all motorized routes. Largely unmodified natural appearing environment. Few primitive facilities such as signs and trails.</p>	<p>Little contact with others. See an average of 6 to 15 groups per day. Evidence of others subtly noticeable but not drawing attention when recreating.</p>	<p>A few subtle management controls or visitor information facilities present. Land uses are subtle. No motorized use.</p>
<p><b>Primitive</b></p>	<p>Greater than 3 miles from all motorized routes. Unmodified natural environment, at least 5,000. Few to no facilities.</p>	<p>Very little contact with others. See an average of 6 or fewer groups per day. Evidence of others unnoticeable.</p>	<p>No onsite visitor management or information facilities. Land uses generally unnoticeable. No motorized or mechanized uses.</p>

