

## 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 and Facilities: *Character of the natural landscape***

|                | Primitive                        |                                 | Back Country   | Middle Country  | Front Country   | Rural   | Urban  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
|                | Pristine                         | Transition                      |  |   |   |   |  |
| a. Remoteness  | More than 10 miles from any road | More than 3 miles from any road | More than one-half mile from any kind of road, but not as distant as 3 miles, and no road is in sight. | On or near 4-wheel drive roads, but at least one-half mile from all improved roads, though they may be in sight | On or near improved country roads but at least one-half 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 bookstores     |

**Social—Visitor Use and 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 to avoid others altogether   | Users 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 and Equipment      | Very basic gear, cell phones usually don't work here                                      | Some convenience gear like cell phones but not radios | Expect hiking, climbing, and mountain bike gear (e.g., colorful sportswear, bicycle helmets). Radios may also be playing | Expect to see gear associated with vehicle or off-highway vehicle use (e.g., coolers, body armor). Radios and music may also be playing | Variety of traditional camper trailers, pop-up tents, and conventional tents; radios and music are common | Upscale motor homes common, dependent 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 and vegetation but often gravel-surfaced for erosion control                              | Paved routes protect soils and vegetation, but noise, litter, and facility impacts are pervasive                        | A busy place with what seems like constant noise. Unavoidable litter seems to be a lifestyle choice            |

**Administrative—Administrative and 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 onsite                                     |   | Basic maps but area personnel seldom available to provide onsite assistance   | Area brochures and maps, plus area personnel occasionally present to provide onsite assistance                    | Information materials describe recreation areas and activities. Area personnel are periodically available       | Everything described to the left in this row, and describes experiences/benefits available. Area personnel do onsite education | Everything described to the left in this row, plus regularly scheduled onsite 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. Enforcement presence rare | Occasional regulatory signing. Motorized and 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 and pack livestock on designated routes in designated areas only | Livestock (horses & llamas) allowed but only on designated routes and areas. Dogs under control and pack routes     | No controls on dogs and 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 nonmotorized  | Four-wheel drives, all terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to nonmotorized, mechanized use   | Two-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also 4-wheel drives and nonmotorized, mechanized use                  | Ordinary highway auto and truck traffic is characteristic  | Wide variety of street vehicles, and highway traffic is ever-present  |

