

Appendix J

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM CRITERIA FOR RECREATION CLASSIFICATION (CHAPTER 3) AND RECREATION IMPACTS (CHAPTER 4)

The following tables describe the recreation setting character conditions required to produce recreation opportunities and facilitate the attainment of both recreation experiences and beneficial outcomes.

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) offers a framework for understanding the relationships and interactions the public may experience with a particular area of public land. ROS settings are used by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service. The ROS setting framework was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in *Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: A Framework for Planning, Management, and Research* (General Technical Report PNW-98, December 1979).

This characterization of settings is used for both describing existing setting character (Chapter 3) and describing impacts to recreation (Chapter 4). Indicators and standards for monitoring setting conditions would be derived and/or developed from the (a) through (i) components in Table J-1.

Table J-1. Characterization of Settings

Primitive	Semi-primitive Non-motorized	Semi-primitive Motorized	Roaded Natural	Rural	Urban
Physical – Resources and Facilities: Character of the Natural Landscape					
a. Remoteness					
>3 miles from any road	>0.5 mile from any kind of road, but not as far as 3 miles, and no road is in sight.	On or near 4WD roads, but at least 0.5 mile from all improved roads, although they may not be in sight.	On or near improved country roads, but at least 0.5 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 development dominates this landscape.
c. Facilities					
None	Some primitive trails made of natural 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					
d. Group Size					
Fewer than or equal to 3 people per group.	4 to 6 people per group.	7 to 12 people per group.	13 to 25 people per group.	26 to 50 people per group.	More than 50 people per group.

Table J-1. Characterization of Settings (Continued)

Primitive	Semi-primitive Non-motorized	Semi-primitive Motorized	Roaded Natural	Rural	Urban
Social – Visitor Use and Users: Character of Recreation and Tourism Use, continued					
e. Contacts (with other users/user groups)					
Fewer than 3 encounters per day at campsites and fewer than 6 encounters per day on travel routes.	3 to 6 encounters per day off travel routes (e.g., campsites) and 7 to 15 encounters per day on travel routes.	7 to 14 encounters per day off travel routes (e.g., staging areas) and 15 to 29 encounters per day en route.	15 to 29 encounters per day off travel routes (e.g., campgrounds) and 30 or more encounters per day en route.	People seem to be everywhere, but human contact is intermittent.	Other people consistently in view.
f. Evidence of Use					
Only footprints may be observed.	Footprints plus slight vegetation 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. Litter may be frequent.	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					
g. Visitor Services					
None is available on-site.	Basic maps, but area personnel seldom available to provide on-site assistance.	Area brochures and 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 descriptions of experiences and benefits available. Area personnel do on-site education.	Everything described to the left of this row, plus regularly scheduled on-site outdoor skills demonstrations and clinics.
h. Management Controls					
No visitor controls apparent. No use limits. Enforcement presence may be very rare.	Signs at key access points on basic user ethics. May have back country use 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 restrictions. Periodic enforcement presence.	Regulations prominent. Total use limited by permit, reservation, etc. Routine enforcement presence.	Continues enforcement to redistribute use and reduce user conflicts, hazards, and resource damage.
i. Mechanized Use					
None whatsoever.	Mountain bikes and perhaps other mechanized use, but all uses are non-motorized.	4WD, ATV, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized, mechanized use.	2WD vehicles predominant, but also 4WD and non-motorized, mechanized use.	Ordinary highway auto and truck traffic is characteristic.	Wide variety of street vehicle and highway traffic is ever-present.