

ROS Setting Characteristics. From FSM 2310 (draft)

ROS Setting		Summer Characteristics	Winter Characteristics
Primitive (P) ROS Class	Physical	Theme: Predominately unmodified, naturally evolving, vast, and remote	
		Remoteness: 3 miles or more from designated motorized routes and areas	
		Size: 5,000 or more acres	
		Infrastructure (access and facilities) <i>Access</i> - Non-motorized trails, class 1; Travel on foot and horse, no motorized travel, no mechanized travel within designated Wilderness <i>Rec sites</i> – Dev. scale 0, no improvements <i>Sanitation</i> – no facilities, leave no trace; <i>Water supply</i> – undeveloped natural; <i>Signing</i> – minimal, constructed of rustic, natural materials; <i>Interpretation</i> - through self-discovery <i>Water crossing</i> – minimal, pedestrian only, made of natural materials	<i>Access</i> – No roads or motorized trails. User-created ski and snow shoe routes, No motorized (OSV) travel No mechanized travel within designated Wilderness No other infrastructure or facilities typically present
		Vegetation: Natural, no treatments except for fire use.	
		Scenic Integrity: Very High	
	Managerial	Little to no on-site regimentation, few encounters with Forest Service personnel or partners/ volunteers working on behalf of the agency. Visitor use management is largely off-site and accomplished through regulation, permitting, and other visitor use management techniques.	
	Social	Very high probability of solitude; closeness to nature; self-reliance, high challenge and risk; little evidence of people. Typically 6 or less encounters with other parties on trails, and less than 3 parties visible from camping sites.	

ROS Setting		Summer Characteristics	Winter Characteristics
Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)	Physical	Theme: Predominately natural/natural appearing; rustic improvements to protect resources.	
		Remoteness: ½ mile or more from designated motorized routes and areas.	
		Size: 2,500 or more acres	
		Infrastructure (access and facilities) <i>Access</i> - Non-motorized routes, trail classes 1-2 typical. Foot/horse/mountain bike use - no motorized travel. Closed and temporary roads may be present. <i>Rec sites</i> – Dev Scale 0-1, minor investments to protect resources <i>Sanitation</i> – no facilities, leave no trace <i>Water supply</i> – undeveloped, natural <i>Signing</i> – rustic, natural materials. <i>Interpretation</i> - typically self-discovery <i>Water crossing</i> – rustic structures for foot/horse and bicycle traffic	<i>Access</i> – Ungroomed non-motorized trails with some trail markers, user created routes and areas for ski or snow shoe use. No motorized (OSV) travel No other infrastructure or facilities typically available
		Vegetation: Treatments enhance forest health and mimic natural vegetation patterns.	
		Scenic Integrity: High	
	Managerial	Minimum or subtle signing, regulations, or other on-site regimentation. Low encounters with Forest Service personnel or partners/volunteers working on behalf of the agency.	
	Social	High probability of solitude, closeness to nature, self-reliance. High to moderate challenge and risk. Usually 6-15 encounters with other parties on trails. 6 or less parties visible from camping sites.	

ROS SETTING		Summer Characteristics	Winter Characteristics
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	Physical	Theme: Predominately natural appearing, motorized use visible and audible.	
		Remoteness: ½ mile or more from Maintenance Level (ML) 3-5 roads but containing ML 2 roads and motorized trails and/or designated motorized areas	½ mile or more from plowed road.
		Size: 2,500 or more acres	
		Infrastructure (access and facilities) <i>Access</i> - Motorized routes: Maintenance Level 2 roads and trail class 2 typical; OHVs allowed on designated routes and areas <i>Rec sites</i> – Dev. Scales 0-2; infrastructure to protect resources <i>Sanitation</i> – limited facilities, outhouses may be in areas of concentrated use. <i>Water supply</i> - undeveloped natural <i>Signing</i> – rustic, made of natural materials; <i>Interpretation</i> – self-discovery, some located on site or at trailheads; <i>Water crossing</i> - rustic structures or bridges	<i>Access</i> – ungroomed but marked OSV routes and areas. Ungroomed ski trails. OSV use on designated routes/areas. Few, if any, facilities or services available
		Vegetation: treatment improve forest health and mimic natural vegetation patterns.	
		Scenic Integrity: Typically Moderate	
	Managerial	Minimum, subtle on-site controls; designated motorized routes/areas	Minimum, subtle on-site controls; Designated routes and areas for over-snow vehicles.
	Social	Moderate to high probability of solitude. High to moderate degree of risk/challenge. Usually 6-15 encounters with other parties on trails. 6 or less parties visible from camping sites.	

ROS SETTING		Summer Characteristics	Winter Characteristics
Roaded Natural (RN)	Physical	Theme: Natural Appearing with nodes and corridors of development such as campgrounds, trailheads, boat launches, and rustic, small-scale resorts.	
		Remoteness: Within ½ mile of Maintenance Level 3-5 roads. Maintenance Level 2 roads may also be present.	
		Size: NA	
		Infrastructure (access and facilities): <i>Access</i> – Typically: ML 3-5 roads. ML 2 roads may also be present. Typically Trail Classes 3-4, Hwy. vehicles, OHVs, and motorized travel on designated routes <i>Rec sites</i> – Dev. Scales 0-3 typical <i>Sanitation</i> –typically vault toilets <i>Water supply</i> – often developed <i>Signing</i> – variety of materials, blend with natural setting <i>Interpretation</i> – simple roadside signs, some interpretive displays <i>Water crossings</i> – bridges, natural materials.	<i>Access</i> – <i>Some plowed roads and groomed OSV routes. Groomed ski trails may also exist.</i> Warming huts, cabins, and rustic facilities may be present.
		Vegetation: Vegetation treatment are evident but in harmony with the scenic character.	
		Scenic Integrity: High to Low. Note that low scenic integrity is typically in highly manipulated settings where the evidence of mining, extensive timber harvest, or other management activities are dominant on the landscape.	
	Managerial	Signs and regulations present but typically subordinate to the setting. Moderate likelihood of encountering Forest Service personnel or volunteers/partners working on behalf of the agency.	
	Social	Moderate evidence of human sights and sounds; moderate concentration of users at developed recreation sites; little challenge or risk is expected in these outdoor settings due to nearby amenities and management controls (see above physical and managerial characteristics). Opportunities to socialize.	

ROS SETTING		Summer Characteristics	Winter Characteristics
Rural	Physical	Theme: Altered landscapes with cultural emphasis such as: rural, pastoral, and/or agricultural. Administrative sites, historic complexes, and moderately developed resorts such as local ski areas, are typical.	
		Remoteness: not remote, often near other (non-FS) rural settings and communities.	
		Size: n/a but typically small parcels within larger roaded natural settings.	
		Infrastructure (access and facilities): <i>Access</i> – typically Maintenance Level 3-5 roads and trail classes 3-5, mass transit sometimes available <i>Rec sites</i> – Dev. scale 4-5 <i>Sanitation</i> – Flush toilets <i>Water supply</i> – developed, showers common <i>Signing</i> – natural and synthetic materials <i>Interpretation</i> –roadside exhibits, interpretive. programs, etc. <i>Water crossings</i> – bridges, accommodating hwy. vehicles, RVs, heavy equipment	<i>Access</i> – Groomed OSV routes, groomed cross-country skiing, skate skiing, and downhill ski/snowboard trails. OSV use limited to designated routes and areas, Full service facilities: and resorts often present
		Vegetation: treatments often visible, blend with landscape	
		Scenic Integrity: Typically Moderate to Low.	
	Managerial	Obvious signing (regulation and information), education and law enforcement staff. Motorized and mechanized travel common and often separated.	
	Social	High interaction among users is common. Other people in constant view. Little challenge or risk associated with being outdoors.	

ROS SETTING		SUMMER CHARACTERISTICS	WINTER CHARACTERISTICS
Urban	Physical	Theme: Highly developed site modifications and facilities. Regionally significant ski areas and other destination resorts as well as large, highly developed visitor centers are examples of urban nodes within NF System lands.	
		Remoteness: often close to towns and cities.	
		Size: n/a but typically small nodes	
		Infrastructure (access and facilities): <i>Access</i> – Typically Maintenance Level 4-5 roads and trail classes 4-5, mass transit often available <i>Rec sites</i> – Dev scale 5 typical <i>Sanitation</i> – flush toilets <i>Water supply</i> – Hot water, showers <i>Signing</i> – extensive <i>Interpretation</i> – exhibits in staffed visitor centers, highly developed and formalized exhibits <i>Water crossings</i> - bridges for: hwy. vehicles, buses, RVs, heavy equip.	<i>Access</i> – Groomed over-snow vehicle routes, groomed cross-country skiing, skate skiing and downhill ski/snowboard trails Full service facilities: visitor centers, resorts and lodging often present
		Vegetation: often planted, manicured, and maintained	
		Scenic Integrity: The full range (High to Low) is typical in Urban settings	
	Managerial	Intensive on-site management, obvious signs, and staffing, education and law enforcement available. Motorized and mechanized travel restricted to designated routes.	
	Social	High degree of interaction with people. People are in constant view. Challenge and risk are unimportant except for competitive sports.	