Land Planning Concepts
The Methods & Theory
Recreation & Outdoor
Education Providers use to manage the land & the people

Basic Planning Approaches
- Understand the site: Resources (cultural, plant communities, riparian zones, aesthetics, water quality/wetlands, wildlife habitat) and ...
- The Social aspects of the site (users, recreational activity, commercial activity, ...)
- Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC)
- Multiple Use
- Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)
- Public Participation

Limits of Acceptable Change
- Based upon a set of baseline data
  - To know the area before development
- Reflects biological, physical, and social conditions
- Result: What is acceptable based upon goals related to biological, physical, & social conditions. How far can we go when changing this site?

Multiple Use
- Coined by Gifford Pinchot
- An effort to provide multiple compatible uses for an area - thus you need to determine compatible uses for a given site.
- It is not everyone’s right to use the same area - a common misconception.

Public Participation
- The way to help determine L.A.C., what are Compatible Uses, and Help determine the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) for the site.
- In addition to Public Participation, research is essential in determining LAC and Compatible Uses.

Designations (Classes) in ROS: How a site is managed
- Primitive
- Semi-primitive Nonmotorized
- Semi-primitive Motorized
- Roaded Natural
- Rural
- Urban
ROS Size Criteria

- Primitive -- >5,000 acres
- Semi-Prim. Non-Motorized -- at least 2,500 acres
- Semi-Prim. Motorized -- at least 2,500 acres
- Roadeed Natural -- no distance criteria
- Rural -- no distance criteria
- Urban/developed -- no distance criteria.

ROS Remoteness Criteria

- Primitive -- >3 mi. all roads or motorized use
- Semi-Prim. Non-Motorized -- >1/2 mi. <3 mi. from all roads or motorized use
- Semi-Prim. Motorized -- within 1/2 mi. of primitive roads or trails but no closer than 1/2 mi. from improved roads
- Roadeed Natural -- within 1/2 mi. from improved roads
- Rural & Urban -- no distance criteria.

ROS Social Setting Criteria—User Density

- Primitive -- <6 parties/day on trails, <3 parties visible at campsite
- Semi-Prim. Non-Motorized -- 6-15/day on trails, <6 parties visible at campsite
- Semi-Prim. Motorized -- low to moderate contact frequency
- Roadeed Natural -- Moderate to high contacts on roads, Low to moderate on trails.
- Rural -- Moderate to high in developed sites.
- Urban/developed -- Large numbers expected.

How is the ROS Used?

- As a land Inventory and Classification System.
- As the basis for making Management decisions (motorized vehicles, facilities available, ease of access, level of use...)
- As a way to Communicate with the public. (What they can expect to find and where.)

Keeping the ROS in balance

- Physical Setting
- Social Setting
- Managerial Setting
- Regulated
- Unregulated
- Developed
Functional relationships in ROS

- **Experiences** derived from recreation are related to the **setting** in which they occur, and
- **Settings** are a function of environmental factors (physical, social, & managerial).
- The range of settings affect the **experiences** that can be provided.

ROS is based upon a behavioral approach to Recreation

- We manage natural settings to provide recreation opportunities.
- People seek opportunities to engage in preferred activities --
  - In preferred settings --
  - Preferred Physical setting,
  - Preferred Social setting, &
  - Preferred Managerial setting
  - To realize desired experiences Will also change these!

What is the Output of Natural Resource Management?

In the “good old days” it was simply:
- TIMBER (saw logs, poles, pulp, acres cut)
- WOOD PRODUCTS (lumber, plywood, paper, particle board)
- GAME (elk, deer, bighorn, bear harvested)
- FISH (trout, bass, sturgeon, steelhead)
- GRAZING (cattle, sheep, horses)

What is the Output of Natural Resource Management?

Today it is more complicated, managers provide:
- Habitat management (nesting, roaming, food, cover)
- Aquatic Ecosystems (stream condition, water quality, substrate, population ecology)
- Ecosystem management (landscape scale, renewable, sustainable)
- Riparian zones, connecting corridors.
- Anadromous, migratory & endangered species.

Functional relationships in Resource Recreation Management

- **Experiences** derived from recreation are related to the **setting** in which they occur, and
- Settings are a function of environmental factors (physical, social, and managerial).
- The range of settings managers provide affect the experiences that people can have.

A Behavioral Approach to Resource Recreation Management

- People seek **opportunities** to engage in preferred **activities** --
  - In preferred **settings** --
  - Preferred Physical setting,
  - Preferred Social setting, &
  - Preferred Managerial setting...
  - To realize desired **experiences**
Preferred environmental settings...

Physical Setting

- Landscape features
  - lakes, rivers, streams, forests, deserts, mountains
- Facility development
  - campgrounds, trails, scenic shelters, lodges, ski lifts, marinas, visitor centers
- Access and Remoteness
  - Paved vs gravel roads, trails, no trails

Social Setting

- Encounters with others
  - large groups, small groups, solitude
- Perceived similarity
  - similar group makeup?
  - engaged in similar or different activities?
  - annoying or objectionable behavior?
- Non-threatening environment

Management Setting

- Health & Safety
  - whose responsibility?
- Rules & Regulations
  - necessary or onerous?
- Skilled & Knowledgeable staff
- Enforcement presence/absence