

## 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
- *Roaded Natural* -- no distance criteria
- *Rural* -- no distance criteria
- *Urban/developed* -- no distance criteria.



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## 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
- *Roaded Natural* -- within 1/2 mi. from improved roads
- *Rural & Urban* -- no distance criteria.



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## ROS Social Setting Criteria— User Density

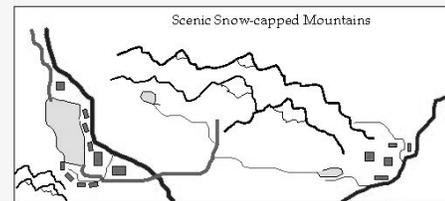
- *Primitive* -- <6 parties/day on trails, <3 parties visible at campsite.
- *Semi-Prim. Non-Motorized* -- 6-15 /day on trails, <6 parties visible at campsite.
- *Semi-Prim. Motorized* -- low to moderate contact frequency.
- *Roaded Natural* -- Moderate to high contacts on roads, Low to moderate on trails.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



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## How is the ROS Used?

- As a land Inventory and Classification System. (ZONING primitive, semi-primitive or roaded natural areas)



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## 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.)



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## Keeping the ROS in balance



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## Functional relationships in ROS

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



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## 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.

**Managers who change these...**

Will also change these!



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## 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)



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## What is the Output of Natural Resource Management?

Today it is more complicated, managers provide:

- **Habitat management** (nesting, rearing, 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...**



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## 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.



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## 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.




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Preferred environmental settings...  
Physical Setting

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



Preferred environmental settings...  
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.



Preferred environmental settings...  
Management Setting

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

