

## ROS Setting Characteristics

ROS SETTING		SUMMER CHARACTERISTICS	WINTER CHARACTERISTICS
<b>Primitive</b>	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Theme:</b> Predominately unmodified, naturally evolving, vast, and remote	
		<b>Remoteness:</b> 3 miles or more from designated motorized routes and areas	
		<b>Size:</b> 5,000 or more acres	
		<b>Infrastructure (access and facilities)</b> <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 trails, No motorized travel No mechanized travel within designated Wilderness  No other infrastructure or facilities typically present
		<b>Vegetation:</b> Natural, no treatments except for fire use.	
		<b>Scenic Integrity:</b> Very High	
	<b>Managerial</b>	Little to no on-site regimentation, few encounters with rangers	
<b>Social</b>	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.		
<b>Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized</b>	<b>Physical</b>	<b>Theme:</b> Predominately natural/natural appearing; rustic improvements to protect resources.	
		<b>Remoteness:</b> ½ mile or more from designated motorized routes and areas.	
		<b>Size:</b> 2,500 or more acres	
		<b>Infrastructure (access and facilities)</b> <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 traffic	<i>Access</i> – Ungroomed non-motorized trails with some trail markers, user created routes and areas from ski or snow shoe use. No motorized travel  No other infrastructure or facilities typically available
		<b>Vegetation:</b> Predominately natural treatment to enhance forest health	
		<b>Scenic Integrity:</b> High	
	<b>Managerial</b>	Minimum or subtle signing, regulations, or other regimentation. Low encounters with rangers.	
<b>Social</b>	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.		

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Semi-Primitive Motorized	Physical	<b>Theme:</b> Predominately natural appearing, motorized use visible and audible.	
		<b>Remoteness:</b> ½ mile or more from OM 3-5 roads	
		<b>Size:</b> 2,500 or more acres	
		<b>Infrastructure (access and facilities)</b> <i>Access</i> - Motorized routes: OML 2 roads and trail class 2 typical; OHVs allowed on designated routes and areas <i>Rec sites</i> – Dev. Scales 0-2; investments 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 over-snow vehicle routes and areas. Ungroomed ski trails. Over snow vehicles on designated routes and areas.  Few, if any, facilities or services available
		<b>Vegetation:</b> treatment areas are very small in number, widely disbursed, and consistent with natural vegetation patterns.	
	<b>Scenic Integrity:</b> High or 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 degree of risk/challenge		
Roaded Natural	Physical	<b>Theme:</b> Natural Appearing with nodes and corridors of development such as campgrounds, trailheads, boat launches, and rustic, small-scale resorts.	
		<b>Remoteness:</b> encompass ½ mile buffer of OML 3-5 roads.	
		<b>Size:</b> n/a	
		<b>Infrastructure (access and facilities):</b> <i>Access</i> – Typically :OML 2-5 roads and Trail Class 3-4, hwy. vehicles, OHVs and non-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 snowmobile routes. Groomed ski trails may also exist.</i>  Warming huts, cabins, and rustic facilities may be present.
		<b>Vegetation:</b> Vegetation treatment are evident but in harmony/subordinate to natural setting.	
	<b>Scenic Integrity:</b> High to Low		
Managerial	Signs and regulations present but typically subordinate to the setting. Moderate likelihood of encountering Forest Service rangers.		
Social	Moderate evidence of human sights and sounds; moderate concentration of users at campsites; little challenge or risk.		

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Rural	Physical	<b>Theme:</b> Altered landscapes with cultural emphasis such as: rural, pastoral, and/or agricultural. Administrative sites, historic complexes, and moderately developed resorts are typical	
		<b>Remoteness:</b> not remote, often near other (non-FS) rural settings and communities.	
		<b>Size:</b> n/a but typically small parcels within larger roaded natural settings.	
		<b>Infrastructure (access and facilities):</b> <i>Access</i> – typically OML 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 over-snow vehicle routes, groomed cross-country skiing, skate skiing, and downhill ski/snowboard trails  Full service facilities: and resorts often present
		<b>Vegetation:</b> treatments often visible, blend with landscape	
<b>Scenic Integrity:</b> High 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.		

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Urban	Physical	<b>Theme:</b> Highly developed site modifications and facilities. Ski areas, large visitor centers, and large resorts are examples of urban nodes within NF System lands.	
		<b>Remoteness:</b> often close to towns and cities.	
		<b>Size:</b> n/a but typically small nodes	
		<b>Infrastructure (access and facilities):</b> <i>Access</i> – OML 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
		<b>Vegetation:</b> often planted, manicured and maintained	
<b>Scenic Integrity:</b> High to Low			
Managerial	Intensive on-site management, obvious signs, and staffing, education and law enforcement available. Motorized and mechanized travel restricted to designated routes. No motorized or mechanized travel allowed off designated travel routes.		
Social	High degree of interaction with people. People are in constant view. Challenge and risk are unimportant except for competitive sports.		

