



**FOREST SERVICE HANDBOOK
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FSH 2309.13 – RECREATION SITE HANDBOOK

**CHAPTER 50 – FOREST SERVICE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF
DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES**

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50 – Establishes codes and chapter and sets forth direction for Forest Service operation and maintenance of developed recreation sites. Recodes to this Forest Service Handbook chapter direction that is currently set out in FSM 2332 governing operation and maintenance of developed recreation sites by the Forest Service.

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This chapter addresses Forest Service operation and maintenance of developed recreation sites. Developed recreation sites are areas on National Forest System lands at a development scale of 3, 4, or 5 (sec. 50.5, ex. 01) and that contain infrastructure or amenities for public enjoyment and resource protection. Examples of developed recreation sites include boat launches, campgrounds, climbing areas, day use areas, picnic sites, fishing sites, group campgrounds and picnic sites, horse camps, informational and interpretive sites, visitor centers, recreation rental cabins, observation sites, off-highway vehicle staging areas, Nordic ski areas, developed swimming sites, snow play areas, target ranges, trailheads, and wildlife viewing sites.

Developed recreation sites may be operated and maintained by Forest Service personnel or by a concessioner under a special use permit. This chapter addresses operation and maintenance of developed recreation sites by the Forest Service, including Forest Service operation of a concession site during a shoulder season. See FSM 2340 for direction on issuance and administration of special use permits for operation and maintenance of developed recreation sites by concessioners.

Developed recreation sites operated by the Forest Service may be the first encounter visitors have with National Forest System lands. Thus, developed recreation sites operated by the Forest Service provide a platform for positively influencing the relationship a visitor has with the outdoors.

Recreation uses and values are important aspects of the ecosystems the Agency manages, and sustainable operation and maintenance of developed recreation sites by the Forest Service helps maintain and complement their natural setting. Appropriate Forest Service operation and maintenance of developed recreation sites promote a quality visitor experience without compromising the surrounding natural resources.

50.1 – Authority

The following authorities govern Forest Service operation and maintenance of developed recreation sites. See FSM 2301 for authorities governing the Forest Service's recreation program generally.

1. Architectural Barriers Act (ABA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.). This Act requires that all facilities designed, constructed, altered, or leased by a Federal agency be accessible to persons with a disability.
2. Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794 and 794d). Section 504 of this Act (29 U.S.C. 794) prohibits Federal agencies and recipients of Federal financial assistance from denying qualified persons with a disability from participation in a program or activity solely due to their disability. Section 508 of this Act (29 U.S.C. 794d) requires that all electronic and information technology purchased or developed by a Federal agency allow persons with a disability to have access to and use

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of the information and data that are comparable to the access and use provided to persons without a disability.

3. Enforcement of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Programs or Activities of USDA (7 CFR Parts 15b and 15e). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations implementing section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as it applies to USDA-assisted programs are found at 7 CFR Part 15b. The USDA regulations implementing section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as it applies to programs and activities conducted by USDA are found at 7 CFR Part 15e. These provisions address program accessibility; requirements for accessible programs in new, altered, or existing facilities; accessibility transition planning; accessible communication requirements; and compliance procedures.

4. Section 8104 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (25 U.S.C. 3054). Upon the Forest Service's approval of a request from an Indian tribe, this Act authorizes the Forest Service to close temporarily to public access specifically identified National Forest System lands to protect the privacy of tribal activities for traditional and cultural purposes. Section 8102(5) of the Act defines the term "Indian tribe" as any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or other community, the name of which is included on a list published by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (24 U.S.C. 479a-1). Section 8102(9) of the Act defines the term "traditional and cultural purpose" with respect to a definable use, area, or practice to mean that the use, area, or practice is identified by an Indian tribe as traditional or cultural because of the long-established significance or ceremonial nature of the use, area, or practice to the Indian tribe.

50.2 – Objectives

Operate and maintain developed recreation sites and facilities consistent with the following objectives, as practicable:

1. Utilize sustainable practices.
2. Provide sites and facilities that serve the interests and needs of visitors, to the extent deemed feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official for the setting and use of the site.
3. Restore settings that have been impacted by excessive or inappropriate use or declining ecosystem health.
4. As deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official and using this chapter as guidance, evaluate and mitigate known high-risk conditions.
5. Develop and manage sites to harmonize with the surrounding natural environment.

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50.3 – Policy

1. This chapter applies to operation and maintenance of developed recreation sites (recreation sites with a development scale of 3, 4, or 5). This chapter does not apply to operation and maintenance of recreation sites with a development scale of 0, 1, or 2. See sec. 50.5, ex. 01, of this chapter for the development scale for recreation sites.
2. Use the land management planning process (36 CFR Part 219, FSM 1920 and 2310, and FSH 2309.13, ch. 10) in developing and reconstructing developed recreation sites.
3. Use recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) guidelines (FSM 2310) when developing, altering, reconstructing, or maintaining developed recreation sites.
4. Maintain developed recreation sites and facilities consistent with their associated ROS class. Do not provide urban facilities, except in urban ROS settings. See section 50.5, exhibit 01, for the ROS classes for recreation sites, the development scale, and level of site modification associated with each ROS class.
5. Develop or improve developed recreation sites and facilities to enhance natural and cultural resource-based activities typically associated with a natural environment.
6. Prepare a design narrative, a site design, and appropriate environmental analysis before constructing, expanding, or rehabilitating a developed recreation site or adapting it to a new use (FSH 2309.13, ch. 10).
7. Ensure that all new, altered, or reconstructed developed recreation sites, facilities, interpretive media, and programs comply with applicable Federal and Forest Service accessibility guidelines and standards (FSM 2330.12, para. 1-6), including the Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG) and the Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines (FSTAG). Ensure that developed recreation sites, facilities, interpretive media, and programs utilize universal design (FSM 2330.5).
8. When operating and reconstructing developed recreation sites and facilities, use the data in the Recreation Sites Module of the Natural Resource Manager database (NRM) for cost efficiency, occupancy, facility condition, amount of deferred maintenance, and annual operating costs.
9. Establish the following priorities in the following order for management of developed recreation sites:
 - a. Addressing public health and safety concerns, to the extent deemed feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official and using this chapter as guidance.

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- b. Protecting the natural environment of the site.
 - c. Managing and maintaining sites and facilities to support visitor interaction with the natural environment.
 - d. Providing new development consistent with the applicable land management plan and Forest Service directives, including the applicable ROS class.
10. Analyze use of existing developed recreation sites and facilities to monitor visitor satisfaction and use patterns, and use the results of that analysis in determining options for their future operation. Options may include expansion, reconstruction, or alteration of sites, converting to concession operation, new or revised recreation fees, or closure and decommissioning.
 11. Limit regulation, constraint, and supervision of recreational use at developed recreation sites to the minimum necessary for resource protection, visitor satisfaction, and safety, as determined by the local Forest Service official, based on site-specific considerations.
 12. Use risk management assessment and management tools to make informed decisions and provide information, as deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official, about potential hazards to employees and visitors at developed recreation sites.
 13. Consider adapting operation of developed recreation sites, to the extent deemed feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official and based on the specific circumstances, to address adverse conditions at developed recreation sites due to variations in climate, changes in the water supply; changes in visitor use patterns; public health emergencies; and increased fire risk from drought.
 14. Consider temporarily or permanently closing developed recreation sites or facilities that no longer meet user preferences or are not socially, economically, or environmentally sustainable (sec. 53.39). Temporarily or permanently close all or part of developed recreation sites that cannot be operated and maintained in accordance with the core national quality standards (sec. 52.11) and applicable operation and maintenance plan (sec. 52.2). Develop an appropriate decommissioning plan in consultation with the local engineering staff before permanently closing a developed recreation site (sec. 53.39).
 15. Ensure that requests for temporary closure by Indian tribes to protect the privacy of tribal activities for traditional and cultural purposes are considered and access provided to the maximum extent practicable, in accordance with section 8104 of FCEA (25 U.S.C. 3054), when developing and managing developed recreation sites.

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16. Charge recreation fees for developed recreation sites in accordance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act and chapter 30 of this handbook.

17. Use Recreation.gov when reservation services for developed recreation sites and facilities are offered (sec. 53.28).

18. Consider whether it is appropriate to authorize concession operation of Forest Service campgrounds, related recreational facilities, and other developed recreation sites under FSM 2344.

50.4 – Responsibility

50.4a – Regional Foresters

At the Regional Forester's discretion, the following responsibilities may be delegated to the Forest Supervisor, unless specifically reserved to the Regional Forester.

Regional Foresters are responsible for:

1. Identifying and updating regional priorities for the Recreation Capital Investment Program. This responsibility cannot be delegated.
2. Developing and implementing a program for conducting periodic risk management reviews of developed recreation sites under their jurisdiction.

50.4b – Forest and Grassland Supervisors

Forest and Grassland Supervisors are responsible for:

1. Monitoring operation and maintenance of developed recreation sites under their jurisdiction.
2. Preparing, as they deem needed and appropriate, a risk management plan for developed recreation sites under their jurisdiction with measurable goals, responsibilities, action items, and due dates.
3. Seeking partnerships with other entities to share in the development, cost, and labor of providing recreation opportunities in their region and ensuring compliance with requirements for authorizing instruments.

50.4c – District Rangers

For each season of managed use, including Forest Service operation of a concession site during a shoulder season, District Rangers are responsible for:

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1. Preparing an operation and maintenance plan for developed recreation sites (sec. 52.2).
2. To the extent deemed practicable by the District Ranger, completing and documenting annual pre-season safety inspections of developed recreation sites and facilities.
3. To the extent deemed practicable by the District Ranger, conducting and documenting appropriate hazard tree surveys at developed recreation sites.
4. Operating and maintaining developed recreation sites and facilities in accordance with their operation and maintenance plan.

50.5 – Definitions

Accessible. A site or facility that is in compliance with the most stringent current applicable Federal or Forest Service accessibility guidelines at the time the site or facility is constructed or altered.

Built Environment Image Guide. A guide used for building and maintaining structures so that they are integrated with the environment aesthetically, culturally, and ecologically (Forest Service publication FS-710).

Camping Unit. A discrete area within a campground that has a designated persons at one time (PAOT); that usually includes a camp living area, a parking spur, and one or more constructed features, such as a picnic table and a cooking or campfire area; and that is designed and constructed for overnight camping.

1. Single Camping Unit. A camping unit designed to accommodate up to 5 PAOT.
2. Multiple Camping Unit. A camping unit that can accommodate more than 5 PAOT. A double camping unit accommodates 10 PAOT. A triple camping unit accommodates 15 PAOT. A group camping unit accommodates 20 or more PAOT.
3. Camp Living Area. The area in a camping unit that contains constructed features, such as a picnic table, grill, fire ring, tent pad, utilities, and other related elements, and may be located adjacent to or near a parking spur.
4. Parking Spur. The space in a camping unit that is designed for vehicular access and parking and may include a driveway and vehicle parking area.
5. Driveway. The section of a parking spur connecting the campground interior access road and a vehicle parking area.

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6. Vehicle Parking Area. The section of a parking spur where vehicles such as cars, motorcycles, vans, recreational vehicles, and trailers are parked.

Condition Survey. A physical assessment and documentation of the type of work and material needed to bring a developed recreation site or facility to an applicable standard.

Developed Recreation Site. A recreation site that has a development scale of 3, 4, or 5 (sec. 50.5, ex. 01).

Development Scale. Classification of recreation sites based on the level of Forest Service investment, amenities present, and resource protection and visitor comfort provided (sec. 50.5, ex. 01).

Hazard Tree. A standing tree that presents a visible hazard to people or property due to conditions such as deterioration of or damage to the root system, trunk, stem, or limbs or the direction or lean of the tree and therefore may be dead or dying, partially dead, or unstable. The terms “hazard tree” and “danger tree” are interchangeable (29 CFR 1910.266(c); FSH 6709.11, glossary).

Host. An individual who provides public services such as information, campground maintenance, and security at a developed recreation site under a Forest Service volunteer agreement.

Indian Tribe. For purposes of this chapter, any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or other community, the name of which is included on a list published by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (24 U.S.C. 479a-1; Executive Order 13175, Sec. 1(b)).

Operation and Maintenance Plan. A plan for operation and maintenance of a developed recreation site that is prepared and signed annually by the local Forest Service official before commencement of the season of managed use.

Persons at One Time (PAOT). A measure of capacity that is used to determine the number of persons for which a particular outdoor recreation feature is designed, built, and managed and that is determined and documented at the local level.

Picnic Unit. An outdoor space in a picnic area that is designed and managed for picnicking and that contains one or more constructed features (such as a picnic table, grill, or other related elements).

Recreation Fee. A standard amenity recreation fee, an expanded amenity recreation fee, or a special recreation permit fee (16 U.S.C. 6802(f)-(h); FSH 2309.13, ch. 30).

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Recreation.gov. A Federally managed, interagency website that may be used by the public to reserve Federally owned or conducted recreational facilities and activities.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). A system for classifying, inventorying, and monitoring existing and desired outdoor recreation settings that is based on their physical and social characteristics and the degree to which they are managed and that includes classes ranging from Primitive to Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, Semi-Primitive Motorized, Roaded Natural, Rural, and Urban (FSM 2310).

Recreation Rental Cabin. A Forest Service facility, such as a cabin or lookout, that is available for overnight public rental.

Recreation Site. An area that is improved, developed, or otherwise authorized by the Forest Service for recreation and that has a development scale of 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 (sec. 50.5, ex. 01).

Scenery Management. The art and science of planning, designing, and specifying landscape attributes and management practices relative to the appearance of natural outdoor settings (Forest Service Landscape Aesthetics Handbook 701).

Scenery Management System (SMS). The system for inventorying, analyzing, and managing scenery on National Forest System lands, which identifies scenic integrity objectives for sites based on their landscape character, distance zones and concern levels, and scenic attractiveness (Forest Service Landscape Aesthetics Handbook 701; FSM 2380).

Sustainable. Meeting current needs without compromising the ability to meet future needs within a social, economic, and environmental framework.

Traditional and Cultural Purpose. With respect to a definable use, area, or practice, identified by an Indian tribe as traditional or cultural because of the long-established significance or ceremonial nature of the use, area, or practice to the Indian tribe.

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50.5 – Exhibit 01

Recreation Site Development Scale

Development Scale	Applicable ROS Setting	Typical Site and Facility Characteristics	Typical Management Emphasis
0	Any ROS setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User-created, dispersed use area. • No Forest Service investment or amenities. 	May include monitoring of resource conditions
1	Any ROS setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily user-created, dispersed use area. • Informal vehicle circulation and parking. • Minimal Forest Service investment, e.g., signage. 	Resource protection
2	Any ROS setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defined vehicle circulation and parking, with minimal Forest Service investment to accommodate user-created, dispersed use. • Limited amenities may include signage, tables, and fire rings and in rare instances may include a vault toilet. 	Resource protection
3	Roaded Natural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed and developed site with significant Forest Service investment and delineation. • Amenities may include signage, fire rings, tables, vault toilet, waste collection, and drinking water. • Roads are surfaced and at maintenance level 3 or 4. 	Visitor comfort and resource protection

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50.5 – Exhibit 01--Continued

4	Roaded Natural, Rural, Urban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed and developed site with significant Forest Service investment and delineation. • Amenities include signage, interpretive materials, fire rings, grills, tables, waste collection, drinking water, and flush toilets. • Roads, parking, and paths are surfaced and may be paved; roads are at maintenance level 4 or 5. 	Visitor comfort and resource protection
5	Rural, Urban	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed and developed site with significant Forest Service investment and delineation. • Amenities typically include signage, interpretive displays, fire rings, grills, tables, waste collection, drinking water, and flush toilets and may include utility hookups, showers, and laundry facilities. • Roads, parking, and pathways are clearly delineated and often paved; roads are at maintenance level 4 or 5. 	Visitor comfort and resource protection

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50.6 – References

1. Additional information regarding laws, regulations, standards, guidelines, and publications relating to accessibility is available on the Forest Service’s website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility>.
2. Additional information regarding Forest Service guidance and publications relating to the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) and the Built Environment Image Guide (BEIG) is available on the Forest Service’s website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/beig>.
3. Additional information regarding Forest Service guidance, best practices, and publications relating to sustainable design, construction, and maintenance can be found on the Forest Service’s website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/sustainableoperations> and in FSH 7309.11, Chapter 70.
4. Additional information regarding waste prevention and recycling can be found in FSM 6460.

50.7 – Federal and Forest Service Accessibility Requirements for Developed Recreation Sites and Facilities

1. Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4151 *et seq.*). This Act requires that all facilities designed, constructed, altered, or leased by a Federal agency be accessible to persons with a disability.
2. Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) (41 CFR Part 102-76, Subpart C), as supplemented by the Outdoor Developed Area Accessibility Guidelines (ODAAG). These guidelines, developed by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, apply to all Federal agencies operating under the authority of the General Services Administration in buildings and constructed features addressed by the ABAAS, except where the agency has accessibility guidelines, such as the Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines, that set an equal or higher standard.
3. Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines (FSORAG). These guidelines apply to the facilities, sites, and constructed features in the National Forest System that are addressed in the FSORAG when it sets a standard that is equal to or higher than the standard established by the ABAAS.
4. Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794 and 794d). Section 504 of this Act (29 U.S.C. 794) prohibits Federal agencies and recipients of Federal financial assistance from denying qualified persons with a disability

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from participation in a program or activity solely due to their disability. Section 508 of this Act (29 U.S.C. 794d) requires that all electronic and information technology purchased or developed by a Federal agency allow persons with a disability to have access to and use of the information and data that are comparable to the access and use provided to persons without a disability.

5. Enforcement of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Programs or Activities of USDA (7 CFR Parts 15b and 15e). USDA regulations implementing section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as it applies to USDA-assisted programs are found at 7 CFR Part 15b. USDA regulations implementing section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as it applies to programs and activities conducted by USDA are found at 7 CFR Part 15e. These provisions address program accessibility; accessibility requirements for new, altered, or existing facilities; accessibility transition planning; accessible communication requirements; and compliance procedures.

6. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*). This Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by State or local governments in providing public accommodations and public transportation. The ADA does not apply to Federal agencies, with the exception of Title V, Section 508c. This section clarifies that the Wilderness Act of 1964 is preeminent in Federally designated wilderness areas, contains a definition of a wheelchair, and states that a device that meets that definition can be used wherever foot travel is permitted in Federally designated wilderness areas.

51 – Inherent Risks of Recreational Activities on National Forest System Lands

Outdoor recreational activities on National Forest System lands, including recreational activities at recreation sites, have inherent potential risks due to features or qualities of the land or environment, such as uneven terrain; exposure to weather and wildfire; and the presence of insects, reptiles or wild animals, poisonous plants, hazard trees, flood plains, rock fall, landslides, and other aspects of the natural world.

Similarly, some Forest Service recreation sites may contain inherent risks to visitors in varying degrees depending on their location, level of site modification, surrounding topography, forest type and condition, type of resident wildlife, and the activity involved. Some inherent risks at recreation sites decrease as the development scale increases.

For example, recreation sites with a development scale of 0, 1, or 2, which are characterized by uneven, natural terrain, and little or no amenities or management of activities or site conditions, are likely to have greater inherent risks than recreation sites with a development scale of 3, 4 or 5, which are designed and developed for specific public uses, have hard-surfaced or paved walkways and activity areas, and an increasing degree of regimentation.

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In addition, generally the inherent risk at recreation sites increases as the risk associated with activities at the site increases. For example, a snow play area generally is more likely to have greater inherent risks than a picnic area.

Individuals engaging in outdoor recreational activities on National Forest System lands assume these inherent risks.

52 – Operation and Maintenance of Developed Recreation Sites

Operate and maintain developed recreation sites in accordance with the applicable national quality standards (sec. 52.1 through 52.14) and operation and maintenance plan (sec. 52.2) and applicable agency policy on management of developed recreation sites (sec. 53).

Close any recreation site or part of a recreation site that cannot be operated and maintained in accordance with the core national quality standards (sec. 52.11) and applicable operation and maintenance plan.

52.1 – National Quality Standards for Developed Recreation Sites

The national quality standards are designed to address public safety, risk management, and resource protection at developed recreation sites. The national quality standards for developed recreation sites are grouped into 4 categories:

1. Core standards;
2. Operational standards;
3. Maintenance standards; and
4. Management standards.

Each category contains specific standards, indicators for meeting those standards, and associated tasks, which are enumerated in sections 52.11 through 52.14 and displayed in section 52.1, exhibit 01.

Regions may develop regional quality standards for developed recreation sites that supplement the national quality standards. Regions may not revise, replace, or eliminate any national quality standards for developed recreation sites.

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52.11 – Core National Quality Standards for Developed Recreation Sites

At a minimum, the following nine core national quality standards must be met at a developed recreation site.

1. To the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official, a pre-season site safety inspection is completed and documented.
 - a. To extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official, a site safety inspection is completed and documented in the applicable operation and maintenance plan and, as appropriate, in NRM, before the season of managed use.
 - b. Any corrective actions deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official as a result of the site safety inspection are completed to the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official and documented before the season of managed use begins.
 - c. If corrective actions deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official cannot be completed before the season of managed use begins, consideration is given, based on an assessment of the likelihood and severity of risk, to postponing the opening of the site or closing the site until the corrective actions deemed needed and appropriate are completed. The consideration of the likelihood and severity of risk and the decision made based on that consideration are documented.
2. Known high-risk conditions are minimized, mitigated, or eliminated to the extent deemed feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official prior to the season of managed use.
 - a. Known High-Risk Conditions Prior to the Season of Managed Use. Known high-risk conditions (caused either by humans or natural occurrences) are minimized, mitigated, or eliminated to the extent deemed feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, taking into account resource considerations such as scenic values, the ability to maintain safety devices, other aspects of feasibility and effectiveness, changing conditions, funding, the applicable ROS class, the amount of visitor use, potential impacts on wildlife, the need for maintenance, and other factors deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official, prior to the season of managed use.
 - b. Known High-Risk Conditions During the Season of Managed Use. The site is monitored per the applicable operation and maintenance plan to assess high-risk conditions during the season of managed use. Known high-risk conditions (caused either by humans or natural occurrences) that develop during the season of managed use are minimized, mitigated, or eliminated to the extent deemed feasible and

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appropriate by the local Forest Service official, taking into account the resource considerations identified in paragraph 2a, within 48 hours of discovery or as soon as practicable. When a high-risk condition is reported by others, the condition is minimized, mitigated, or eliminated to the extent deemed feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, taking into account the resource considerations identified in paragraph 2a, within 48 hours of verification.

c. Consultation, Possible Corrective Actions, and Documentation. The local forest management, fire, hydrology, engineering, and recreation staffs and the local Office of the General Counsel are consulted as appropriate regarding assessment of high-risk conditions and possible corrective actions. Corrective actions and response time for each known high-risk condition are commensurate with the severity and probability of risk, magnitude of use, and applicable development scale and ROS class, as determined by the local Forest Service official. As deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, taking into account the resource considerations identified in paragraph 2a, consideration is given to posting signage, installing a barrier, closing all or part of the site, taking other measures to notify the public of potential hazards, or otherwise addressing public safety concerns. Consultation, consideration of possible corrective actions, and any corrective actions taken are documented.

d. Hazard Tree Surveys. A Forest Service employee or contractor who has completed the applicable regional hazard tree inspection training conducts and documents hazard tree surveys at the site in accordance with applicable local or regional guidelines, as determined in consultation with the regional forest pathologist or forest health protection specialist. Types of hazard tree surveys include the following:

(1) Annual Survey. An on-site, visual inspection of tree defects that is typically accomplished by a walk-through examination to identify recently killed trees, dead limbs, dead and broken crowns, leaning trees, hollow trees, root-sprung trees, and exposed roots and that may identify the need for an in-depth survey.

(2) In-Depth Survey. An on-site, systematic, visual inspection that focuses on indicators of tree defects, such as stem decay that weakens the vertical integrity of trees or diseases that lead to decay and eventual root failure.

To the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official, an annual survey is conducted each year and an in-depth survey is conducted as deemed needed by the local Forest Service official after an annual survey and after major disturbances such as hurricanes, ice storms, insect infestations, fires, significant rainfalls, severe winds, and other events that may adversely affect trees.

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- e. Inspection of Recreation Rental Cabins. Recreation rental cabins are inspected in accordance with the applicable operation and maintenance plan by qualified civil, electrical, and structural engineering personnel, as deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official.
3. Utilities (such as electrical, natural gas, propane, steam, and fuel oil systems) meet applicable Federal, State, and local requirements for operation and maintenance.
- a. Qualified personnel operate and maintain utility systems in accordance with their education, training, certifications, applicable state and local law, and FSH 6709.11, Chapter 30.
 - b. Qualified personnel perform condition surveys of utility systems in accordance with applicable directives (FSM 7611.1).
 - c. Qualified personnel (FSH 6709.11, ch. 30) repair and replace utility systems. Electrical work is performed by a licensed electrician. Forest Service employees who have had appropriate training repair and replace appliances up to but not including appliance shut-off valves.
4. Water, wastewater, and sewage or disposal treatment systems meet Federal, State, and local requirements for operation, maintenance, and monitoring.
- a. Qualified personnel conduct sanitary and condition surveys for drinking water systems (FSM 7421.13 and 7421.14). As deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, corrective actions are implemented and documented when deficiencies are found during sanitary and condition surveys (FSM 7421.13). The assessment of need and appropriateness and completion of any corrective actions taken are documented.
 - b. Trained personnel monitor, operate, and maintain drinking water systems in compliance with Federal and State drinking water laws and regulations, including providing sampling results and reports to the relevant State agency. Operators are certified if required by the State.
 - c. A file is maintained for each drinking water system that contains, at a minimum, analysis results and reports maintained in accordance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations, applicable State regulations, and FSM 7421.3.
 - d. Applicable public and regulatory agency notification requirements (e.g., for exceeding the maximum contaminant level) are followed.

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- e. Wastewater and sewage treatment or disposal systems are monitored, operated, and maintained by trained personnel in accordance with applicable standards, permits, and regulations. Qualified personnel perform condition surveys of wastewater and sewage treatment or disposal systems as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official (FSM 7413.8). As deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, corrective actions are implemented and documented when deficiencies are found during condition surveys. The assessment of need and appropriateness and completion of any corrective actions taken are documented.
5. Applicable orders are posted, and applicable laws, regulations, and orders are enforced as deemed appropriate by the local Law Enforcement and Investigations staff.
 - a. Applicable laws, regulations, and orders are posted in accordance with 36 CFR 261.51.
 - b. Applicable laws, regulations, and orders are enforced as deemed appropriate by the local Law Enforcement and Investigations staff.
 - c. Coordination with the local Law Enforcement and Investigations staff is sufficient to support the objectives of the applicable operation and maintenance plan.
 6. Visitors' exposure to human waste to the extent practicable.
 - a. Visitors are not knowingly exposed to human waste through improper or infrequent cleaning of toilet fixtures, buildings, and other restroom facilities or through malfunctioning of restroom facilities.
 - b. Visitors are properly informed of procedures for disposing of human waste.
 - c. Unforeseeable events that result in exposure to human waste are addressed as soon as practicable after they are discovered by the Forest Service or reported by others.
 7. As deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, encounters with potentially threatening wildlife are minimized.
 - a. Visitors are informed, as deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, of potential wildlife encounters and mitigating actions to reduce risk, including safe food storage and trash disposal procedures.
 - b. As deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, animal-resistant food storage containers and trash receptacles are provided.
 - c. Visitors and employees have a point of contact for reporting aggressive wildlife behavior.

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8. A current and complete operation and maintenance plan exists and is being implemented.
 - a. A current and complete operation and maintenance plan exists and is being implemented.
 - b. The local Forest Service official annually reviews and, as needed, updates the applicable operation and maintenance plan.
9. Recreational use is consistent with applicable laws and regulations pertaining to natural and cultural resource protection.
 - a. Recreational use is consistent with applicable laws and regulations pertaining to natural and cultural resource protection (e.g., the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Threatened and Endangered Species Act).
 - b. If recreational use is inconsistent with an applicable environmental law or regulation, the local Forest Service official consults with the appropriate Forest Service specialist to determine what type of mitigation is appropriate.
 - c. Mitigation measures (such as site closure, warning signs, patrols, maintenance, repair, replacement, decommissioning, alteration, expansion, or construction of a constructed feature) are implemented as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, taking into account resource considerations such as scenic values, the ability to maintain safety devices, other aspects of feasibility and effectiveness, changing conditions, funding, the applicable ROS class, the amount of visitor use, potential impacts on wildlife, the need for maintenance, and other factors deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official. The assessment of need and appropriateness and completion of any corrective actions taken are documented.

52.12 – National Quality Standards for Operation of Developed Recreation Sites

The following nine national quality standards, which address operational matters, should be followed at developed recreation sites.

1. Constructed features are clean.
 - a. Toilet fixtures, buildings, and other restroom facilities are cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the schedule in the applicable operation and maintenance plan.
 - b. Constructed features are cleaned to ensure they are free of stains, spills, odors, obstacles, debris, and graffiti.

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- c. Unclean conditions of constructed features caused by heavy usage are rectified as soon as practicable.
2. Restroom facilities and trash receptacles and collection areas do not deter usage because of objectionable odor.
 - a. Toilet fixtures, toilet buildings, other restroom facilities, and trash receptacles and collection areas are monitored for odor in accordance with the schedule in the applicable operation and maintenance plan.
 - b. Objectionable odor from restroom facilities and trash receptacles and collection areas is eliminated as soon as practicable.
3. Trash does not exceed the capacity of available receptacles.
 - a. Trash receptacles are emptied in accordance with the schedule in the applicable operation and maintenance plan.
 - b. After heavy usage, overflowing receptacles are emptied as soon as practicable.
4. Camping units are free of litter, including domestic animal waste.
 - a. Litter, including domestic animal waste, is removed from the site to minimize accumulation and as scheduled in the site operation and maintenance plan.
 - b. Excessive amounts of litter after heavy usage is removed as soon as practicable.
5. Facilities are free of graffiti. Graffiti on facilities, such as on the exterior of buildings and restroom partitions, are removed as soon as practicable.
6. Parking and visitor use are managed to avoid impairing resource conditions.
 - a. Parking and visitor use are managed so that they do not exceed the designed capacity of the site.
 - b. As deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, law enforcement tools such as orders are used to limit parking and visitor use.
 - c. Physical barriers, signs, and other traffic control devices are monitored and the site is patrolled as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official to prevent or mitigate parking and visitor use patterns that adversely affect resources conditions.

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7. The landscape is managed for visual quality and forest and vegetative succession. The landscape is managed in accordance with the applicable vegetation management plan.
8. Information is accessible to visitors and is presented in accordance with applicable Forest Service guidelines.
 - a. Information boards are consistent with the Sign and Poster Guidelines (EM-7100-15) and applicable regional guidelines.
 - b. Information (such as maps, hours of operation, seasons of use, allowable uses, access and use restrictions, and special notices) is accessible to visitors and is posted on information boards in a welcoming, professional, and uncluttered manner.
 - c. Posters are easy to read, well-spaced, and understandable by their intended audience.
 - d. Where the primary language of a significant number of visitors is not English, messages are also provided in the primary languages spoken by those visitors.
 - e. Signage is consistent with the Sign Installation Guide (EM-7100).
 - f. Recreation fee signing is consistent with the National Guidelines for Recreation Fee Signing (Jan. 2007).
 - g. Recreation fee accomplishments are posted on information boards and are updated annually.
9. Information provided by the Forest Service about the site is accurate and available from multiple sources.
 - a. Information describing amenities, management, and recreation opportunities at the site is reviewed for accuracy annually or when site conditions change.
 - b. Information about the site is posted on the recreation webpage for the applicable administrative unit and, as applicable, on Recreation.gov.
 - c. Printed materials about the site are made available based on visitor need or demand and agency capability to provide them.

52.13 – National Quality Standard for Maintenance of Developed Recreation Sites

The following national quality standard, which addresses maintenance, should be followed at developed recreation sites:

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1. To the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official based on staffing, funding, and other resource constraints, constructed features are serviceable and in good repair throughout their designed service life.

- a. To the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official based on staffing, funding, and other resource constraints, improvements are maintained to the standard to which they were originally constructed or subsequently improved or modified.
- b. To the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official based on staffing, funding, and other resource constraints, service and repairs are performed in accordance with the schedule in the applicable operation and maintenance plan to minimize breakdowns, hazardous conditions, and premature replacement of fixed assets (FSH 6509.19, sec. 20.5).

52.14 – National Quality Standards for Management of Developed Recreation Sites

The following nine national quality standards, which address management concerns, should be followed at developed recreation sites.

1. A sign plan is prepared and implemented in accordance with the Sign and Poster Guidelines (EM-7100-15).
 - a. A sign plan is prepared in consultation with the forest sign coordinator and approved in writing prior to implementation by the forest sign coordinator (FSM 7160.42d).
 - b. Signs and posters are professionally made; are consistent with the Sign and Poster Guidelines (EM-7100-15) and other applicable standards for design and installation; are legible in darkness as well as daylight as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official; and are maintained as deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official.
 - c. Recreation signing is installed in accordance with the applicable sign plan and Sign Installation Guide (EM-7100).
 - d. Signs and posters that are not included in the sign plan are installed only with prior written approval from the forest sign coordinator.
 - e. If deemed feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, taking into account resource considerations such as scenic values, the ability to maintain safety devices, other aspects of feasibility and effectiveness, changing conditions, funding,

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the applicable ROS class, the amount of visitor use, potential impacts on wildlife, and other factors deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official, accident prevention and safety signage is installed in accordance with EM-7100-15 and FSM 2527.5. The assessment of feasibility and appropriateness and the decision to post accident prevention and safety signage are documented. If installed, accident prevention and safety signage is conspicuously posted at the appropriate viewing height and maintained as deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official.

f. The international accessibility symbol (wheelchair symbol) is used only for accessible restrooms, parking and lodging areas, building entrances, and emergency routes, where applicable.

g. Campground accessibility information is consistent with the signage requirements in the FSORAG and is not displayed at individual camping units.

2. A vegetation management plan has been developed, is being implemented, and is updated as needed and appropriate. A vegetation management plan consistent with the applicable land management plan, Forest Service scenic integrity objectives, and regional scenic integrity guidelines has been developed in consultation with appropriate Forest Service staff, such as a forest health protection specialist, silviculturist, botanist, and landscape architect; is being implemented; and is reviewed and updated as needed and appropriate.

3. Alteration and expansion of the site and its facilities meet applicable planning, design, and accessibility standards and guidelines.

a. Alteration and expansion of the site and its facilities are approved by the appropriate Forest Service official.

b. Alteration and expansion of the site and its facilities meet applicable Forest Service planning and design standards.

c. Alteration and expansion of the site and its facilities are consistent with an approved site development plan, including an accessibility transition plan that has been reviewed by the local Forest Service official for consistency with the applicable land management plan (FSH 2309.13, ch. 10).

d. New, altered, or expanded constructed features meet applicable Forest Service design standards and accessibility requirements in the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the FSORAG and are consistent with the applicable site development plan.

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- e. Alteration and expansion of the site and its facilities are informed by the applicable ROS class and applicable SMS and BEIG objectives and blend with the site's natural and cultural setting.
 - f. Alteration and expansion of the site and its facilities prompt reassessment and, if appropriate, reclassification of the site's development scale.
4. To the extent practicable based on resource and other constraints, staffing is maintained at a level that meets the needs identified in the applicable operation and maintenance plan.
- a. To the extent practicable based on resource and other constraints, staffing is maintained consistent with the applicable operation and maintenance plan.
 - b. To the extent practicable based on resource and other constraints, agency personnel have adequate time to patrol periodically and respond to visitor needs. Where feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, an entry station is staffed to meet visitor needs.
 - c. To the extent practicable based on resource and other constraints, visitor centers, visitor contact stations, and other facilities primarily intended for the dissemination of recreation information are staffed with personnel who can provide current, complete, and accurate information to the public.
5. The roles of volunteers and cooperators are properly documented and are executed with training and equipment deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official.
- a. Volunteer hosts are utilized as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official.
 - b. Volunteer and cooperator roles are documented with the appropriate instrument.
 - c. Volunteers and cooperators have training and equipment as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official.
6. Site management is customer service-oriented and consistent with applicable Forest Service directives and the applicable land management plan.
- a. Site management is consistent with applicable Forest Service directives and the applicable land management plan.
 - b. Recreation fees are established and implemented in accordance with FSH 2309.13, Chapter 30.

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7. Site data are accurately reported across all appropriate Forest Service applications.
 - a. Data on the site are collected and consistently and accurately reported and maintained in several Forest Service applications, including the Recreation Sites Module of NRM, and the Forest Service Primary Base Map Series (FSTopo).
 - b. Data on the site are reviewed annually.
 - c. The local Forest Service official coordinates with other program staff as needed and appropriate to maintain accurate data on associated constructed features such as National Forest System trails.
8. Condition surveys are conducted and documented per Forest Service protocols and completed on schedule.
 - a. Condition survey information, such as needed maintenance and an inventory of constructed features, is entered into the Recreation Sites Module of NRM within 6 months of collection.
 - b. Any work conducted as a result of condition surveys is entered into the Infrastructure database within 6 months after completion.
9. The accessibility status of the site is recorded in the Accessibility Module of NRM and communicated to the public.
 - a. The site is surveyed to determine its accessibility status.
 - b. The site's accessibility status is recorded in the Accessibility Module of NRM and reviewed annually for accuracy.
 - c. The site's accessibility status is communicated to the public on site, on Forest Service websites, in Forest Service brochures, and on Recreation.gov, as applicable.

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52.1 – Exhibit 01

National Quality Standards for Developed Recreation Sites



CORE	
STANDARD	Indicators and Associated Tasks for Meeting the Standard
<p>1. To the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official, a pre-season safety inspection is completed and documented.</p>	<p>a. To the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official, a safety inspection is completed and documented in the applicable operation and maintenance plan and, as appropriate, in the Infrastructure database, before the season of managed use begins.</p> <p>b. Any corrective actions deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official as a result of the site safety inspection are completed to the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official and documented before the season of managed use begins.</p> <p>c. If corrective actions deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official cannot be completed before the season of managed use begins, consideration is given, based on an assessment of the likelihood and severity of risk, to postponing the opening of the site or closing the site until the corrective actions deemed needed and appropriate are completed. The consideration of the likelihood and severity of risk and the decision made based on that consideration are documented.</p>
<p>2. Known high-risk conditions are minimized, mitigated, or eliminated to the extent deemed feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official.</p>	<p>a. <u>Known High-Risk Conditions Prior to the Season of Managed Use.</u> Known high-risk conditions (caused either by humans or natural occurrences) are minimized, mitigated, or eliminated to the extent deemed feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, taking into account resource considerations such as scenic values, the ability to maintain safety devices, other aspects of feasibility and effectiveness, changing conditions, funding, the applicable ROS class, the amount of visitor use, potential impacts on wildlife, the need for maintenance, and other factors deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official, prior to the season of managed use.</p> <p>b. <u>Known High-Risk Conditions During the Season of Managed Use.</u> The site is monitored per the applicable operation and maintenance plan to assess high-risk conditions during the season of managed use. Known high-risk conditions (caused either by humans or natural occurrences) that develop</p>

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	<p>during the season of managed use are minimized, mitigated, or eliminated to the extent deemed feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, taking into account the resource considerations identified in paragraph 2a, within 48 hours of discovery or as soon as practicable. When a high-risk condition is reported by others, the condition is minimized, mitigated, or eliminated to the extent deemed feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, taking into account the resource considerations identified in paragraph 2a, within 48 hours of verification.</p> <p>c. <u>Consultation, Possible Corrective Actions, and Documentation.</u> The local forest management, fire, hydrology, engineering, and recreation staffs and the local Office of the General Counsel are consulted as appropriate regarding assessment of known high-risk conditions identified prior to or during the season of managed use and possible corrective actions. Corrective actions and response time for each known high-risk condition are commensurate with the severity and probability of risk, magnitude of use, and applicable development scale and ROS class, as determined by the local Forest Service official. As deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, taking into account the resource considerations identified in paragraph 2a, consideration is given to posting signage, installing a barrier, closing all or part of the site, taking other measures to notify the public of potential hazards, or otherwise addressing public safety concerns. Consultation, consideration of possible corrective actions, and any corrective actions taken are documented.</p> <p>d. <u>Hazard Tree Surveys.</u> A Forest Service employee or contractor who has completed the applicable regional hazard tree inspection training conducts and documents hazard tree surveys at the site in accordance with applicable local or regional guidelines, as determined in consultation with the regional forest pathologist or forest health protection specialist. Types of hazard tree surveys include the following:</p> <p>(1) <u>Annual Survey.</u> An on-site, visual inspection of tree defects that is typically accomplished by a walk-through examination to identify recently killed trees, dead limbs, dead and broken crowns, leaning trees, hollow trees, root-sprung trees, and exposed roots and that may identify the need for an in-depth survey.</p> <p>(2) <u>In-Depth Survey.</u> An on-site, systematic, visual inspection that focuses on indicators of tree defects, such as stem decay that weakens the vertical integrity of trees or diseases that lead to decay and eventual root failure.</p>
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	<p>To the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official, an annual survey is conducted each year and an in-depth survey is conducted as deemed needed by the local Forest Service official after an annual survey and after major disturbances such as hurricanes, ice storms, insect infestations, fires, significant rainfalls, severe winds, and other events that may adversely affect trees.</p> <p>e. <u>Inspection of Recreation Rental Cabins.</u> Recreation rental cabins are inspected in accordance with the applicable operation and maintenance plan by qualified civil, electrical, and structural engineering personnel, as deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official.</p>
<p>3. Utilities (such as electrical, natural gas, propane, steam, and fuel oil systems) meet applicable Federal, State, and local requirements for operation and maintenance.</p>	<p>a. Qualified personnel operate and maintain utility systems in accordance with their education, training, certifications applicable state and county law, and FSH 6709.11, Chapter 30.</p> <p>b. Qualified personnel perform condition surveys of utility systems in accordance with applicable directives (FSM 7611.1).</p> <p>c. Qualified personnel (FSH 6709.11, ch. 30) repair and replace utility systems. Electrical work is performed by a licensed electrician. Forest Service employees who have had appropriate training repair and replace appliances up to but not including appliance shut-off valves.</p>

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<p>4. Water, wastewater, and sewage treatment or disposal systems meet Federal, State, and local requirements for operation, maintenance, and monitoring.</p>	<p>a. Qualified personnel conduct sanitary and condition surveys for drinking water systems (FSM 7421.13 and 7421.14). As deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, corrective actions are implemented and documented when deficiencies are found during sanitary and condition surveys (FSM 7421.13). The assessment of need and appropriateness and completion of any corrective actions taken are documented.</p> <p>b. Trained personnel monitor, operate, and maintain drinking water systems in compliance with Federal and State drinking water laws and regulations, including providing sampling results and reports to the relevant State agency. Operators are certified if required by the State.</p> <p>c. A file is maintained for each drinking water system that contains, at a minimum, analysis results and reports maintained in accordance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations, applicable State regulations, and FSM 7421.3.</p> <p>d. Applicable public and regulatory agency notification requirements (e.g., for exceeding the maximum contaminant level) are followed.</p> <p>e. Wastewater and sewage treatment or disposal systems are monitored, operated, and maintained by trained personnel in accordance with applicable standards, permits, and regulations. Qualified personnel perform condition surveys as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official (FSM 7413.8). As deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, corrective actions are implemented and documented when deficiencies are found during condition surveys. The assessment of need and appropriateness and completion of any corrective actions taken are documented.</p>
<p>5. Applicable orders are posted, and applicable laws, regulations, and orders are enforced as deemed appropriate by the local Law Enforcement and Investigations staff.</p>	<p>a. Applicable laws, regulations, and orders are posted in accordance with 36 CFR 261.51.</p> <p>b. Applicable laws, regulations, and orders are enforced as deemed appropriate by the local Law Enforcement and Investigations staff.</p> <p>c. Coordination with the local Law Enforcement and Investigations staff is sufficient to support the objectives of the applicable operation and maintenance plan.</p>

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<p>6. Visitors' exposure to human waste is prevented or minimized to the extent practicable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Visitors are not knowingly exposed to human waste through improper or infrequent cleaning of toilet fixtures, buildings, and other restroom facilities or through malfunctioning of restroom facilities.b. Visitors are properly informed of procedures for disposing of human waste.c. Unforeseeable events that result in exposure to human waste are addressed as soon as practicable after they are discovered by the Forest Service or reported by others.
<p>7. As deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, encounters with potentially threatening wildlife are minimized.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Visitors are informed, as deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, of potential wildlife encounters and mitigating actions to reduce risk, including safe food storage and trash disposal procedures.b. As deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, animal-resistant food storage containers and trash receptacles are provided.c. Visitors and employees have a point of contact for reporting aggressive wildlife behavior.
<p>8. A current and complete operation and maintenance plan exists and is being implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. A current and complete operation and maintenance plan exists and is being implemented.b. The local Forest Service official annually reviews and, as needed, updates the applicable operation and maintenance plan.

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<p>9. Recreational use is consistent with applicable laws and regulations pertaining to natural and cultural resource protection.</p>	<p>a. Recreational use is consistent with applicable laws and regulations pertaining to natural and cultural resource protection (e.g., the National Historic Preservation Act, Clean Water Act, and Threatened and Endangered species Act).</p> <p>b. If recreational use is inconsistent with an applicable environmental law or regulation, the local Forest Service official consults with the appropriate Forest Service specialist to determine what type of mitigation is appropriate.</p> <p>c. Mitigation measures (such as site closure, warning signs, patrols, maintenance, repair, replacement, decommissioning, alteration, expansion, or construction of a constructed feature) are implemented as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, taking into account resource considerations such as scenic values, the ability to maintain safety devices, other aspects of feasibility and effectiveness, changing conditions, funding, the applicable ROS class, the amount of visitor use, potential impacts on wildlife, the need for maintenance, and other factors deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official. The assessment of need and appropriateness and completion of any corrective actions taken are documented.</p>
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OPERATIONS	
STANDARD	Indicators and Associated Tasks for Meeting the Standard
<p>10. Constructed features are clean.</p>	<p>a. Toilet fixtures, buildings, and other restroom facilities are cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the schedule in the applicable operation and maintenance plan.</p> <p>b. Constructed features are cleaned to ensure they are free of stains, spills, odors, obstacles, debris, and graffiti.</p> <p>c. Unclean conditions of constructed features caused by heavy</p>



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	usage are rectified as soon as practicable.
11. Restroom facilities and trash receptacles and collection areas do not deter usage because of objectionable odor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Toilet fixtures, toilet buildings, other restroom facilities and trash receptacles and collection areas are monitored for odor in accordance with the schedule in the applicable operation and maintenance plan.b. Objectionable odor from restroom facilities and trash receptacles and collection areas is eliminated as soon as practicable.
12. Trash does not exceed the capacity of available receptacles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Trash receptacles are emptied in accordance with the schedule in the applicable operation and maintenance plan.b. After heavy usage, overflowing receptacles are emptied as soon as practicable.
13. Camping units are free of litter, including domestic animal waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Litter, including domestic animal waste, is removed in accordance with the schedule in the applicable operation and maintenance plan.b. After heavy usage, excessive amounts of litter are removed as soon as practicable.
14. Facilities are free of graffiti.	Graffiti on facilities, such as on the exterior of buildings and restroom partitions, are removed as soon as practicable.
15. Parking and visitor use are managed to avoid impairing resource conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Parking and visitor use are managed so that they do not exceed the designed capacity of the site.b. As deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, law enforcement tools such as orders are used to limit parking and visitor use.c. Physical barriers, signs, and other traffic control devices are monitored and the site is patrolled as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official to prevent or mitigate parking and visitor use patterns that adversely affect resource conditions.
16. The landscape is managed for visual quality and forest and vegetative succession.	The landscape is managed in accordance with the applicable vegetation management plan.

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<p>17. Information is accessible to visitors and is presented in accordance with applicable Forest Service guidelines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Information boards are consistent with the Sign and Poster Guidelines (EM-7100-15) and applicable regional guidelines. b. Information (such as maps, hours of operation, seasons of use, allowable uses, access and use restrictions, and special notices) is accessible to visitors and is posted on information boards in a welcoming, professional, and uncluttered manner. c. Posters are easy to read, well-spaced, and understandable by their intended audience. d. Where the primary language of a significant number of visitors is not English, messages are also provided in the primary languages spoken by those visitors. e. Signage is consistent with the Sign Installation Guide (EM-7100). f. Recreation fee signing is consistent with the National Guidelines for Recreation Fee Signing (Jan. 2007). g. Recreation fee accomplishments are posted on information boards and are updated annually.
<p>18. Information provided by the Forest Service about the site is accurate and available from multiple sources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Information describing amenities, management, and recreation opportunities at the site is reviewed for accuracy annually or when site conditions change. b. Information about the site is posted on the recreation webpage for the applicable administrative unit and, as applicable, on Recreation.gov. c. Printed materials about the site are made available based on visitor need or demand and agency capability to provide them.

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> MAINTENANCE  </div>	
STANDARD	Indicators and Associated Tasks for Meeting the Standard
<p>19. To the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official based on staffing, funding, and other resource constraints, constructed features are serviceable and in good repair throughout their designed service life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official based on staffing, funding, and other resource constraints, improvements are maintained to the standard to which they were originally constructed or subsequently improved or modified. b. To the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official based on staffing, funding, and other resource constraints, service and repairs are performed in accordance with

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	the schedule in the applicable operation and maintenance plan to minimize breakdowns, hazardous conditions, and premature replacement of fixed assets (FSH 6509.19, sec. 20.5).
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MANAGEMENT 	
STANDARD	Indicators and Associated Tasks for Meeting the Standard
<p>20. A sign plan is prepared and implemented in accordance with the Sign and Poster Guidelines (EM-7100-15).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A sign plan is prepared in consultation with the forest sign coordinator and approved in writing prior to implementation by the forest sign coordinator (FSM 7160.42d). b. Signs and posters are professionally made; are consistent with the Sign and Poster Guidelines (EM-7100-15) and other applicable standards for design and installation; are legible in darkness as well as daylight as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official; and are maintained as deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official. c. Recreation signing is installed in accordance with the applicable sign plan and Sign Installation Guide (EM-7100). d. Signs and posters that are not included in the sign plan are installed only with prior written approval from the forest sign coordinator. e. If deemed feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, taking into account resource considerations such as scenic values, the ability to maintain safety devices, other aspects of feasibility and effectiveness, changing conditions, funding, the applicable ROS class, the amount of visitor use, potential impacts on wildlife, and other factors deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official, accident prevention and safety signage is installed in accordance with EM-7100-15 and FSM 2527.5. The assessment of feasibility and appropriateness and the decision to post accident prevention and safety signage are documented. If installed, accident prevention and safety signage is conspicuously posted at the appropriate viewing height and maintained as deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official. f. The international accessibility symbol (wheelchair symbol) is used only for accessible restrooms, parking and lodging areas, building entrances, and emergency routes, where applicable.

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	<p>g. Campground accessibility information is consistent with the signage requirements in the FSORAG and is not displayed at individual camping units.</p>
<p>21. A vegetation management plan has been developed, is being implemented, and is updated as needed and appropriate.</p>	<p>A vegetation management plan consistent with the applicable land management plan, Forest Service scenic integrity objectives, and regional scenic integrity guidelines has been developed in consultation with appropriate Forest Service staff, such as a forest health protection specialist, silviculturist, botanist, and landscape architect; is being implemented; and is reviewed and updated as needed and appropriate.</p>
<p>22. Alteration and expansion of the site and its facilities meet applicable planning, design, and accessibility standards and guidelines.</p>	<p>a. Alteration and expansion of the site and its facilities are approved by the appropriate Forest Service official. b. Alteration and expansion of the site and its facilities meet applicable Forest Service planning and design standards. c. Alteration and expansion of the site and its facilities are consistent with an approved site development plan, including an accessibility transition plan that has been reviewed by the local Forest Service official for consistency with the applicable land management plan (FSH 2309.13, ch. 10). d. New, altered, or expanded constructed features meet applicable Forest Service design standards and accessibility requirements in the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the FSORAG and are consistent with the applicable site development plan. e. Alteration and expansion of the site and its facilities are informed by the applicable ROS class and applicable SMS and BEIG objectives and blend with the site’s natural and cultural setting. f. Alteration and expansion of the site and its facilities prompt reassessment and, if appropriate, reclassification of the site’s development scale.</p>
<p>23. To the extent practicable based on resource and other constraints, staffing is maintained at a level that meets the needs identified in the applicable operation and maintenance plan.</p>	<p>a. To the extent practicable based on resource and other constraints, staffing is maintained consistent with the applicable operation and maintenance plan. b. To the extent practicable based on resource and other constraints, agency personnel have adequate time to patrol periodically and respond to visitor needs. Where deemed feasible and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, an entry station is staffed to meet visitor needs. c. To the extent practicable based on resource and other constraints, visitor centers, visitor contact stations, and other facilities primarily intended for the dissemination of recreation information are staffed with personnel who can</p>

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	provide current, complete, and accurate information to the public.
24. The roles of volunteers and cooperators are properly documented and are executed with training and equipment as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official.	<p>a. Volunteer hosts are utilized as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official.</p> <p>b. Volunteer and cooperator roles are documented with the appropriate instrument.</p> <p>c. Volunteers and cooperators have training and equipment as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official.</p>
25. Site management is customer service-oriented and consistent with applicable Forest Service directives and the applicable land management plan.	<p>a. Site management is consistent with applicable Forest Service directives and the applicable land management plan.</p> <p>b. Recreation fees are established and implemented in accordance with FSH 2309.13, Chapter 30.</p>
26. Site data are accurately reported across all appropriate Forest Service applications.	<p>a. Data on the site are collected and consistently and accurately reported and maintained in several Forest Service applications, including the Recreation Portal, GIS Data Dictionary layers, the Recreation Sites Module of NRM, and the Forest Service Primary Base Map Series (FSTopo).</p> <p>b. Data on the site are reviewed annually.</p> <p>c. The local Forest Service official coordinates with other program staff as needed and appropriate to maintain accurate data on associated constructed features such as National Forest System trails.</p>
27. Condition surveys are conducted and documented per Forest Service protocols and completed on schedule.	<p>a. Condition survey information, such as needed maintenance and an inventory of constructed features, is entered into the Recreation Sites Module of NRM within 6 months of collection.</p> <p>b. Any work conducted as a result of condition surveys is entered into the Recreation Sites Module of NRM within 6 months after completion.</p>
28. The accessibility status of the site is recorded in the Accessibility Module of NRM and	<p>a. The site is surveyed to determine its accessibility status.</p> <p>b. The site’s accessibility status is recorded in the Accessibility Module of NRM and reviewed annually for</p>

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communicated to the public.	accuracy. c. The site’s accessibility status is communicated to the public on site, on Forest Service websites, in Forest Service brochures, and on Recreation.gov, as applicable.
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52.2 – Operation and Maintenance Plans for Developed Recreation Sites

An operation and maintenance plan must be prepared in writing and annually updated for each developed recreation site by the local Forest Service official. See section 52.2, exhibit 01, for a sample operation and maintenance plan for developed recreation sites. A single operation and maintenance plan may be prepared for a group of developed recreation sites.

An operation and maintenance plan must include the national quality standards enumerated in sections 52.1 through 52.14 and must follow the developed recreation site management policies enumerated in this chapter. At a minimum, an operation and maintenance plan should address:

1. Risk management, including, to the extent deemed practicable by the local Forest Service official, pre-season site safety inspections and hazard tree inspections;
2. Operation and maintenance of the site and its facilities, including opening and closing of the site;
3. Sanitation, including trash collection and disposal;
4. Water, wastewater, and sewage system operation and maintenance;
5. Operational requirements, including the season of managed use, staffing needs, needed staff training and certification, and applicable regulations and orders;
6. Maintenance requirements, including an inventory of constructed features; the condition of constructed features; a maintenance and repair schedule; and 5-year deferred maintenance, condition survey, real property inventory, and capital improvement plans; and
7. A recreation fee compliance plan.

Section 52.2 – Exhibit 01

Sample Operation and Maintenance Plan

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[Recreation Management Plans \(http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/rhwr/ibsc/rs-mgmt-plans.shtml\)](http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/rhwr/ibsc/rs-mgmt-plans.shtml)

52.3 – Vegetation Management Plans for Developed Recreation Sites

To the extent feasible based on staffing, funding, and other constraints, a vegetation management plan should be prepared in writing and annually reviewed and updated as needed for each developed recreation site by the local Forest Service official in consultation with appropriate Forest Service personnel such as a forest health protection specialist, silviculturist, botanist, and landscape architect. See section 52.3, exhibit 01, for a sample vegetation management plan for developed recreation sites.

The type, frequency, and scale of vegetation management performed at a developed recreation site depend on the site's development scale and ROS class.

Vegetation management may include mowing, brushing, limbing, planting, correcting or preventing loss of vegetation and erosion caused by recreational use, and prescribing treatments to achieve healthy vegetation.

Section 52.3 – Exhibit 01

Sample Vegetation Management Plan

[Recreation Management Plans \(http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/rhwr/ibsc/rs-mgmt-plans.shtml\)](http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/rhwr/ibsc/rs-mgmt-plans.shtml)

52.4 – Sustainable Operation of Developed Recreation Sites

Sustainably operate and maintain developed recreation sites to the extent practicable by efficiently using energy and water, purchasing and employing energy-efficient products, and reducing consumption of resources in daily operations (FSM 1313).

To the extent practicable, purchase and utilize recycled products or products with recycled content and energy-efficient services in support of developed recreation sites (FSM 6460).

Information relating to sustainable operation of developed recreation sites may be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/sustainableoperations/greenteam-toolkit/resources-footprint.shtml>.

52.5 – Condition Surveys, Accessibility Surveys, and Real Property Requirements for Developed Recreation Sites

To the extent feasible based on staffing, funding, and other constraints, conduct a condition survey of developed recreation sites every 5 years. Record data from a condition survey in the Recreation Sites Module of NRM in the fiscal year in which the survey was conducted. Inspect,

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survey, inventory, and assess real property at developed recreation sites in accordance with Federal Property Management Regulation Part 102-84.

The information obtained from a condition survey of a developed recreation site, including an inventory of facilities and their condition, should be retained for purposes of reporting and oversight. The information yielded by a condition survey of a developed recreation site also serves as the basis for determining maintenance and repair needs, public health and safety issues, and environmental concerns that may require immediate attention.

To the extent feasible based on staffing, funding, and other constraints, consider conducting an accessibility survey at the same time a condition survey is conducted at a developed recreation site. Record data from an accessibility survey in the Recreation Sites Module of NRM in the fiscal year in which the survey was conducted.

As applicable, review Federal and USDA regulations and Forest Service guidelines for purchase or construction of real property, including capitalization criteria, in altering or expanding developed recreation sites (FSH 6509.19, ch. 20, sec. 22.21).

Dispose of real property in accordance with applicable Federal, USDA, and Forest Service requirements, including screening and documentation of authorization prior to disposal (FSH 6509.19, ch. 20, sec. 22.28).

53 – Developed Recreation Site Management

53.1 – Policy

The local Forest Service official should strive to ensure that:

1. Developed recreation sites are managed for a quality visitor experience without compromising the natural resources of the area.
2. Recreation opportunities at, and development and management of, developed recreation sites are consistent with the applicable recreation opportunity spectrum class; applicable SMS and BEIG objectives; the applicable development scale, land management plan, and design criteria (FSH 2309.13, ch. 10); applicable accessibility requirements; applicable sustainable building directives (FSH 7309.11, ch. 70), and applicable recreation fees (FSH 2309.13, ch. 30).
3. Visitors to developed recreation sites feel welcome. Forest Service employees and volunteers provide high-quality customer service and interact respectfully with the public at developed recreation sites.

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4. Visitors to developed recreation sites have a sense of security through a Forest Service presence appropriate for the applicable development scale and ROS class, taking into account availability of staffing resources. At a minimum, a Forest Service presence should include ensuring that a standard Forest Service site identification or entrance sign is properly posted, and that Forest Service employees or volunteers are available to interact with visitors to the extent appropriate and feasible, given staffing resources and other constraints. Forest Service employees and volunteers provide facility maintenance appropriate to the applicable development scale and ROS class.
5. Visitors to developed recreation sites are given appropriate and cost-effective means to convey to Forest Service employees or Agency representatives their expectations, desires, and needs and feedback on how they are being met.
6. Firewood is provided at developed recreation sites by the Forest Service or by vendors operating under a special use permit where necessary to protect the site and its surroundings from intensive firewood collection or where collection of firewood is undesirable or impossible. Purchase of local firewood is encouraged to prevent introduction of invasive species.
7. Upon the Forest Service's approval of a request from an Indian tribe, the smallest practicable area of a recreation site is temporarily closed to the public for the minimum period necessary to protect the privacy of tribal activities for traditional and cultural purposes at the recreation site (25 U.S.C. 3054).

53.2 – Regulations and Orders

Notify the public of applicable regulations and orders at each developed recreation site.

Enforce applicable regulations and orders at developed recreation sites, as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Law Enforcement and Investigations staff.

When a developed recreation site is closed to public use, post an order in conformance with 36 CFR 261.51 prohibiting occupancy and use of the site.

53.22 – Administration of Recreation Fees

Prepare a recreation fee compliance plan for each developed recreation site subject to a recreation fee, and include the recreation fee compliance plan in the operation and maintenance plan for the developed recreation site. Recreation fee compliance plans must:

1. Describe the method of fee collection.
2. Include the boundary of the recreation fee site and the schedule and procedures for checking recreation fee compliance.

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3. Provide instructions, including information on enforcement procedures and customer service, to employees responsible for ensuring recreation fee compliance.
4. Comply with FSH 6509.14, the Collection Officer Handbook.

Administer recreation fees in accordance with FSH 2309.13, Chapter 30.

53.23 – Site Hosts

Consider having a host at larger, heavily used developed recreation sites.

Use hosts in campgrounds as directed in FSM 1830. Situate the host's campsite prominently so that visitors to the site are aware of the host's presence. Place signs informing the public that a host is in attendance at the entrance to the developed recreation site and at the host's campsite.

Provide hosts with a nameplate and volunteer patch so that they are identifiable to the public. Encourage hosts to present a clean, neat appearance at all times and to wear uniform vests. Ensure that personal property is kept to a minimum at a host's campsite.

Provide hosts with an orientation of their developed recreation site and training as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, such as training on radio use, wildlife encounter procedures, regulations, emergency procedures, and evacuation routes.

53.24 – Capacity Management

1. Manage developed recreation sites to ensure that visitor use does not exceed their design capacity.
2. Establish limits on the number of people, vehicles, and equipment (such as tents) at each developed recreation site. As needed, issue an order to enforce established occupancy limits (36 CFR 261.58(f)).
3. As deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official, monitor traffic barriers, traffic signs, and traffic control devices at developed recreation sites, and patrol as deemed needed and appropriate by the local Forest Service official to protect developed recreation sites from overuse or misuse.
4. When developed recreation sites reach design capacity, direct additional visitors to overflow camping areas or other developed recreation sites.
5. During periods of low use, close all or part of a developed recreation site to concentrate visitor use into as few camping units as possible, consistent with the recreation experience for which the recreation site is being managed.

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53.25 – Stay Limits

Developed recreation sites have a stay limit of 14 days, provided that the 14-day stay limit may be modified in accordance with the following:

1. A shorter stay limit is appropriate because resource damage at the site exceeds sustainable levels and degradation of the site is occurring; or
2. Demand for the site indicates a longer stay limit is appropriate to increase utilization or a shorter stay limit is appropriate to maximize opportunity for more visitors.

Regional Foresters or Forest Supervisors may establish a different stay limit by order (36 CFR 261.58(a)), provided that stay limit extensions at a developed recreation site may not exceed 30 days per year.

53.26 – Overflow Camping Areas

1. Developed recreation sites normally managed for day use may be used as temporary overflow camping areas when that use does not interfere with the site's day use purpose.
2. Establish stay limits in overflow camping areas to protect natural resources. In most cases, allow stays of only 1 or 2 days, and do not allow use of overflow camping areas when adequate camping opportunities are available at adjacent developed recreation sites.
3. Some locations are subject to orders that restrict overflow camping (36 CFR 261.58(e)). Work with local Forest Service law enforcement personnel to determine whether there are any orders in place restricting overflow camping.
4. Overflow camping areas must meet the core national quality standards to be open to the public.

53.27 – Commercial Public Services

Commercial public services must be authorized under a special use authorization. For direction related to commercial public services, see 36 CFR 251.54; FSM 2340 and 2703; and FSH 2709.11, Chapter 10. For specific direction related to Federally owned facilities that are operated as commercial public service sites, see FSM 2344.

53.28 – Reservation Services

Provide reservation services for developed recreation sites when it is desirable for the public to have assurance that they will be available on a particular day.

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When reservation services are offered, they must be provided through the national reservation system, Recreation.gov, unless an exception is approved by the Washington Office, Director of Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources. See FSM 2344.31 for direction on application of Recreation.gov.

1. Transition any independent reservation systems for recreational occupancy or use of National Forest System lands, activities, or facilities to Recreation.gov.
2. Ensure that campsites at campgrounds at a development scale of 3, 4, or 5 are included in Recreation.gov as follows:
 - a. Include at least 80 percent of campsites at campgrounds at a development scale of 5 in Recreation.gov.
 - b. Include at least 60 percent of campsites at campgrounds at a development scale of 3 or 4 where fees are charged in Recreation.gov.
3. Set reservation windows in Recreation.gov based on observed use patterns at developed recreation sites and, where possible, public demand.
4. Continue to improve site information on Recreation.gov, particularly photographs and safety messages.

53.29 – Wildlife

To the extent deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, provide approved animal-resistant trash receptacles and food storage containers at developed recreation sites. Approved animal-resistant containers should be securable; should be constructed of solid material capable of withstanding 200 foot-pounds of energy applied by direct impact; and, when secured and under stress, should not have any openings greater than ¼ inch, which would allow an animal to gain entry by biting or pulling with its claws. Commercially developed containers must be approved by the Forest Service's Missoula Technology and Development Center. For examples, see bear-resistant products certified by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee at <http://igbconline.org/food-storage-regulations-2/>.

Not all trash receptacles are compatible with all waste haulers' equipment. Before purchasing trash receptacles, verify that the local hauler can accommodate them.

To the extent deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, install signs regarding trash and food storage rules, the location of trash receptacles and food storage containers, and wildlife avoidance techniques.

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To the extent deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, minimize wildlife attractants at developed recreation sites where there is an increased potential for human-wildlife interaction by thoroughly cleaning food lockers, trash receptacles, fire rings and grills, and picnic table surfaces and promptly removing attractants such as human and pet food; beverages; food and drink containers; refuse; personal hygiene products; and other odorous items visitors leave behind.

To the extent deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official, issue an order prohibiting unattended, exposed food at developed recreation sites.

53.3 – Management of Facilities at Developed Recreation Sites

53.35 – Drinking Water

Construct, operate, and maintain drinking water facilities in accordance with FSM 7420 and with applicable Federal, State, and local regulations. Close water systems that do not meet applicable requirements.

1. When drinking water is provided at developed recreation sites, locate water hydrants so that each can serve several day use sites or camping units. Each water hydrant at developed recreation sites with a development scale of 4 or 5 may serve 15 to 20 camping units.
2. It is not necessary to furnish drinking water at every developed recreation site. If no drinking water is provided at a developed recreation site, post the location of the nearest drinking water source.
3. Do not allow development or use of Federally owned water systems to support special uses involving privately owned improvements on National Forest System lands.

53.36 – Wastewater and Sewage Treatment or Disposal Systems

Inspect vaults, septic tanks, and other wastewater and sewage treatment or disposal systems at regular intervals to ensure that capacities are not exceeded and that the systems are functioning. Prepare and maintain an operation and maintenance plan for all wastewater and sewage treatment or disposal facilities such as sewage lagoons, sewer mounds, septic tanks, drain fields, and vaults (FSM 7410; FSH 7409.11, ch. 70). Maintain and record septic tank pumping frequency and maintenance activities.

53.37 – Interior Roads

1. Construct, operate, and maintain roads at developed recreation sites to accommodate the types of recreational vehicles appropriate for the applicable development scale, as

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well as vehicles used for administrative purposes such as fire trucks, emergency vehicles, waste haulers, and septic pumper trucks (FSM 7720 and 7730).

2. Use natural barriers, existing vegetation, and topography to control motor vehicle use at developed recreation sites. Where these natural features are inadequate, consider installing barriers using wheel stops, bollards, boulders, fencing, or other means.

53.38 – Vehicle Parking Areas and Parking Spurs

Each camping unit or day use site at a developed recreation site must be served by a vehicle parking area that is attached or adjacent to the unit or site, or that serves several camping units or day use sites and that allows safe vehicle parking off the main road of the campground loop. Multi-vehicle parking areas must comply with the ABAAS. Parking spurs at camping units or day use sites must comply with the FSORAG. Extra vehicle fees may not be charged for vehicle parking areas unless the fees are supported by a documented rationale other than additional revenue generation; steps are taken to prevent parking outside the vehicle parking area; and the fees are approved by the local Forest Service official and incorporated into the applicable operation and maintenance plan.

53.39 – Site Closures

Temporarily or permanently close all or part of a developed recreation site that cannot be operated and maintained in accordance with the core national quality standards, based on the following guidance:

1. Monitor the developed recreation site to determine whether it is desirable to close all or part of the site temporarily, rather than permanently. As part of this monitoring, consider:
 - a. The relationship of the site to other Forest Service- or concession-operated developed recreation sites and whether other developed recreation sites nearby could satisfactorily serve the public need for recreational facilities;
 - b. The relationship of the site to other Federal, State, local, or private developed recreation sites and whether these other sites could satisfactorily serve the public need for recreational facilities;
 - c. Other alternative recreation opportunities; and
 - d. Overall costs and benefits of operating and maintaining the site, including visitors' health and safety and the level of resource damage.

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2. Manage funds efficiently to keep a needed developed recreation site open to the public. Options may include:
 - a. Temporary or seasonal closures.
 - b. The use of volunteer and other human resource programs to staff and maintain the site.
 - c. Visitor cooperation in keeping the site clean and sanitary, such as by encouraging visitors to take their trash home or place it in a centralized container.
3. When reduced funding precludes full operation of a developed recreation site, consider reducing service or closing the site during less heavily used days of the week or parts of the season before fully closing the site. When full closure is necessary, prioritize nearby developed recreation sites.
4. When a developed recreation site is closed temporarily, to the extent deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, install signage explaining why the site is closed and giving directions to the nearest available alternative recreational facilities. To the extent deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, issue and post an order prohibiting entry or use of the site while it is closed.
5. If a water system fails at a developed recreation site and funds are not available to repair the water system, keep the site open without water with a lower site fee, provided that if the sanitary facilities at the site depend on the water system, consider closing the entire site or installing portable toilets until funds are available to repair the water system.
6. Once a decision has been made to temporarily close a developed recreation site, determine an appropriate timeframe for reevaluation of the temporary closure and consideration of whether to reopen the site or convert the temporary closure into a permanent closure.
7. Once a decision has been made to permanently close a developed recreation site, develop a decommissioning plan that addresses the timing for removal of constructed features and rehabilitation of the site. Consult the local engineering staff regarding decommissioning of structures and water wells, and consult the forest archaeologist regarding decommissioning that may affect antiquities or other objects of historic or scientific interest. Constructed features on Federal lands should not be abandoned (41 CFR 102-75.990(b); FSH 7309.11, ch. 40, sec. 42.04, para. 7).

53.4 – Management of Specific Types of Developed Recreation Sites

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In addition to the guidance on management of developed recreation sites in sections 50.1 through 52 and 52.2 through 53.39 and the national quality standards in sections 52.1 through 52.14 of this chapter, follow the guidance for the specific types of developed recreation sites listed in this section.

53.41 – Recreation Rental Cabins

Provide for use of recreation rental cabins under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FSH 2309.13, ch. 30). Recreation rental cabins must be available for reservation on Recreation.gov. Before providing for use of recreation rental cabins:

1. Use appropriated funds to cover start-up costs for recreation rental cabins. Recreation fees may be charged once recreation rental cabins are ready for public use.
2. Comply with applicable standards (e.g., the International Building Code, International Property Maintenance Code, National Historic Preservation Act, and ABAAS) when renovation, repair, or modification is needed.
3. Recreation rental cabins that are operated and maintained for public use should be economically viable.
4. Recreation rental cabins should be cleaned in accordance with the applicable operation and maintenance plan (sec. 52.2). Where provided, mattresses should have a cover that can be cleaned and disinfected. Kitchen furnishings, cabinets, and drawers should be kept clean and free from debris and rodent droppings. As deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, condition surveys of recreation rental cabins should be conducted to determine that furnishings, smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide monitors are in good condition and working order.
5. Follow applicable health and safety guidelines in operating and maintaining recreation rental cabins (FSH 6709.11, ch. 30, sec. 39.22b).
6. Applicable emergency information, maps, special notices, allowable uses and restrictions, and other important information should be displayed in a prominent location in recreation rental cabins.
7. A condition survey of recreation rental cabins should be conducted every 5 years by a qualified engineer or other technical expert.
8. Strive to provide the public with unique recreation opportunities through the recreation rental cabin program.

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- a. Monitor recreation rental cabins for occupancy, deferred maintenance needs, pricing, and operational costs.
- b. Preserve the historic character of recreation rental cabins by selecting appropriate furnishings, restoration materials such as paint color and flooring, and plantings.
- c. Provide a guestbook with historic information about each recreation rental cabin, emergency contacts, recreation opportunities, and operating instructions for gas, electrical, propane, and wood-burning appliances.

53.42 – Campgrounds and Picnic Areas

Provide firewood by vendors under permit or by the Forest Service where it is necessary to protect a developed recreation site and its surroundings. Otherwise, encourage visitors to gather, but not fell, their own firewood as part of the recreation experience.

53.43 – Boat Launches

1. Authorize boating services at boat launches, including mooring space, repair services, boat rental, and the sale of gasoline and oil, under a commercial special use permit per FSM 2721.38, 2334.34, and 2343.2.
2. Include instructions for operation and maintenance of all facilities at a boat launch in the applicable operation and maintenance plan.
3. Consider having an attendant present to supervise use during peak periods at heavily used boat launches.
4. Follow applicable State standards for water safety, including applicable State standards for safety equipment, and follow applicable standards for water quality.
5. Specify boating speed limits as deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official in the applicable operation and maintenance plan.
6. Work with appropriate State agencies in constructing new facilities or reconstructing existing facilities, developing safety programs, or otherwise addressing safety concerns at boat launches.

53.44 – Developed Swimming Areas

1. Monitor water quality at swimming areas in accordance with FSM 2532 and applicable State standards and requirements.

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2. Consider taking the following steps at developed swimming areas, to the extent deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, taking into account resource considerations such as scenic values, the ability to maintain safety devices, other aspects of feasibility and effectiveness, changing conditions, funding, the applicable ROS class, the amount of visitor use, potential impacts on wildlife, and other factors deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official:

- a. Posting warning signs.
- b. Installing depth markers.
- c. Providing first aid and rescue equipment.
- d. Delineating the area, for example, with buoys and floating lines.
- e. When waters serve both swimmers and boaters, installing waterway buoys to designate no-boating zones.

Document review of these considerations and the decision based on that review.

3. Assess the need for a lifeguard at developed swimming areas. In assessing the need for a lifeguard, consider:

- a. The area's physical characteristics, such as its size and configuration.
- b. Water depth and clarity.
- c. Uncontrollable hazardous conditions, such as water temperatures, currents, and sudden gusty winds.
- d. Visitation characteristics, such as the number and age of visitors.
- e. The applicable ROS class.
- f. Feasibility and effectiveness.
- g. Other factors that may affect public safety, as deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official.

Document review of these considerations and the decision based on that review.

4. Taking into account resource conditions such as scenic values, the ability to perform needed maintenance, other aspects of feasibility and effectiveness, changing conditions, funding, the applicable ROS class, the amount of visitor use, potential impacts on

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wildlife, and other factors deemed appropriate by the local Forest Service official, evaluate the need for and practicability of posting warning signs at developed swimming areas that notify swimmers when no lifeguard is on duty. Document review of these considerations and the decision based on that review.

5. When a known risk exists and cannot be eliminated or mitigated at a developed swimming area, consider, based on an assessment of the likelihood and severity of risk, closing the area to swimming using appropriate signing. Document the assessment of the likelihood and severity of risk and the decision based on that assessment.

53.45 – Developed Hot Springs

1. As deemed appropriate and practicable by the local Forest Service official, provide for on-site management of developed hot springs commensurate with the amount of use they receive.
2. Follow State guidelines for testing water quality at developed hot springs.

53.46 – Federally Owned Target Ranges Other Than for Archery

This section applies only to target ranges other than for archery, such as shotgun, rifle, and pistol ranges (for purposes of this section only, “target ranges”).

1. Construction of Target Ranges. Provide for construction of target ranges on National Forest System lands when they will be consistent with the applicable land management plan and will enhance national forest management by addressing public safety, providing recreation opportunities, and consolidating dispersed target shooting. Whenever possible, provide for non-Federal construction and operation of needed target ranges on National Forest System lands (FSH 2709.14, ch. 70).
2. Baseline Site Condition Assessment. Perform a site condition assessment (EM-2160-2) to establish a baseline condition prior to development of a Federally owned target range. Conduct the site condition assessment early in the process to identify any factors that might result in reconsideration of the site for use as a Federally owned target range. Maintain or improve the condition of the site as identified in the baseline site condition assessment.
3. Siting Decisions. When establishing a new site for or adding facilities to a target range, consult reference materials related to siting decisions early in the process, preferably during site evaluation, to determine whether the areas proposed are suitable. Consult industry’s best management practices (BMPs), including chapter 3, section 3.5, of the National Shooting Sports Foundation's *Environmental Aspects of Construction and Management of Outdoor Shooting Ranges* (FSH 2709.14, ch. 70, sec. 71.5), which

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provides information on target range siting and orientation and includes a site checklist, a summary of ecological criteria for range siting, and recommendations about the type of sites to avoid when locating target ranges. Also consult the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s *Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual* and section 1, chapter 3, article 2, of the *NRA Range Source Book* (FSH 2709.14, ch. 70, sec. 71.5) for further information about making siting decisions for target ranges.

4. Environmental Stewardship Plan, Safety Plan, and Operation and Maintenance Plan. Prepare an environmental stewardship plan, a safety plan, and an operation and maintenance plan (FSH 2709.14, ch. 70, sec. 71.7 and 71.8) for Federally owned target ranges.

a. Environmental Stewardship Plan (ESP). An ESP must be prepared and approved in writing by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the regional environmental engineer before development or modification of a Federally owned target range. Approval of an ESP by EPA must be documented by an EPA certificate of recognition indicating that the proposed ESP is consistent with EPA's *Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges*. For information about obtaining an EPA certificate of recognition, call (212) 637-4133 or go to www.epa.gov/region2/waste/. When reviewing an ESP, the regional environmental engineer shall ensure that the following requirements are met:

(1) The format on pages 6 to 11 of the National Shooting Sports Foundation's publication *Environmental Aspects of Construction and Management of Outdoor Shooting Ranges* (FSH 2709.14, ch. 70 sec. 71.5) is followed, and the ESP is based on chapter 6 of that publication, which provides information on development and implementation of an ESP, and Appendix C of that publication, which contains sample ESPs for shotgun, rifle, and pistol ranges.

(2) The ESP is based on *Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges* (FSH 2709.14, ch. 70, sec. 71.5) and includes a discussion of all of the following:

(a) The physical characteristics of the proposed target range, including range size, soil pH, existence of wetlands, evidence of and potential for erosion in the area of proposed lead deposition, and other site-specific factors that will affect design of the target range.

(b) The operational characteristics of the proposed target range, including the expected use of the target range, volume of lead accumulation, size of bullets to be used, shooting directions and patterns, and life expectancy of the target range.

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- (c) Design features and siting decisions aimed at preventing or minimizing the release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants into the environment.
- (d) Planned bullet and shot containment techniques, including projectile containment within the target range and an identified impact safety zone with appropriate signage.
- (e) Design and operating procedures to keep lead in the planned area of deposition and in its metallic form.
- (f) Planned, periodic recovery, reclamation, and recycling of spent ammunition and other substances, including availability of resources and the cost to implement the plan.
- (g) Noise control measures, such as siting, vegetation management, and engineering, and, where applicable, provisions for compliance with State and local law regarding noise control.

Correct any deficiencies in the ESP identified by EPA or the regional environmental engineer. Utilize *Environmental Aspects of Construction and Management of Outdoor Shooting Ranges* and EPA's *Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges* (FSH 2709.14, ch. 70, sec. 71.5) as a guide in correcting identified deficiencies. Approval of an ESP by EPA or the regional environmental engineer must be accompanied by a statement attesting that no changes were made or identifying any changes made in response to their review.

b. Safety Plan. A safety plan links planning, design, construction, and use of a target range into an integrated program. A safety plan is designed to reduce risks associated with the use of firearms either on or off a target range and to address the health and safety of those who live nearby. *NRA Range Sourcebook*, Article 2 (FSH 2709.14, ch. 70, sec. 71.5). A safety plan includes design and operational specifications and definitions of key terms; stipulates how, when, why, and by whom a target range will be used; specifies the actions taken in response to violations of the safety rules and regulations; and includes the following four categories of safety rules and regulations: gun handling rules; general range rules; specific range rules and regulations; and administrative rules and regulations.

(a) Gun Handling Rules. Gun handling rules should appear first in a safety plan and should be prominently displayed at a target range. At a minimum, the following gun handling rules should be included in a safety plan:

- (i) Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction.

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- (ii) Always keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until ready to fire.
 - (iii) Always keep the action open and the firearm unloaded until you are ready to use it. On a firing range, this means the shooters are in position on the firing line, and the range has been cleared for live firing.
 - (iv) Know your target and what is beyond it. When at a target range, be mindful also of adjacent areas and act accordingly.
 - (v) Be sure your gun is safe to operate.
 - (vi) Know how to use your gun safely.
 - (vii) Use only the correct ammunition for your gun. When at a target range with more than one firearm, use one at a time and when finished, store that firearm and its ammunition before using the next one.
 - (viii) Wear ear and eye protection as dictated by the target range.
 - (ix) Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.
 - (x) Store your guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
 - (xi) Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.
- (b) General Range Rules. At a minimum, the following general range rules should be included in a safety plan:
- (i) Know and obey all target range rules and regulations.
 - (ii) Know where others are at all times.
 - (iii) Communicate with other users before shooting and before walking down range.
 - (iv) Shoot only at authorized targets.
 - (v) Do not use ground-level targets without a proper backstop. Maintain the proper target height to ensure that after a fired projectile passes through a target, the projectile hits the desired portion of the backstop.

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- (vi) Unload, open the action, remove the magazine and ground, and/or bench all firearms during a cease-fire.
 - (vii) Do not handle any firearm or stand at the firing line where firearms are present while others are down range.
 - (viii) Always keep the muzzle of your gun pointed at the backstop or bullet trap. Never allow the muzzle to point in any direction from which an inadvertent discharge would allow a projectile to leave the target range.
- (c) Specific Range Rules and Regulations. Develop range rules and regulations that are specific to each target range and each shooting activity at the target range. At a minimum, specific range rules and regulations on the following topics should be included in a safety plan:
- (i) Gun handling rules.
 - (ii) General range rules.
 - (iii) Regulations on types and caliber of firearms, shooting activities, shot size, and types of targets used at the target range as needed to address range user safety.
 - (d) Administrative Rules and Regulations. Administrative rules and regulations governing hours and seasons of operation; parking; user responsibilities; any sign-in procedures; security; range supervision, if applicable; and program development should be included in a safety plan.
- c. Operation and Maintenance Plan. An operation and maintenance plan for a Federally owned target range must contain the following:
- (1) Litter control measures.
 - (2) A requirement for periodic monitoring at least every 5 years by the Forest Service and documentation of the results of monitoring to ensure effectiveness of the ESP. Base the need for more frequent monitoring and the scope of monitoring on site-specific conditions, the applicable land management plan or project-level decision and associated National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, and *Environmental Management at Operating Outdoor Small Arms Firing Ranges (SMART-2)* (FSH 2709.14, ch. 70, sec. 71.5). At a minimum, monitor the soil and any surface water at the site. The results of monitoring must be reviewed by the regional environmental engineer or by a contractor with comparable experience.

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5. Issuance of Special Use Authorizations. Whenever possible, issue a special use authorization to an individual or entity to operate a Federally owned target range. Provide for cost-sharing for target range design, construction, operation, and maintenance, with title to the target range improvements remaining with the Federal government. For further direction on special use authorizations for target ranges, see FSH 2709.14, chapter 70.