

PRD - STANDARD MANAGEMENT ZONES

4/2009 – PNC (abbreviated descriptions)

Introduction

Critical to the Management Planning process is the identification and delineation of "Management Zones". These are areas with defined characteristics and qualities, for which there are related user expectations, management guidance, and defined levels of development. The following are abbreviated descriptions of each zone.

Zone Descriptions

(1) **"ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE ZONE"** - *The purpose of this zone is enhancement and protection of the native community and natural process over and above any other uses (including recreational) that might be contemplated. This zone restricts public use and development.*

Natural Resources - Native species and natural processes maintained, restored and protected.

Recreation Opportunities - None, unless classified as a "Seasonal Zone".

Development - No development except as needed for resource protection.

(2) **"PRIMITIVE ZONE"** – *This zone reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. It is managed to only allow dispersed and low frequency use in the zone for low impact recreational purposes. Attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed.*

Natural Resources - Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. Vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease.

Recreation Opportunities - Dispersed, low density off-trail or trailed, self-reliant (no bicycle or equestrian use) outdoor activities (e.g. Hiking, backpacking, primitive camping, cross-country skiing, hunting, trapping, fishing, and nature observation).

Development - Very low level except for visitor accommodation (e.g. foot trails) with site hardening only allowed to protect sensitive resources (e.g. boardwalk).

(3) **"BACKCOUNTRY ZONE"** - *The character of this zone is natural, with minimal evidence of human impact. While the 'Primitive Zone' is highly restrictive for recreational use and human impact, this zone allows for increased use, including bicycle and equestrian, and modifications of the landscape (e.g. trail development) to accommodate that use.*

Natural Resources - Natural resources modified slightly to support visitor use, but tolerance for natural resource impacts is low. This zone will reflect natural

processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease.

Recreation Opportunities - Moderate levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone. Non-motorized outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings (e.g. hiking, backpacking, back-country camping, bicycling, equestrian use, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting, trapping, and fishing).

Development - Low level of development to support visitor access to outdoor activities (e.g. trails, trailhead parking, marked routes, designated backcountry campsites, vault toilets, water supply and educational opportunities). Development would be unobtrusive and would blend with natural environment. Site hardening (e.g. boardwalks, fencing, pedestrian paths) may be necessary to protect sensitive resources.

(4) “CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ZONE” – *This zone addresses the overall setting in which is found not only historic structures, but also non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, lifeways, arts, crafts and social institutions of any community. The Cultural Landscape Zone can be an ‘overlay’ on one of the ‘Resource’ zones, and as such, the guidance for that zone will also apply.*

Natural Resources - This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management focused to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance education/interpretation uses which can include non-native species specific to the era and/or location, and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape that is sensitive to the historical resource and interpretation of the zone.

Historic/Cultural Resources - Includes historic buildings, structures, and other landscape characteristics and features which represent the evolution of the cultural resource, temporal change, and the continuum of time. Cultural resources preserved or rehabilitated for visitor understanding and/or for compatible adaptive use by DNR or partners.

Recreation Opportunities - Visitors engaged in sightseeing, recreational, and educational activities in a cultural setting (e.g. automobile, bicycle, walking, hiking tour), compatible with and sensitive to the setting.

Development - Moderate level of development to support visitor access and use (e.g. interpretive media, walks, trails, small picnic areas, and restrooms) compatible with the cultural landscape. Non-historic development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape are tolerated.

(5) “HISTORY EDUCATION ZONE” – *The emphasis of this zone is “Education”. Cultural/Historic resources are restored and interpreted for visitor understanding. In some cases, the History Education Zone can be an overlay on one of the ‘Resource’ zones, and as such, the guidance for that zone will also apply.*

Natural Resources - Natural resources that have been identified as important to the historic/cultural landscape are managed to perpetuate those qualities. This can include non-native species specific to the era and/or location.

Historic/Cultural Resources - *Cultural and natural resources* (including historic buildings, structures, and landscapes) may be *restored to specific time period(s)* if essential for the visitor understanding of historic period(s) OR rehabilitated to support visitor and staff activities for in-depth interpretation of historic period(s).

Recreation Opportunities - Visitors engaged in sightseeing and educational activities in a cultural setting.

Development - Developments *necessary for visitor understanding* and/or staff support are compatible with the historic period(s) or are accommodated off-site. Development, including interpretive media, consistent with historic period(s).

(6) **“SCENIC ZONE”** - *The Scenic Zone recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in our state park and recreation areas.*

Natural Resources - *Natural resources modified slightly to support visitor use and viewing*, but tolerance for natural resource impacts is low. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance the viewsapes of the zone.

Recreation Opportunities - Moderate levels of recreation compatible with the purpose of viewing.

Development - *Moderate level of development* to support visitor access, transit, interpretive activities, and sightseeing (e.g. roads, trails, parking, restrooms, overlooks, small picnic areas, interpretive media).

(7) **“NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION ZONE”** – *Active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural areas. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, higher levels of use are allowed.*

Natural Resources - *Natural resources support visitor activities* with only moderate impacts. This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, to manage pests and disease, and to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape.

Recreation Opportunities - Moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with the natural character of the zone. Visitors engaged in *outdoor activities* in diverse land and water natural settings (e.g. hiking, backpacking, back-country and rustic camping, bicycling, canoeing, kayaking, equestrian use, nature observation, hunting, trapping, fishing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing). Snowmobiling permitted on designated routes.

Development - Moderate level of development of *facilities for support of visitor activities* (e.g. restrooms, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways and parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, rustic campsites, cabins and shelters) for recreation and educational opportunities.

(8) “DEVELOPED RECREATION ZONE” - *Active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced as possible.*

Natural Resources - Natural resources actively managed and modified *to support visitor activities*. Vegetative management in this zone will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease, and will also be allowed for purposes of facilitating development and recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape

Recreation Opportunities - High levels of recreation in highly structured environment. Visitors engaged in recreation in diverse and modified land and water settings (e.g. hiking, modern and semi-modern camping, bicycling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, equestrian use, nature observation, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, day-use beach, picnicking, and other day-use activities). Hunting allowed in only approved areas of this zone, and snowmobiling permitted on designated routes.

Development - *High level of development* of facilities for support of visitor activities (e.g. restrooms, walkways and parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, picnic shelters, modern and semi-modern campgrounds, cabins and shelters) for recreation and educational opportunities.

(9) “VISITOR SERVICES ZONE” – *This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations.*

Natural Resources - Natural resources actively managed and modified *to support administrative and support activities*. Vegetative management (primarily tree removal for safety), is allowed.

Historic/Cultural Resources - Cultural resources and structures preserved, adapted or rehabilitated to support administrative activities. Historic structures used before new construction where possible.

Recreation Opportunities - None

Development - *High level of development* of facilities for support of administrative activities (e.g. office space, meeting rooms, employee locker room, employee eating area, shop space, storage space and related)