

# RESULTS OF STEP 3

## RESOURCE AND SOCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS

### High Country Limits of Acceptable Change Process

**REVISED 1/24/01, 6/15/01 & 12/9/01 after completion of Step 5 (some indicators dropped per group consensus). Indicators dropped have a strike through them.**

*REVISED 2/03 (changes represented by bold and italics)*

## RESOURCE INDICATORS

### CAMPSITES

INDICATOR	UNIT OF MEASURE (Standards will be Set for Each Zone)
Density of campsites	Per <i>1,000 acres</i>
<i>Condition Class</i>	<i>0-5 *</i>
Bare ground caused by camping	<i>% of total campsite area</i>
Density of fire rings	Number of fire rings per campsite

\*Campsite Form A will be used to record all campsite inventory data. Campsites are assigned Condition Classes from 0 to 5 with 0 being good condition and 5 being poor condition.

### TRAILS

INDICATOR	UNIT OF MEASURE (Standards will be Set for Each Zone)
Density of trails	Miles per <i>1,000 acres</i>
% of trails classified as substandard (braided, active erosion) defined by needing major rehabilitation or relocation	Percent of each trail classified as substandard - per zone and number of structural needs per mile (waterbars, check dams, etc.)
Non-system, user defined trails	Miles per <i>1,000 acres</i>

### OTHER RESOURCE INDICATORS

INDICATOR	UNIT OF MEASURE (Standards will be Set for Each Zone)
Erosion around springs; damaged enclosures and/or evidence of animals within spring enclosures	Percent of bare ground; number of evidences of animal waste
<del>Population trends of <i>noxious</i> species</del>	Increase attributable to recreation use
<del>Population <i>trends</i> of Brook Trout</del>	Decrease attributable to recreation use

## SOCIAL INDICATORS

### CAMPSITES\*

INDICATOR	UNIT OF MEASURE (Standards will be Set for Each Zone)
Visibility and audibility of campsites	Number of other campsites that can be seen or heard from each

to one another	campsite
Proximity of campsites to trails	Distance in feet between trail and campsites
Proximity of campsites to each other	Distance in feet between campsites
Human waste	Number of visible evidences
Litter	Number of pieces of litter in each campsite

\*Campsite Form A is used to record campsite inventory data.

## **SOCIAL INDICATORS (continued)**

### **TRAILS\***

<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>UNIT OF MEASURE</b> (Standards will be Set for Each Zone)
Frequency of encounters	Number of groups (of 1 or more) encountered in 1 day (6 hours minimum) as recorder moves along trails in the High Country
<i>Group size encountered</i>	Number of groups encountered of various sizes: 1-2, 3-6, 7-10, >10, counted as recorder moves along trails in the high country
<del>Encounters at destination points</del>	Number of groups and total individuals at destination points (such as Rhododendron Gap, peak of Mount Rogers, Thomas Knob Shelter and the Scales) recorded every 15 minutes over a period of at least 2 hours for various low use and high use periods.
<del>Number and types of users (hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders, etc.)</del>	Number and types of users per hour who pass by a specific point along a trail at various low and high use periods
Litter	Number of pieces per mile
Trailhead parking use	Number of dates capacity is exceeded and number of cars parked on shoulder of road during those days

\*Trail Encounter Form are used to record this inventory data.

### **CONFLICTS**

<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>UNIT OF MEASURE</b> (Standards will be Set for Each Zone)
Encounters which degrade recreation experience	Number and types of visitor conflicts per <i>year</i> based on valid reports*
<del>Safety concerns related to hunting</del>	Number and types of safety concerns per <i>year</i> based on valid reports*
Inappropriate uses	Number and types of infractions of rules and regulations per <i>year</i> based on valid reports*
<del>Encounters with domestic pets (off-leash)</del>	Number of valid reports or complaints* per <i>year</i>
<del>Wildlife harassment by dogs</del>	Number of valid reports* per <i>year</i>
<del>Domestic animal waste (horses and dogs)</del>	Number of visible evidences along trails; different trails may have different standards within each zone

\*Valid reports and complaints are defined as first-hand or first-person reports rather than information passed along a chain of 2 or more people before reaching the Forest Service.

## OTHER SOCIAL INDICATORS

<b>INDICATOR</b>	<b>UNIT OF MEASURE</b> (Standards will be Set for Each Zone)
Opportunity for achievement of solitude	Solitude achieved/not achieved at least 300 feet off-trail for a duration of at least 4 hours during low and high use periods
<del>Knowledge and application of Leave No Trace (LNT)</del>	Number of valid reports* per month of violations of LNT principles of individuals or groups
Visitor orientation	Number of users reports per month to be on wrong trail or not sure if on right trail

\*Valid reports are defined as first-hand or first-person reports rather than information passed along a chain of 2 or more people before reaching the Forest Service.