

Chapter 7 Recreation Site Signing

7.1 Introduction

This chapter provides standards and guidelines for the use of signs and posters to support outdoor recreation resource management programs on the national forests, including Forest Service and privately managed sites and facilities, and areas and facilities with special designations, such as wilderness and wild and scenic rivers.

7.2 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Guidelines

A key element of determining appropriate signing is the *Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* (ROS). ROS classes have been adopted for each management area.

Consider the site design, site development scale, recreation opportunity class, visual quality objectives, travel speed, viewing distance, clear-zone requirements, and nighttime visibility needs in determining the proper sign, size, material, placement, and mounting. Refer to Table 5-1 in Chapter 5 for the selection guide of materials, colors, finishes for recreation site signs, materials, and supplies, and to Chapter 3 for sign size, placement, and materials selection.

7.3 Traffic Control Devices in Recreation Sites

All traffic control devices (TCDs) on roads needed to regulate, warn, or guide traffic leading to or in recreation sites shall meet the requirements of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and these Guidelines. This includes the design, shape, color, retroreflectivity, and installation of these signs. All TCDs, including those within recreation sites, should be reviewed by the Forest Sign Coordinator.

7.4 Signs for Forest Service Managed Sites and Facilities

Signs are needed for safety and guidance to, from, and within recreation destinations such as campgrounds, trailheads, and visitor centers. Signs support recreation program objectives, rules and regulations, safety information, environmental awareness, user etiquette, and local area services. Follow directions in Chapter 2 for developing monitoring and maintaining a comprehensive sign plan for each site. Follow directions in Chapter 3 for regulatory, warning, and guide signs for roads.

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7.5 Site Identification Signs

Use site identification signs to identify the site as the user is entering the site after turning off the main road. These signs are not traffic control devices and are inappropriate for use as guide and site approach signing.

Use the Recreation Site (RS) sign when approaching the recreation facility. The sign requires both the Forest Service shield and the USDA credit line.

Use the RSE sign within a recreation area with several sites where full Forest Service recognition has been previously identified by an RS sign or where other Forest Service recognition is in the area.



While the RS and RSE signs are not required to meet MUTCD standards, they may be retroreflective for enhanced viewing at night. The design, size, colors, placement, and installation shall follow these Guidelines. Sign bases are usually not designed as breakaway (crashworthy) and shall be placed out of the recovery area. Figure 7A-1 illustrates the appropriate use of site identification signs in the recreation site.

7.6 Onsite Signing

Onsite signing comprises all signs necessary to adequately guide the user while providing a positive message. Coordinate signing with the primary use(s) of the site.

Onsite signing to notify road users of road regulations and all traffic warning and guide signs shall follow Chapter 3 and the MUTCD.

7.6.1 Federal Recreation Symbols

Use of Federal recreation symbols on roads is described in the MUTCD, Section 2H, and Chapter 3B.

When signing road activities within a recreation site, recreation symbols shown in the MUTCD may be used. Use of items other than these standard recreation

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symbols on roads must be approved by Washington Office Engineering. Symbols may be used singly or in groups of two, three, or four on a single sign assembly. Generally, no more than four symbols should be used on a single sign assembly.

The Forest Service has approved the recreation symbols shown in Figure 7.1 for use on National Forest system roads. These symbols are not approved for use on roads not under Forest Service jurisdiction. Refer to the MUTCD, Section 2H for Federal recreation symbols approved for all road use.



Figure 7-1—Forest Service approved recreation symbols.

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7.6.2 Miscellaneous Onsite Signing

Evaluate the need for signs providing direction to, or identification of, buildings and other physical facilities. Provide signing only where facility location or function is not obvious and such information is important to the visitor or administrator. Use standard Federal recreation symbols where possible.

Mark individual campsites consistently within each site. The campsite number shall be reflectorized for nighttime visibility and markers placed so they can be viewed from the road at night. Numbers may be placed directly on pavement, but this method may be unsatisfactory where leaves, needles, or snow could obscure the number. Figure 7A-2 shows several acceptable examples.

7.6.3 Campground Host Sites

Identify campground host sites with signs or posters as shown in Figure 7-2. Consider using signs that are hinged and can be opened when the host is occupying the site or closed when the host is not available.

Signs



FRD



FRD



FRD

Posters



P23-14



P23-14A

Figure 7-2—Campground host site identification.

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7.7 Registration and Payment

See Chapter 10B for Information on registration and fee payment signs for recreation sites.

7.8 Self-Locator Maps

At major or more complex sites, professionally designed and manufactured park-and-read self-locator signs such as “You Are Here” are often appropriate. Figure 7-3 shows an example.

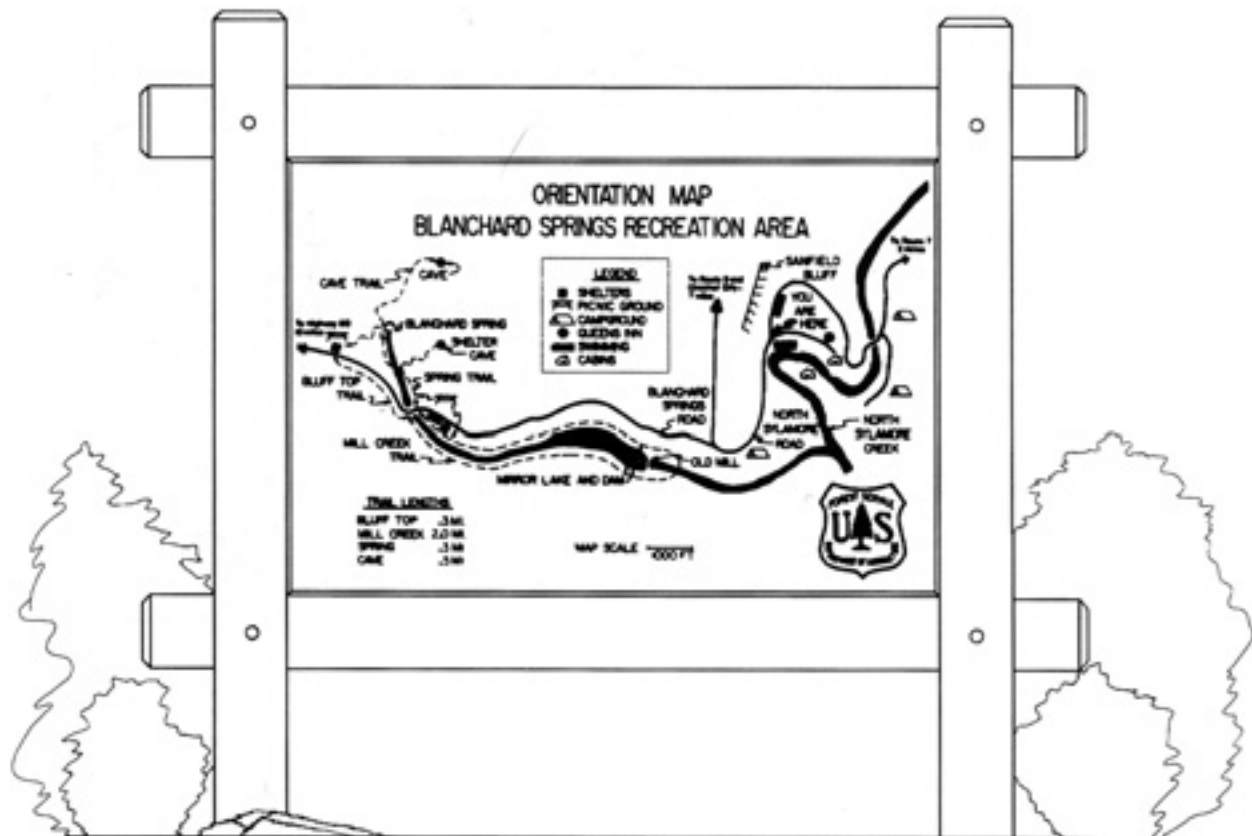


Figure 7-3—Example of self-locator map sign for recreation sites.

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7.9 Sanitary Dumping Station Signs

Use signs as illustrated in Figure 7-4 at appropriate points at dump stations.



Figure 7-4—Sanitary dumping site signs.

7.10 Pack It In/Pack It Out

The basic component of the PACK IT IN/PACK IT OUT system is a series of complementary signs and posters. See Figure 7-5.

Bag Dispenser Sign SW-1 – This sign is equipped with a box (DB-1) that dispenses trash bags. It also has a small visitor information board for posting messages.

The signs should be located at strategic points near the entrances to designated PACK IT IN/PACK IT OUT sites. Other possible locations include trailheads and boat ramps.

Reminder Sign SW-2 – This highly visible sign is placed at small campgrounds, occupancy spots, island recreation sites, or trailheads within a PACK IT IN/PACK IT OUT area as a reminder that the system is in operation.

Developed or Undeveloped Site Sign SW-3 – This sign is placed at developed or undeveloped sites within a PACK IT IN/PACK IT OUT area as a reminder that the system is in operation.

Trailside Sign SW-4 – This sign is placed along trails within a PACK IT IN/PACK IT OUT area as a reminder that the system is in operation.

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DISPENSER AND POSTER COMBINATION



SW-1 with dispenser box

REMINDER SIGN



SW-2

DEVELOPED OR UNDERDEVELOPED SITE SIGN



SW-3

TRAILSIDE SIGN



SW-4

Colors:
Dark = Brown
Shaded = Yellow-cream
Background = White

Figure 7-5—PACK IT IN/PACK IT OUT signs.

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7.11 Signs for Privately Provided Recreation Sites and Facilities

For recreation opportunities provided on National Forest System lands through private commercial and noncommercial enterprise, ensure that signing is consistent with policy and objectives (FSM 2340 and 2720). Follow Chapter 9 guidelines and formal special use permit procedures in establishing standards and approving sign designs, placement, and installation.

7.12 National River Systems

7.12.1 Wild Rivers

Wild rivers provide opportunities for river oriented recreation in a primitive setting that may require special outdoor skills to meet physical challenges. Limit signs to those that are essential for resource protection and to visitor safety and orientation. For example, use identification and interpretive signs outside the wild river corridor at launch points or trailheads (trails leading to the river) where information such as trail mileage, river conditions, water gauge locations, and water levels can be given.

7.12.2 Scenic Rivers

Scenic rivers provide recreation opportunities in a natural environment with some amenities such as parking facilities, boat landings, and visitor information. Signs may include those for facility identification, interpretation, and visitor guidance.

7.12.3 Recreation Rivers

A wide range of recreation opportunities is allowed adjacent to free flowing recreation rivers. Stress simplicity in sign messages and use rustic materials except on access roads and bridges where the standard signing direction in Chapter 3C shall be followed. Use carefully designed information and interpretive signs to complement the landscape without detracting from the river environment.

7A.12.4 National River System Signs

Sign wild, scenic, and recreation rivers according to the management objective of each river category. Use the official blue, green, black, and white logo shown in Figure 7-6 on all guide, identification, and information signs within the river boundaries. Keep signs simple and rustic in accordance with the following guidelines and the standards shown in Figure 7-6.

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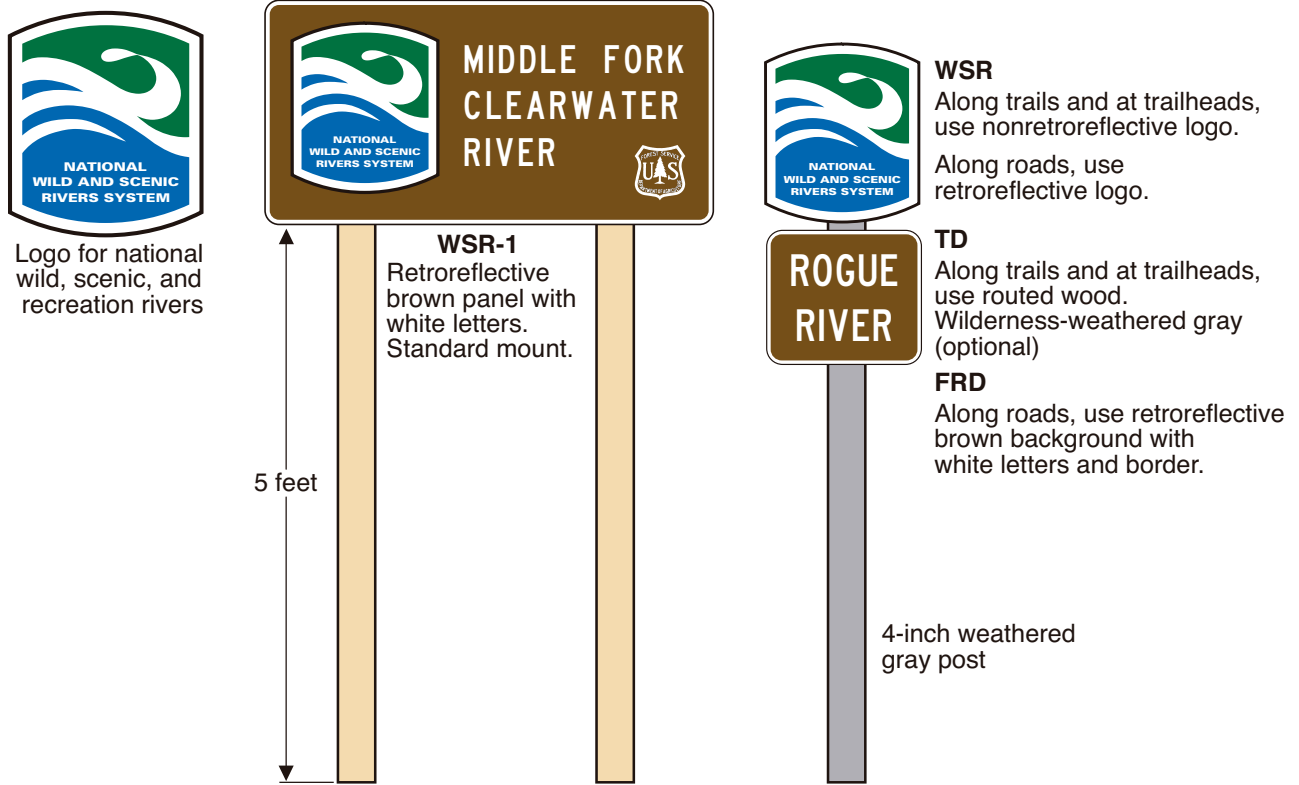


Figure 7-6— Identification signs for wild, scenic, and recreation rivers.

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7.13 Congressionally Designated Special Areas

Congressionally designated special areas are to be managed to emphasize recreational and other specific, related values. See Chapter 8C.

7.13.1 Recreation Site Entrance

Signs such as the NRA-Rec sign (Figure 7-7) are used for recreation sites within a congressionally designated special area. Except for the shape of the sign, the signing criteria as discussed in Chapter 8 and Section 8B-4 are applicable.



Figure 7-7—Example of signing for recreation sites within a congressionally designated special area.
