

SEVEN STEPS OF RECREATION FACILITY ANALYSIS

The RFA involves seven steps, each bringing the Forest's developed recreation sites in closer alignment with the Forests unique characteristics, projected demand, visitor expectations, costs for operation and maintenance, and revenue.

Step 1: Prepare Site Inventory and Financial Data. In this step, the inventory of recreation sites is updated, along with estimates of the costs for operation and maintenance for each recreation site.

STEP 2: Identify Unit Recreation Program Niche. Recreation-visitor use, market data, and other public input are examined to determine the focus of the forest's recreation program. The result is a map that displays the forest's recreation settings and a summary paragraph that characterizes what is unique or special about recreation on the Forest's.

STEP 3: Identify Operational Efficiencies. Recreation sites are examined to determine if efficiencies can be undertaken to reduce site expenditures and eliminate deferred maintenance while maintaining recreation opportunities. A proposed set of management options is developed for each site to reduce costs or provide services in other ways.

STEP 4: Rank Recreation Sites. Recreation sites are rated through the use of a series of questions involving the sites' conformance with the forest recreation program niche; their financial and operational efficiency; their effects on environmental sustainability; and their effects on community stability.

STEP 5: Propose 5-year Program of Work to Stakeholders. The proposed 5-year program of work for recreation sites is prepared based upon the analysis completed in the previous four steps. Discussions with stakeholders are sought to explore alternative ways of operating sites or building new partnerships.

STEP 6: Finalize 5-year Proposed Program of Work. The 5-year program of work for recreation sites is refined, based upon the discussions with stakeholders.

STEP 7: Implementation. Annually, site-specific steps are proposed to implement the 5-year program of work for recreation sites. Prior to implementation, National Environmental Policy Act and other agency coordination requirements are completed.