

**RESULTS OF STEP 2 – IDENTIFYING AND DESCRIBING OPPORTUNITY ZONES  
MOUNT ROGERS HIGH COUNTRY**

*Revised 2-6-03*

<b>Opportunity Zone</b>	<b>Resource Condition</b>	<b>Social Condition</b>	<b>Managerial Condition</b>
1A) Primitive Wilderness – No trails	Natural ecological processes dominate. There are no developed, maintained trails. Disturbance by users is not normally apparent to most visitors.	There is a high degree of interaction with the natural environment and a high degree of challenge and risk. Self-reliance and woods skills are very important. High levels of isolation and solitude exist, with little chance of contacts with other visitors.	Very low level of managerial presence; few signs; low level of Forest Service contact. Off site Wilderness and Leave No Trace education will be the main management emphasis.
1B) Semi-Primitive Wilderness Trailed	Natural ecological processes dominate. There are some developed, maintained trails. Some locations are minimally affected by the action of users. There is only minor loss of vegetation where camping occurs and along trails. Most impacts recover on an annual basis.	There is a high degree of interaction with the natural environment, and a moderate degree of challenge and risk. Self-reliance and woods skills are important. Some opportunities for solitude exists, but the evidence of other recreational users are moderately numerous and apparent. There is a moderate probability of visitor contacts on trails. Most parties are camped away from others.	Management presence is primarily off site, but there is some contact with personnel in this zone at times. There may be minimum signing on trails.
<b>1C) Wilderness Trailed (moderate to high use)</b>  <b>ONLY FOR ALT. 4</b>	<i>Predominantly natural appearing, but some locations are substantially affected by actions of users. Some locations are minimally affected by the action of users. There are developed, maintained trails. Vegetation impacts vary from minor to moderate loss of vegetation and soil on some travel routes and around some larger campsites. Impacts persist for more than one year.</i>	<i>This zone includes popular scenic features along the most heavily used trails in the High Country, resulting in a high probability of contacts with other visitors. There is a moderate degree of interaction with the natural environment. Some opportunities for solitude exists, but the evidence of other recreational users are moderately numerous and apparent. There is little opportunity for risk and challenge. Self-reliance and woods skills are of low to moderate importance.</i>	<i>Both on-site and off-site visitor strategies are used for visitor education, safety and resource protection. This includes Leave No Trace education, both on and off site. Management presence is moderate to high.</i>

Opportunity Zone	Resource Condition	Social Condition	Managerial Condition
2A) Primitive Non-Wilderness No Trails	Predominantly natural area with no developed, maintained trails. Zone may include open areas managed through vegetative manipulation.	Moderate to high levels of isolation and opportunities for solitude. Moderate to high degree of challenge and risk. Self-reliance and woods skills are important. Evidence of visitor uses is low. Low probability of visitor contacts. Most parties are camped away from others.	Very low level of managerial presence. Few signs. Low level of Forest Service contact. Off-site Leave No Trace education will be the main management emphasis.
2B) Semi-Primitive Non-Wilderness -- Trailed (Low Use)	Predominantly natural with some open areas managed through vegetative manipulation. There are some developed, maintained trails. Some locations are minimally affected by the action of users. There is only minor loss of vegetation where camping occurs and along trails. Most impacts recover on an annual basis.	There is a high degree of interaction with the environment, and a moderate degree of challenge and risk. Self-reliance and woods skills are somewhat important. Some opportunities for solitude, but the evidence of other recreational users are moderately numerous and apparent. There is a low to moderate probability of visitor contacts on trails. Most parties are camped away from others.	Management presence is minimal, but there is some contact with FS personnel in this zone at times. There is signing on trails.
3) Semi-Primitive Non-Wilderness Trailed (Moderate to High Use)	Predominantly natural appearing, but some locations are substantially affected by actions of users. There are developed, maintained trails. Trail shelters are present along the Appalachian Trail. Vegetation impacts vary from minor to moderate loss of vegetation and soil on some travel routes and around some larger campsites and shelters. Impacts persist for more than one year.	This zone includes popular scenic features and the most heavily used trails in the High Country, resulting in a high probability of contacts with other visitors. There is a moderate degree of interaction with the natural environment and little opportunity for solitude, risk, and challenge. Self-reliance and woods skills are of low to moderate importance.	Management presence is moderate to high. There is signing along trails. Both on-site and off-site visitor strategies are used for visitor education, safety and resource protection. This includes Leave No Trace education, both on and off site.

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4) Concentrated Use	This area consists primarily of developed trailhead areas. These may include permanent facilities such as parking areas, toilet buildings, campsites, information boards, and staffed entrance stations. These areas may be hardened to withstand heavy visitor use.	These are access points for primary trails into the High Country, resulting in a high probability of contacts with other visitors. There is a low degree of interaction with the natural environment and little opportunity for risk and challenge. There is a high probability of contact with other visitors. Self-reliance and woods skills are of little or no importance.	Management presence is high. Signs are prevalent, especially on information boards and directional signs for trails. On-site visitor strategies are used for visitor education, safety and resource protection. There is moderate to high probability of visitors encountering FS personnel and/or volunteers.