

Diversity of Recreation Opportunities

Planning for and Managing Recreation on Open Space



CITY OF BOULDER, OPEN SPACE AND MOUNTAIN PARKS

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Session Purpose

- ▶ The purpose of this COSA session is to bring outdoor recreation professionals together to discuss successes and challenges related to recreation planning, monitoring, management and implementation.
- ▶ Share lessons learned & develop new relationships with your COSA colleagues.



Session Overview

- ▶ Short presentation on common Recreation Frameworks
- ▶ Breakout Groups and Discussion
 - ▶ Recreation Planning
 - ▶ Recreation Monitoring
 - ▶ Recreation Management & Implementation
- ▶ Large Group Report Out





Why are Recreation Frameworks Useful?

- ▶ Help ensure that special places and the recreational benefits they provide are available for this, and future generations.
- ▶ Help managers and the public define why a place is important, what goals should be achieved, and how to provide a range of opportunities that are fitting for an area.
- ▶ Provide managers with a set of process steps to frame recreation opportunities or issues, and to arrive at a set of defensible decisions.
- ▶ Help us answer the important questions we care about

Questions We Care About

What settings exist and what opportunities should be provided?

What benefits or experiences should be provided?

What meanings are attached to this place?

How much change from natural conditions is acceptable?

How can high quality visitor experiences be provided while protecting natural and cultural resources?

How many is too many?

Recreation Framework

Key Questions

References

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum based Frameworks

- Recreation opportunity spectrum – 1970s
- Tourism opportunity spectrum – 1990s
- Water recreation opportunity spectrum – 2000s

What settings exist and what should be provided?

Clark and Stankey 1979
Driver and Brown 1978
Dawson 2001
Haas et al. 2004

Limits of Acceptable Change based Frameworks

- USFS Limits of Acceptable Change – 1980s
- Visitor Impact Management – 1980s
- NPS Visitor Experience and Resource Protection – 1990s
- Tourism Optimization and Management Model – 1990s

How much change from natural conditions is acceptable?

Stankey et al. 1985
Graefe, Kuss, and Vaske 1990
Hof and Lime 1997
Manidis 1997
Manning 2004

The Benefits Based Management Framework – 1990s

- BLM Outcomes Focused Management- 2017

What experiences should be provided?

Driver and Bruns 1999
BLM 2017

Carrying (Visitor) Capacity based Frameworks – 1960s +

- Social
- Biophysical
- Facility

How many is too many?

Lime and Stankey 1971
Haas 2002

Placed-based Frameworks – 2000s

What meanings are attached to this place?

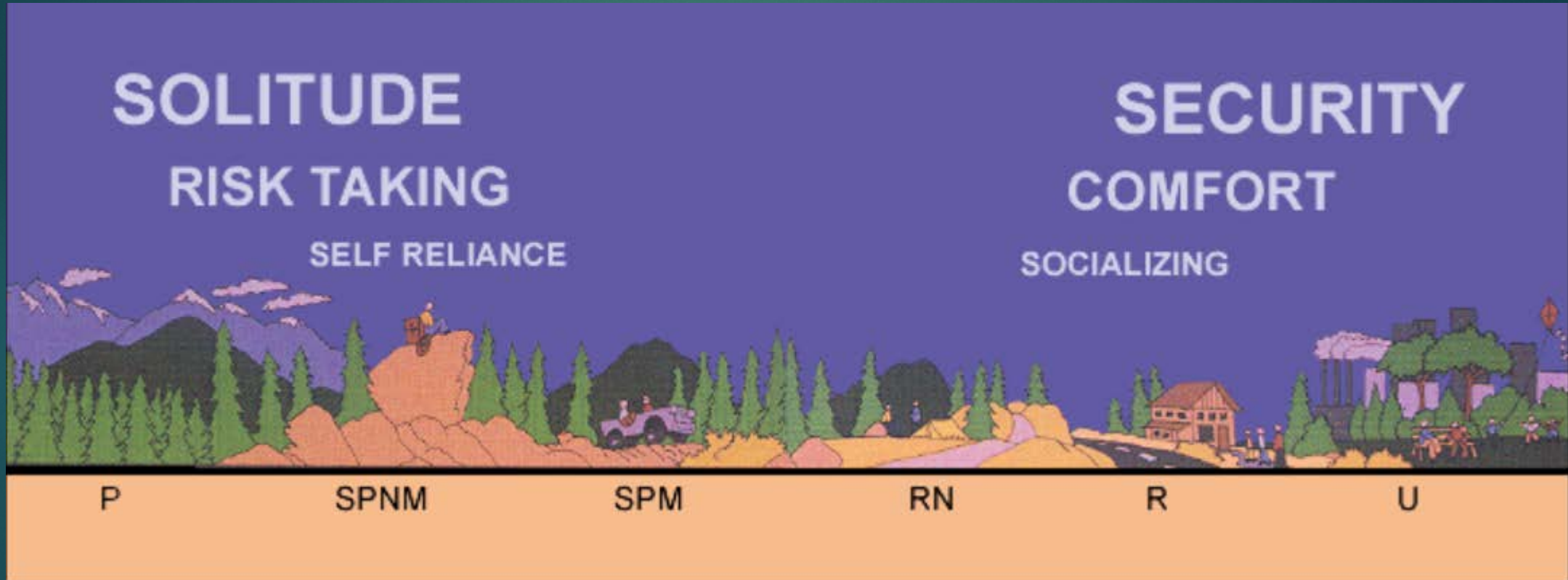
Kruger and Jakes 2003

Visitor Use Management Framework – 2017

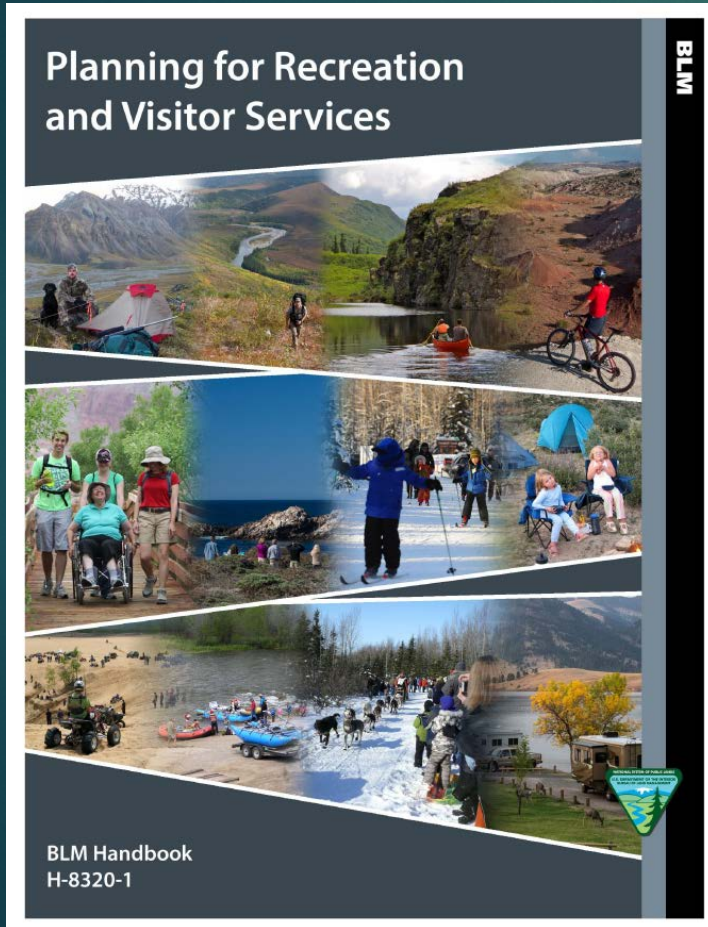
How can high quality visitor experiences be provided while protecting natural and cultural resources?

Interagency Visitor Use Management Council 2017

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum



Benefits Based / Outcomes Focused Management



Visitor Use Management Framework

Elements and steps of the Visitor Use Management Framework



Steps:

1. Clarify project purpose and need.
2. Review the area's purpose and applicable legislation, agency policies, and other management direction.
3. Assess and summarize existing information and current conditions.
4. Develop a project action plan.

Outcome: Understand why the project is needed, and develop the project approach.

Steps:

5. Define desired conditions for the project area.
6. Define appropriate visitor activities, facilities, and services.
7. Select indicators and establish thresholds.

Outcome: Describe the conditions to be achieved or maintained and how conditions will be tracked over time.

Steps:

8. Compare and document the differences between existing and desired conditions, and, for visitor use-related impacts, clarify the specific links to visitor use characteristics.
9. Identify visitor use management strategies and actions to achieve desired conditions.
10. Where necessary, identify visitor capacities and additional strategies to manage use levels within capacities.
11. Develop a monitoring strategy.

Outcome: Identify strategies to manage visitor use to achieve or maintain desired conditions.

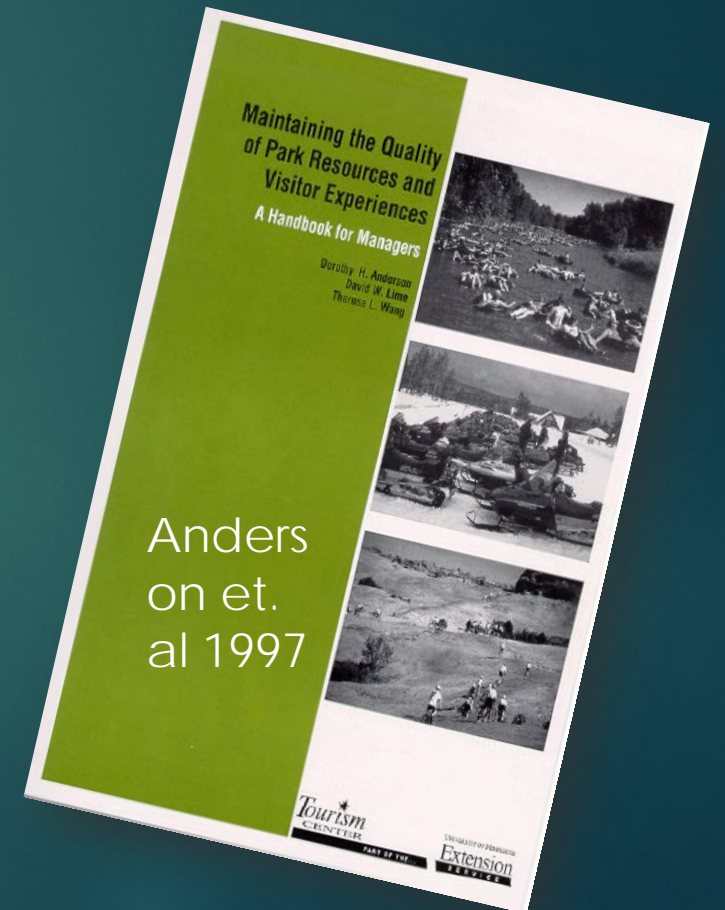
Steps:

12. Implement management actions.
13. Conduct and document ongoing monitoring, and evaluate the effectiveness of management actions in achieving desired conditions.
14. Adjust management actions if needed to achieve desired conditions, and document rationale.

Outcome: Implement management strategies and actions, and adjust based on monitoring and evaluation.

Overview of Recreation Opportunities and Guidance at City of Boulder OSMP

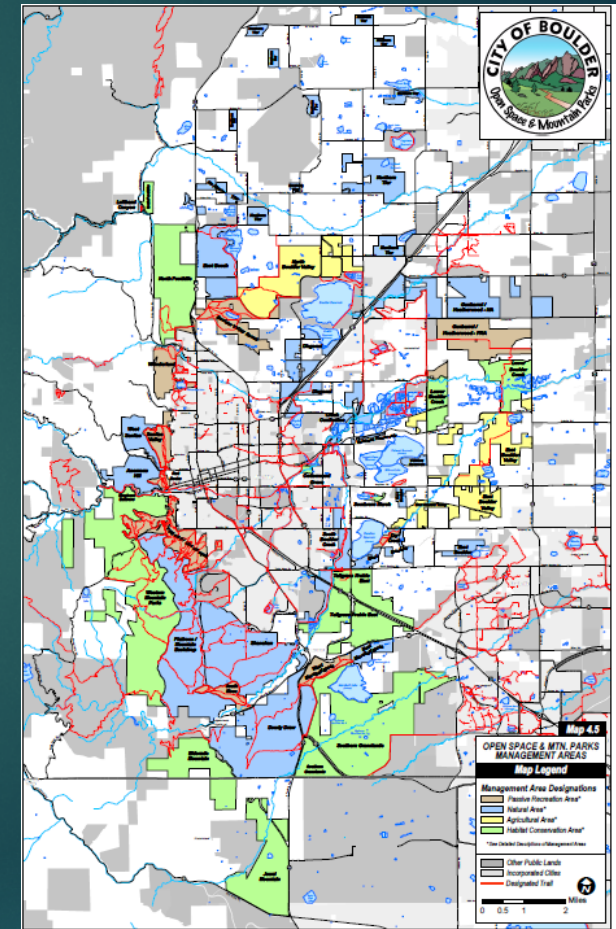
- ▶ 1898, 1910, 1937, 1967, 2005
- ▶ “High Quality Visitor Experience”
 - ▶ Access to Destinations
 - ▶ Safety
 - ▶ Remoteness
 - ▶ Variety of Activities
 - ▶ Ease (lack of conflict)
- ▶ Aesthetics
- ▶ Opportunities for connections
 - ▶ Land
 - ▶ Friends
- ▶ **Fun**



Overview of Recreation Opportunities and Guidance at City of Boulder OSMP

- ▶ Education and Outreach
- ▶ Public Involvement
- ▶ Safety and Enforcement
- ▶ Recreation Opportunities
- ▶ Trails and Facilities
- ▶ Resource Protection

Management Areas



Overview of Recreation Opportunities and Guidance at City of Boulder OSMP

- ▶ Monitoring
 - ▶ Asking visitors about experience
 - ▶ Tracking public safety
 - ▶ Documenting objective information



Breakout Group Questions

- ▶ Recreation Planning
- ▶ Recreation Monitoring
- ▶ Recreation Management & Implementation



Recreation Planning

▶ Group Discussion Topics

- ▶ What are the recreation planning challenges and successes your organization has experienced ?
- ▶ What is the purpose or mission of your Open Space, and how does this guiding foundation help you define the types of recreation opportunities you provide on Open Space Lands?
- ▶ What are the some of the emerging recreation opportunities that you are providing on your lands?
- ▶ What are some of the issues and impacts that your agency deals with related to recreational use?

Recreation Monitoring

▶ Group Discussion Topics

- ▶ What are the recreation monitoring challenges and successes your organization has experienced?
- ▶ What types of resources or tools do you need to conduct monitoring projects?
- ▶ What types of monitoring topics have been most helpful for addressing recreation issues or impacts at your Open Space?
 - ▶ (e.g. visitor use monitoring, trail condition monitoring, etc.)
- ▶ How does recreation monitoring inform decision making for your Open Space?

Recreation Management & Implementation

▶ Group Discussion Topics

- ▶ What are some of your challenges and successes with recreation management and implementation on your open space lands?
 - ▶ Examples: managing access, providing recreation opportunities for the public, maintaining recreation areas
- ▶ Are you able to provide your desired settings for access, visitor use & experiences, and recreation activities on your open space lands?
 - ▶ How are you achieving this?
 - ▶ Or what prevents you from achieving this?

Breakout Groups