

A. Developed Zone

- ◆ **Developed to accommodate a high level of visitor use.**
- ◆ **Evidence of human alteration will be common.**
- ◆ **Potential facilities included in this zone are trailheads, buildings for management purposes, trails designed for ADA accessibility as possible and shorter, less physically demanding trails.**

Developed Zone: Resource Conditions

- ◆ Natural processes such as fire, erosion, and grazing will be limited or controlled.
- ◆ Biological, cultural, geological, and/or other resources may require protection and management, but are not easily disturbed by regulated public use.
- ◆ Areas impacted by human alteration will be restored.
- ◆ Some access roads occur within this zone, and will be used by management staff and livestock grazing cooperators.
- ◆ Most cultural resources will be removed from zone to protect them as necessary.

Developed Zone: Visitor Expectations

- ◆ Limited opportunities for solitude.
- ◆ Visual and auditory impacts from other humans.
- ◆ Very little, to a modest level of time and energy needed for visitor experiences

Developed Zone: Facilities

- ◆ Facilities may include access roads, parking lots/trailheads, well-defined trails, interpretive & regulation signs, benches, kiosks, observation areas as appropriate.

Developed Zone: Carrying Capacity

- ◆ Gather visitor information through trailhead and trail counts, trail inspections, and surveys at parking areas and trailheads.
- ◆ Inspect trails to determine if impacts from high use are occurring.
- ◆ Inspect areas along established trails for evidence of dispersed use or social trails.
- ◆ Monitor resource values for changes in distribution of invasive plants along established or social trails, changes in wildlife distribution, and/or impacts to geological or archaeological resources.

Management actions to address ecological changes in this zone may include

- ◆ Expanding education efforts to inform visitors of regulations and resource impacts.
- ◆ Revegetating social trails.
- ◆ Increasing invasive plant control.
- ◆ Limiting use by modifying parking capacity.
- ◆ Increasing law enforcement presence.

Management actions to address visitor perception changes may include:

- ◆ Modifying management practices.
- ◆ Limiting use by modifying parking capacity.

B. Frontcountry Zone

- ◆ **Ecological, cultural, geological, and/or other resources require protection, but are in locations that can be managed through regulated public use.**
- ◆ **Evidence of human alteration is present and management activities will be more intensive.**

Frontcountry Zone: Resource Conditions

- ◆ Natural fires, erosion, flooding, and grazing allowed within portions of the zone and management efforts will be designed to mimic natural processes.
- ◆ Native plant species dominate, but some invasive plants may be present.
- ◆ Wildlife communities are diverse and provide excellent viewing opportunities.
- ◆ Some roads occur within this zone and will be used for management purposes.
- ◆ Protect cultural resources, either in place, or remove for protection.

Frontcountry Zone: Visitor Expectations

- ◆ Modest opportunities for solitude. Visual and auditory impacts from other visitors, management activities, and from human use of the landscape.
- ◆ Greater presence of livestock grazing activities and management activities.
- ◆ High quality plant community & wildlife viewing, and excellent vistas.
- ◆ Appropriate activities include on-trail hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling. Some trails may be hiking-only.
- ◆ A moderate level of time and energy needed for visitor experiences.

Frontcountry Zone: Facilities

- ◆ Well-defined natural surface trails, signs, benches, & observation areas as appropriate.
- ◆ Signs as needed along trails to direct and inform visitors of regulation changes.
- ◆ Signs and displays for public interpretation of cultural and natural features.

Frontcountry Zone: Carrying Capacity

- ◆ Gather visitor information through trail counts, trail inspections, and surveys.
- ◆ Inspect areas along established trails for evidence of dispersed use or social trails.
- ◆ Monitor resource values for increased invasive plants along trails, changes in wildlife distribution, and/or impacts to geological or archaeological resources.

Management actions to address ecological changes may include:

- ◆ Expanding education efforts to inform visitors of regulations and resources.
- ◆ Trail closures; Seasonal closures.
- ◆ Limiting use by modifying parking capacity.
- ◆ Increasing presence of law enforcement staff.
- ◆ Modifying management zone boundaries.

Management actions to address visitor perception changes may include:

- ◆ Modifying management practices.
- ◆ Limiting use by modifying parking capacity.

C. Backcountry Zone

- ◆ **This zone is representative of native plant and animal communities that are found throughout Soapstone Prairie.**
- ◆ **Natural resources are considered sensitive but are located in areas where impacts from recreation are more limited or can be managed.**

Backcountry Zone: Resource Conditions

- ◆ Natural fires, erosion, flooding, and grazing allowed within this zone and management efforts will be designed to mimic natural processes.
- ◆ Rare plant communities and plants, wetlands, riparian systems, important wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and/or unique geologic features occur in this zone - management efforts will focus on protecting and conserving these features.
- ◆ Invasive plant control will take place in all habitats as needed.
- ◆ Existing roads within this zone will be used on a limited basis for management.
- ◆ Cultural resources will be protected in place.

Backcountry Zone: Visitor Expectations

- ◆ Great opportunities for solitude. Sense of being immersed in a natural landscape.
- ◆ Little or no visual and auditory impact from human disturbance.
- ◆ High quality plant community & wildlife viewing, and excellent vistas.
- ◆ Appropriate activities include on-trail hiking, horseback riding, and bicycling; some trails may be hiking-only.
- ◆ A relatively high level of time and energy needed for visitor experiences.

Backcountry Zone: Facilities

- ◆ Facilities may include narrow natural surface trails, limited signs, and benches as needed only.

Backcountry Zone: Carrying Capacity

- ◆ Gather visitor information through trail counts, trail inspections, and surveys.
- ◆ Inspect sensitive areas for signs of visitor use or impacts.
- ◆ Inspect areas along established trails for evidence of dispersed use or social trails.
- ◆ Monitor resource values for increased invasive plants, changes in wildlife distribution, and/or impacts to geological or archaeological resources.

Management actions to address ecological changes in this zone may include:

- ◆ Expanding education efforts to inform visitors of regulations and resource impacts.
- ◆ Trail closures; Seasonal closures
- ◆ Establishing a permit system.
- ◆ Limiting use by modifying parking capacity.
- ◆ Increasing presence of law enforcement staff.

Management actions to address visitor experience changes in this zone may include:

- ◆ Limiting use by modifying parking capacity.
- ◆ Establishing a permit system

D. Primitive Zone

- ◆ Represents areas with the greatest resource values, least human influence, or areas of sensitive resources that may be impacted by recreation.
- ◆ Visitors will be allowed into this management zone only as part of guided tours or for research purposes on a limited and permitted basis.

Primitive Zone: Resource Conditions

- ◆ Natural fires, erosion, flooding, and grazing occur within this zone and management efforts will be designed to mimic natural processes.
- ◆ Highly significant natural, cultural and/or geologic features occur in this zone.
- ◆ Focus is on protecting and conserving these features of the property.
- ◆ Control invasive plants in all habitats as needed.
- ◆ Any existing roads within this zone will either be restored or used on a very limited basis for management purposes.
- ◆ Cultural resources will be protected in place.

Primitive Zone: Visitor Expectations

- ◆ Access limited to guided tours or research conducted under a Department permit.
- ◆ No trails or other facilities are found within this zone.
- ◆ High quality plant community & wildlife viewing, and opportunities to see cultural artifacts in place.
- ◆ High levels of solitude and hiking opportunities crossing natural landscapes developed with little human influence.
- ◆ A relatively high level of time and energy needed for visitor experiences.

Primitive Zone: Facilities

- ◆ None, except existing roads used on a very limited basis for management purposes

Primitive Zone: Carrying Capacity

- ◆ Impacts from guided tours/research will be monitored and limited based on frequency, number in group, and time of year.

Ecological indicators may include:

- ◆ Expansion of invasive plants in areas visited or other impacts to native vegetation.
- ◆ Evidence of trails developing.
- ◆ Changes in wildlife distribution.
- ◆ Changes in visitor experience.

Management actions to address ecological changes may include:

- ◆ Reducing permits, both in frequency and number of people per tour/research.
- ◆ Changing tour locations and access routes.
- ◆ If wildlife impacts are seasonal in nature, tour dates may be changed accordingly.