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NATIONAL FOREST LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Recreation

Volume 2, Chapter 8

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December 1987

Acknowledgments

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Foreword

Volume 1

National Forest Landscape Management, Volume 1, is a training document distributed throughout the National Forest System in April 1973. It is used as a text to illustrate the concepts, elements, and principles of the Forest Service landscape management program. This program seeks to identify the visual characteristics of the landscape and analyze in advance the visual effects of resource management actions. Volume 1 was prepared by landscape architects, land management specialists, and research scientists from throughout the Forest Service.

Volume 2

National Forest Landscape Management, Volume 2, consists of several chapters. Each focuses on the application of visual resource management principles to the planning, design, and construction of development activities on National Forest System lands. Those already published are: Visual Management System, Utilities, Range, Roads, Timber, Fire, and Ski Areas. Additional chapters are expected in the future.

We hope you find this chapter thought provoking and useful. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

F. Dale Robertson

F. DALE ROBERTSON
Chief

June 1987

Preface

As with the rest of the Landscape Management series, this chapter is concerned with the visual image of recreation facilities and its effect on the viewer. The chapter describes the Forest Service's role in recreation and how that role is enhanced through the visual image created by recreation facilities.

The theme is simple: Recreation facilities and activities should appear complementary to nature. The proper combination of materials, design, and visual characteristics will lessen the "urban" impact of recreation facilities regardless of their sophistication or level of development. The Forest Service objective for recreation facilities strives for simplicity and lack of contrast with the natural scene. However, even when major site hardening is needed, the theme is to search for techniques and materials consistent with a rustic image in the natural setting. The thrust is not to reduce all things to a primitive state but to make them appear as complementary to nature as possible.

ROY FEUCHTER
Director of Recreation

June 1987

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Introduction

Recreation is a major use of the 191 million acres of national forests and grasslands administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. Recreational use has the potential for both short-term and long-term impacts on the land that affect other physical, biological, and visual resources.

This chapter is focused on the use of the Visual Management System to manage the national forests and grasslands for a variety of recreational activities and experiences. However, it is not enough to provide quality design with the least amount of visual impact. We also need to define the Forest Service's role and identify its image as we help to provide part of the spectrum of recreation opportunities for the American public. It is the role of the Forest Service to maintain forest settings and provide appropriate facilities to enable safe and enjoyable use of these settings for recreational purposes. The image created should be one of quality rustic facilities in natural settings. Even when new, facilities are to complement and blend with the natural scene rather than contrast with or overwhelm it. A great deal of emphasis is placed on the users' self-reliance, thus leading them to a sense of adventure and appreciation of the outdoors. Emphasis is also placed on natural landscape settings that contrast with urban noise and visual clutter.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide examples that reflect various aspects of recreation experiences in the national forests. An array of ideas that illustrate visually acceptable solutions within a spectrum of landscape settings is presented. The principles illustrated, using typical examples of quality recreation site development in national forests, are as follows.

Physical settings need to blend with recreation facilities by using the basic principles of visual management.

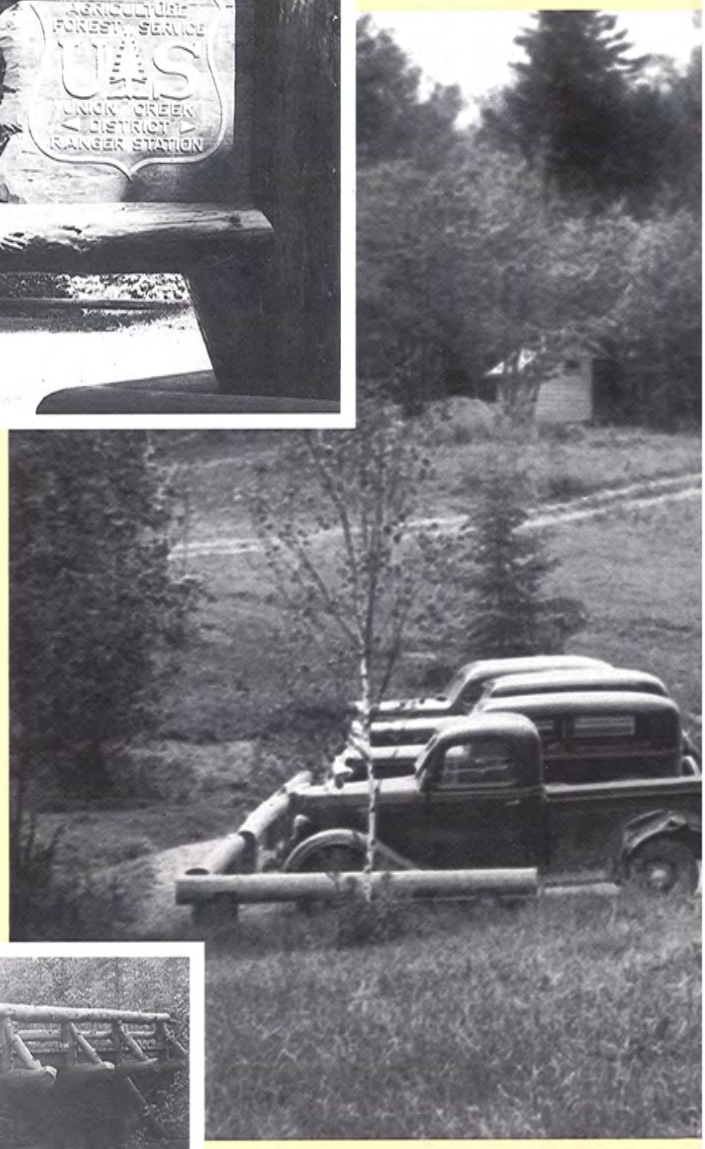
Social settings provide appropriate recreation facilities—from the simple to the more complex.

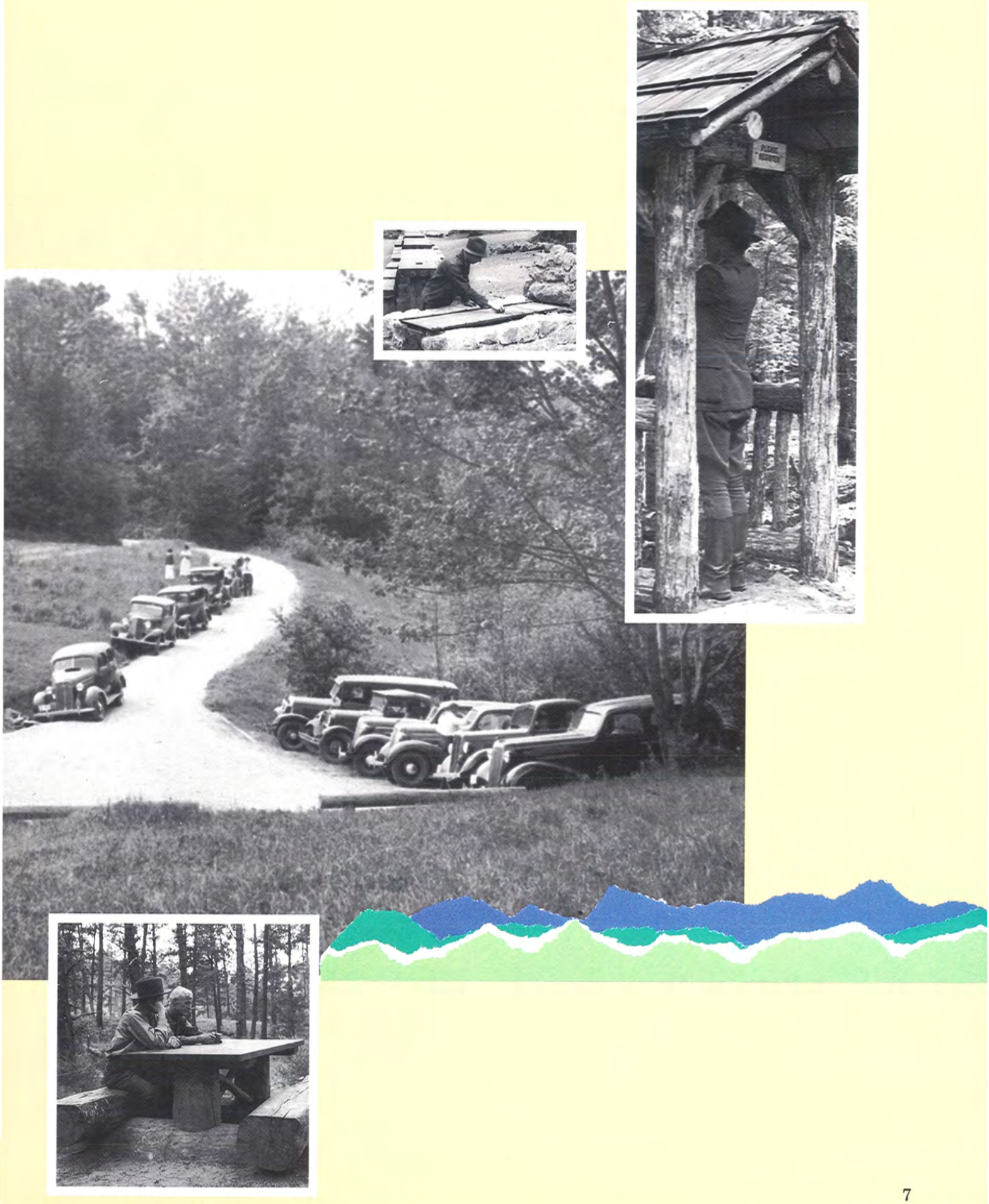
Recreation is usually defined as some sort of diversion, exercise, or activity that refreshes, relaxes, and pleases the participant. Recreation may take place anywhere, in almost any environment, for the experience is primarily a personal phenomenon, but one that may be shared with family or friends. The recreation experience can usually be enhanced by and may depend on the setting in which it takes place. The role of the Forest Service land manager is to manage settings to provide recreational opportunities for the public. For many, much of the pleasure of outdoor recreation is the respite it provides from urban densities and pressures and the opportunity to renew our ties to nature. Such opportunities are present throughout the National Forest System for recreational users, but land managers must assure that recreation facilities complement rather than conflict with this natural environment and do not create crowded, semi-urban settings.

History

In early recreational use of the national forests, participants were generally well-oriented personally to enjoy the experience. Everything necessary had to be provided by the users because few, if any, facilities were available. As recreational demands grew, rustic facilities and a few amenities were provided, primarily as a result of other social and economic conditions in the country. The Civilian Conservation Corps was responsible for the construction of numerous scenic roadways, trails, overlooks, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Development of these facilities was labor-intensive, and materials at hand were used. The heavy, rustic style that resulted fit nicely into the landscape. This era set the style for many decades as to what the public admired and expected in outdoor recreation facilities.

This expectation has grown over time and now contributes to the standards for development and use of recreation opportunities in the National Forest System. It is strengthened by the need of our rapidly urbanizing population to escape from the cities and find opportunities for knowing and experiencing nature. The remaining sections of this chapter will build on that image and illustrate standards for selected recreation activities.



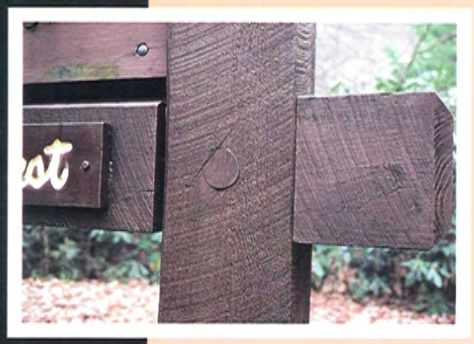


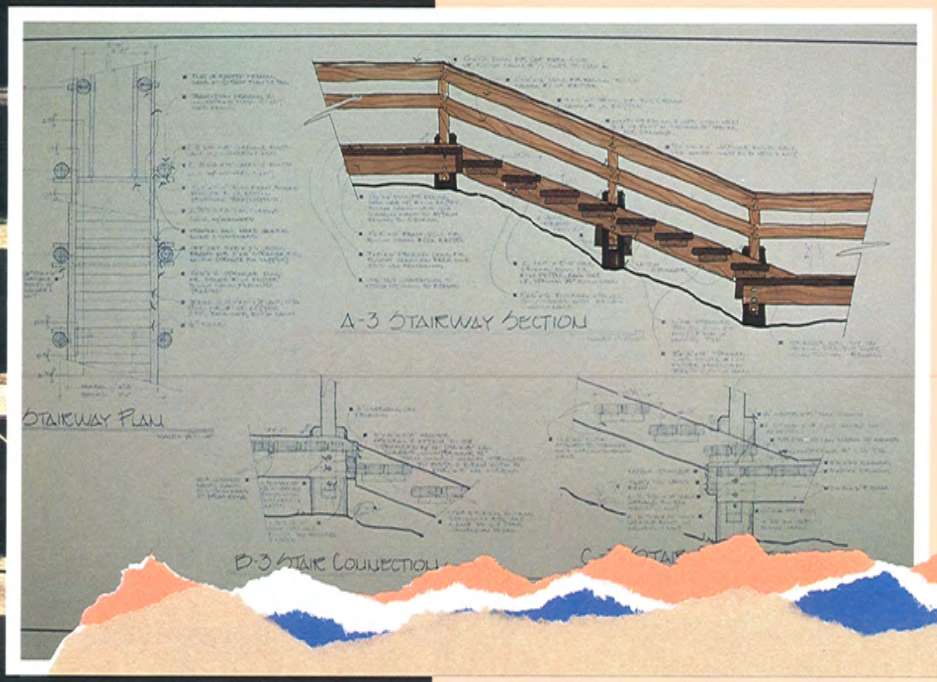
Planning

Planning for development and management of recreation opportunities takes place within the broader context of forest planning. This integrated planning effort provides land and resource management direction for units of the National Forest System. It makes decisions on uses of the land, location of essential facilities, and desired levels of management intensity based on management prescriptions. Management prescriptions are applied to specific areas of the unit. Subsequent to this overall land and resource management planning effort, recreation facilities and opportunities will be developed according to the standards and desired recreation image displayed in this chapter.

Forest Plans

Forest planning is an interdisciplinary effort that provides land and resource direction for each national forest. Management prescriptions are part of the forest plans, and provide direction on uses of the land as well as the type and location of essential facilities for specific geographic units.





Management Plans

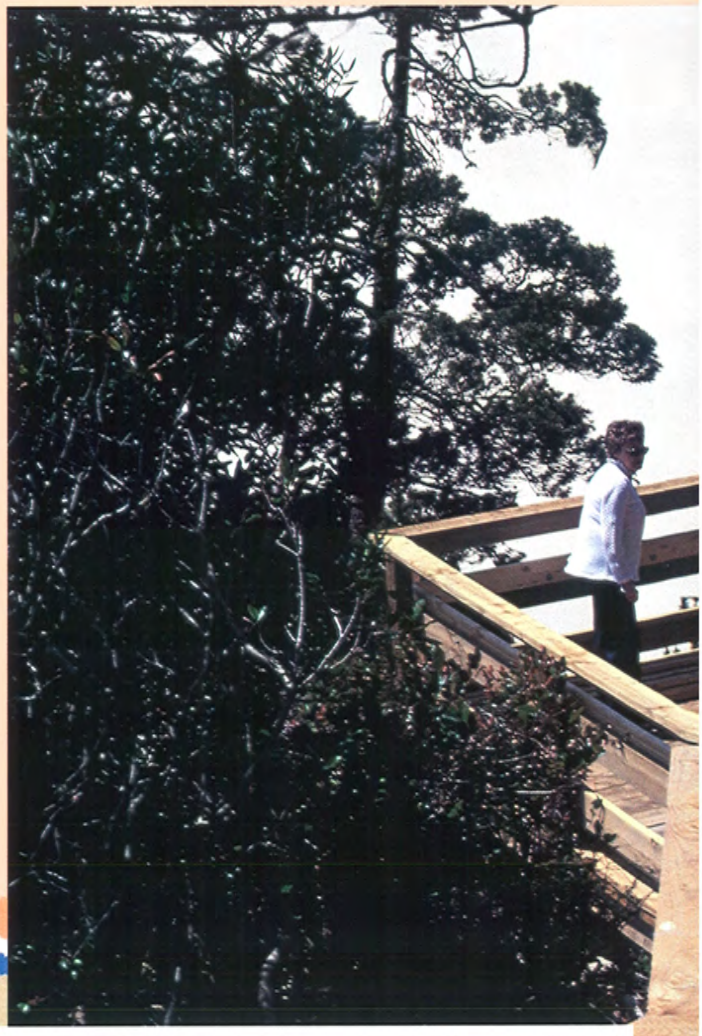
The management direction, including architectural themes, for designated sites or unique management units can be provided in special management plans. Vegetation management is an important aspect of forest planning and can be done on individual recreation sites or larger management units.

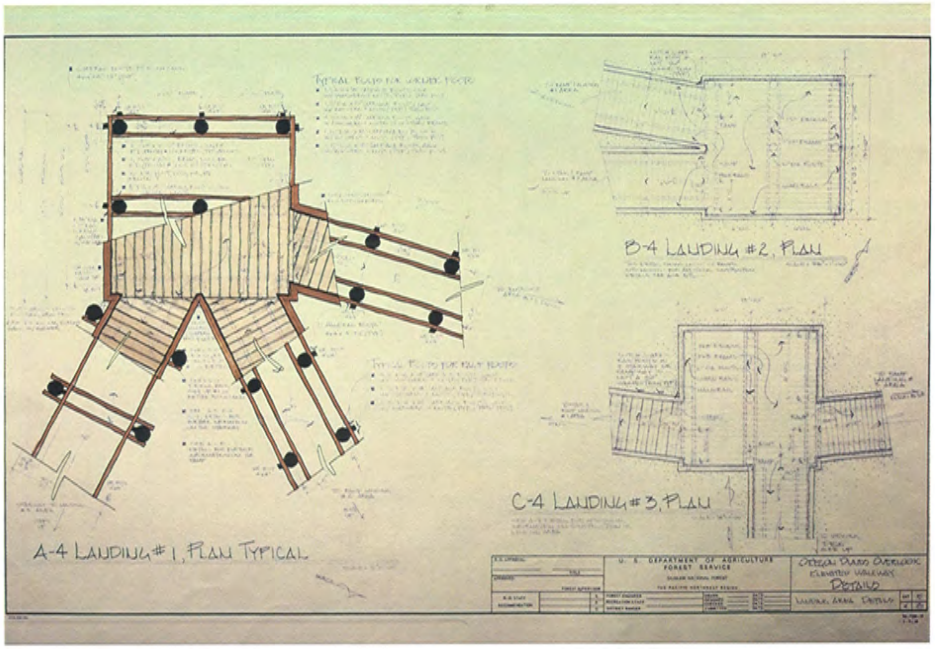
Design Narratives

Design narratives are used to describe in detail the desired physical and social settings for individual recreation sites. Design narratives include specific directions for forest landscape architects to help them determine the appropriate location, capacity, and type of facilities needed for each recreation site. Design narratives provide written direction for architects and engineers. They establish those design criteria that will allow construction to meet the site objectives.

Site Plans

Site plans are prepared by landscape architects for each recreation site based on the information contained in the design narrative. Site plans show the location and scale of the proposed facilities and include grading, utilities, planting, and site details. Site plans are used by engineers, architects, and contractors to implement the plan.



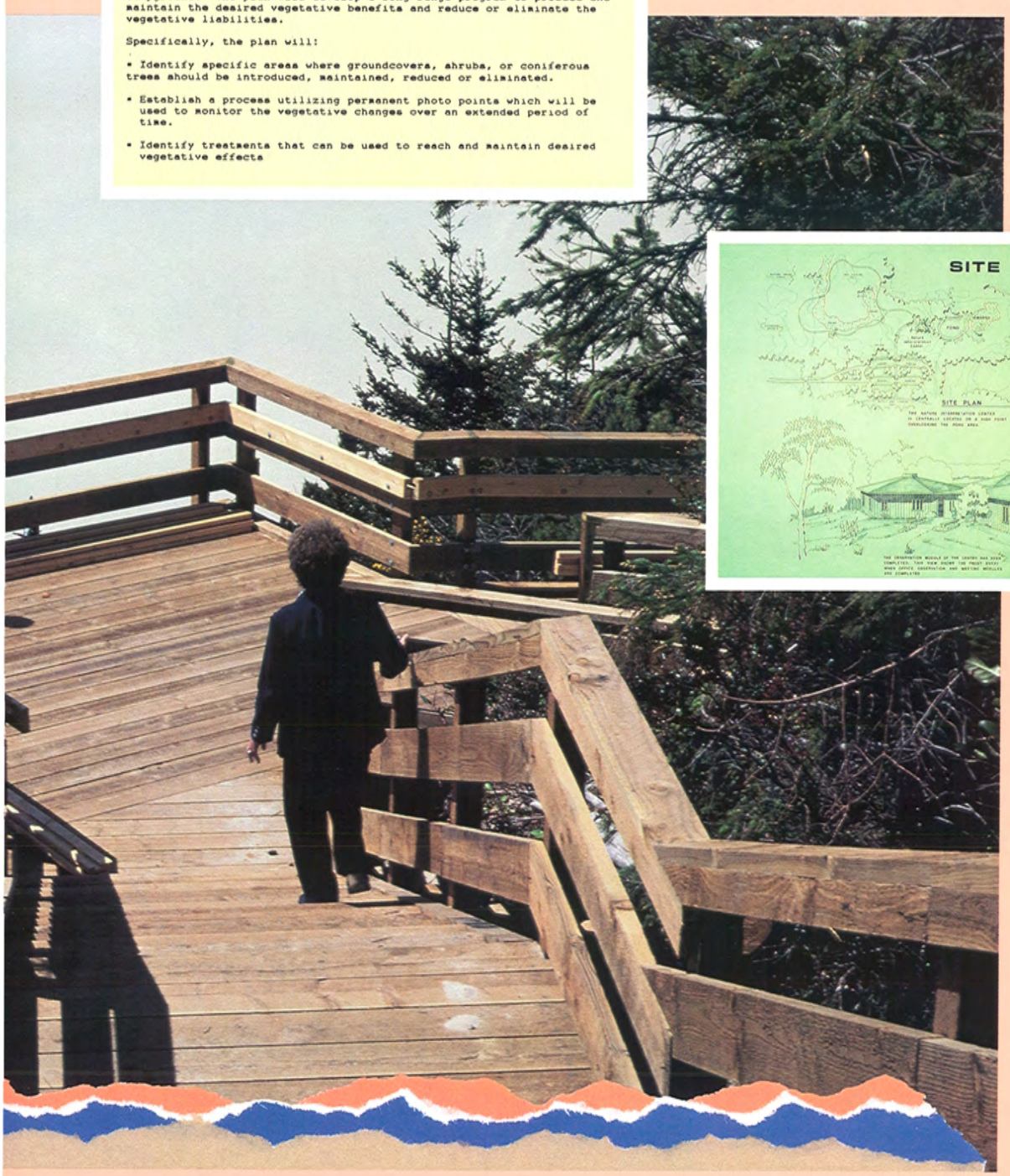


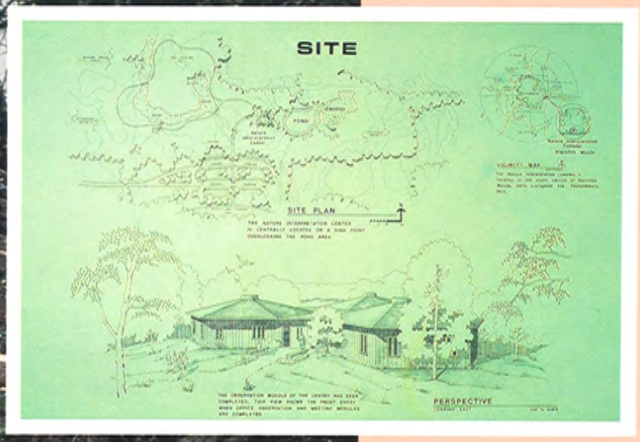
Design Narrative Report

The intent of this plan is to provide the manager with on site objectives and direction for managing the vegetation within the Mt. View Campground. The plan will develop a long range program to produce and maintain the desired vegetative benefits and reduce or eliminate the vegetative liabilities.

Specifically, the plan will:

- Identify specific areas where groundcovers, shrubs, or coniferous trees should be introduced, maintained, reduced or eliminated.
- Establish a process utilizing permanent photo points which will be used to monitor the vegetative changes over an extended period of time.
- Identify treatments that can be used to reach and maintain desired vegetative effects





Settings

Forest Image

Millions of Americans use their national forests for recreation each year. These national forests are a mix of mountains, woodlands, wetlands, deserts, prairies, swamps, and tundra. The diversity of landscapes varies with the season as well as the elevation, rainfall, and temperature. Landscape settings are as varied as the landforms, geology, and vegetation. For example, the colors, textures, forms, and lines characteristic of desert landscapes in the Southwest are considerably different from those of the hardwood forests in the Midwest.

Regional changes in landscape settings allow for some variations in the design of facilities so that they complement and visually blend with local conditions. Native stone and rock, for example, can often be used to accomplish this effect. Standard architectural designs can be modified to be compatible with traditional architectural styles for a specific area or to provide for regional differences in climatic conditions.

Landscape Character

In order to provide and maintain an appropriate image, we need to recognize and understand the landscape character of specific sites. The visual arrangement of land including rockforms, water, and vegetation is referred to as the *characteristic landscape*. It is the abundance and variety of these elements viewed in terms of the forms, lines, colors, and textures present in the landscape that create landscape diversity.

The natural appearance of the landscape to be retained or created over time is called the *desired character*. The desired character is determined by the adopted visual quality objectives selected in the forest planning process. The desired character is best achieved if visual management principles are used in the layout and design of recreation facilities. Recreation activities need to be selected and developed within the constraints of the visual quality objectives selected for the site.

The desired landscape character of some sites may deteriorate if basic principles of landscape management are not followed. Recreation uses that have the potential to alter the desired landscape character need to be planned carefully to

avoid destruction of the elements that make each area special or unique. If any of the component parts of a landscape are modified in an undesirable way, the visual image as well as the recreation opportunity may be lost.

Alteration of the landscape through manipulation of vegetation or soils or the introduction of structures may affect visual resources. Protecting resources and retaining natural scenic beauty are essential to providing quality recreation experiences in national forest settings. In some cases, a slight change in arrangement, form, or color of a facility will greatly reduce the potential visual contrast. For this reason, it is important to analyze the natural features of the land before deciding what alterations are needed to achieve the desired character.

After the selected recreational use of an area has been described in the site narrative, landscape architects should take advantage of the natural terrain and vegetation to satisfy the needs of the users. For some sites the winter rather than the summer may be the dominant season of use. In most cases, the desired character of an area can be maintained by blending recreation facilities with the natural landscape in a way that achieves visual harmony.

Visual Resources

Visual Quality Objectives

Visual quality objectives are used to measure the amount of visual contrast with the natural landscape caused by humans. Historic and cultural practices that shaped the character of some landscapes may be acceptable as a baseline, especially if the visual consequences of these practices appear to have created the present state through natural processes. The method for determining the visual quality objectives and the way they are used are documented in National Forest Landscape Management, Volume 1, Chapter 2, Agricultural Handbook 462. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture; 1974.

Definitions

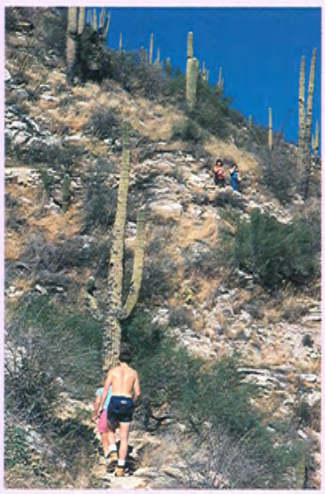
Visual quality objectives are based on the physical characteristics of the land and the sensitivity of the landscape setting as viewed by people. The visual quality objectives and definitions are listed on these two pages.

PRESERVATION
Ecological changes are allowed.

MODIFICATION
Activities are dominant but appear natural.

MAXIMUM MODIFICATION
Activities are dominant but appear natural from background views.

ENHANCEMENT
Enhancement is a short-term management alternative aimed at increasing positive visual variety where little variety exists.



RETENTION
Activities are not visually evident.

PARTIAL RETENTION
Activities are not readily apparent and appear natural.

REHABILITATION
Rehabilitation is a short-term management alternative used to restore landscape settings containing undesirable visual impacts to settings containing a desired visual quality.

Landscape Principles

Dominance Elements

To achieve the desired visual character for an area, it is important to identify and analyze its landscape features in terms of form, line, color, and texture. These are important considerations during the planning and design phase when significant decisions on how to achieve the visual quality objectives are made.

Form

Form is the mass of an object or combination of objects that appear unified. The appearance of a natural form should be complemented by the landscape alterations.

FORM

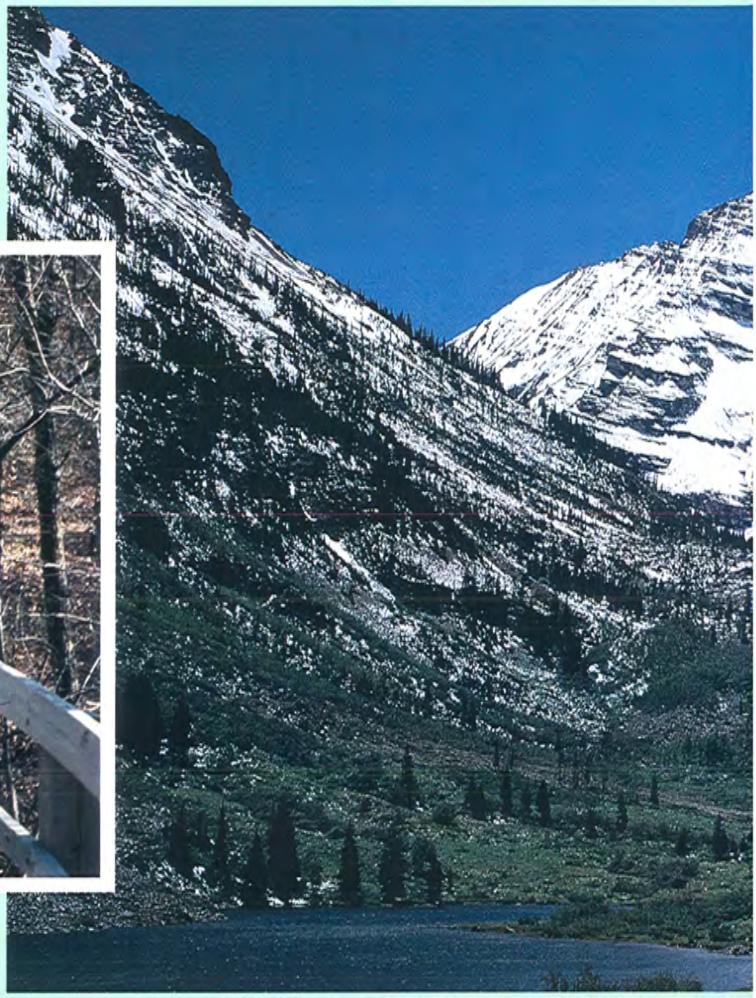
Line

In landscapes, line is anything that is arranged in a row or sequence. Line can describe the silhouette of form or it can be considered separately. Line is also defined as the intersection of two planes: obvious examples are ridge lines, shorelines, roads and trails, timber lines, and power lines. Line is also evident in tree trunks and vegetative boundaries.

Color

Color enables us to differentiate objects that may have identical form, line, and texture. Colors viewed at a distance are usually muted by a bluish haze caused by

LINE



dust and moisture. Foreground colors are stronger and more dominant. How well developments fit into the characteristic landscape depends greatly on how the colors of the area's components harmonize with the surrounding landscape. Colors should generally be neutral and darker than the landscape backdrop. Facilities should be selected to create a pleasant, functional complement to the natural scene and may carry an architectural theme. Bright colors and highly reflective materials are not recommended. Natural materials and colors help maintain the desired landscape character.

Texture

Textural dominance varies with distance. When a tree is viewed at close range, the texture of the leaf patterns is dominant; when the tree is viewed from a few hundred feet, major boughs form the dominant texture; when the tree is viewed at a distance of several miles, entire groups or stands of trees dominate. In addition to introducing new textures with constructed facilities like campgrounds, recreation developments also can alter the natural texture of the landscape by removing vegetation from these sites. Careful planning and design should be used to achieve a visually acceptable blending.

COLOR

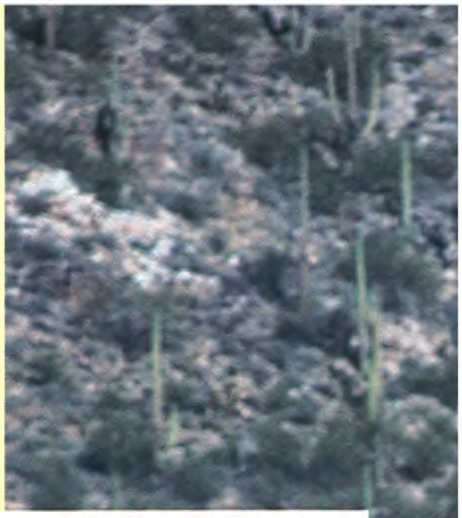
TEXTURE

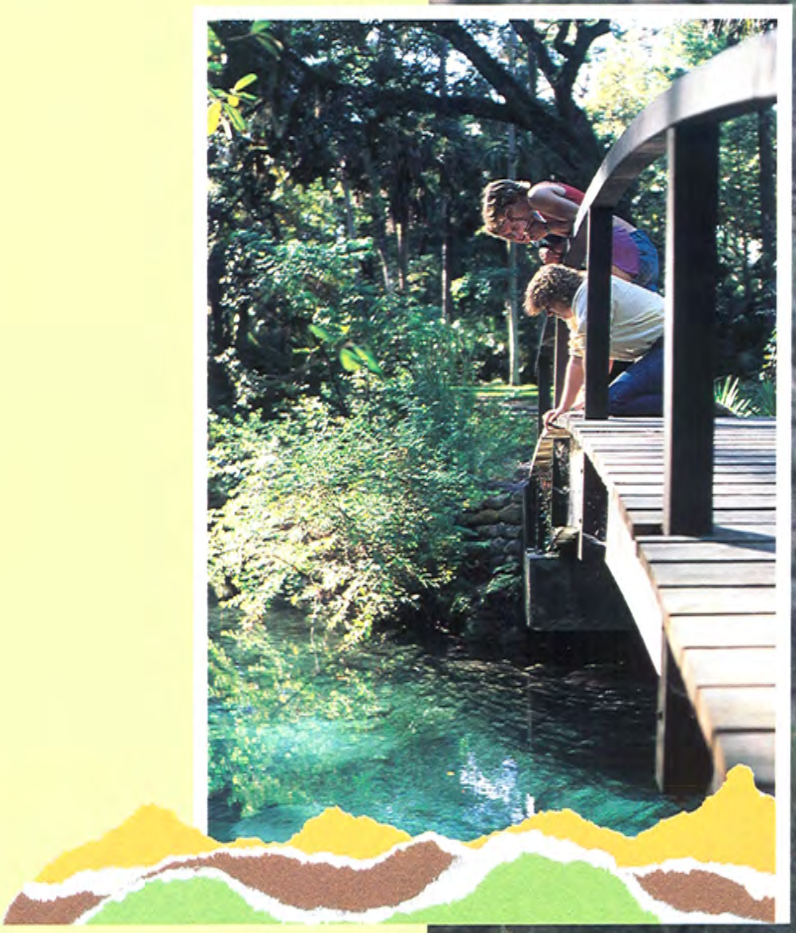
Opportunities

Activities

National forests in the United States provide recreational opportunities for millions of users every year. From the ski slopes of Colorado to the lake shores of Minnesota to the California coastline, Americans seek enjoyment in national forests. Opportunities for recreation are as diverse as the land where activities take place. Recreation experiences vary from physical challenges and solitude in pristine wilderness areas to social gatherings in camp and picnic facilities.

Traditional uses such as camping, picnicking, hunting, fishing, and hiking take place on all national forests. Many activities have been popular as long as public lands have been available for those uses. The recent popularity of other recreation pursuits, such as cross-country skiing, wind surfing, and bicycle touring, have created new opportunities for people to enjoy the national forests. As the availability of leisure time increases and the pressures of urbanization become more intense, the need to enjoy the natural scenery in the national forests will be increasingly important.





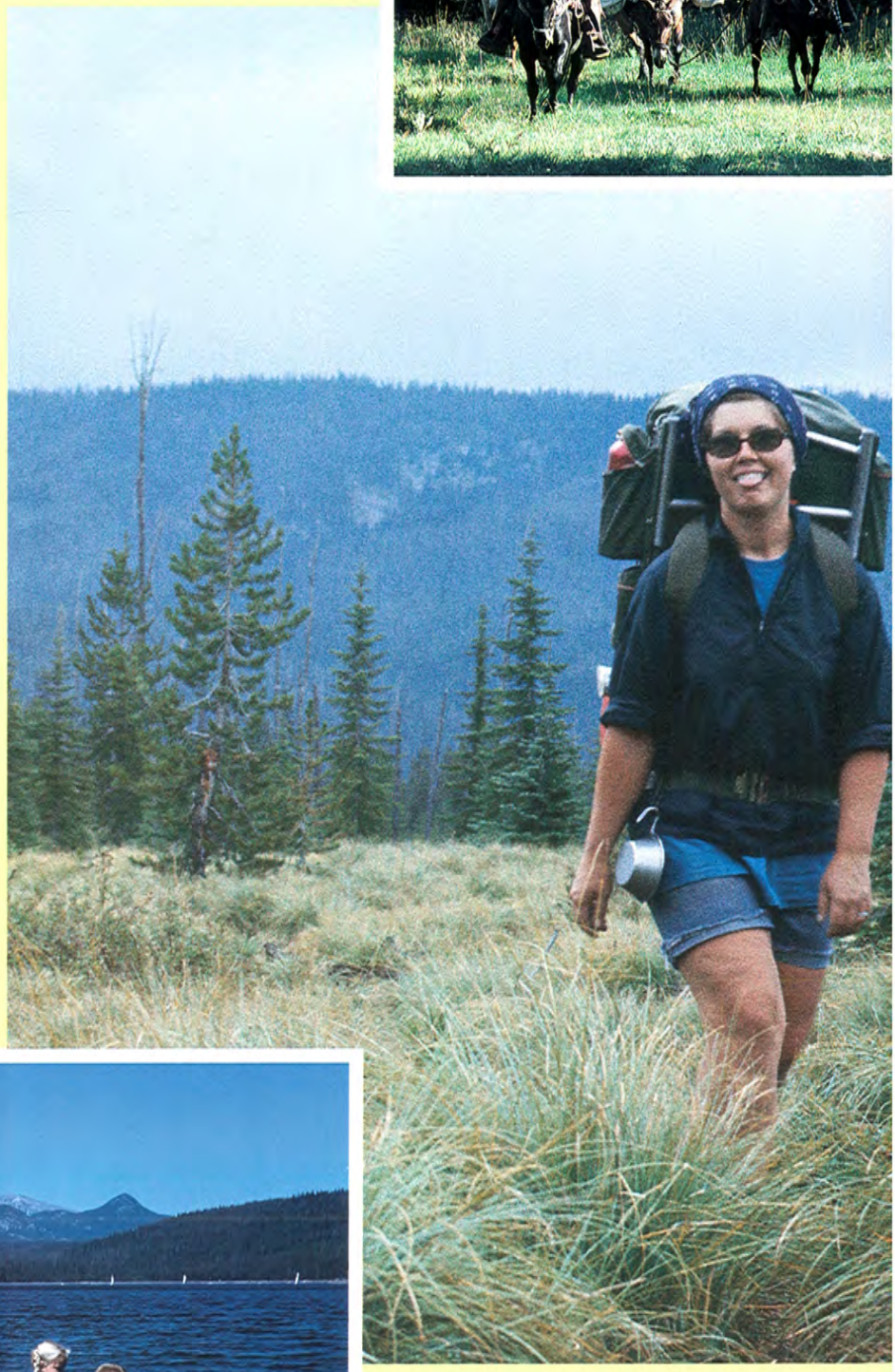
The Spectrum

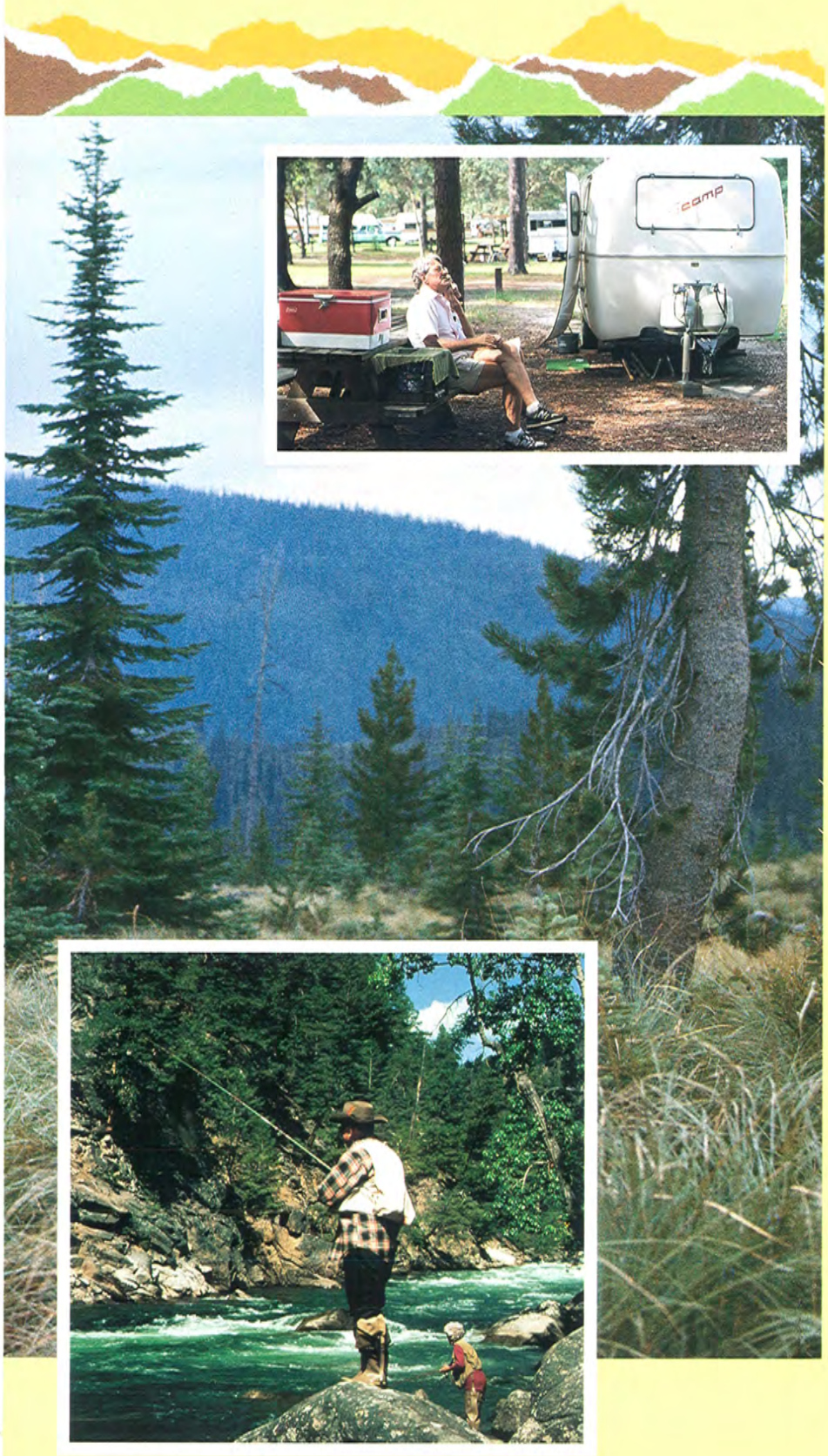
The *Recreation Opportunity Spectrum* is used to classify and select the desired experience level for individual recreation sites. The types of experience levels selected for each geographic area are based on the physical, social, and managerial settings.

In remote locations where isolation and solitude are important, simple facilities are appropriate. In most sites where heavy use takes place, resources may need protection in order to prevent soil erosion, water pollution, or damage to vegetation. In these cases, it is appropriate to construct more complex facilities. However, in all situations the objective is for facilities to appear as simple and rustic as possible and to complement the natural scene. National forest facilities should contrast the urban setting.

Leisure Time

Recreation takes place in the absence of other demands on our time. The availability of leisure time for recreation means there are no commitments or products to produce. Outdoor recreation in a natural setting provides many social and psychological benefits, including physical exercise, as well as mental stimulation, relaxation, refreshment, and enjoyment. Nature also provides a sense of stability, internal harmony, and balance according to laws not subject to human manipulation. The national forests offer an opportunity to escape from urban life and social pressures, find order and purpose in our lives, review our sense of values, and strengthen family ties.





The Role of the Forest Service

The Forest Service's role is to ensure that an array of outdoor recreation opportunities is available to all segments of society in response to present and future public needs. This role has been further refined in a series of objectives and policies in the Forest Service Manual FSM-2300. Those that have specific bearing on recreation essentially state that the Forest Service should

- Provide facilities for recreation activities in natural settings that harmonize with and complement the natural environment.
- Provide public facilities that perpetuate traditional values with recreation activities, programs, and facilities dependent on natural settings.
- Create and maintain a positive image of itself through management of recreation opportunities that do not require facility development.

Activities

Trails and Roads

The majority of roads and trails on national forest lands are used by recreationists for access to developed sites and for driving for pleasure. Roads and trails often provide the opportunity to observe forest management activities, particularly those associated with timber harvesting. It is from roads that the majority of forest visitors gain visual impressions of the forest landscape. Roads and trails should be laid out after considering the view from the road and the visitors' enjoyment and should provide functional access requirements. Roads within developed sites should be designed to minimize visual impacts in the foreground.

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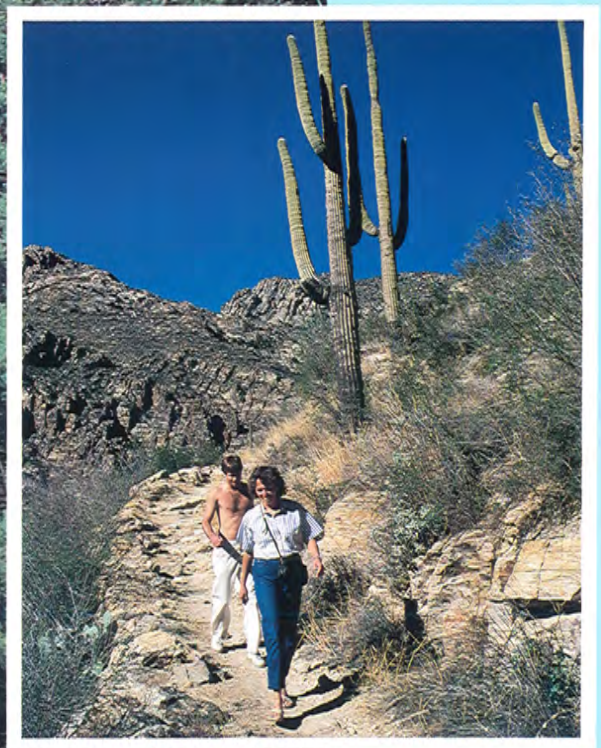
Trails

1-5: Trail design and layout is influenced by soil, geology, and vegetation. Hiking experiences are variable and often unique depending on the time of day, season of the year and weather conditions.



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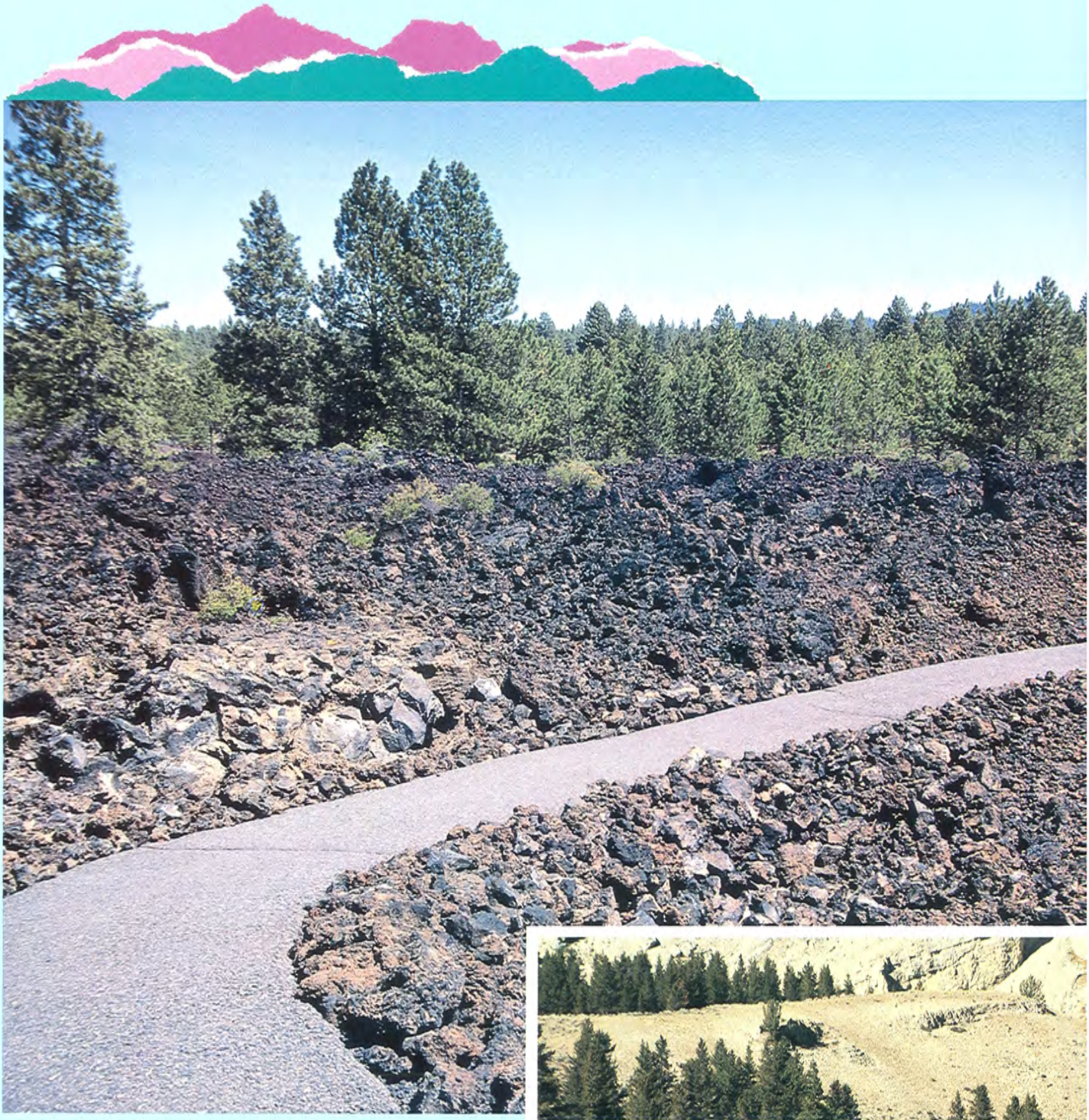

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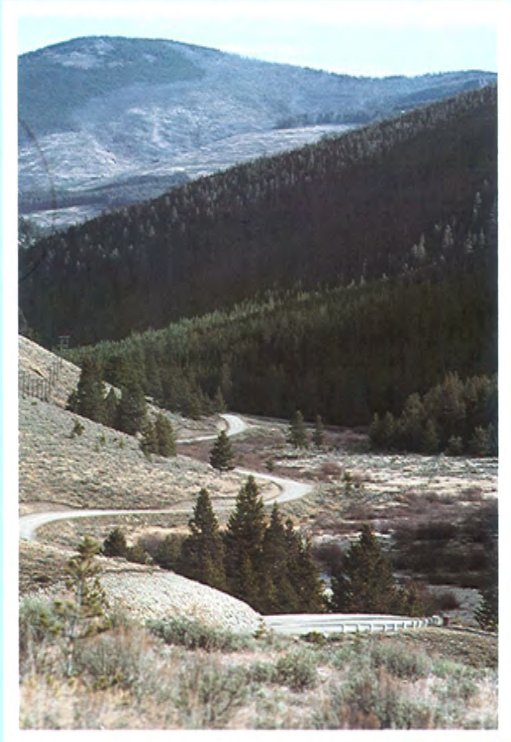
6. *This trail meanders through the forest environment. Understory vegetation and trail obstacles were removed and scattered.*

7. *Log barriers define the trail edge, provide trail stability, and separate vegetated from unvegetated surfaces.*

8. *The color and the texture of the sidewalk blend with the lava flow. The curvilinear alignment provides an informal appearance in a unique setting.*

9. *Forest trails provide many uses.*

6



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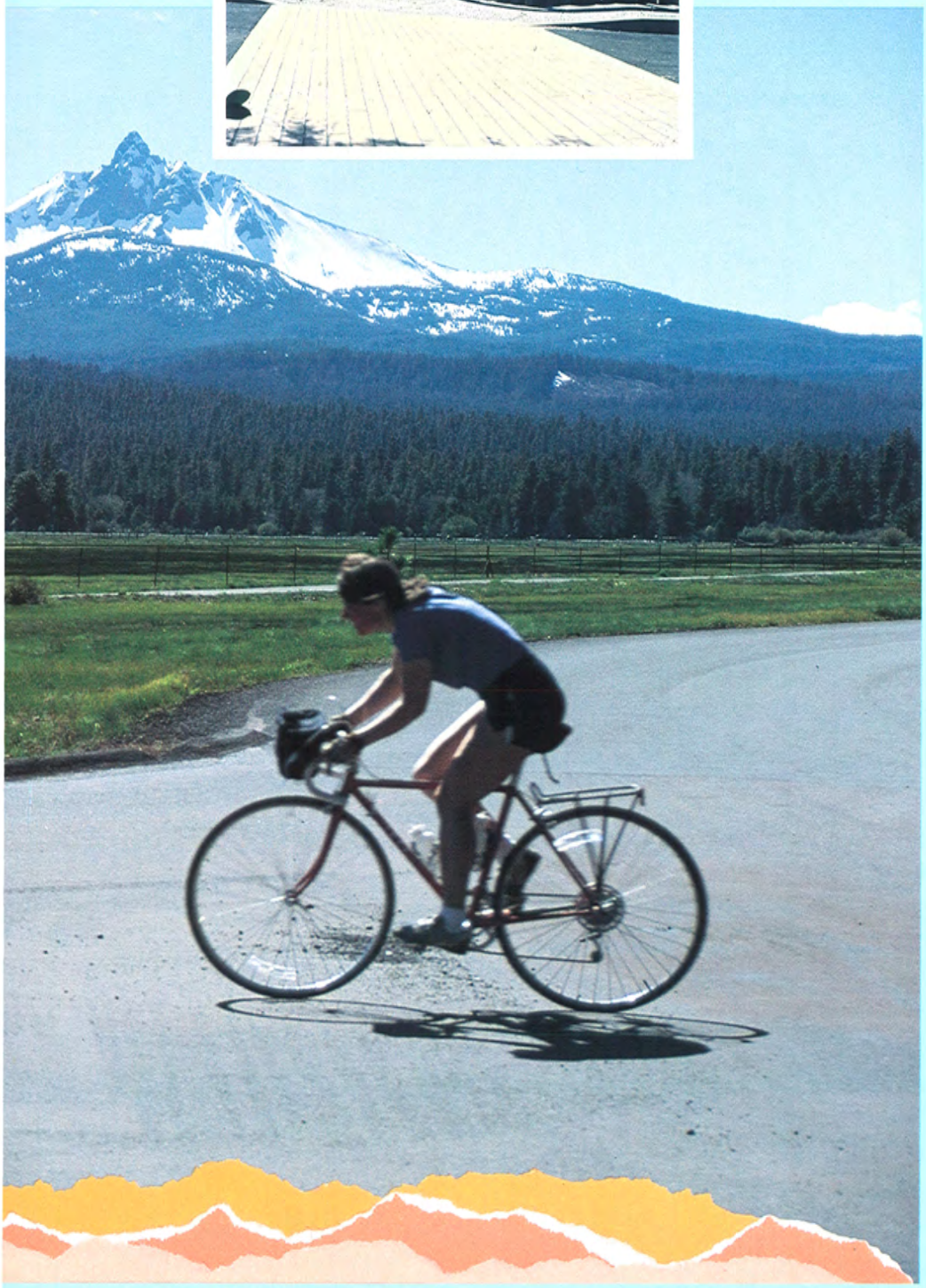

2

Roads

1. *This pedestrian walkway promotes safety by identifying the road crossing with a change in materials from asphalt to brick.*

2. *Bicyclists as well as motorists use forest roads.*

3. *This forest road was designed to fit the land by incorporating the natural landforms into the road alignment. This is best accomplished by connecting large curves with short tangents.*

4. *Forest roads that "lay lightly on the land" provide opportunities for changing vistas and the chance to view forest activities at moderate speeds.*

5. *For traditional forest roads in developed sites, management of vegetation within the foreground zone needs to be considered.*

5

4

Parking Lots

1. *Existing vegetation was saved by careful layout and grading. The rock boulders were carefully placed to provide edge definition to the parking lot.*

2. *This parking lot emphasizes vegetation plantings that add color and interest. The vegetation partially screens the cars, filters the view of the lake.*

3. *Landscape paving techniques like this new installation provide invisible support for pedestrian or vehicular traffic while maintaining a positive visual appearance once grass or other groundcover is established.*

4. *Parking lots for high use areas need to consider circulation, turning radius, and orientation.*

5. *Strategically placed islands can enhance visitors' enjoyment by providing shade as well as visual screening. Islands can also be used to visually reduce large parking lots into several smaller spaces.*

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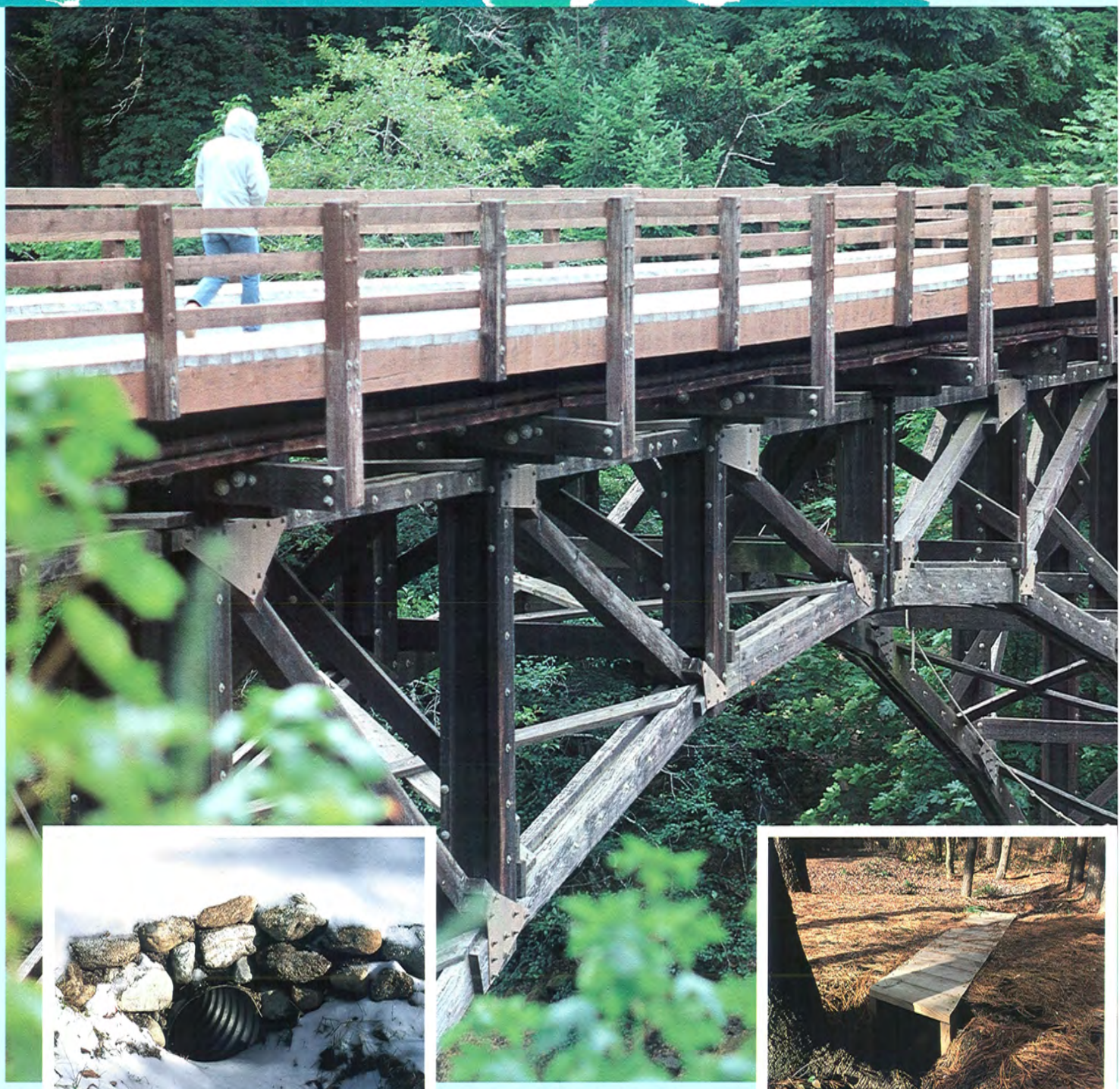

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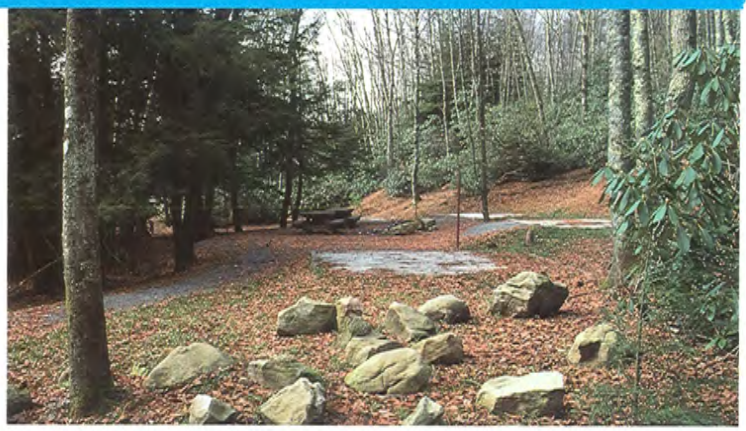
Automobile Bridges

1. *Shallow river crossings provide a low-cost opportunity for excitement and forest access.*
2. *Automobile bridges can cross pedestrian walkways as well as streams. The native rock blends with the background.*
3. *This stone bridge has an historic flavor and is made of local materials characteristic of the region.*
4. *Automobile bridges can be picturesque as well as functional.*
5. *This wooden culvert blends with the landscape setting in a low volume situation.*
6. *Simple structure crossings can be used instead of small bridges and be more visually subtle.*



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Barriers

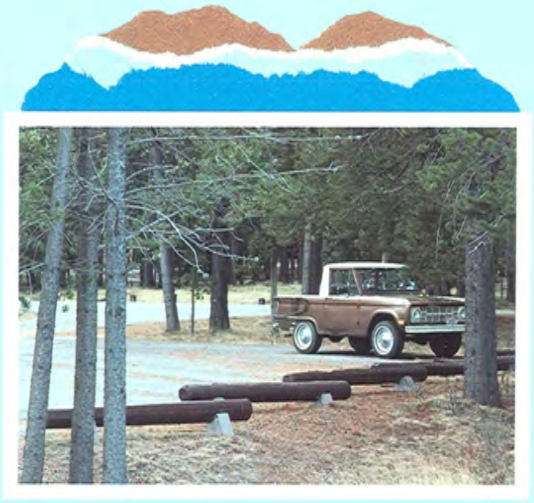
1. *Large rock barriers can be used to define the edge of a large parking lot.*

2. *Asphalt curbing blends with soil and rock colors and defines the edge of a parking lot.*

3,4. *Log barriers are commonly used in national forest sites.*

5. *Concrete curbing controls surface drainage.*

6. *Rock barriers should be partially buried and set in a random pattern.*



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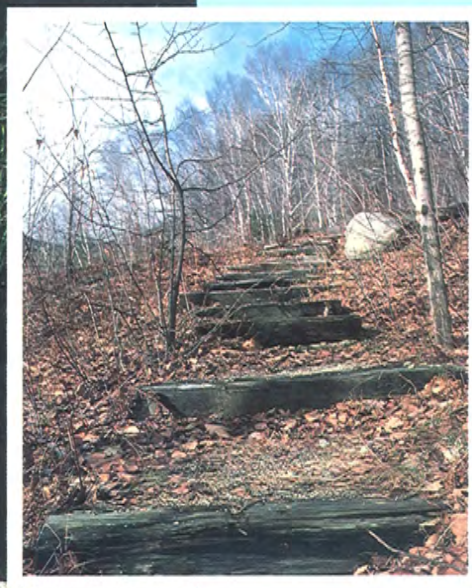

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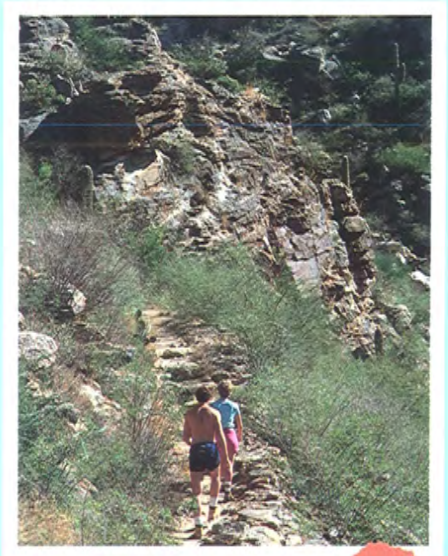

4

Steps

1,5. Irregular spacing of rock steps.

2,3,4. Steps on hiking trails can be irregularly spaced and constructed in existing layers of rock or by using railroad ties.

6,7,8. Uniform spacing and dimensions of rock steps.

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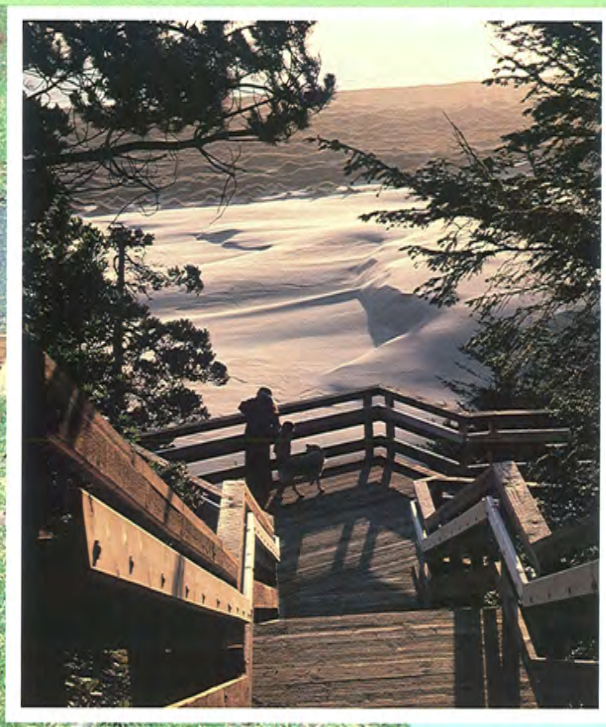

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9. Wood stairs have relatively little impact on existing soil and vegetation.

10,12. Treated-timber stairs can add flexibility.

11. Stacked treated-timber steps blend well with the vegetation.

13. Unique wood and cable solution for providing pedestrian access on volcanic ash.

14. Concrete treads with treated-timber risers are suitable for high use areas.

4

Pedestrian Bridges

1. *A prefabricated arched bridge provides a visually attractive structure with minimum site disturbance.*

2,4. *Simple plank bridges have low visual impact and are easily replaced.*

3. *This suspension bridge minimizes the visual impact by limiting the size of the abutments and eliminating girders.*

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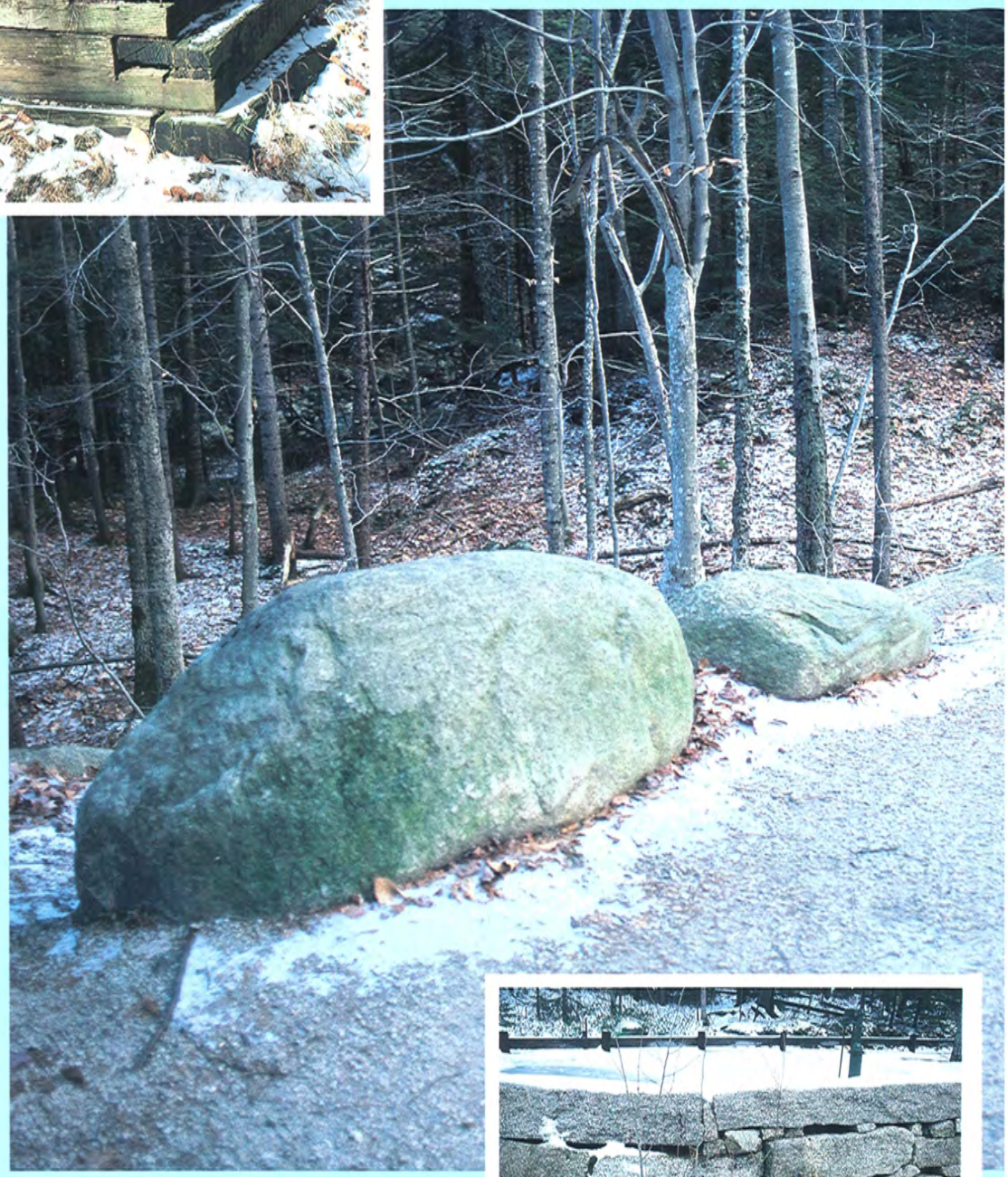
5. Rock abutments blend with the creek bottom and surrounding site.

6. Small arched bridge provides viewing activities as well as physical access.

7. Log bridges incorporate local native materials and blend well with the setting.

8,9. Arched bridges have good esthetic quality.

7



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Retaining Walls

1,6. Stone or rock walls without mortar can be used to support trail edges and reduce erosion.

2. Wood-pole retaining walls blend well with forest landscapes.

3. The cutback was stabilized using large rocks, which enhance the natural scene.

4. Gabion walls are appropriate for some locations. Vegetation can be used to reduce the visual impact.

5. Native stone without mortar is both functional and attractive.

7. Retaining walls provide special definition and increase usable space.

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Board-walks

1,2. Varying forms provide pleasing visual effects. Boardwalks make otherwise inaccessible areas usable.

3. Treated planking laid in an angled pattern leads the user around existing vegetation.

4. Barrier-free boardwalk is accessible to handicapped while minimizing site disturbance.

5. Boardwalk minimizes soil and vegetative impacts.

6. Railroad ties laid in a longitudinal pattern guide the hiker and prevent resource damage.

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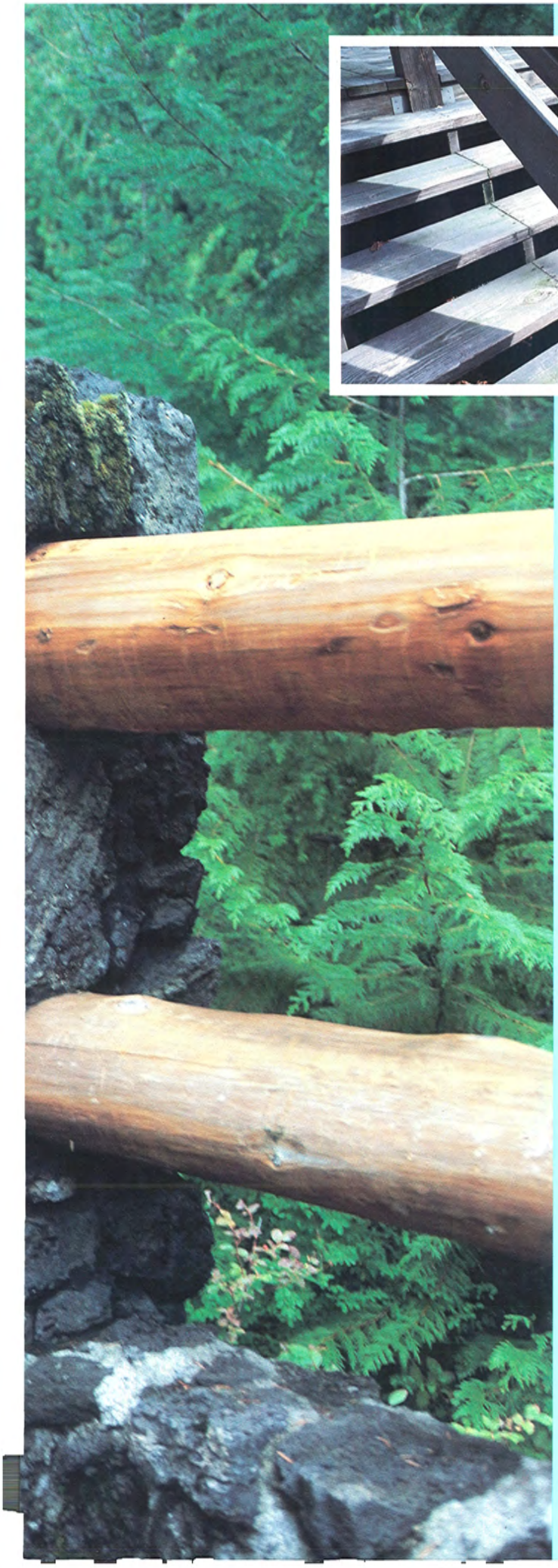

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Handrails

1,7. Single handrail associated with steps.

2. Handrail detail for handicapped users.

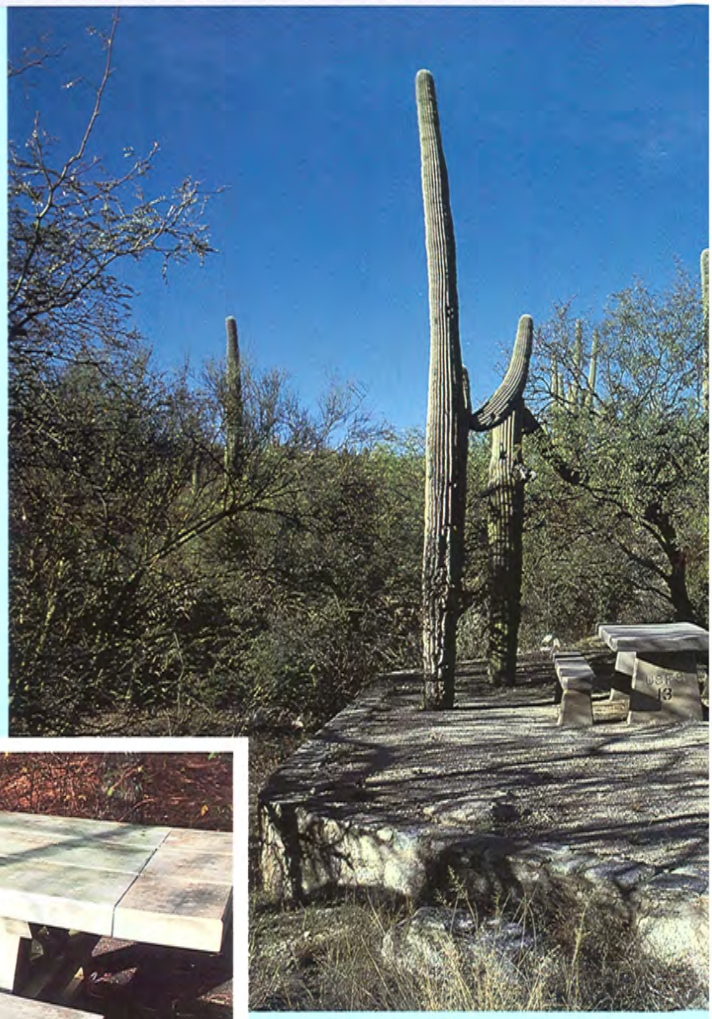
3,4. Two-rail log railing with rock posts is durable yet appears natural.

5. Capped handrail set on an angle.

6. Three-rail handrail associated with walkways and overlooks.

Camp and Picnic Grounds

Camping and picnicking are traditional recreational uses on national forest lands. The basic facilities provided usually include parking areas, tables, grills, drinking water, and rest rooms. Occasionally, developed sites must be upgraded or improved to protect the resource or increase the size of the facility. When new facilities are designed to replace old ones, it is important to retain a continuity of appearance. The goal is to maintain a rustic appearance throughout the National Forest System.



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Tables

1. *The location of picnic tables is important. This table was located to take advantage of the small amount of shade available at this difficult site.*

2,3,7. *Concrete tables are vandal-resistant and require less maintenance.*

4. *This unique concrete table with stone base adds to the rustic feeling of the site.*

5. *Standard Forest Service wood tables blend well with the forest setting.*

6. *An extended table edge is helpful to handicapped persons.*

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8,9,10,11. Traditional forest picnic sites in various forest settings.

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Rest Rooms

1,2,3,4,6. Exterior colors and materials can influence the visual impact of facilities. These examples show rock and wood treatments.

5. The location and setting of rest rooms influences their visual impact. A fiberglass roof is necessary in dense shade.

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7,8,9,10,11. Flush toilets of various styles and colors are appropriate in developed settings. Structures should reflect the architectural theme for specific sites.

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Camp Sites

1,2,3,5. Traditional camp units in National Forests contain vehicle parking, picnic tables, fire rings and spaces for camping. The layout and spacing of camping units influence the visitor's experience. Forest landscape architects attempt to provide flat sites that are well drained with some visual screening. A mixture of sun and shade is usually provided.

4. Tent pads are sometimes provided to prevent resource damage.

6. Barrier-free design must also consider visual impact.

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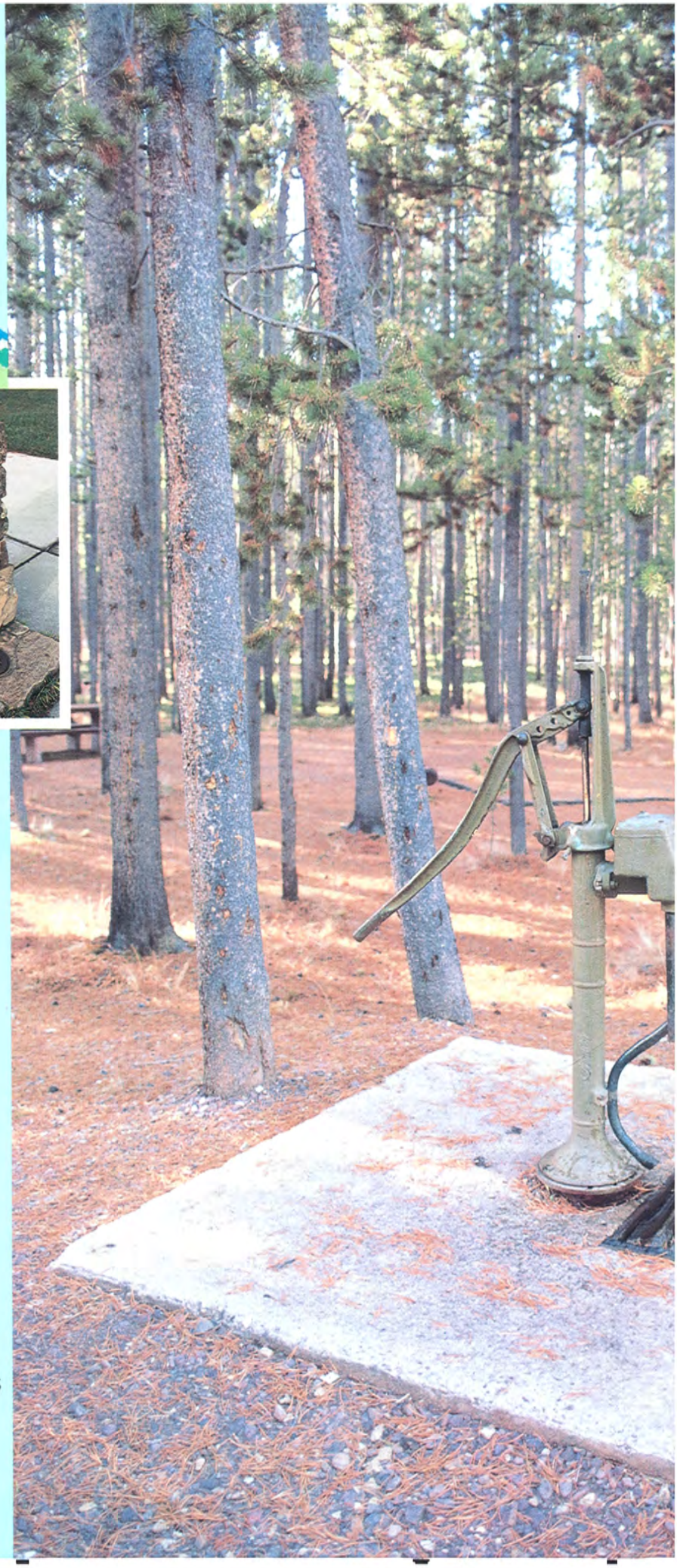

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Water Supply

1. *Good example of a wood-based drinking fountain that is accessible to the handicapped.*

2. *Round wood pavers provide access and drainage yet nicely complement the forest floor.*

3,5. *Wood post with concrete base. Drainage is an important consideration for water taps.*

4. *A typical hand pump found in national forest camp and picnic grounds. Note drainage detail and color used to blend metal parts with the forest background. Gravel could replace concrete for less contrast.*

6. *Rock base maintains natural theme even in heavy use sites.*

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Fire Units

1,5. Group fire circles for campfires or cooking.

2. Pedestal mount may be necessary for heavily used sites, but it has a high visual impact.

3,7. Two proven cook stoves. The "tilt-up" is easy to clean but lacks some of the rustic charm of the Forest Service standard Klamath stove.

4,9. Low maintenance prefabricated steel grates have low visual impact.

6,8. Primitive fire ring and stove.

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Fencing

1. *The split rail is effective yet in basic harmony with the experience offered by the natural scene.*

2. *Fences direct pedestrian and vehicle traffic and help define spaces.*

3,4. *Stacked split rail is both esthetically pleasing and reminiscent of early America.*

5. *Log and rock fence complement site characteristics.*

Water Facilities

Boating and swimming are popular activities on national forests. Water features—streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and waterfalls—are a natural focus for forest recreation. The majority of water areas are fragile and managers need to make sure that shorelines and access points are not overused. Water features also contribute to scenic quality by providing positive visual and spacial contrast. Opportunities for viewing water features should be provided.

6

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Beaches

1,5,6. Stairs and walkways provide access to the water.

2,3,4. Rock, wood post, and concrete barriers separate grassy areas from sandy beaches and stabilize the fragile shoreline ecotone.

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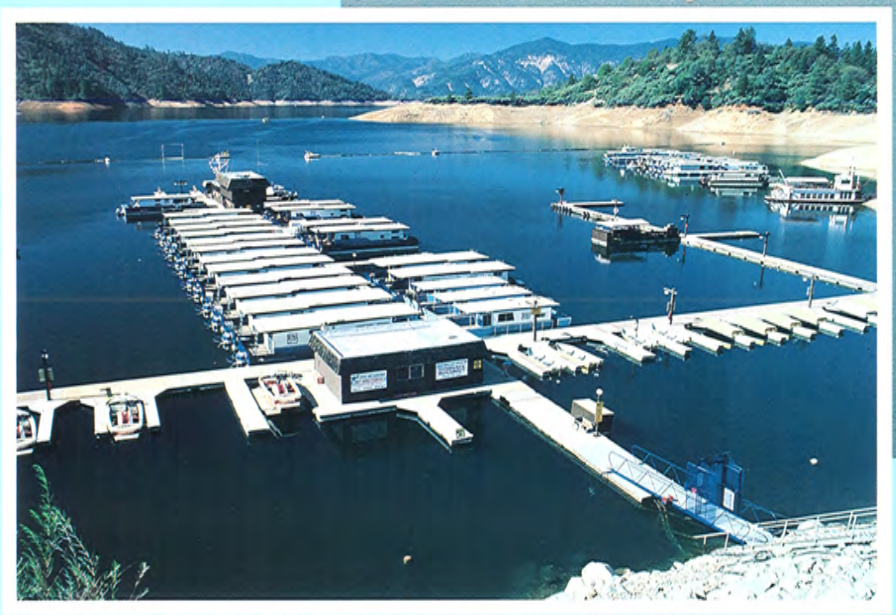

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Boating

1. *Precast concrete bars are linked with steel couplings. This method of boat ramp construction is easier to install and repair than poured-in-place concrete slabs.*

2,3. *These floating docks are hinged to allow for changes in water elevation.*

4. *Boat marinas on national forests are constructed by special use permittees.*

5. *Boat launching areas with moderate to heavy use often need to be paved with asphalt or concrete.*

Interpretive Facilities and Signing

Interpretive facilities and signs are constructed to provide for the convenience, education, and enjoyment of forest visitors, helping them to understand and appreciate natural and cultural resources and their relationship to them. The increased curiosity of visitors is giving resource managers opportunities not available in the past. Interpretation and signing of forest management activities should be a major emphasis and focus of the resource manager. Interpretive facilities should provide information about the activities taking place on national forest lands and not detract from the landscape setting or activity being interpreted.

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Forest Signs

1,2,4,5. Traditional forest signs for site identification are similar in shape and color throughout the National Forest System. Some variation of materials for sign bases, such as wood or stone, is allowed in order to blend forest signs with the regional landscape.

3,6. Specially designated areas with unique architectural themes allow for some variation in color and materials. Shapes that are compatible with the traditional Forest Service family of signs retain the forest image.

6

VISITOR
INFORMATION

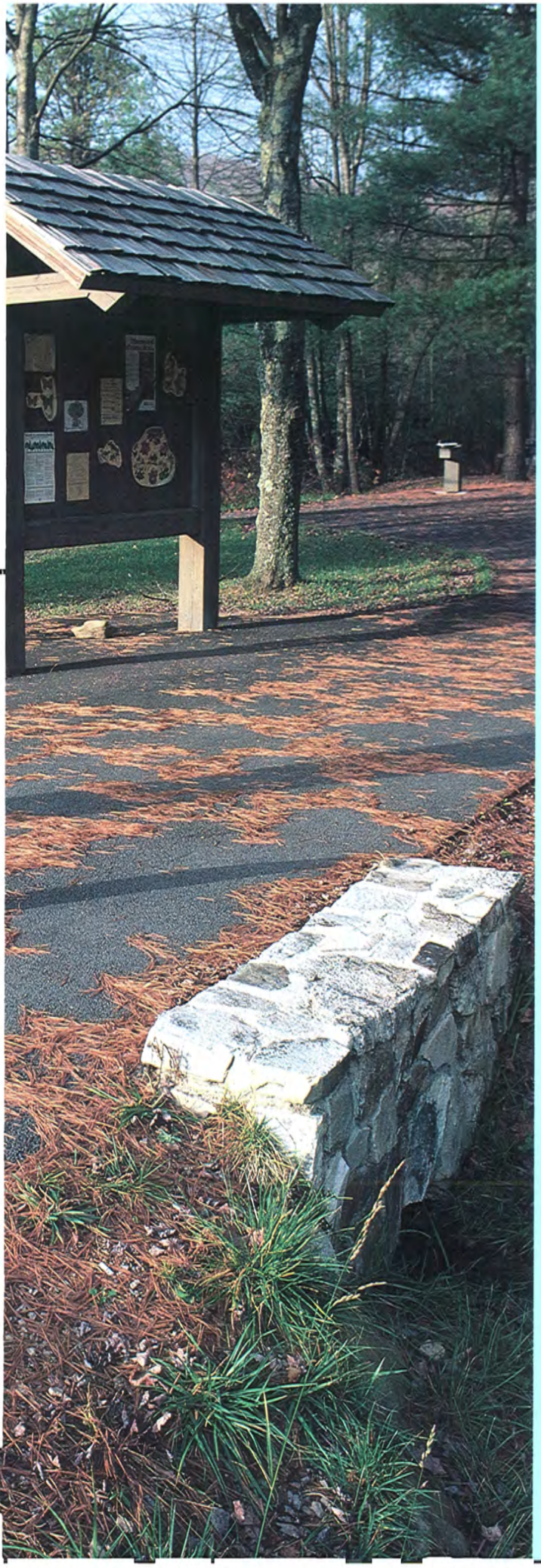
7

LEGEND
COMFORT STATION
TRAIL
WILLABY CAMPGROUND

5

THE OREGON CASCADES
M'KENZIE PASS AREA
WILLAMETTE National Forest
LAND BORN OF FIRE
M'KENZIE PASS SCENIC TOUR

4



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Bulletin Boards

1-7. Bulletin boards minimize visual clutter by concentrating written messages and eliminating the need for multiple signs. Bulletin boards can be used for directional, regulatory, or interpretive information and bulletin boards need to be located in suitable locations within the logical flow patterns of normal pedestrian use.

2

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GIANT CANADA GEESE
BRANTA CANADENSIS MAXIMA
THE GIANT CANADA GOOSE IS THE LARGEST OF THE ELEVEN SUBSPECIES OF CANADA GEESE. ADULT GANDERS CAN REACH A WEIGHT OF 18 POUNDS, WITH A WING SPAN OF OVER 6 FEET.
THIS VARIETY OF GOOSE WAS ONCE THOUGHT TO BE EXTINCT. HOWEVER, A SMALL NUMBER OF THESE BIRDS WERE DISCOVERED IN MINNESOTA IN 1962. THROUGH CAREFUL MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION, ITS NUMBERS HAVE SINCE INCREASED. THE SUBSPECIES IS NOW BEING REINTRODUCED TO SELECTED AREAS AROUND THE COUNTRY.
SINCE THE GIANT CANADA GOOSE IS NOT A MIGRATORY BIRD, IT IS HOPED THAT THE OFFSPRING OF THIS CAPTIVE FLOCK WILL REMAIN IN THE AREA. THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF SEVERAL STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES, AND THE SUPPORT OF A CONCERNED PUBLIC, THESE MAGNIFICENT BIRDS WILL BECOME A FEATURED WILDLIFE ATTRACTION AT CAVE RUN LAKE.
DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST

5

Welcome To The
OCALA
NATIONAL
FOREST

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Interpretive Signs

1,2,5. Interpretive signs can be constructed of various materials but should reflect the same colors and shapes as other signs installed at the same site.

3. International symbols provide visual continuity and are sometimes used in association with heavily used facilities.

4. Interpretive kiosk provides self-help information outside a forest ranger station even when the office is closed. The colors and materials used in the kiosk are repeated in other nearby structures and signs.

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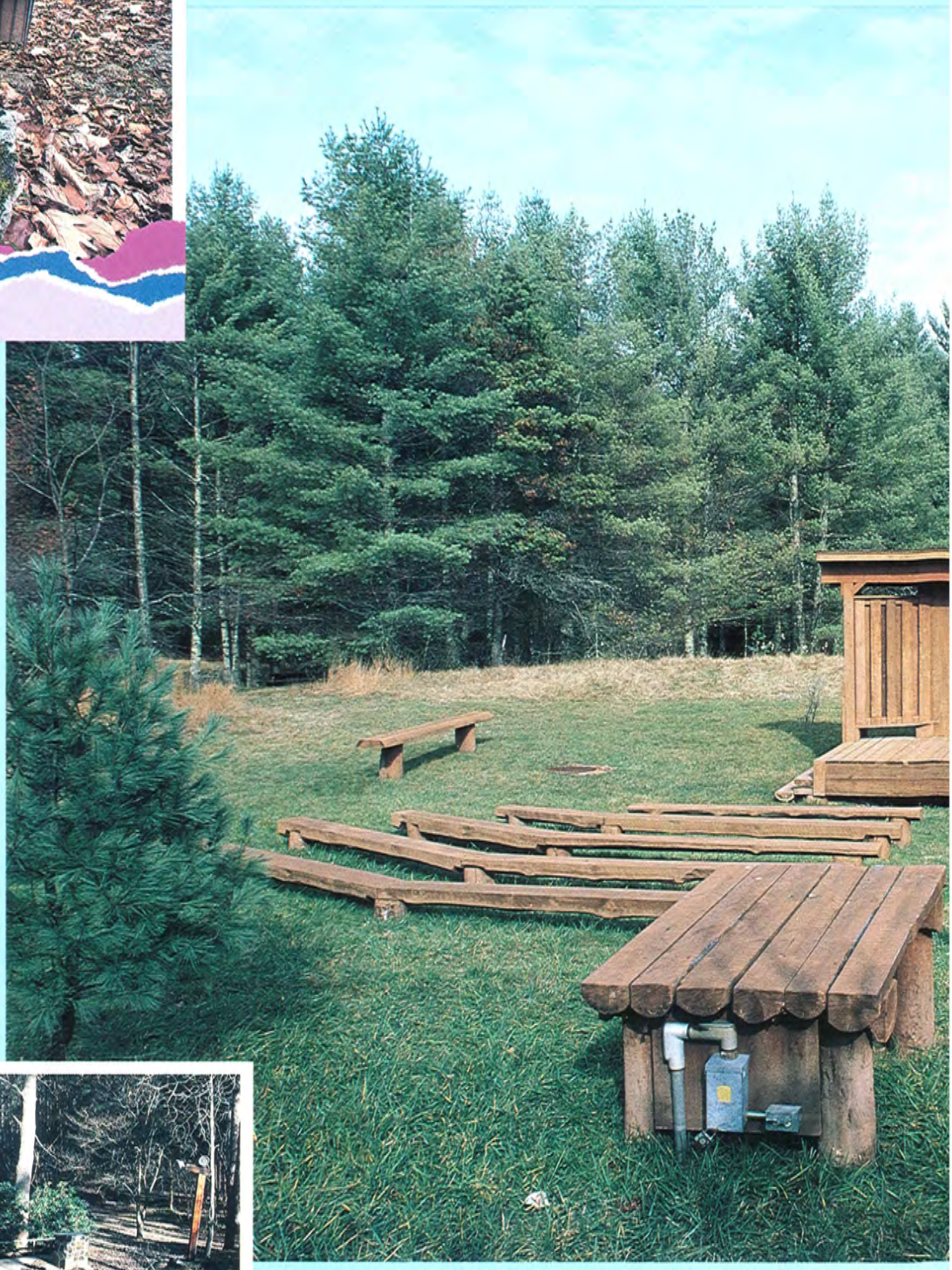

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Amphitheaters

1-6. Forest amphitheatres are designed to have low impact on the landscape setting. The majority of facilities are used only during peak tourist seasons, for nature interpretation talks and outdoor education.

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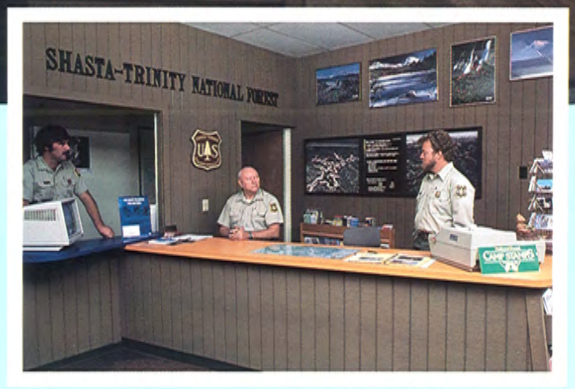

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Visitor Centers

1,2,4,5,6. Visitor buildings are constructed in special locations where unique opportunities exist for interpretation. Because of their size they often have a visual impact. However, design criteria seek to complement the principal features of the area and focus attention on the natural attractions.

3. This historic barn was restored and converted for use as a Forest Service visitor center.

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Observation Decks

1,5,6. Observation areas provide opportunities for viewing forest activities and landscape settings. Photoprints and interpretive signing are often incorporated into these sites. Wood decks and designated trails can be used to prevent resource damage and enhance the recreation experience.

2,4. Forest vegetation can be retained and used to screen the visual impacts of observation areas if careful construction techniques are used.

3. This observation site takes advantage of the landscape setting by retaining vegetation with fall color. The vista is framed by the forest backdrop and the architecture of the structure.

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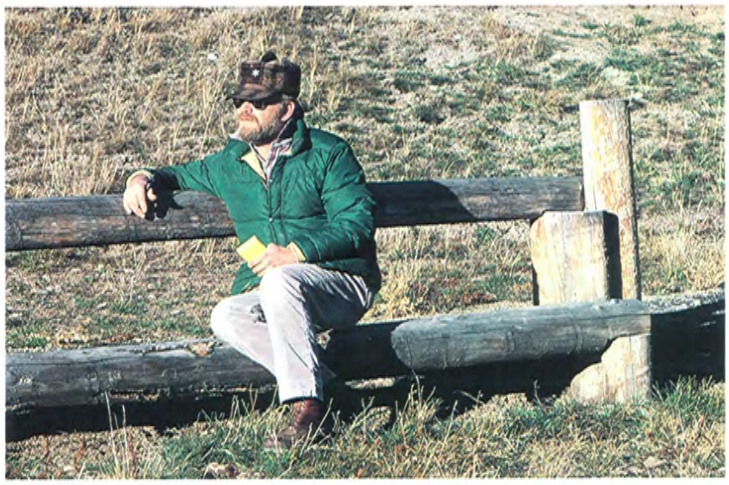

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Benches

1-7. Benches provide opportunities for rest and the contemplation of nature. They should help focus attention on the natural attraction rather than be an attraction themselves.

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Other

1. *Forest gates need to be sturdy and provide space for a message explaining the closure and still complement the natural environment as much as possible.*

2. *Entrance stations provide visitor information and fee collection. They are used for sites requiring strict visitor control.*

3. *This telephone encased in wood blends with the forest colors.*

4,5. *Screens can be used to hide large trash receptacles in developed sites.*

Summary

Recreation professionals need to think in terms of the quality of the recreation experience and recreation facility. Recreation facilities on national forest lands should provide for the convenience of the user without detracting from the essence of the landscape setting and recreation experience that attracted the users to the national forests in the first place.

The rustic appearance of recreation facilities for all activities throughout the National Forest System contributes to the image and recreation experience for all activities. Blending all facilities with the landscape setting is a basic concept of visual management and a primary objective of national forest management. Facilities that are rustic and blend rather than contrast with the forest setting are recommended, whether located in primitive or more developed settings.

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