

RESULTS OF LAC STEP 4 RESOURCE INVENTORY

12/18/08

An inventory of all the recreation impact in the Red River Gorge was conducted during 2005 and 2006. This inventory covered 42,000 acres of National Forest land in Menifee, Powell, and Wolfe counties. The purpose of the inventory was to find out what sort of recreation features were in the Gorge, where they were located, and the extent of impact related to each. A baseline inventory now exists to compare with in the future.

CAMPSITES: 924 total

- These are user-created campsites that are not in rockshelters.
- Over 50% are within 300' of roads or system trails.
- 690 obvious impact (cc 2+) , 234 faint impact (cc 0 or 1)

ROCKSHELTERS: 658 total

- The inventory includes only those rockshelters that have some sort of recreation impact.
- Approximately 2/3 had evidence of camping.
- 381 obvious impact (cc 2+), 281 faint impact (cc 0 or 1)

DESTINATION POINTS: 281 total

- Destination points are vistas, water access areas, rappel sites, etc...
- Approximately 2/3 are vistas.
- 207 obvious impact (cc 2+), 74 faint impact (cc 0 or 1)

CLIMBING AREAS: 58 climbing areas & 245 climbsites (770 individual climbing routes)

- Climbing Area is an user-developed area for technical rock climbing activities (traditional, sport, & bouldering). Climb areas can have 1 or more individual routes.
- Climbsite is a staging area at the base of one or more climbing routes where recreational use has produced measurable impacts to the ground.
- 213 climbsites obvious impact (cc 2+), 32 climbsites faint impact (cc 0 or 1)

SYSTEM TRAILS: 67 miles total

- These are official USFS system trails that are maintained by the USFS (and volunteers). They have an official name and number.
- 16 miles with documented horse use, 9 miles with documented OHV use
- All 67 miles have obvious impact, cc 2+

USER TRAILS: 194 miles total

- These are user-created trails that are not official USFS trails. Some of these are old wagon roads or railroad grades from years ago. Some of these are more recent trails developed simply by people walking or riding over an area long enough to beat out a path. These user trails may go to climbing areas, overlooks, campsites, connect to private land or simply connect other trails.
- 30 mile with documented horse use, 40 miles with documented OHV use
- 134 miles obvious impact (cc 2+), 60 miles faint impact (cc 0 or 1)

Note: "cc" refers to condition class. Recreation impact to the ground is measured using a numerical scale of 0-5. A cc of 0 or 1 has minimal impact and is barely distinguishable. Generally, cc ratings of 2+ indicate obvious impact. A cc of 5 indicates heavy impact and active erosion.