

OCTOBER 1, 1993

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIRECTIVE

211

**SUBJECT: DIRECTIONAL SIGNING TO PUBLICLY OWNED
 RECREATIONAL AREAS**

The Division of Highways may install directional signs to publicly owned recreational areas throughout the State. These facilities include, but are not limited to State Parks, State Forests, State Monuments, Public Hunting and Fishing Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, Stream Access, County Parks, City Parks, Corps of Engineer Recreational Areas, National Forests, National Parks and National Scenic Areas.

In general, directional signing to publicly operated recreational areas must comply with the following guidelines:

- (1) The Area shall be open to the public and be operated by and/or directly linked or associated with a governmental agency.
- (2) When there are identification and/or directional signs already existing at key locations to the Area (on or off State right of way), directional signing may not be needed.
- (3) Directional signs cannot be installed where they detract, block, or compete with official regulatory, warning, or guide signs.
- (4) When more than one potential facility is located in the same area, directional signing may, at the option of the Division of Highways, be installed for the one that generates the most traffic or attracts the greater number of unfamiliar motorists.
- (5) Directional signs may, at the option of the Division of Highways, contain abbreviated or generic sign legends identifying the eligible facility.
- (6) All requests for directional signing to recreational areas shall be submitted to the Division of Highways in writing, unless otherwise directed by the Commissioner.

After the Division of Highways has determined that a particular Facility is eligible for directional signs, the specific locations where they are to be installed will depend on the following:

- (A) The type of Recreation Area being considered.
- (B) The highway network leading to and serving the Recreation Area.

Both are discussed below in more detail.

A. TYPE OF RECREATION AREA

- (1) Available activities and facilities:**
Some Areas are "resort" oriented and are final destinations for long distance visitors who plan to stay and use the facilities for a multiple number of days. These type of Areas are characterized by lodges and all weather cabins, golf courses, outdoor amphitheaters, marinas, daily scheduled events, and specialty shops. Some other Areas are more limited in their activities and facilities. Some are "day-use" only, some attract visitors from only localized regional geographic areas, and others may only be able to offer their full activities and facilities during certain seasons.
- (2) Available Services:**
Some Areas have a full range of services including restaurants, entertainment, hotel accommodations, meeting and convention facilities, banquet rooms, and a twenty-four hour full service staff. Other areas are more limited in available services such as snack bars, vending machines or no food, tent camping, limited or no rest room facilities and no twenty-four hour staffing.
- (3) Operating Schedule:**
Many Areas operate on various time frames. Some are open on a year round basis, some only for a particular season, and others on weekends and holidays. Additionally, daily schedules vary from twenty-four hours to limited daytime hours.
- (4) Visitor Usage:**
Many Areas have peak and minimum visitor usage. These may vary on a daily, weekly, seasonal, or yearly basis.
- (5) Visitor Generation Area:**
Each Facility generates visitors from different geographic areas. Many are primarily used by local residents and others serve a larger regional area. A fewer number attract long distance and out of State travelers and may require advance reservations and preplanning of recreational and vacation activities.

B. HIGHWAY NETWORK SYSTEM LEADING TO AND SERVING A RECREATION AREA

- (1) Interstate and Fully Controlled Access Highways**
Directional signing on these highways is reserved for those Recreational Areas that have full time year-round facilities, such as lodges, shops, restaurants, and daily activities. These Areas are almost always "resort" oriented and are final destinations for long distance visitors who plan to stay and use the facilities for a multiple number of days. The sign locations may be a considerable distance from the actual Area because visitors must use Interstate and fully controlled access highways to enter the State or travel long distances to arrive at their destination.

(2) Appalachian Corridors and Partially Controlled Access Highways and Expressways

Directional signing on these type highways may be installed for recreational areas that have full time, year-round facilities, such as lodges, shops, restaurants, and daily activities.

Directional signing may also be considered for other recreation Areas when all of the following conditions are satisfied.

- (a) The Area is open to the public on a twenty-four basis and**
- (b) Limited services including rest rooms, snack bar or vending machine are available, and**
- (c) Limited overnight accommodations including camping with hook-ups are available, and**
- (d) An attendant is on duty or easily accessible on a twenty-four hour basis, and**
- (e) A Visitor and/or Information Center is provided within the Area, and**
- (f) The main access point to the Area is within a thirty minute drive of the proposed sign locations.**

(3) Non-Expressway, Uncontrolled Access, Primary Highways (US or WV Numbered Routes)

Directional signing may be installed for all recreational areas at the main access point or county route leading to the Area.

Additional advance directional signing may be installed at the closest intersection of two primary routes to the main access point and at other primary intersections when all of the following conditions are satisfied.

- (a) The Area is open to the public on a twenty-four basis, and**
- (b) Limited services including rest rooms, snack bar, or vending machines are available, and**
- (c) Limited overnight accommodations including camping with hook-ups are available, and**
- (d) An attendant is on duty or easily accessible on a twenty-four hour basis, and**
- (e) A Visitor and/or Information Center is provided within the Area, and**
- (f) The main access point to the Area is within a thirty minute drive of the proposed sign locations.**

**Ken F. Kobetsky, Director
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