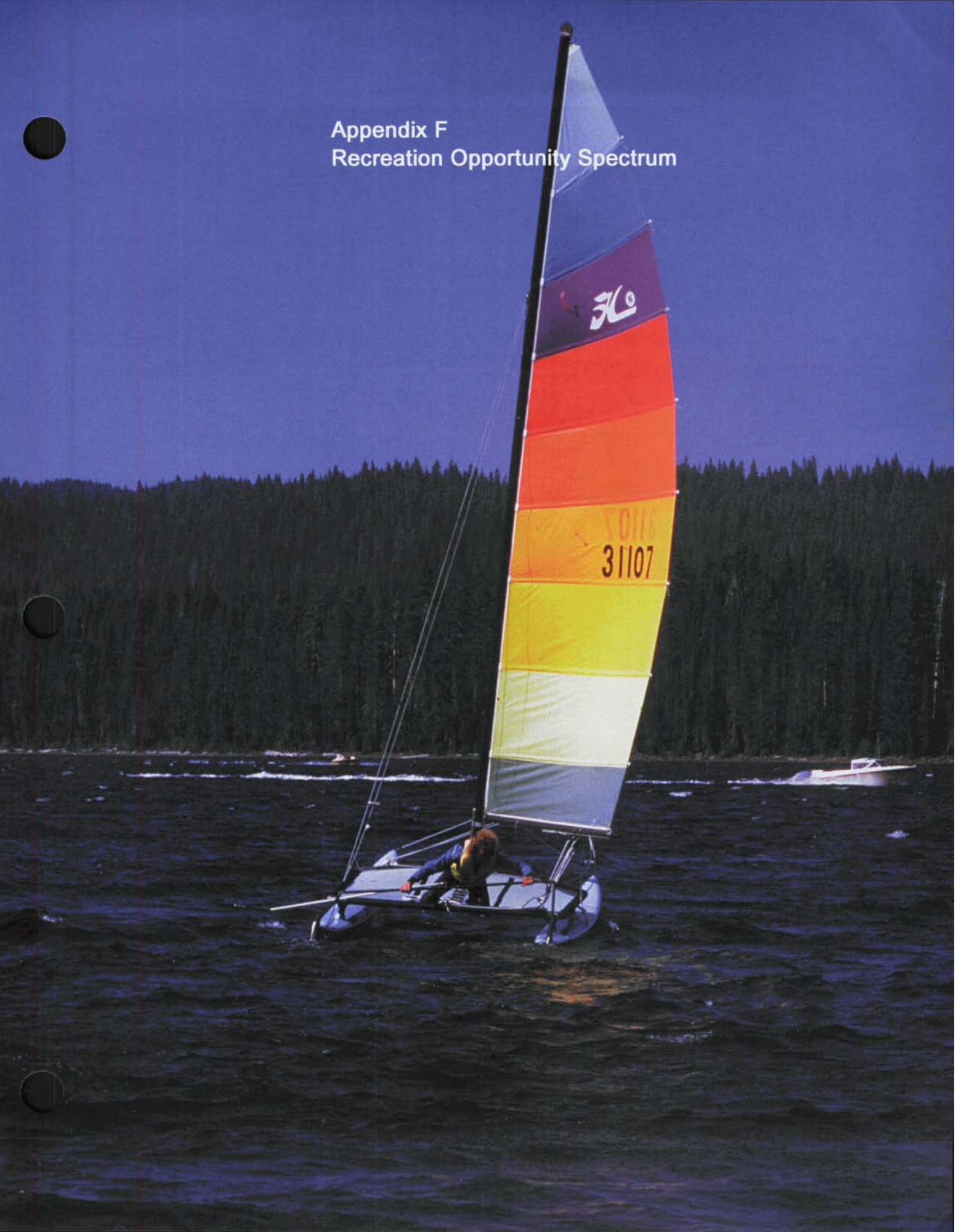
Appendix F
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum



Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum has matured to become a very useful planning and management tool in the Forest Service.

Purpose

Recreation planners, landscape architects, and other Forest Service resource managers are interested in providing high quality recreation settings, experiences, and benefits for their constituents. This is accomplished, in part, by linking the Scenery Management System and the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) System. In addition, providing a single constituent inventory and analysis for both systems is helpful in coordinating management practices.

Discussion

- The ROS System was developed in the late 1970's. The Forest Service issued guidelines for implementing the ROS System in 1980, almost a decade after implementing *The Visual Management System*. Since 1980, the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum has matured to become a very useful planning and management tool in the Forest Service. It has been adopted for use in several States, the first two being Oregon and Washington, where it is linked to the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Esthetic value is an important consideration in the management of recreation settings. This is especially so in National Forest settings where most people expect a natural appearing landscape with limited evidence of "unnatural" disturbance of landscape features. It is important to use the SMS and ROS system as complementary systems for the following reasons:

- The Scenery Management System measures the degree of deviation from the existing landscape character (Scenic Integrity), the relative importance of scenery (Concern