



# National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

13236 North 7th Street, Suite 4-259, Phoenix, Arizona 85022  
Phone/Text: 231-4-NCUTCD (231-462-8823)  
E-mail: secretary@ncutcd.org Website: <https://ncutcd.org>

## National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) Recommended Changes to Proposed Text for 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of the MUTCD Docket Number: FHWA-2020-0001

Federal Register Item Number: 304-310

NPA MUTCD Section Number: 2M

**Legend:** Base text shown in proposal is the NPA “clean” proposed text.

- [NCUTCD recommendation for text to be added in final rule.](#)
- ~~NCUTCD recommendation for text to be deleted in final rule.~~
- [NCUTCD recommendation for text to be moved/relocated in final rule.](#)
- NPA text that was not previously approved by NCUTCD but is now approved.
- Explanatory note: [\[Note that explains purpose of recommended change.\]](#)

The following pages presents the NCUTCD recommendations for changes to the MUTCD NPA proposed text and figures for portions of Chapter 2. Below is a summary of the NCUTCD position on the Sections of Chapter 2M. A more detailed summary is provided at the beginning of each section.

- NPA # N/A, Section 2M.01: Changes recommended based on Council action in spring 2021
- NPA # 304, Section 2M.02: Changes recommended based on Council action in spring 2021
- NPA#N/A, Section 2M.03: NPA proposes no changes to this section
- NPA # 305, Section 2M.04: Changes recommended based on Council action in spring 2021
- NPA# N/A, Section 2M.05: NCUTCD agrees with NPA content (no changes recommended)
- NPA # 306, Section 2M.06: NCUTCD agrees with NPA content (no changes recommended)
- NPA # 307, Section 2M.07: NCUTCD agrees with NPA content (no changes recommended)
- NPA # 308, Section 2M.08: NCUTCD agrees with NPA content (no changes recommended)
- NPA # 309, Section 2M.09: Changes recommended based on Council action in spring 2021
- NPA #310, Section 2M.10: Changes recommended based on Council action in spring 2021

**Section 2M.01 Comments:** NCUTCD generally agrees with 2M.01 as presented in the NPA, but recommends revising “game hunting” to “wildlife refuge” to better agree with the standard name for these facilities.

## Section 2M.01 Scope

Support:

Recreational or cultural interest areas are attractions or traffic generators that are open to the general public for the purpose of play, amusement, or relaxation. Recreational attractions include such facilities as parks, campgrounds, ~~game hunting~~ wildlife refuge facilities, and ski areas, while examples of cultural attractions include museums, art galleries, and historical buildings or sites.

The purpose of recreation and cultural interest area signs is to guide road users to a general area and then to specific facilities or activities within the area.

Option:

Recreational and cultural interest area guide signs directing road users to significant traffic generators may be used on freeways and expressways where there is direct access to these areas as provided in Section 2M.09.

Recreational and cultural interest area signs may be used off the road network, as appropriate.

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**Section 2M.02 Comments:** NCUTCD generally agrees with 2M.02 as presented in the NPA, but recommends adding an exception reference to Section 2M.04 in the Standard to address signs outside recreational and cultural areas, delete “only” in the first sentence of the final Support statement to eliminate confusion that the symbols presented in Table 2M-1 are only to be used within recreational areas and to eliminate confusion with Figures 2M-2, 2M-3 and 2M-4, and revise a section reference in the final Support sentence.

## Section 2M.02 Application of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Signs

Support:

Provisions for signing recreational or cultural interest areas are subdivided into two different types of signs: (1) symbol signs and (2) destination guide signs.

*Guidance:*

*Highway agencies providing recreational and cultural interest area signing should establish a policy with signing criteria for the eligibility of the various types of services, accommodations, and facilities. These signs should not be used where they might be confused with other traffic control signs.*

Option:

Recreational and cultural interest area guide signs may be used on any road to direct persons to facilities, structures, and places, and to identify various services available to the general public. These guide signs may also be used in recreational or cultural interest areas for signing non-vehicular events and amenities such as trails, structures, and facilities.

**Standard:**

Except as specified in Section 2M.04, ~~W~~where a symbol for a recreational and cultural interest area application is used on a roadway outside a recreational and cultural interest area facility, and a standard symbol is prescribed elsewhere in this Manual for that message, the symbol shall be the standard design and size prescribed elsewhere in this Manual. Alternative symbol designs shall not be allowed. The legend and color of the sign shall be as prescribed for the standard symbol sign.

(add reference to 2M.04)

Support:

Symbols for use ~~only~~ within recreational and cultural interest area facilities are noted in Table 2M-1.

(delete to eliminate confusion)

90 Section 2A.1209 contains information regarding the use of recreational and cultural interest area  
91 symbols on other types of signs. (revise section reference)  
92  
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94  
95 **Section 2M.03 Comments:** NCUTCD agrees with 2M.03 as presented in the NPA.  
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#### 97 **Section 2M.03 Regulatory and Warning Signs**

##### 98 **Standard:**

99 All regulatory and warning signs installed on roads and streets open to public travel within  
100 recreational and cultural interest areas shall comply with the requirements elsewhere in this  
101 Manual.  
102  
103

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104  
105 **Section 2M.04 Comments:** NCUTCD generally agrees with 2M.04 as presented in the NPA, but  
106 recommends revising references to General Information signs to General Service signs and  
107 adding an Option paragraph that allows a brown background for general service symbols for sites  
108 located inside a recreational and cultural interest area on all signs located along roads  
109 approaching the area for consistency of color.  
110

#### 111 **Section 2M.04 General Design Requirements for Recreational and Cultural Interest Area** 112 **Symbol Guide Signs**

##### 113 **Standard:**

114 When a General Information symbol contained in Chapter 2H is used in conjunction with  
115 recreational and cultural interest area signing on roadways outside a recreational and cultural  
116 interest facility, the legend and background color of the General Information symbol sign shall be  
117 as prescribed in Chapter 2H.  
118

119 When a General Service symbol contained in Chapter 2I is used in conjunction with  
120 recreational and cultural interest area signing on roadways outside a recreational and cultural  
121 interest facility, the legend and background color of the General ~~Information~~ Service symbol sign  
122 shall be as prescribed in Chapter 2I. (use General Service instead of General Information)  
123

##### 124 Option

125 General service symbols for sites located inside a recreational and cultural interest area may  
126 have white legend on a brown background color on roadways approaching the recreational and  
127 cultural interest. (Add new Option for brown background on General Service signs outside R&C  
128 areas)  
129

130 Recreational and cultural interest area symbol guide signs shall be square or rectangular in  
131 shape and shall have a white symbol or message and white border on a brown background. The  
132 symbols shall be grouped into the following usage and series categories:

- 133 A. General Applications,
- 134 B. Accommodations,
- 135 C. Services,
- 136 D. Land Recreation,
- 137 E. Water Recreation, and
- 138 F. Winter Recreation.

139 Support:  
140 Table 2M-1 contains a listing of the symbols within each series category.  
141  
142

**Table 2M-1 Comments:** NCUTCD generally agrees with Table 2M-1 as presented in the NPA, but recommends including missing signs from Figure 2M-8:

- Golfing (RS-128)
- Wildlife Viewing (RS-076)

NCUTCD recommends reviewing the sign list to determine if signs used primarily in a prohibited context should be included in the table, such as the ones depicted in example D in Figure 2M-1. NCUTCD also recommends FHWA consider adding a brown-on-white version of the D9-3 Camping sign to Chapter 2M.

**Table 2M-1. Category Chart for Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbols**

<b>General</b>		<b>Land Recreation</b>	
Bear Viewing Area	RS-012	All-Terrain Trail	RS-095
Bus Stop	RS-031	Archery	RS-116
Deer Viewing Area	RS-011	Climbing *	RS-082
Falling Rocks *	RS-008	Corral	RS-149
Lighthouse	RS-007	<a href="#">Golfing</a>	<a href="#">RS-128</a>
Nature Study Area	RS-141	Hiking Trail	RS-068
Viewing Area	RS-036	Horse Trail	RS-064
		Tennis	RS-129
		<a href="#">Wildlife Viewing</a>	<a href="#">RS-076</a>
<b>Accommodations</b>			
Parking	RS-034	<b>Water Recreation</b>	
<b>Services</b>		Beach	RS-145
First Aid	RS-024	Boat Ramp	RS-054
Picnic Shelter	RS-039	Canoeing	RS-079
Picnic Site	RS-044	Fishing Area	RS-063
Post Office	RS-026	Fishing Pier	RS-119
Tramway	RS-071	Hand Launch/Small Boat Launch	RS-117
Trash Dumpster	RS-091	Jet Ski/Personal Watercraft	RS-121
<b>Winter Recreation</b>		Kayaking	RS-118
Chair Lift/Ski Lift	RS-105	Motorboating	RS-055
Cross Country Skiing	RS-046	Rafting	RS-146
Dog Sledding	RS-143	Rowboating	RS-057
Downhill Skiing	RS-047	Sailing	RS-056
Ice Skating	RS-050	Scuba Diving	RS-060
Sledding	RS-049	Seal Viewing	RS-106
Snow Tubing	RS-144	Surfing	RS-059
Snowshoeing	RS-078	Swimming	RS-061
Winter Recreational Area	RS-077	Whale Viewing	RS-107
		Wind Surfing	RS-108
		*Off Roadway Use Only	

Option:

Mirror images of symbols may be used where the reverse image will better convey the message (see Section 2A.09).

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**Section 2M.05 Comments:** NCUTCD agrees with 2M.05 as presented in the NPA.

### **Section 2M.05 Symbol Sign Sizes**

*Guidance:*

*Recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs should be 24 x 24 inches. Where greater visibility or emphasis is needed, larger sizes should be used. Symbol sign enlargements should be in 6-inch increments.*

*Recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs should be 30 x 30 inches when used on guide signs on freeways or expressways.*

*Option:*

A smaller size of 18 x 18 inches may be used on low-speed, low-volume roadways and on non-road applications.

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**Section 2M.06 Comments:** NCUTCD agrees with 2M.06 as presented in the NPA.

### **Section 2M.06 Use of Educational Plaques**

*Guidance:*

*Educational plaques should accompany all initial installations of recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs. If used, the educational plaque should be the same width as the symbol sign.*

*Option:*

Symbol signs that are readily recognizable by the public may be installed without educational plaques.

*Support:*

Figure 2M-1 illustrates some examples of the use of educational plaques.

**Figure 2M-1 Comments:** NCUTCD generally agrees with Figure 2M-1 as presented in the NPA, but recommends revising the title from “Examples of Use of Arrows, Educational Plaques, and Prohibitive Slashes” to “Examples of Use of Arrows, Educational Plaques, and Prohibited Activities”. NCUTCD notes that the signs in example D are not included in Table 2M-1, and recommends assessing whether these and similar signs used primarily in a prohibited context should be included in this Chapter.

**Figure 2M-1. Examples of Use of Arrows, Educational Plaques, and Prohibited Activities** (revise title)

**A - DIRECTIONAL SIGNS**



**B - DIRECTIONAL ASSEMBLIES**



**C - DIRECTIONAL ASSEMBLY WITH EDUCATIONAL PLAQUE**



**D - PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES AND EDUCATIONAL PLAQUE FOR NON-ROAD USE\***



\* Standard regulatory signs shall be used where provided elsewhere in this Manual

**Section 2M.07 Comments:** NCUTCD agrees with 2M.07 as presented in the NPA.

**Section 2M.07 Use of Prohibitive Circle and Diagonal for Non-Road Applications**

**Standard:**

Where it is necessary to indicate a prohibition of an activity or an item within a recreational or cultural interest area for non-road use and a standard regulatory sign for such a prohibition is not provided in Chapter 2B, the appropriate recreational and cultural interest area symbol shall be

used in combination with a red prohibitive circle and diagonal. The recreational and cultural interest area symbol and the sign border shall be black and the sign background shall be white. The symbol shall be scaled proportionally to fit completely within the circle. The diagonal shall be oriented from the upper left to the lower right portions of the circle as shown in Figure 2M-1 and as detailed in the “Standard Highway Signs” publication.

Requirements for retroreflection of the red circle and diagonal shall be the same as those requirements for backgrounds, legends, symbols, arrows, and borders.

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**Section 2M.08 Comments:** NCUTCD agrees with 2M.08 as presented in the NPA.

#### **Section 2M.08 Placement of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs**

##### **Standard:**

If used, recreational and cultural interest area symbol signs shall be placed in accordance with the general requirements contained in Chapter 2A. The symbol(s) shall be placed as sign panels in the uppermost part of the sign and the directional information shall be placed below the symbol(s).

If the name of the recreational or cultural interest area facility or activity is displayed on a destination guide sign (see Section 2M.09) and a symbol is used, the symbol shall be placed below the name (see Figure 2M-2).



**Figure 2M-2 Comments:** NCUTCD agrees with Figure 2M-2 as presented in the NPA.

**Figure 2M-2. Examples of Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Guide Signs**



Option:

The symbols displayed with the facility or activity name may be placed below the destination guide sign as illustrated in Figure 2M-2 instead of as sign panels placed with the destination guide sign.

Secondary symbols of a smaller size (18 x 18 inches) may be placed beneath the primary symbols (see Drawing A in Figure 2M-1), where needed.

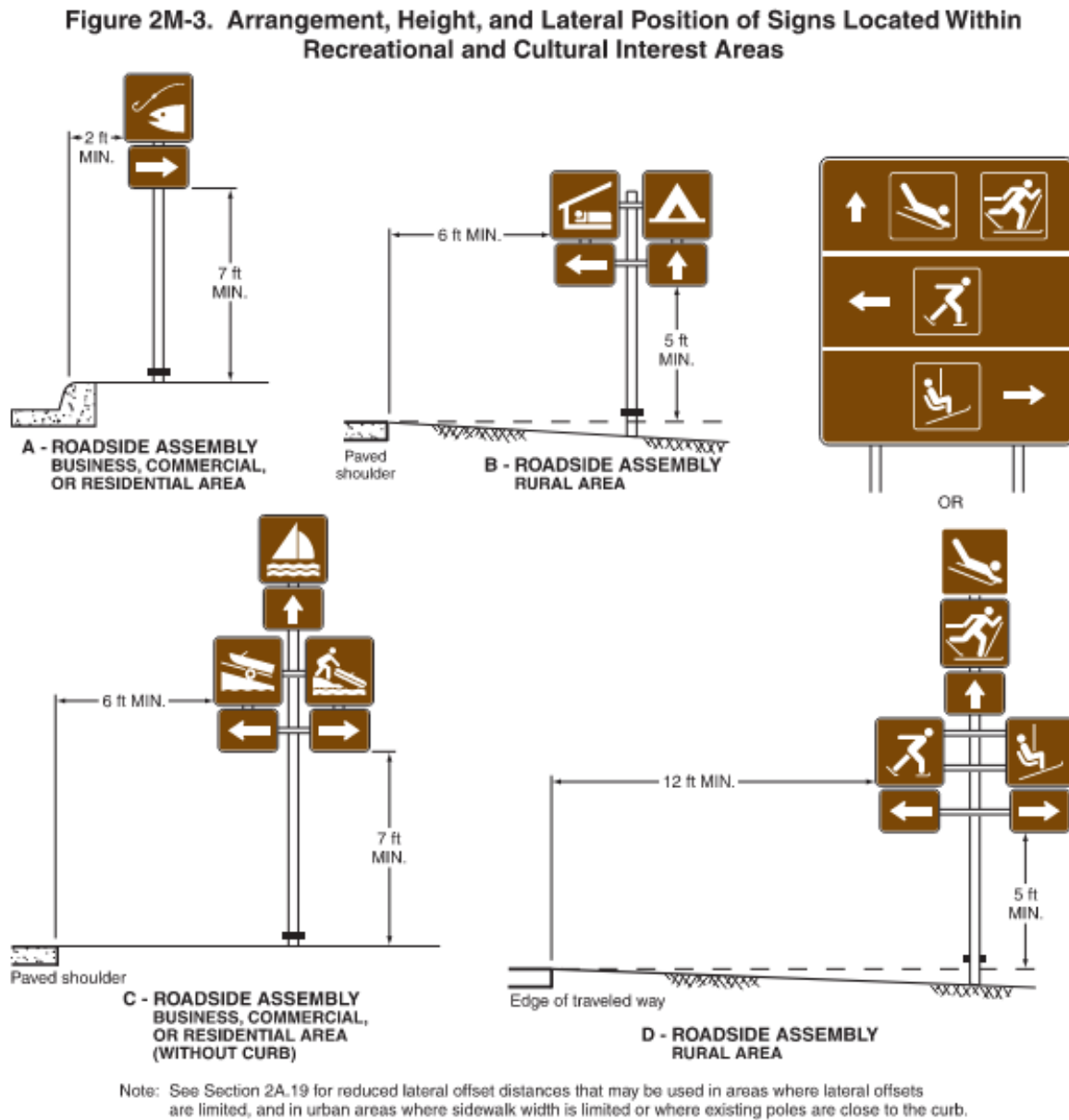
**Standard:**

Recreational and cultural interest area symbols installed for non-road use shall be placed in accordance with the general sign position requirements of the authority having jurisdiction.

Support:

Figure 2M-3 illustrates typical height and lateral mounting positions. Figure 2M-4 illustrates some examples of the placement of symbol signs within a recreational or cultural interest area. Figures 2M-5 through 2M-10 illustrate some of the symbols that can be used.

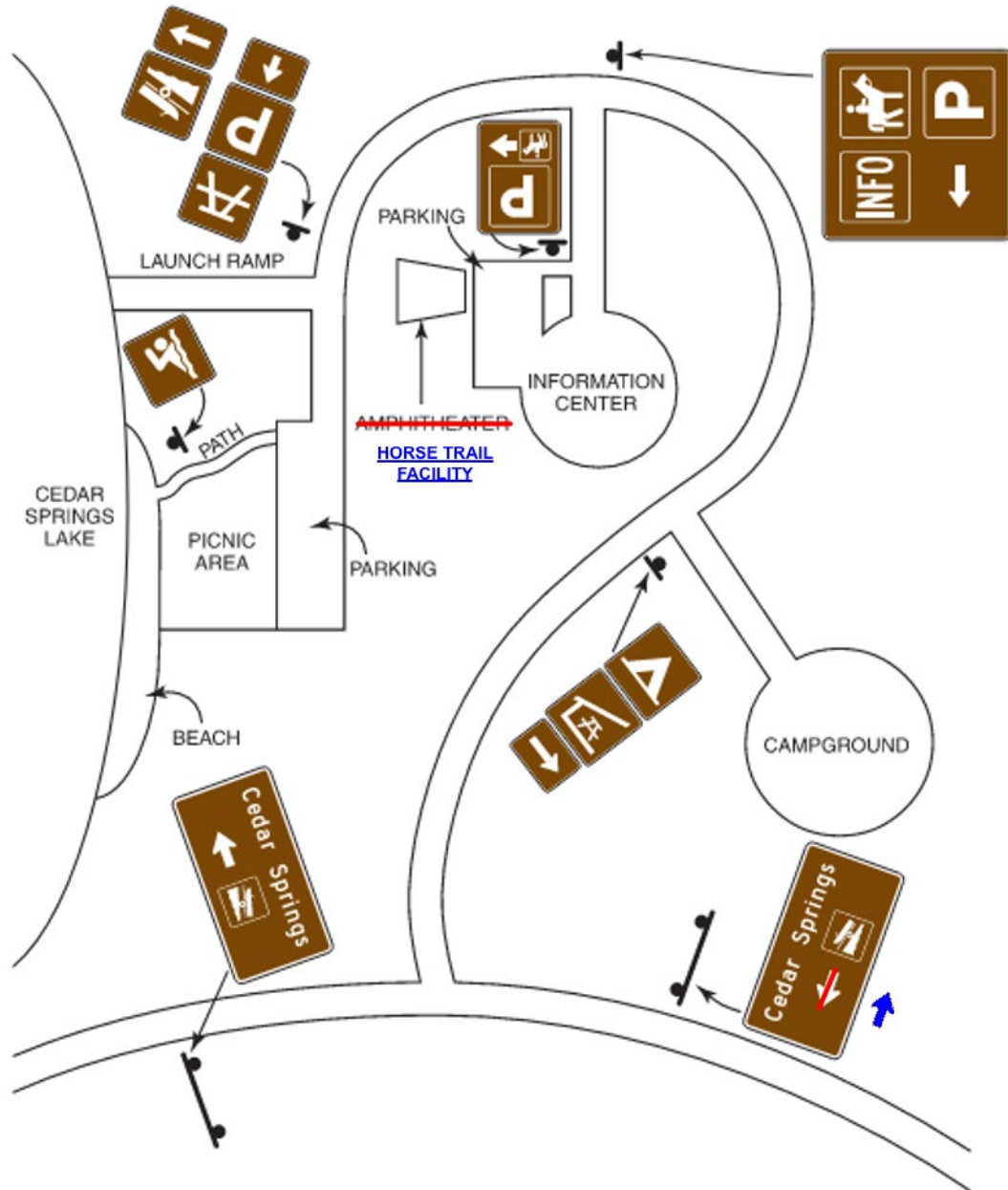
**Figure 2M-3 Comments:** NCUTCD agrees with Figure 2M-3 as presented in the NPA.



**Figure 2M-4 Comments:** NCUTCD recommends revising Figure 2M-4 as follows:

- Revise the arrow on the Cedar Springs sign in the lower right corner to point to the right
- Revise the map in the top center of the figure to depict a horse trail, as the sign is for a horse trail

**Figure 2M-4. Examples of Symbol and Destination Guide Signing Layout**



**Figure 2M-5 Comments:** NCUTCD agrees with Figure 2M-5 as presented in the NPA.

**Figure 2M-5. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for General Applications**



**Figure 2M-6 Comments:** NCUTCD recommends revising Figure 2M-6 to delete the RS-037 Sleeping Shelter sign, as it is no longer included in Table 2M-1.

**Figure 2M-6. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Accommodations**



**Figure 2M-7 Comments:** NCUTCD recommends revising Figure 2M-7 to delete the RS-041 Sanitary Station sign, as it is no longer included in Table 2M-1.

**Figure 2M-7. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Services**



**Figure 2M-8 Comments:** NCUTCD agrees with Figure 2M-8 as presented in the NPA.

**Figure 2M-8. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Land Recreation**



**Figure 2M-9 Comments:** NCUTCD recommends revising Figure 2M-9 to add the RS-059 Surfing sign, as it is included in Table 2M-1.

**Figure 2M-9. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Water Recreation**



**Figure 2M-10 Comments:** NCUTCD agrees with Figure 2M-10 as presented in the NPA.

**Figure 2M-10. Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Symbol Signs for Winter Recreation**



**Guidance:**

*The number of symbols used in a single sign assembly should not exceed four.*

**Option:**

The Advance Turn (M5 series) or Directional Arrow (M6 series) auxiliary signs with white arrows on brown backgrounds shown in Figure 2D-5 may be used with Recreational and Cultural Area Interest symbol guide signs to create a Recreational and Cultural Interest Area Directional Assembly. The symbols may be used singularly, or in groups of two, three, or four on a single sign assembly (see Figures 2M-1, 2M-3, and 2M-4).

**Section 2M.09 Comments:** NCUTCD generally agrees with 2M.09 as presented in the NPA, with minor section number revisions.

**Section 2M.09 Destination Guide Signs**

**Standard:**

**When recreational or cultural interest area destinations are displayed on a Supplemental guide sign (see Section 2E.3550), the sign shall be rectangular in shape with a white legend on a green or brown background.**

**Option:**

Trapezoidal shaped signs may be used to display recreational and cultural interest area destinations on conventional roads.

**Standard:**

**Whenever the trapezoidal shape is used, the color combination shall be a white legend and border on a brown background. When the trapezoidal shape is used for a sign with a directional arrow, a right-angled trapezoid with the wider dimension of the bases (parallel sides) at the top of the sign shall be used. The diagonal leg of the trapezoid shall be oriented in the same direction as the directional arrow. When the trapezoidal shape is used for an advance sign legend, such as with a distance or action message, an isosceles trapezoid with the wider dimension of the bases at the top of the sign shall be used.**

**Option:**

Destination guide signs with a white legend and border on a brown background may be posted at the first point where an access or crossroad intersects a highway where recreational or cultural interest areas



are a significant destination along conventional roads, expressways, or freeways. Supplemental guide signs with a white legend and border on a brown background may be used along conventional roads, expressways, or freeways to direct road users to recreational or cultural interest areas. Where access or crossroads lead exclusively to the recreational or cultural interest area, the Advance guide sign (see Section 2E.323) and the Exit Direction sign (see Section 2E.3625) may have a white legend and border on a brown background.

**Standard:**

All Exit Gore (E5-1 series) signs (see Section 2E.37) shall have a white legend and border on a green background. The background color of the interchange Exit Number plaque (E1-5P and E1-5bP, see Section 2E.31) shall match the background color of the guide sign above which it is mounted. Design characteristics of conventional road, expressway, or freeway guide signs shall comply with Chapter 2D or 2E except as provided in this Section for color combination.

The Advance guide sign and the Exit Direction sign shall retain the white-on-green color combination where the crossroad also leads to a destination other than a recreational or cultural interest area.

**Support:**

Figure 2M-2 illustrates destination guide signs commonly used for identifying recreational or cultural interest areas or facilities.

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**Section 2M.10 Comments:** NCUTCD generally agrees with 2M.10 as presented in the NPA, but recommends revising as follows:

- Revise the Guidance for sign letter height to include the minimum letter height for memorial or dedication signs, as the section reference is incorrect and the corresponding section in the NPA does not include letter height information
- Delete the final paragraph as it duplicates the second paragraph
- Revise section number references as needed

**Section 2M.10 Memorial or Dedication Signing**

**Support:**

Legislative bodies will occasionally adopt an act or resolution memorializing or dedicating a highway, bridge, or other component of the highway.

Named highways (see Section 2D.536) are officially designated and shown on official maps and serve the purpose of providing route guidance, primarily on unnumbered highways, and property addresses. A highway designated as a memorial or dedication is not considered to be a named highway for the purposes of highway signing or road user navigation and orientation. Section 2D. 536 contains provisions for the signing of named highways. .

Section 2A.03 contains information regarding excessive use of signs. Because memorial or dedication names are not official highway names, memorial and dedication signing is not essential to providing navigational guidance.

**Guidance:**

*Such memorial or dedication names should not appear on or along a highway, or be placed on bridges or other highway components. If a route, bridge, or highway component is officially designated as a memorial or dedication, and if notification of the memorial or dedication is to be made on the highway right-of-way, such notification should consist of installing a memorial or dedication marker in a rest area, scenic overlook, recreational area, or other appropriate location where parking is provided with the signing inconspicuously located relative to vehicle operations along the highway.*

Memorial or dedication signs should have a white legend and border on a brown background. On all such signs, the design should be simple and dignified, devoid of any appearance of advertising, and in general compliance with other signing.

The letter height of the principal legend on memorial or dedication signs should conform to the minimum letter height specified ~~for Miscellaneous Information signs (see Section 2H.04)~~ (revise reference) Memorial and Dedication signs should not be oversized.

The lettering for the name of the person or entity being recognized should be composed of a combination of lower-case letters with initial upper-case letters.

**Standard:**

Where such memorial or dedication signs are installed on the highway mainline because the provisions of Paragraph 3 cannot be met, (1) memorial or dedication names shall not appear on directional guide signs, (2) memorial or dedication signs shall not interfere with the placement of any other traffic control devices, and (3) memorial or dedication signs shall not compromise the safety or efficiency of traffic flow. The memorial or dedication signing shall be limited to one sign at an appropriate location in each route direction, each as an independent post-mounted sign installation.

Memorial or dedication signs shall be rectangular in shape. The legend displayed on memorial or dedication signs shall be limited to the name of the person or entity being recognized and a simple message preceding the name, such as "DEDICATED TO." Additional legend, such as biographical information, shall not be displayed on memorial or dedication signs. Decorative or graphical elements, pictographs, logos, or symbols shall not be displayed on memorial or dedication signs. All letters and numerals displayed on memorial or dedication signs shall be as provided in the "Standard Highway Signs" publication (see Section 1A.11). The route number or officially mapped name of the highway shall not be displayed on the memorial or dedication sign.

Memorial or dedication signs shall not imply that a highway has been officially renamed.

Memorial or dedication names shall not appear on supplemental signs or on any other information sign on or along the highway or its intersecting routes.

*Guidance:*

*Freeways and expressways should not be signed as memorial or dedicated highways.*

*When used, memorial or dedication signs should be located in accordance with the provisions for locating vanity signs (see Section 2A.03).*

**Support:**

Paragraph 35 of Section 2D.43 contains provisions regarding the use of memorial or dedication signing in conjunction with Street Name signs.

~~Named highways are officially designated and shown on official maps and serve the purpose of providing route guidance, primarily on unnumbered highways. A highway designated as a memorial or dedication is not considered to be a named highway. Section 2D.56 contains provisions for the signing of named highways.~~ (duplicate text)