

Summary of:

Economic Aspects of Recreation Activity at the Prince Albert National Park; Loewen, K. G.; Kulshreshtha, S. N.; 1995; Prince Albert Model Forest Assoc. Inc., Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. 53 p.

SUMMARY

Recreation is becoming an increasingly important activity for Saskatchewan people. Various types of recreation that combine nature appreciation and the use of forestland are increasing in popularity. The Prince Albert National Park (PANP), a large component of the Prince Albert Model Forest, is a popular Saskatchewan resident destination for such recreation activities. This study examines the use of the PANP for recreation by Saskatchewan residents. The major objectives of this study are: (1) to describe socio-economic characteristics of the PANP visitors; (2) to document various types of activities undertaken by these visitors while within the PANP; (3) to assess visitor satisfaction from the visit to the PANP; (4) to estimate visitors' trip expenditures and their economic incidence; and (5) to estimate an economic value to the recreation activity at the PANP.

The study is based on a survey of PANP visitors conducted by the University of Manitoba during 1991. Initially the sample included 890 visitors. However, in order to carry out the economic valuation of recreation, all incomplete data sets were eliminated. The result was a sample of 174 visitors, of which 86 were campers and 80 were commercial and non-commercial accommodation guests (8 visitors did both).

The analyses of visitor characteristics and trip expenditures of campers and accommodation guests suggested that accommodation guests spent substantially more in the park than the campers. The majority of the accommodation guests' in-park expenditures (78%) were spent on lodging and food. Both groups tended to spend similar amounts en route to and from the park. Campers earned less and visited the park more frequently than the accommodation guests. Visitors were very satisfied with the park's facilities and features. The town of Waskesiu was one of the park's main attractions as the majority of non-driving time was spent there.

The economic value of recreation is estimated at \$35 per person per recreation day in 1991 dollars. This benefit accrues annually and, thus, over the life of the park would amount to be a significant factor. If the goal of the Prince Albert Model Forest is multiple use management of forest lands, such values of forest resources should not be excluded.