

Outdoor Recreation Management

By: John J Pigram and John M Jenkins; 2006

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Recreation management is a very active field of research. The first edition of this well-known text was published only seven years ago, but the literature has grown greatly in even this brief period. This second edition cites almost a thousand references, and close to a quarter of those have appeared since the first edition. Classic works back to the 1960s and even the 1950s are still referenced as appropriate, and there is a solid combination of the social, economic and scientific literature.

This second edition is an update rather than a restructure, with new material inserted into the original text as relevant. Much of the original text is completely unchanged. Case studies and similar materials have been updated where possible, and in some instances moved to different chapters. Table 1.1 in the first edition, for example, quoted 1994 information on demand projections for various recreational activities. In the second edition, Table 1.1 quotes 1999 data on actual participation rates in those various activities.

As in the first edition, most of the chapters end with a short summary, a guide to further reading classified by topic, and a set of five or ten review questions for use in undergraduate teaching. The questions chosen are generally broad enough to provoke discussion and encourage students to consider their own experience as well as the text. The number of questions has been expanded from the first to the second edition.

As in the first edition, there are numerous quotes and text boxes, figures and tables. In the new edition, black and white plates have also been added. Some of the text boxes

appear to be direct quotes from other publications, whereas others are synthesised by the authors. The text is well-structured and full of information, with clear headers and subheaders and a dense and efficient use of space.

There are 12 chapters, designed around a standard undergraduate teaching syllabus. The introductory chapter introduces concepts and issues. Chapter 2 covers motivation, choice and behaviour; and chapter 3 examines special groups and special needs. The next three chapters consider outdoor recreation resources, environmental issues and resource management approaches respectively. These are followed by three chapters which focus successively on urban areas, rural areas and protected areas. There is a separate chapter specifically on national park management; one on links between outdoor recreation and commercial tourism; and a final chapter which examines the future of the sector.

The preface to the first edition opened with a quote which set the theme of the book: "Recreation is as important as work". The second edition has a different preface, and the critical quote is buried deeper in the text. It's actually the title of a journal article cited on p.31, and it says simply "You're never too old". We can only hope that this turns out to be true.

As with any second edition, the critical question is: Should you buy this new edition if you already have the previous one? I would say, yes indeed. A great deal of new material has appeared in the past seven years, and these authors have kindly done the work of compiling and reviewing over 200 new publications, and integrating the new information into their former framework. This is well worth the price. Of course, if you missed out on the first edition, you should not hesitate. Even if you already have other well-known texts on outdoor recreation, these particular authors provide a leisure studies perspective and cross-continental breadth which will be valuable to students, lecturers and researchers alike.

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