

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: National Park Service, Benefits Transfer Database
Discipline: Social science
Type of Project: Research
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Montana
Effective Dates: 4/1/2006 - 12/31/2007
Funding Amount: \$120,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract:

The National Park Service (NPS) provides significant opportunities for the visitor use of National Park System resources. Typical visitor uses include camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, boating, and swimming. There is significant academic and public interest in the economic value of these uses for purposes of explaining visitor decisions regarding the use of National Park System resources. NPS also has interest in disseminating these economic values to promote the public understanding of visitor use. Therefore, NPS desires to promote academic research into the economic value of visitor use. This project describes research in support of that objective.

The NPS benefits transfer database needs to be updated. Using the selection criteria used for that database, the cooperator will conduct an extensive search of the available literature, including both reviewed sources (e.g., journals, dissertations, and theses) and other reliable sources (e.g., working papers, contracted documents, and unpublished documents). Then he will update the NPS benefits transfer database with the selected studies. Based on the cooperator's review he will then estimate benefits transfer functions for the NPS visitor uses described in the updated NPS benefits transfer database and prepare a draft report containing descriptions of the review and a description of the estimated benefits transfer functions, methodology, and data. The cooperator will select a knowledgeable and independent expert in non-market valuation techniques to peer review the draft report.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

A draft report on the first research task (updating the data base) will be completed by October 1, 2006. A draft report including the updated data base, literature review of the benefits transfer literature, and estimated transfer functions will be completed by May 15, 2007. Peer review will be completed by June 15, 2007, and a final report by July 15, 2007. The term of the agreement is extended to December 31, 2007

Keywords: economic value, visitor use, database, NPS Environmental Quality Division, University of Montana

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:
Date Final Report Received:
Publications, etc. on file: