

Visitor monitoring in a landscape context

Session type: Oral presentation

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Over the last 20 years, the notion of “sustainable tourism” has emerged as the dominant paradigm for managing visitor use in parks and protected areas (Eagles and others 2011; Manning and others 2011). At the same time, efforts like the European Landscape Convention (ELC) have emerged that emphasize landscape-based approaches to environmental management in order to achieve “sustainable landscape planning, protection, and development” (Jones and Stenseke 2011; UNESCO 2011). The development of landscape-based approaches like the ELC will have important implications for sustainable outdoor recreation management at destinations like parks and protected areas. Specifically, the introduction of a landscape perspective raises at least three basic questions: (1) how will the destination concept now be defined, (2) how will various actors be affected (e.g., management agencies, tourism service providers, etc.), and (3) how will the visitor experience be impacted or enhanced? This session will provide a forum for discussing monitoring-specific issues that result from the intersection of a landscape perspective – as articulated in the ELC – with the contemporary notion of sustainable tourism management in parks and protected areas.