

AREC/ECON346 Economics of Outdoor Recreation, Fall 2017

Class meets in C144, Clark Building

M-W-F 10:00am – 10:50am

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Final Exam: Thursday December 14 4:10-6:10 pm

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Office hours: M 3-4pm, T 10-11am or by appointment

Course Objectives: Students will learn about benefit cost analysis, economic valuation of recreation and economic impacts of recreation. These concepts will be applied to recreation management issues (such as congestion, fees/pricing, evaluating investments in campgrounds and facilities, etc.) and to evaluation of natural resource allocations involving recreation resources (forests, water, etc.)

Required Textbook: *Recreation Economic Decisions* (2nd edition) by Loomis & Walsh.

A limited number of textbooks are available for sale at the CSU Bookstore, including some bound copies of the scanned book. I have found some used copies available online and I encourage you to find this textbook for the least cost. I will also place my copy on reserve at the library which can be checked out for 2 hours at a time.

Grading:

Exams: there will be three exams each worth 25% of your grade. The tests will cover both lecture and readings. The final will be comprehensive and will be held on **December 14, 4:10-6:10 pm** in our regular classroom.

Homework: There will be at least 5 short problem sets (worth 25% of the total).

The points earned on each test and homework assignment are recorded, rather than a letter grade. The sum of all points are converted to a grade at the end. Generally I will follow the usual breakdown for a final letter grade (90% or more = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, less than 60% = F).

Classroom Policies:

- Please turn off your cell phones and put them away.
- Be respectful of each other, your TA, and me.
- While I realize it may seem old fashioned, I would prefer that you do not try to take notes using a laptop.

It is less distracting for everyone, and research has shown that people retain what they learn better if notes are written by hand (Mueller and Oppenheimer, 2014). This study also confirmed findings that taking verbatim notes is less effective for learning than taking notes in your own words.

If you really must use a laptop to take notes, do not connect to the internet while in class.

Course Outline

Welcome, syllabus review, logistics

A note about assigned reading: All "chapters" refer to the textbook (Loomis & Walsh), unless otherwise noted. All other assigned reading will be posted on the class Canvas site. I've included complete citations in the syllabus with the filename in parentheses following the citation. I will add reading as we go and may drop some. Most are required (if not I'll note that).

Reading: Mueller, P. A. and D. M. Oppenheimer. 2014. The pen is mightier than the keyboard: Advantages of (optional) longhand over laptop note taking. *Psychological Science* 25(6): 1159-1168. (Mueller and Oppenheimer 2014-note-taking.pdf)

Introduction to Recreation Economics: What does economics have to do with recreation?

Review basic economic terms and concepts and define a framework for economic evaluation of outdoor recreation

Reading: Economics review.pdf

Denver Post article, June 28, 2017, Colorado's outdoors creates economic powerhouses out of recreation and tourism industries. (DPost 2017-06-28-CO-Outdoor-rec-tourism spending.pdf)

Overview of Recreation Resource Policy Issues

Reading: Chapter 1

Whittaker, D., B. Shelby, R. Manning, D. Cole, G. Haas. 2011. Capacity reconsidered: Finding consensus and clarifying differences. *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration* 29(1): 1-20. (Whittaker et al 2011-capacity.pdf)

Carter, D. W., J. J. Agar, and J. R. Waters. 2008. Economic Framework for Fishery Allocation Decisions with an Application to Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper. NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-SEFSC-576. (Carter et al 2008-allocation decisions.pdf) Optional (at least read the introduction)

Burakowski, E. and M. Magnusson. 2012. Climate Impacts on the Winter Tourism Economy in the United States. Washington DC: Natural Resources Defense Council. 33 p. (Burakowski and Magnusson 2012-Climate Change-Ski Industry.pdf)

Funding for Outdoor Recreation

Reading: Vincent, C. H. 2014. Land and Water Conservation Fund: Overview, Funding History, and Issues. Congressional Research Service 7-5700 RL33531. 14 p. (CRS 2014-LWCF.pdf)

Loris, N. D. 2015. Land and Water Conservation Fund: Wrong Solution for Public Land Management. Heritage Foundation Issue Brief No. 4482. (Loris 2015-LWCF.pdf)

Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition. 2017. General Fact Sheet (LWCF Coalition 2017.pdf)

Recreation Production and Consumption

Reading: Chapters 2 and 3

Loomis, J. B. 2000. Counting on recreation use data: A call for long-term monitoring. *Journal of Leisure Research* 32(1): 93-96. (Loomis 2000-use data.pdf)

ECONorthwest. 2015. Outdoor Recreation Scarcity and Abundance in Western Oregon: A Spatial Analysis (ECONorthwest_2015-ScarcityReport.pdf)

Tools for Economic Analysis of Recreation Resources

Reading: Chapter 19, pages 369-372

Chapter 20, pages 407-410

Mathews, L. G., Kask, S., L. Rotegard, and S. Stewart. 2001. Using economics to inform national park management decisions: a case study on the Blue Ridge Parkway. In: *Crossing Boundaries in Park Management: Proceedings of the 11th Conference on Research and Resource Management in Parks and on Public Lands*. D. Harmon (ed.). Hancock MI: The George Wright Society. (Mathews et al 2001.pdf)

Regional Economic Development

Reading: Chapter 4

Chapter 14

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2014, pages 60-64
(SCORP 2014-OnlineReport.pdf)

American Planning Association. 2002. How Cities Use Parks for Economic Development, Executive Summary. (APA 2002-parks-economic-development-ES.pdf)

Grado, S. C., D. L. Grebner, R. O. Drier, and I. A. Munn. An Economic Feasibility Study for Recreational Development on the Bienville National Forest in Mississippi.
(Grado et al-economic feasibility study.pdf)

White, Eric M.; Bowker, J.M.; Askew, Ashley E.; Langner, Linda L.; Arnold, J. Ross; English, Donald B.K. 2016. Federal outdoor recreation trends: effects on economic opportunities. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-945. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Station. 46 p. (White et al 2016-pnw_gtr945.pdf)

EXAM 1 Date:

Benefit-Cost Analysis

Reading: Chapter 19, pages 372-378

Chapter 5

Chapter 6

Chapter 7, pages 87-104

Empirical Measurement of Economic Values

Reading: Chapter 9

Melstrom, R. T. 2014. Valuing historic battlefields: an application of the travel cost method to three American Civil War battlefields. *Journal of Cultural Economics* 38: 223-236.
(Melstrom 2014-Historic Battlefields.pdf)

Chapter 10

Hesseln, H., J. B. Loomis, and A. González-Cabán. 2004. The effects of fire on recreation demand in Montana. *Western Journal of Applied Forestry* 19(1): 47-53.
(Hesseln et al 2004-fire-recreation demand.pdf)

Chapter 11

Forecasting Future Recreation Consumption

Reading: Chapter 13

EXAM 2 Date:

Discounting benefits and costs over time: Concepts and procedures

Reading: Chapter 19, pages 379-389

Chapter 20, pages 391-399

Steps in Performing a Comprehensive Benefit-Cost Analysis

Reading: Chapter 20, pages 399-402

Application of Tools to Recreation Resource Issues

Reading: Chapter 7, pages 104-109

Chapters 17 and 18

Bowker, J. M., J. C. Bergstrom, J. Gill. 2007. Estimating the economic value and impacts of recreational trails: a case study of the Virginia Creeper Rail Trail. *Tourism Economics* 13(2): 241-260.

(Bowker et al 2007-Virginia Creeper Rail Trail case study.pdf)

Koontz, L. and B. Meldrum. 2014. Effects of the October 2013 Government Shutdown on National Park Service Visitor Spending in Gateway Communities. Natural Resource Report

NPS/EDQ/NRSS/NRR-2014/761. 10 p. (Koontz and Meldrum 2014-NPS-Shutdown.pdf)

FINAL EXAM: Thursday December 14 4:10-6:10 pm, in our regular classroom
