



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

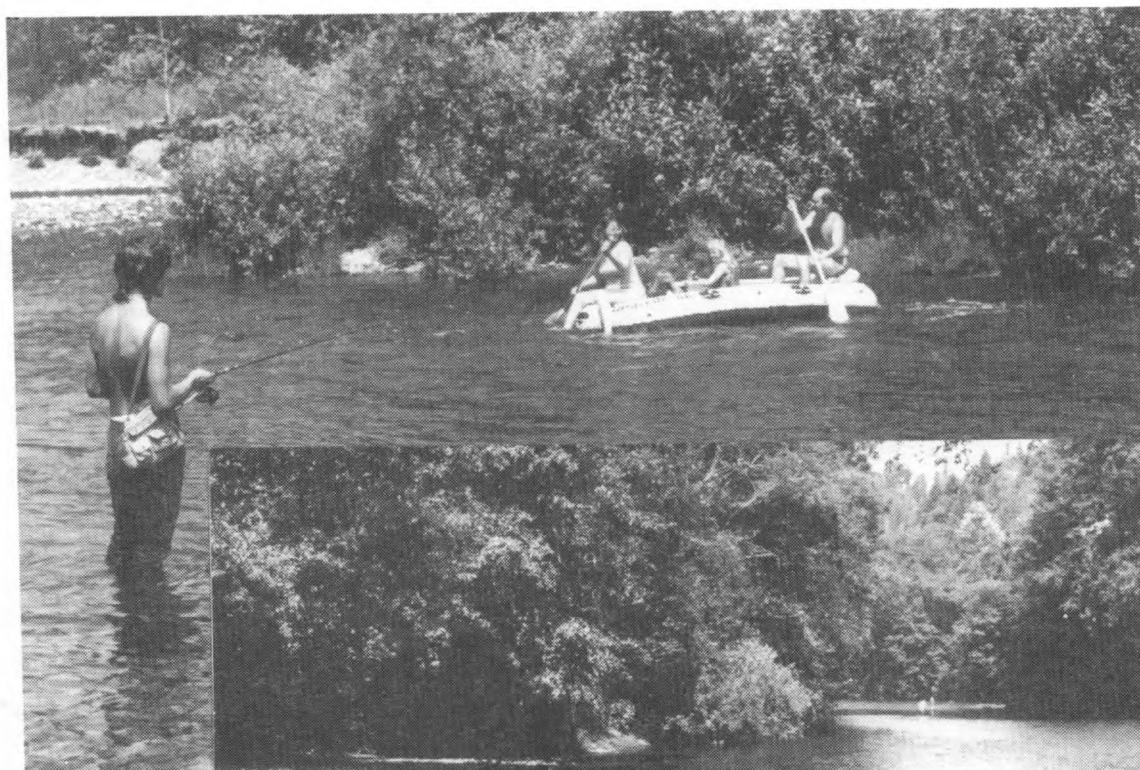
Pacific Northwest
Research Station

Research Paper
PNW-RP-377



Values and Choices in Outdoor Recreation by Male and Female Campers in Dispersed Recreation Areas

Harriet H. Christensen, Paula J. Williams, and Roger N. Clark



Authors

HARRIET H. CHRISTENSEN and ROGER N. CLARK are research social scientists of wildland recreation research, Forestry Sciences Laboratory, 4043 Roosevelt Way N.E., Seattle, WA 98105; and PAULA J. WILLIAMS is a society fellow for Sub-Saharan Africa, Institute of Current World Affairs, Hanover, NH.

Abstract

Christensen, Harriet H.; Williams, Paula J.; Clark, Roger N. Values and choices in outdoor recreation by male and female campers in dispersed recreation areas. Res. Pap. PNW-RP-377. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station; 1987. 20 p.

Objective information is generally lacking about women and their satisfactions and experiences from participation in outdoor recreation. Data were gathered from campers in three National Forests in Washington and Oregon. Attitudes, preferences, perceptions, and reported activities of men and women campers were compared. Overall, responses showed more similarities than differences; men and women were similar in their usage patterns, activity preferences, perceptions of problems, and attitudes about management practices. Small differences were present, however, and managers need to be aware of these differences when integrating recreation with other forest activities.

Keywords: Dispersed recreation, recreation surveys, recreation management, human behavior.

Summary

Men and women using dispersed, roaded recreational areas in the Pacific Northwest were surveyed to determine the similarities and differences (1) in patterns of use, (2) in preferences for settings and for various outdoor activities, (3) in perceptions of management problems, and (4) in attitudes about management activities.

Overall, men had a longer history of use in these dispersed areas; men had visited the areas for 8 years before the interview as compared to women, who had visited for 6 years.

Childhood experiences with camping were different for men and women; more men than women had participated in dispersed recreation areas as children. Women either did not camp as children or, if they did, they camped in dispersed or minimally developed areas. Women expected to increase their visits to dispersed roaded areas in the next few years; men did not perceive a change in their use.

Of the 40 possible activities listed in the survey, 17 were similar for men and women and 23 activities were different. Both men and women preferred certain motorized activities, such as riding in four-wheel drive vehicles and on motorbikes. Women were more likely than men to like day hiking, swimming, nature walks, bicycling, picnicking, playing in the snow, picking berries, and collecting rocks. Men were more likely than women to like snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, target shooting, overnight backpacking, snowshoeing, and cutting firewood for home use.

Overall, men and women were more similar than different in their perceptions of management problems. More women than men felt that the Forest Service should alert users to potential hazards, such as poisonous snakes, dangerous roads, and polluted water. More men than women saw vandalism and theft of equipment as more of a problem and saw noise from motorbikes and lack of maps as becoming problems.

Some similarities between men and women were shown in their attitudes about management activities, such as the impact of large-scale logging on the landscape, closing roads, and rules and regulations in the areas. Men and women were similar in feeling that clearcutting was "okay" but were different in that more men than women felt that way. Closing roads to improve hunting quality was more likely to be supported by men than by women.

Much has been written on the similarities and differences between women and men in the social world, but there is little literature comparing experiences for men and women in outdoor recreation. In this study, more similarities than differences were found between men and women. The differences may be attributable to different levels of experience in the outdoors or may be influenced by other gender-linked values.

Contents

1 Introduction

1 Theoretical Perspective

2 Amounts and Types of Outdoor Activities

3 Meanings of Outdoor Activities

4 Objectives

4 Methods

5 Results and Discussion

6 Patterns of Dispersed Recreation Use

6 Preferences for Recreation Settings

9 Preferences for Recreational Activities

11 Perceptions of Management Problems

14 Attitudes About Selected Management Activities

16 Conclusion

17 Acknowledgments

17 Literature Cited

Introduction

Research about outdoor recreation has historically focused more on men and their attitudes and behavior than on women. The studies have generally emphasized activities such as hunting, fishing, and mountain climbing (Kelly 1980, Unkel 1981). Manufacturers of outdoor equipment, organizers of recreational trips, and authors of popular literature have recently begun to recognize women's participation in outdoor recreation, and more and more suppliers are changing and updating inventories and services to meet women's needs.

Both men and women are committed to outdoor experiences, but much less is known about what women do, the meaning of the experience to women, and the role that women play in choosing the type of recreation (Stankey and McCool 1985). It is important to understand the nature, extent, and meaning of women's participation in outdoor recreation to assess the influence those experiences have on overall participation and on the demand for recreational resources.^{1/} The meaning of women's experiences has not received much attention in the literature, but it may have important implications for managers as well as users.

In this paper, we summarize the literature on outdoor experiences and compare similarities and differences between male and female campers in a motorized, dispersed recreation area. Behavior, attitudes, perceptions, and preferences are discussed.

Theoretical Perspective

In comparing similarities and differences between men and women, we are using the term "gender" as suggested by Lopata and Thorne (1978), Tresemer (1975), and other sociologists. Gender refers to social and cultural distinctions between men and women that are learned—it does not refer to either biological (sex) distinctions or to sexuality, sexual preference, or sexual identification. As Lopata and Thorne (1978:719-721) note:

Gender, like race or age, is deeper, less changeable, and infuses the more specific roles one plays . . . Gender identification pushes, pulls, encourages, or discourages entrance into functionally organized roles . . .

The point that I am making here is that I cannot locate a sex role, or even a gender role, seeing only the influence, more or less pervasive, of gender identification and self-identity upon the social roles selected and entered into by men and women and upon the relations with members of the social circles of these roles. It seems to be that being a woman is not a social role but a pervasive identity and a set of self-feelings which lead to the selection or the assignment by others of social roles and to the performance by women of common roles in some ways differently from men.

^{1/} Cheek, N.H., Jr. "Recreational activities: a preliminary investigation of structural properties." Paper presented at the Texas Academy of Science, Annual Meeting; 1978.

Integrating gender into social theory, and the sociology of leisure and recreation in particular, is relatively recent (American Sociological Association 1980). Studies appearing in "Leisure Sciences" and the "Journal of Leisure Research" have generally taken one of these approaches: both men and women were included but there were no data analyses on differences by sex (Cheek 1976, Vernon 1976); findings were reported separately for women and for men, thereby implying that sex may be an important variable (Driver and Knopf 1977, Iso-Ahola 1979, Kleiber 1980); and specific patterns for men vs. women were compared (Unkel 1981).

Most studies examining the patterns in leisure and recreation for men and for women focus on actual behavior and suggest that the types of activities and rates of participation are different.

Amounts and Types of Outdoor Activities

Participation in recreational activities has commonly been measured by occurrence or by whether or not a person engages in a particular activity. Studies have found that men engage in a wider range of activities than do women; for instance, studies of hunting (Starnes 1980, Uzendoski 1967), fishing (Bryan, 1979), riding dirt bikes (Watson and others 1980), mountain climbing and surfing (DeVall 1976), and collecting and displaying antique cars (Dannefer 1980) are studies of primarily male-oriented recreation. Men tend to report participation in outdoor activities and team and spectator sports, whereas women report participation in cultural activities. Some activities, such as individual or dual sports, may have similar rates of participation by men and women^{2/}, (Theobald 1978, Unkel 1981, Zuzanek 1978).

Some studies have focused on the relationship between participation in activities and personality attributes (Gentry and Doehring 1979, Iso-Ahola 1979, Kleiber 1980, Maloney and Petrie 1972). These studies suggest that men and women derive different satisfactions (Ragheb 1980) and outcomes (Driver and Knopf 1977) from their recreational participation. These studies also suggest that gender influences not only the extent and intensity of participation but related attitudes and perceptions as well (see footnote 1).

Research suggests that differences in recreational preferences of men and women increase with marriage and the family and decrease after children enter school (Angrist 1967, Bernard 1981, Burch and Wenger 1967, Kelly 1980, Rapoport and others 1975, Unkel 1981, Witt and Goodale 1981). Other studies focus on patterns, by sex, in recreation for specific age groups—such as adults (Unkel 1981), college students (Kleiber 1980), or adolescents (Crompton 1978).

^{2/} Crompton, J.L. "The participation of male and female adolescents in selected outdoor recreation activities." Manuscript written for Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1978.

Participation in recreational activities also varies with the social group one recreates with (Samdahl 1979); for example, women are more likely to fish with their families, whereas men may fish alone or with family and friends (Dottavio and others 1980, Field and others 1975). Participation patterns are also linked to lifestyle, values, and social class; for instance, working-class individuals are more likely to engage in leisure activities differentiated by sex than are middle-class individuals who are more likely to participate in activities without regard to sex (Bott 1971, Rapoport and others 1975, Rubin 1976).

The amount of leisure time available to an individual is affected by the time spent at work and with family and community obligations. Studies show that women have less leisure time than men, particularly if employed outside the home (Cheek and Burch 1976, Govaerts 1969, Lee 1979, Zuzanek 1978). Other factors affecting participation by women include lack of child care, lack of basic skills and knowledge to participate in a given activity, fears regarding personal safety, and other cultural factors (Boothby and others 1981, Farmer 1976, LaBastille 1980, Theobald 1978, Thomas 1980).

Overall, the literature shows that various factors, such as stage in the family life cycle, membership in a social group, and amount of leisure time, influence participation in activities outdoor in different ways for men and for women.

Meanings of Outdoor Activities

Participation by men and women in outdoor activities is well documented; however, little is known about the experiential component, particularly for those people engaging in the same activity. Women have been described as onlookers, invited guests (with male escorts or sponsors), consumers, or low-level functionaries who carry out the daily work of the setting (Peterson and others 1978). Women may go on fishing trips as companions or perform other functions like watching children or preparing meals, but they rarely go with fishing as a primary motive^{3/} (Burch 1965). Studies of organized recreational trips have found that few leaders are women (Galland 1980, Thomas 1980).

Researchers have also inquired about the characteristics of the female world (Bernard 1981); the assumption is that females and males experience the world differently and attach different meanings to their activities (Gilligan 1982, Smith 1979). We know, for instance, that throughout the ages females have had a different relation to nature than have men; this is particularly true in Western industrial cultures (Galland 1980, Griffin 1978, LaBastille 1980, Merchant 1980).

In summary, the available literature suggests that men and women tend to differ in the frequency and type of activity in which they participate. Furthermore, participation and satisfaction in outdoor recreational activities are not fully understood, although some evidence suggests that meanings associated with particular activities are different for men vs. women.

^{3/} Field, D.R.; Burdge, R.J.; Burch, J.S. "Sex roles and group influences on sport fishing behavior." Paper presented to Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting (21-24 August, San Francisco); 1975.

Objectives

The purpose of the study was to compare the attitudes, perceptions, preferences, and reported activities between male and female campers. Specific objectives were to identify the similarities and differences (1) in patterns of use of dispersed recreation, (2) in preferences for various outdoor activities, (3) in perceptions of management problems such as vandalism, and (4) in attitudes about management activities such as logging and road management practices.

Methods

In response to information needs of managers, the Wildland Recreation Research Work Unit of the Pacific Northwest Research Station began studying settings for dispersed, roaded recreation during 1975. These settings were generally undeveloped with few or no conveniences and were characterized by campsites established by users and by dispersed patterns of use (Buist and Hoots 1982, Clark and Stankey 1979). The dispersed areas selected for study were in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests, Washington, and the Mount Hood National Forest, Oregon.

A series of related studies were conducted in the three forests. During the first phase of the study, campsites were inventoried, and the nature and extent of use were determined (Hendee and others 1976a, 1976b). In the second phase, a user survey was done to determine patterns of dispersed day use and overnight use and patterns of activities associated with settings, recreational preferences, perceptions of management problems, and attitudes about forest management activities (Clark and others 1984). Information from overnight users form the basis for this paper.

Brief interviews were conducted with campers between July and November 1976. Information collected included composition of the group, camping facilities and equipment the campers brought with them, number and type of domestic animals present, and purpose of the camping trip. The second part of the survey was a nine-page questionnaire with 88 questions about the preferences, experiences, and patterns of use; perceptions of management problems; and attitudes the campers had about selected management activities.

Questionnaires were distributed to campers at their campsites. Brief interviews were conducted and questionnaires were distributed to one man and one woman in the camping group. We included women in the study to compensate for the general exclusion of women in previous studies on outdoor recreation. Questionnaires were to be returned to USDA Forest Service personnel at the site or to be mailed to an office. To follow up, we mailed two postcards and a second questionnaire at 1-week intervals to the campers at their home addresses. Overall, out of 1,321 questionnaires that were distributed to overnight campers in the three areas, 898 were returned for a response rate of 68 percent. For a detailed discussion about procedures, see Clark and others 1984.

The results we report here are subject to certain limiting factors. We don't know if the field assistants influenced the responses of the campers; both assistants were male, so it is possible some responses were affected by this suggestion that camping is a male activity. We were also unable to determine the actual independence of responses by men and women. The questionnaires were completed after the interviewer left the campsite or when the campers returned home, so we don't know who completed the survey and under what conditions. To the extent that these limitations occurred, the extent of the differences in responses by gender may have been depressed; that is, if party members discussed their responses, differences would not be expected in those responses. And, nearly 10 years have passed since the study was completed. The extent to which changes have occurred in our society in general, and in recreation in particular, that would affect our results is unknown. Replications of the original study are planned to document the nature and extent of such changes. But this study does represent one of few attempts to address differences and similarities of women and of men and potential implications for resource managers and future research.

Results and Discussion

This paper is based on the responses obtained from campers who stayed one or more nights in three dispersed, roaded recreational areas. Some background about the respondents is summarized:

- Forty-five percent of the 898 overnight campers were women and 55 percent were men.
- Men averaged 40 years of age and women 36 years.
- Thirty-eight percent of the men completed college as compared to 32 percent of the women.
- More than half of the women (53 percent) and most of the men (88 percent) were employed.
- Users generally camped in pickup campers, trailers, and tents for about 4 nights.
- The average size of the camping party was six people.

Results are summarized below in four sections: patterns of use, preferences for settings and activities, perceptions of management problems, and attitudes about management activities. At the beginning of each section, we briefly describe similarities in the responses from men and women; this is followed by a discussion of the differences.^{4/}

^{4/} Two statistical tests of significance were used to reveal differences between the two groups: (1) t-statistics (and probability) to determine differences between means and (2) chi-square. A significant difference was defined as one that occurred at least no more than 5 percent of the time or at the 0.05-level of significance. The magnitude of the relations between variables was measured by gamma—gamma ranged from -1.0 to +1.0. Gamma allows one to determine the proportion of variance explained in the dependent variable by knowledge of the independent variable; for example, a gamma value of 0.26 indicates that 26 percent of the variance in the dependent variable can be explained by knowledge of the independent variable. The closer gamma comes to zero, the weaker the relation becomes (Blalock 1972, Mueller and others 1977).

Patterns of Dispersed Recreation Use

Patterns of use of dispersed recreation (table 1) are compared for men and women. Similarities between men and women included:

- They visited dispersed recreational areas five times during the previous year and made fewer visits to minimally and highly developed campgrounds.
- Length of stay was 4 nights.
- The usual size of the group was six individuals.
- Campers learned about the area through family, friends, or acquaintances.

Differences between men and women included:

- Men had a longer history of use in these dispersed areas; men reported having visited the area for 8 years before the interview as compared to women who had visited for 6 years.

Preferences for Recreation Settings

Preferences for recreational settings (table 2) are compared for men and women, specifically, their history as children camping in different settings, their camping preferences today, and their projected future plans for camping in dispersed roaded settings.

Similarities included:

- Men and women were similar in their preferences for forest recreational areas; their first choice was dispersed, roaded areas followed by minimally developed campgrounds and roadless or wilderness areas.

Differences included:

- Experiences with camping as children were different for men and women; more men (37 percent) than women (23 percent) participated in dispersed recreational activities as children.
- Men, as children, visited dispersed recreation areas more frequently than they did roadless areas, wilderness areas, or highly developed areas.
- Women either did not camp as children, or they camped in dispersed or minimally developed areas.
- Women expected to increase their visits to this dispersed, roaded area in the next few years; men did not perceive a change in their use of the area.

Table 1—Reported patterns of use by campers

Patterns of use <u>1/</u>	Campers <u>2/</u>	
	Female	Male
Number of trips made by campers to each area last year, in mean years:	(N=369)	(N=445)
Highly developed campgrounds (t=1.72, p=0.9, N.S.)	1.2	1.5
Minimally developed campgrounds (t=1.16, p=0.11, N.S.)	2.8	3.2
Dispersed roaded recreation area (t=2.14, p=0.04 *)	5.0	5.0
Roadless or wilderness areas (t=1.71, p=0.09, N.S.)	1.2	1.5
Length of stay:	(N=394)	(N=482)
Number of nights party stayed at site, mean (t=1.71, p=0.09)	3.7	4.4
Size of party:	(N=394)	(N=482)
Number of people in camping party, mean	6.1	5.5
Number of years camper has been visiting this dispersed roaded recreation area, in mean years (t=4.86, p=0*)	(N=394) 5.6	(N=482) 8.3
How campers first learned about this area, in percent:	(N=386)	(N=473)
Friends or acquaintances (t=0.14, p=0.89, N.S.)	47	47
Family (t=2.75, p=0.01 *)	25	17
Land management agency representative or official (t=1.28, p=0.20, N.S.)	--	1
Newspaper, magazine, or mass media (t=0.42, p=0.68, N.S.)	1	1
Organization or club (t=0.03, p=0.98, N.S.)	1	1
Publication, map, or brochure (t=0.93, p=0.35, N.S.)	2	3

1/ The information in parentheses is the t-statistics and probability, and the asterisk (*) represents significance at the specified level.

2/ N is the number of respondents.

Table 2—Preferences for recreation setting

Users' preferences	Campers <u>1/</u>	
	Female	Male
Types of recreational camping participated in as a child, in percent: <u>2/</u>	(N=383)	(N=475)
Highly developed campgrounds (t=-1.22, p=0.22, N.S.)	12	9
Minimally developed campgrounds (t=0.02, p=0.98, N.S.)	27	27
Dispersed roaded recreation area (t=4.59, p=0*)	23	37
Roadless or wilderness areas (t=5.30, p=0*)	11	25
Other (t=-1.45, p=0.15, N.S.)	4	3
Did not camp as a child (t=-3.98, p=0*)	35	23
Campers preference for different forest recreational areas, ranked by means:	(N=358)	(N=441)
Highly developed campgrounds (t=1.09, N.S.)	3.4	3.5
Minimally developed campgrounds (t=1.82, p=0.07, N.S.)	2.0	2.1
Dispersed roaded recreation area (t=-0.80, N.S.)	1.5	1.5
Roadless or wilderness areas (t=-1.80, p=0.07, N.S.)	3.1	2.9
Perceived change in use during the next few years, in percent: <u>3/</u>		
Dispersed roaded recreation areas--		
Increase	66.6	59.6
Remain the same	29.3	37.1
Decrease	4.1	3.3
(X ² , 2 df = 5.60 p=0.06)		

1/ N is the number of respondents.

2/ The information in parentheses is the t-statistics and probability, and the asterisk (*) represents significance at the specified level.

3/ The information in parentheses is the chi-square and probability, and the asterisk (*) represents significance at the specified level.

Overall, women had used dispersed areas less than men as children and with fewer trips each year. Many women had not camped as children and were far more likely to learn about dispersed camping areas through family members than were men. In comparison, men were much more likely than women to learn about the areas through exploration. These findings suggested different patterns of socialization into dispersed recreational areas for women and men. Women's adult recreational patterns, as Iso-Ahola's (1980) research suggests, may be more dependent upon situational factors than are men's. Women's recreational patterns, at least in this setting (dispersed roaded area), may be more dependent on the patterns and preferences of the men with whom they recreate. One might suggest, alternatively, that outdoor recreational activity is becoming a more acceptable sphere of activity for women, and these changes in participation reflect women's overall increasing participation in numerous aspects of social life. The women in our study were more likely than the men to expect changes in future use levels—either increasing or decreasing—both in dispersed and roadless areas.

Preferences for Recreational Activities

Most studies of leisure and recreation suggest that types of activities and rates of participation are different for men and women. In this study, campers were provided with a list of activities that might take place in their dispersed, roaded recreation area. We asked them to "check the ones that you like to engage in when you visit this area." The list consisted of motorized activities, outdoor activities, campsite activities, or gathering forest products. The items chosen for the questionnaire were based on the standard SCORP (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) categories; activities not suitable for dispersed areas were eliminated (for instance, golf), and other activities were added (for example, gathering forest products). Campers could write in other activities of interest. Of the 40 activities, 17 were similar for men and women, and 23 activities were different (table 3).

Similarities included:

- Both men and women preferred certain motorized activities, such as riding in four-wheel drive vehicles and riding motorbikes.
- Around the campsite, both men and women enjoyed doing camp chores and viewing natural scenery.
- Outdoor activities preferred by both men and women included photography and boating or canoeing.

Differences included:

- Females were more likely than males to like day hiking, swimming, nature walks, bicycling, picnicking, playing in snow, picking berries, collecting forest specimens, and collecting rocks.
- Women preferred short walks near camp, visiting with companions in the same group, singing or enjoying music, resting or relaxing, playing outdoor games, drawing or painting, sunbathing, reading, and playing cards.
- Males were more likely than females to like snowmobiling, fishing, hunting, target shooting, overnight backpacking, snowshoeing, and cutting firewood for home use.

Table 3—Reported preferences for activities by male and female campers

Activity	Campers			Ranking	
	Female	Male	T-value	Female	Male
- -Percent- -					
Campsite activities:					
Resting, relaxing	86	76	-3.93***	1	3
Short walks near camp	85	72	-4.82***	2	4
Doing camp chores (gathering wood, building fires, cooking)	83	80	-1.35	3	2
Visiting with companions in same group	77	68	-2.85**	4	6
Viewing natural scenery	76	71	-1.57	5	5
Reading	58	29	-.04***	8	20
Playing cards	51	40	-3.20***	9	10
Sunbathing	48	26	-6.92***	11	21
Playing outdoor games (frisbee, horseshoes, catch)	42	38	-1.04	15	12
Singing or enjoying music	34	24	-3.45***	20	25.5
Drinking alcoholic beverages	29	34	1.32	23	16
Visiting with people from other groups	25	24	-.42	25	25.5
Drawing, painting	11	3	-4.32***	36	40
Outdoor activities:					
Fishing	75	82	2.44*	6	1
Nature walks to observe plants, birds, and animals in their natural surroundings	62	47	-4.47***	7	8
Day hiking to adjacent areas	46	35	-3.15**	12	14
Picnicking	45	30	-4.58***	13	17
Hunting	43	64	6.64***	14	7
Swimming	38	26	-3.98***	19	22.5
Photography	33	29	-1.11	21	19
Playing in the snow	22	14	-2.95**	26	32
Boating or canoeing	19	20	.57	27	27
Target shooting or plinking	18	36	5.95**	26	32
Mountain climbing	16	16	.12	31	31
Horseback riding	15	14	-.54	32	23
Rafting and river floating	14	11	-1.52	33	35.5
Bicycling	14	6	-3.86***	34	37
Backpacking to adjacent areas (overnight)	10	17	3.28***	37	29
Cross-country skiing	2	4	1.63	39.5	38.5
Snowshoeing	2	4	2.54*	39.5	38.5
Motorized activities:					
Driving and sightseeing from vehicle	50	44	-1.83	10	9
Motorbike riding	39	39	.19	18	11
Four-wheel driving or jeeping	25	30	1.56	24	18
Snowmobiling	7	2	2.46*	38	34
Gathering forest products:					
Berry picking	41	35	-1.84	16	15
Collecting specimens, such as flowers, insects, drift- wood, or cones	40	17	-7.68***	17	30
Collecting rocks	32	24	-2.52*	22	24
Cutting firewood for home use	17	26	3.00**	29	22.5
Gathering natural foods such as mushrooms and edible plants	16	19	.99	30	28
Christmas tree cutting	11	11	-.06	35	35
No activities mentioned	.8	1.5			
Total number of respondents	(394)	(482)			

Level of significance: *0.05, **0.01, ***0.001.

A distinction needs to be made between the preference for an activity and the experience or meaning of participating in an activity. Activities listed in table 3 are not exclusive—many may be engaged in simultaneously; for example, a camper may rest and relax while visiting with companions of their own or another group and enjoy music or sing. The activities are not independent of each other. Several activities may, in fact, be important to users, and the experience may encompass multiple satisfactions (Hendee and others 1977).

It is misleading to infer the same meaning for both men and women from one activity. For men, fishing, relaxing, and visiting with companions may be related, but for women fishing may be neither relaxing nor social (Samdahl 1979). These data do not address whether the experiences behind these activities are the same or different. Further studies are necessary to sort out such relations.

Perceptions of Management Problems

Campers were asked to arrange a list of potential management problems by perceived importance (tables 4 and 5). Overall, we found more similarities than differences between men and women. The differences we found were statistically significant but were small.

Similarities included:

- Men and women generally felt safe from forest fires and logging traffic.
- Both men and women perceived litter and garbage as becoming a problem.
- Main streams in the area were clear enough to drink.
- Dust from roads was seen as a problem.
- Lack of directional signs on roads was “okay.”

Differences included:

- More women than men felt that the Forest Service should alert users to potential hazards, such as poisonous snakes, dangerous roads, and polluted water.
- More men than women saw theft of equipment as becoming a problem.
- More men than women thought noise from motorbikes was a problem or was becoming one.
- Men saw vandalism as more of a problem.
- More men than women perceived the lack of maps as becoming a problem.

Table 4—Perceptions reported by campers about management problems

	Attitude			Total response <u>1/</u>
Management problems	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	
	- - - - - Percent - - - - -			
Safety				
The Forest Service should alert users to potential hazards in dispersed road recreation areas (such as poisonous snakes, dangerous roads, polluted water, etc.):				
Female	91	3	6	100 (N=392)
Male	85	8	7	100 (N=477)
Sanitation				
Human body waste disposal is really not an important problem in dispersed areas because nature quickly takes care of it:				
Female	38	16	46	100 (N=386)
Male	46	14	40	100 (N=471)

1/ N is the total number of respondents.

Men and women expressed similar perceptions of management problems. Differences found were small and subtle. One of the more apparent differences between men and women was over the lack of maps. Possible explanations for this are that men were more aware than women of the advantages of having a map in their possession as a result of more experience in dispersed, roaded areas; that rapid changes were occurring through logging activities in some locations, and men felt a greater need for maps as a result; and that exploring and viewing scenery were favorite activities of men and maps enhance this activity.

Table 5—Perceptions reported by campers about management activities

	Attitude				
Management activities	Now a problem	Becoming a problem	Not now a problem	No opinion	Total response ₁ /
- - - - - Percent - - - - -					
Depreciative behavior					
How important do you feel the following are in this area?:					
Vandalism--to personal or private property--					
Female	6	37	47	9	100 (N=388)
Male	9	36	47	8	100 (N=479)
(X ² =15.60, p=0.001, Y =0.21 ²)					
Theft of equipment					
Female	4	25	62	9	100 (N=386)
Male	5	33	53	9	100 (N=480)
(X ² =8.55, p=0.03, Y =0.15*)					
Other impacts					
Noise from motorbikes:					
Female	10	35	50	5	100 (N=388)
Male	17	38	41	4	100 (N=460)
(X ² =10.9, p=0.01, Y =0.18*)					
User information					
Lack of maps:					
Female	7	27	50	16	100 (N=385)
Male	9	35	45	11	100 (N=474)
(X ² =10.97, p=0.01, Y =0.18)					

₁/ N is the number of respondents.

₂/ The information in parentheses is the chi-square and probability, and the asterisk (*) represents significance at the specified level.

Attitudes About Selected Management Activities

Campers were asked to respond to several statements about management activities, such as road management, logging, rules and regulations, and agency presence (table 6).

Similarities between men and women included:

- The impact of large-scale logging on the landscape would detract from enjoyment of the area.
- It was "okay" to close some roads for road maintenance or repair, to protect wildlife, and to reduce fire hazards.
- The current rules and regulations in the area were reasonable.

Table 6—Attitudes of campers about selected management activities for roads

Activity and respondents <u>1/</u>	Attitude			Total response <u>2/</u>
	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	
	- - - - - Percent - - - - -			
It's okay to close some roads to vehicles to improve hunting quality:				
Female	49	21	30	100 (N=378)
Male	63	11	26	100 (N=474)
($\chi^2=19.95$, $p=0$, $\gamma=-0.20*$)				
Paving of a few main forest roads for dispersed recreation would be a good policy:				
Female	34	19	47	100 (N=392)
Male	29	12	59	100 (N=479)
($\chi^2=14.59$, $p=0.001$, $\gamma=0.18*$)				
More roads should be constructed in this area:				
Female	14	30	56	100 (N=383)
Male	10	18	72	100 (N=474)
($\chi^2=23.33$, $p=0$, $\gamma=0.29*$)				

1/ The information in parentheses is the chi-square value and the measure of association, and the asterisk (*) represents significance at the 0.05 level.

2/ N is the number of respondents.

Differences included:

- Clearcuttings were "okay" but more so to men than to women.
- Closing roads to improve hunting quality was more likely to be supported by men than by women.
- Building more roads in the areas was favored more by women than men.

Men and women had various attitudes about management activities. Campers' views regarding the appropriateness of rules and regulations in the area were requested. Freedom and general lack of regimentation were features users of dispersed, roaded recreational areas preferred. In fact, many dogs ran free, target shooting was allowed, and people in general were unencumbered by rules and regulations.

Men and women were split in their response to the statement, "It's okay to close some roads to vehicles to improve hunting quality." The majority of men (63 percent) agreed with the statement, whereas about one-half (49 percent) of the women agreed. We would expect men to favor a management practice to improve hunting quality because hunting was a preferred male activity.

Both men and women viewed paving a few main forest roads for dispersed recreation and construction of more roads as inappropriate. More men than women were against road construction in both cases. One of the largest differences in the study was over the statement about constructing more roads; 72 percent of the men disagreed with this statement vs. 56 percent of the women.

A pattern that appeared throughout the study was women giving a higher percentage of "neutral" or "no opinion" responses than men did. In the example above, for instance, more women than men were neutral on the item that roads should be constructed, 30 percent versus 18 percent. The one exception to this pattern was the strong opinion women had about the Forest Service responsibility to alert users to potential hazards (for example, poisonous snakes, dangerous roads, and polluted water). This higher "neutral" response perhaps indicated a general lack of knowledge about the area, or it may have been a reflection of socialization factors for women, such as lack of assertiveness, resistance to change, and an unwillingness to trust their own judgment (Franks and Rothblum 1983).

Conclusion

This paper focused on the similarities and differences in attitudes and behavior between men and women camping in three dispersed, roaded areas in Oregon and Washington. Much has been written on the differences between women and men in the social world, but there is very little about the differences in experiences for outdoor recreation. This analysis of campers in a dispersed setting was an effort to answer the question, How are men and women similar and dissimilar in patterns of use, activity preferences, in perceptions of management problems, and in attitudes about management activities? What was striking about the results was the amount of similarity between men and women. Although some differences were noted, they were generally small. The validation and elaboration of our findings require further study. Why men and women perceived or felt differently about an issue may be attributed to different experience levels in the outdoors, or it may be influenced by other gender-linked values. The men in our sample had more experience in the outdoors as children than the women did and had been visiting the particular dispersed area for a longer period of time.

In considering differences between men and women in outdoor recreation, researchers need to consider both the population being sampled and the actual behaviors being studied. Thus, it is misleading to report that males engage in a wider range of outdoor recreational activities than do females (Zuzanek 1978). The range of activities is a reflection of the sample, the given list of activities, and the respective salience of those activities to females and males. In this study, females, on the average, liked to engage in more activities than did males. This finding holds only for this sample and for this list of activities. Several of the activity choices—such as those under “gathering forest products” or “campsite activities”—are not part of conventional studies, yet they contain many activities preferred by females. Thus, much previous research found that males engage in more activities because the research focused on male activities. Similar findings have emerged in other areas of social science research (Sherif 1979). This suggests that to understand female involvement in outdoor activities we need to broaden our perspective to look at all possible activities for men and women and not just at traditionally defined activities.

Research needs are many, and most important is the need for longitudinal studies on the experiential differences between men and women: Are experiences and meanings of activities different or alike for men and women? How are values changing? Do differences occur as a result of opportunity and experience, or can they be accounted for by socialization factors such as values? Does the concept of a party leader still hold with mixed-sex groups or is group consensus the practice among these campers? How might differences influence the choice of a particular form of recreation (Stankey and McCool 1985)? Such research needs to differentiate attitudes among all-male groups, all-female groups, and mixed groups.

Certainly the increase in female participation in outdoor recreation and the limited information about similarities and differences between men and women suggest the need for further study. The focus needs to be on the motives, meanings, and experiences behind the activities men and women select. Such information will enhance management to manage for particular types of users and for recreational opportunities in roaded forests.

Acknowledgments

This study was conducted under a cooperative research agreement between the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Seattle, Washington; and the University of Washington, College of Forest Resources, Seattle, Washington.

Literature Cited

- American Sociological Association**, Committee on the Status of Women in Sociology. Sexist bias in sociological research: problems and issues. ASA Footnotes. **1980** January: 8-9.
- Angrist, S.S.** Role constellation as a variable in women's leisure activities. Social Forces. 45: 423-431; **1967**.
- Bernard, J.** The female world. New York: The Free Press/MacMillan Publ. Co.; **1981**.
- Blalock, H.M., Jr.** Social statistics. 2d ed. New York: McGraw-Hill; **1972**. 583 p.
- Boothby, J.; Tungatt, M.F.; Townsend, A.R.** Ceasing participation in sports activity: reported reasons and their implications. Journal of Leisure Research. 13(1): 1-14; **1981**.
- Bott, E.** Family and social network: roles, norms, and external relationships in ordinary urban families. 2d ed. New York: The Free Press; **1971**.
- Bryan, H.** Conflict in the great outdoors. Sociological Studies No. 4, Bureau of Public Administration, University of Alabama. Birmingham, AL: The Birmingham Publ. Co.; **1979**.
- Buist, L.J.; Hoots, T.A.** Recreation opportunity spectrum approach to resource planning. Journal of Forestry. 80(2): 84-86; **1982**.
- Burch, W.R., Jr.** The play world of camping: research into the social meaning of outdoor recreation. American Journal of Sociology. 70: 604-612; **1965**.
- Burch W.R., Jr.; Wenger, W.D., Jr.** The social characteristics of participants in three styles of family camping. Res. Pap. PNW-48. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station; **1967**. 30 p.
- Cheek, N.H., Jr.** Sociological perspectives on the zoological park. In: Cheek, N.H., Jr.; Field, D.R.; Burdge R.J., eds. Leisure and recreation places. Ann Arbor, MI: Ann Arbor Science Publishers; **1976**: 47-57.
- Cheek, N.H., Jr.; Burch, W.R., Jr.** The social organization of leisure in human society. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row; **1976**.
- Clark, R.N.; Koch, R.W.; Hogans, M.L.; Christensen, H.H.; Hendee J.C.** The value of roaded, multiple use areas as recreation sites in three National Forests of the Pacific Northwest. Res. Pap. PNW-319. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station; **1984**. 40 p.

- Clark, R.N.; Stankey, G.H.** The recreation opportunity spectrum: a framework for planning, management, and research. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-98. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station; **1979**. 32 p.
- Dannefer, D.** Rationality and passion in private experience: modern consciousness and the social world of old-car collectors. *Social Problems*. 27(4): 392-412; **1980**.
- DeVall, B.** Social worlds of leisure. In: Cheek, N.H., Jr.; Field, D.R.; Burdge, R.J., eds. *Leisure and recreation places*. Ann Arbor, MI: Ann Arbor Science Publishers, **1976**: 131-142.
- Dottavio, F.D.; O'Leary, J.T.; Koth, B.** The social group variable in recreation participation studies. *Journal of Leisure Research*. 12(4): 357-367; **1980**.
- Driver, B.L.; Knopf, R.C.** Personality, outdoor recreation, and expected consequences. *Environment and Behavior*. 9(2): 169-193; **1977**.
- Farmer, K.** *Woman in the woods*. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole Books; **1976**.
- Franks, V.; Rothblum, E.D.** *The stereotyping of women*. New York: Springer Publishing Co.; **1983**. 275 p.
- Galland, C.** *Women in the wilderness*. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row; **1980**. 162 p.
- Gentry, J.W.; Doehring, M.** Sex role orientation and leisure. *Journal of Leisure Research*. 11(2): 102-111; **1979**.
- Gilligan, C.** *In a different voice*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press; **1982**. 184 p.
- Govaerts, F.** *Loisirs des femmes et temps libre*. Bruxelles, Belgique: Etudes du Centre National de Sociologie du Travail, Section Loisir et Culture Modernes. Editions de l'Institut de Sociologie, Université Libre de Bruxelles; **1969**.
- Griffin, S.** *Woman and nature: the roaring inside her*. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row; **1978**. 263 p.
- Hendee, J.C.; Clark, R.N.; Hogans, M.L.; Wood, D.; Koch, R.W.** Code-A-Site: a system for inventory of dispersed recreational sites in roaded areas, back country, and wilderness. Res. Pap. PNW-209. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station; **1976a**. 33 p.
- Hendee, J.C.; Clark, R.N.; Dailey, T.E.** Fishing and other recreation behavior at high-mountain lakes in Washington State. Res. Note PNW-304. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station; **1977**. 27 p.
- Hendee, J.C.; Hogans, M.L.; Koch, R.W.** Dispersed recreation on three forest road systems in Washington and Oregon: first year data. Res. Note NW-280. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station; **1976b**. 21 p.

- Iso-Ahola, S.E.** Basic dimensions of definitions of leisure. *Journal of Leisure Research*. 11(1): 28-39; **1979**.
- Kelly, J.R.** Outdoor recreation participation: a comparative analysis. *Leisure Sciences*. 3(2): 129-154; **1980**.
- Kleiber, D.A.** Free time activity and psycho-social adjustment in college students: a preliminary analysis. *Journal of Leisure Research*. 12(3): 205-212; **1980**.
- LaBastille, A.** Woman and wilderness. San Francisco, CA: Sierra Club Books; **1980**. 310 p.
- Lee, R.B.** The !Kung San: men, women, and work in a foraging society. New York: Cambridge University Press; **1979**.
- Lopata, H.Z.; Thorne, B.** On the term "sex roles." *Signs*. 3(3): 718-721; **1978**.
- Maloney, T.L.; Petrie, B.M.** Professionalization of attitude toward play among Canadian school pupils as a function of sex, grade, and athletic participation. *Journal of Leisure Research*. 4(3): 184-195; **1972**.
- Merchant, C.** The death of nature: women, ecology, and the scientific revolution. New York: Harper & Row; **1980**.
- Mueller, J.H.; Schuessler, K.F.; Costner, H.L.** Statistical reasoning in sociology. 3d ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin; **1977**.
- Peterson, R.; Wekerle, G.; Morley, D.** Women and environments: an overview of an emerging field. *Environment and Behavior*. 10(4): 511-534; **1978**.
- Ragheb, M.G.** Interrelationships among leisure participation, leisure satisfaction and leisure attitudes. *Journal of Leisure Research*. 12(2): 138-149; **1980**.
- Rapoport, R.; Rapoport, R.M.; Strelitz, Z.** Leisure and the life cycle. Boston, MA: Routledge & Kegan Paul; **1975**.
- Rubin, L.B.** Worlds of pain: life in the working class family. New York: Basic Books, Inc.; **1976**.
- Samdahl, D.M.** The role of the social group in leisure. Seattle, WA: University of Washington; **1979**. M.S. thesis.
- Sherif, C.W.** Bias in psychology. In: Sherman, J.A.; Beck, E.T., eds. The prism of sex: essays in the sociology of knowledge. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press; **1979**: 93-133.
- Smith, D.E.** A sociology for women. In: Sherman, J.A.; Beck, E.T., eds. The prism of sex: essays in the sociology of knowledge. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press; **1979**: 135-187.

- Stankey, G.H.; McCool, S.F., comps.** Proceedings—symposium on recreation choice behavior; 1984 March 22-23; Missoula, MT. Gen. Tech. Rep. INT-184. Ogden, UT U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station. **1985.** 106 p.
- Starnes, R.** A lady in camp. *Outdoor Life*. **1980** December: 14-17.
- Theobald, W.F.** Discrimination in public recreation: attitudes toward and participation of females. *Leisure Sciences*. 1(3): 231-240; **1978.**
- Thomas, L.** The backpacking woman. Garden City, NY: Anchor Press/Doubleday; **1980.** 268 p.
- Tresemmer, D.** Assumptions made about gender roles. In: Millman, M.; Moss Kanter, R., eds. Another voice: feminist perspectives on social life and social science. Garden City, NY: Anchor Press/Doubleday; **1975:** 308-339.
- Unkel, M.G.** Physical recreation participation of females and males during the adult life cycle. *Leisure Sciences*. 4(1): 1-27; **1981.**
- Uzendoski, E.J.** Deer hunting in popular outdoor magazines. *Journal of American Culture*. **1967:** 606-615.
- Vernon, J.** Recreation participation and ethnicity. In: Cheek, N.H., Jr.; Field, D.R.; Burdge, R.J., eds. Leisure and recreation places. Ann Arbor, MI: Ann Arbor Science Publishers; **1976:** 113-129.
- Watson, S.W.; Legg, M.H.; Reeves, J.B.** The enduro dirt-bike rider: an empirical investigation. *Leisure Sciences*. 3(3): 241-255; **1980.**
- Witt, P.A.; Goodale, T.L.** The relationships between barriers to leisure enjoyment and family stages. *Leisure Sciences*. 4(1): 29-49; **1981.**
- Zuzanek, J.** Social differences in leisure behavior: measurement and interpretation. *Leisure Sciences*. 1(3): 271-294; **1978.**

Christensen, Harriet H.; Williams, Paula J.; Clark, Roger N. Values and choices in outdoor recreation by male and female campers in dispersed recreation areas. Res. Pap. PNW-RP-377. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station; **1987**. 20 p.

Objective information is generally lacking about women and their satisfactions and experiences from participation in outdoor recreation. Data were gathered from campers in three National Forests in Washington and Oregon. Attitudes, preferences, perceptions, and reported activities of men and women campers were compared. Overall, responses showed more similarities than differences; men and women were similar in their usage patterns, activity preferences, perceptions of problems, and attitudes about management practices. Small differences were present, however, and managers need to be aware of these differences when integrating recreation with other forest activities.

Keywords: Dispersed recreation, recreation surveys, recreation management, human behavior.

The Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the principle of multiple use management of the Nation's forest resources for sustained yields of wood, water, forage, wildlife, and recreation. Through forestry research, cooperation with the States and private forest owners, and management of the National Forests and National Grasslands, it strives — as directed by Congress — to provide increasingly greater service to a growing Nation.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applicants for all Department programs will be given equal consideration without regard to age, race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.

Pacific Northwest Research Station
319 S.W. Pine St.
P.O. Box 3890
Portland, Oregon 97208



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Pacific Northwest Research Station
319 S.W. Pine Street
P.O. Box 3890
Portland, Oregon 97208

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use, \$300

BULK RATE
POSTAGE
FEES PAID
USDA-FS
PERMIT No G-40