

Recreation Visitation in Tropical Forest Rivers: Puerto Rico's Mameyes and Espiritu Santo

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Abstract. A travel cost demand model is generally used to measure seasonal visitation at the individual level. Site impact, however, is related to total peak visitation. The research presented here examines daily and seasonal visitation, which are directly related to site impact. An econometric model will predict estimated visitation levels in two watersheds located in northeastern Puerto Rico. This paper also makes the important but previously overlooked distinction between total visitation rates and number of visitors actually recreating in the river. The analysis is of particular relevance to river recreation management and environmental impact assessment, particularly in tropical forests.

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