



Collection and analysis of recreation use data are explained in this paper. Part I explains how to design a statistically valid sampling plan. Basic statistical sample design and analysis is outlined. Retrieval and use of a computer program, RECUSE, is explained. This program will select a random sample of days, determine appropriate sample size, and statistically describe the survey results.

Decision keys in Part II assist managers in selecting the most appropriate technique and equipment for collecting recreation use data. The pros and cons of using various equipment are summarized. Use of techniques and equipment is explained in detail for indirect nonstatistical methods of data collection, traffic counters, personal observation, cameras,

registration stations, visitor surveys, mandatory permits, fee receipts, and other indirect count methods.

Conversion of raw recreation data into report format is explained in Part III. Information includes calculation of activity duration factors and recreation visitor days. Appendixes (A-G) contain forms for recording recreation use data.

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## Purpose

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This guide is intended to help USDA Forest Service field personnel collect and analyze recreation use data in a variety of recreation settings. These settings range from concentrated use—urban areas to dispersed use—semi-primitive non-motorized areas. Although knowledge of sampling and basic statistics is useful, this guide is designed for people with no background in these subjects.

Part I assists managers in designing a statistically valid sampling plan. First, the importance of gathering and summarizing accurate recreation use data and the relationship to upward reporting (that is, the Infrastructure database) are discussed. Next, where and when sampling recreation use should occur is described. The manager is led through a step-by-step process to design a sampling plan.

In Part II, a step-by-step selection process helps managers choose appropriate data collection techniques. In-depth information about each data collection technique is given. Finally, Part III guides managers through the process of converting the raw collected data into report format (recreation visitor days).