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## Simulation of Recreational Use for Park & Wilderness Management, M. Schachter and R. Luca

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# **SIMULATION OF RECREATIONAL USE FOR PARK & WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT**

By M. SCHACHTER and R. LUCAS

Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press for Resources for the Future.  
1979. Pp. 219. \$18.50.

There are books on marketing, books on business administration, and books that focus on other areas addressed to line level operations people or their managers, a reasonable number of which are readable and cover the subject in a more than "how to do it" manner. They deal with theory and method in a way that is understandable and yet fairly rigorous. **SIMULATION OF RECREATIONAL USE FOR PARK & WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT** falls into the above class. Because such volumes in relation to natural resources management are rare, this is a useful document for managers of wilderness and other resources that can be managed using similar approaches.

The volume progresses in a logical manner designed to suit the needs of the reader, moving from a general framework statement on simulation and its relation to decision making to a more specific discussion of simulation techniques. Having laid a background, the authors proceed to the discussion of a specific example. A framework for applying the technique is established by a readable introduction. Then the results of applying simulation are presented in practical terms. Subsequently, the authors return to more theoretical issues such as how best to use the simulator, and how to choose the more effective variables to be used in simulation. In particular, they cover practical considerations of time periods to be used in the context of objectives to be achieved.

It is a matter of concern, however, that the authors leave the impression that the simulator can be applied to almost any kind of dispersed recreation without difficulty. Many recreation situations involve people moving along trails, rivers, or other linear corridors. This does not make it immediately apparent that the simulator will provide useful information for management. What the problems are and what management options should or can be considered often is defined with difficulty. Only after specifying problems and options can the relevance of using the simulator be considered. Frequently it is not obvious what user group's experience should be favored, how many contacts of which type between parties is undesirable, etc. There is a danger that the considerations just raised will be ignored as this book facilitates this type of simulation being a method in search of an application. The authors tend to accept a policy framework

which is the one prevailing in the situations they were thinking about. A chapter on different policy considerations or management problems—different quota, lottery, and price allocations—and their implications for the use of the simulator would have been a useful addition.

This volume is identified as being for managers but, in fact, it is a must for researchers supporting managers who can use simulation. Probably it is the manager who should skim the book; the researcher can help him operationalize what is indicated there. The book provides a critical link between researchers or systems analysts, who often do not appreciate practical points, and the manager. Regardless, managers, their support researchers, and even academics who feel they have a fairly pure role to play in such matters, should benefit substantially from this volume.

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