

Nitas Nunsong 2006: Assessment of Forest - based Recreation Resource Potential.

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The objectives of this study were to conduct inventories on bio-physical characteristics of forest-based recreation resources in nature trail and waterfall areas and to assess recreation resource potential of Kaew Mae Pan Nature Trail, Km. 33-Nong Pak Chi Nature Trail, Ban Krang Camp Nature Trail, Krung Ching Nature Trail, Mae Ya Waterfall, Heaw Narok Waterfall, Pala-u Waterfall, and Karom Waterfall. Purposive sampling was used to select the study sites. The inventories were based on 10 groups of indicators including distinctiveness of plant community, opportunity for wildlife sighting, physical uniqueness of key resource, scenic quality of landscape, significance for resource interpretation, suitability for certain type of recreation activity, site resistance, connection of the site to others, safety, and climate. The total number of potential indicators was 31. The inventories were done in one with three replicated measurements for 14 indicators. Simple weighted score equation was used to assess recreation resource potential level.

The study found that Kaew Mae Pan Nature Trail had a very high resource potential score of 3.7490. While Km. 33-Nong Pak Chi Nature Trail and Krung Ching Nature Trail had high potential scores of 3.3266 and 3.2482 respectively and Ban Krang Camp Nature Trail had moderate potential score of 2.736. All the four waterfalls had high potential scores. The highest score of 3.4282 went to Karom Waterfall. The others were Mae Ya Waterfall, Heaw Narok Waterfall, and Pala-u Waterfall with the scores of 3.2025, 3.1610, and 3.1054 respectively. The comparison of this study result to a study of Tanakanjana, et. al (2005) that used the same potential indicators with a single measurement for all indicators found that level of recreation resource potential for all eight sites were same.

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