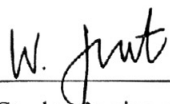


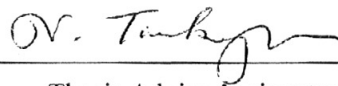
Wanida Jinakot 2008: Analysis of Recreational Uses in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary.  
Master of Science (Parks and Recreation), Major Field: Parks and Recreation, Department of  
Conservation. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Noppawan Tanakanjana, Ph.D. 139 pages.

The objectives of this study were to study socio-demographic characteristics, recreation use patterns and recreation behavior, to examine factors influencing the recreation behaviors, to predict trend of recreational uses and to conduct a preliminary survey of physical recreation impacts at 2 recreation sites in Huai Kha Khaeng wildlife sanctuary ; the sanctuary headquarters and Cyber ranger station. Questionnaire was used to collect data from 411 visitors. The survey data were analyzed and concluded by using descriptive statistics, factor analysis and multiple regression analysis.

The study found that average age of visitors was 28.5 years. The majority of visitors hold bachelor degree and type of visitor was non-local resident. Most visitors had experience in visiting natural areas but they had no experience in visiting Huai Kha Khaeng wildlife sanctuary. Major travel group was group of friends with average group size of 20 persons and average length of stay was one night. Type of recreation activity performed by most visitors in natural areas and Huai Kha Khaeng wildlife sanctuary was sightseeing. Factor analysis found that recreation motivation could be grouped into 5 factors, the five factors accounted for 80% of variance in visitors' motivation and most visitors had motivation in visiting natural areas, closing to nature and learning ecosystem. The average score of knowledge on recreation impacts was moderate. Level of visitors' perception on norm and regulations of the area was high. Values toward natural resource utilization of most visitors were moderate and their recreation behaviors were relatively positive. Factors significantly influenced recreation behaviors of visitors to Huai Kha Khaeng wildlife sanctuary were knowledge on recreation impacts (Beta=0.224; Sig.=0.000); age (Beta=0.173; Sig.=0.001); values toward natural resource utilization (Beta=-0.160; Sig.=0.002); recreation activity in Huai Kha Khaeng wildlife sanctuary (Beta=0.127; Sig.=0.011); and motivation in visiting natural areas, closing to nature and learning ecosystem (Beta=0.128; Sig.=0.029). Trend in quantity of recreational use within Huai Kha Khaeng wildlife sanctuary was decreased while recreation behavior trend was positive. The preliminary survey on physical recreation impacts found low level of impact evidences.



Student's signature



Thesis Advisor's signature

