

Paphada Suebplai 2010: Visitors' Opinion to Nature Interpretive Sign System and Mangrove Nature Trail at Pranburi Forest Park, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province. Master of Science (Parks, Recreation, and Tourism), Major Field: Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, Department of Conservation. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Phatchanuch Wongwathana Foster, Ph.D. 124 pages.

The objectives of this research were to study personal information of the visitors, visitors' knowledge about mangrove ecosystem, and visitors' opinions on a nature interpretive sign system and a mangrove nature trail at Pranburi Forest Park. A comparison of youth and adult groups were considered. Data was collected by using an on-site questionnaire survey of 400 visitors (200 samples for each group). Descriptive statistics, t-test and F-test were employed to analyze the data.

The results revealed that levels of knowledge of a mangrove ecosystem between the youth and adult groups were moderate and were not different at the significant level of 0.05. The two groups highly agreed that the present settings of the nature interpretive sign system and the mangrove nature trail are suitable. Their opinions were not different at the significant level of 0.05. However, when compared the differences of the knowledge levels and opinions on the interpretive sign system and the nature trail among the youth and the adults with different age intervals the study showed the differences among the groups. Moreover, the education levels, occupations, and visitation experience contributed to the differences of visitor's opinions on the nature interpretive sign system and the mangrove nature trail.

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Student's signature

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Thesis Advisor's signature