

RECREATION RESOURCE LEADER'S GUIDE

OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to —

- Consider different types of recreational development
- Understand some impacts of recreational uses on timberland
- Know the two most important things you should bring to the woods
- Appreciate the sights and sounds of the forest environment

You will be taking a hike through the forest, stopping at a number of places to talk about what you see. Watch for things on your Discovery List during the hike and answer these questions during your hike or at the end. Enjoy the walk!

- A. Garbage dumps can be a big challenge, when land is open the public. What ideas might a landowner consider to minimize this problem?

Put out ample garbage cans. Post 'No Dumping' signs.

- B. In some areas, there are a lot of diverse understory plants. Is this good? Why?

Diversity is important to forest ecosystems, the more kinds of plants there are means the more kinds of animals an area can support. Shrubs provide food and shelter for many different insects and animals.

Point out some of the different plants.

Salal, Oregon grape, sword ferns, wild wood rose, chinkapin, red huckleberry. Some of these form fruit which are eaten by various species of birds, mammals insects.

People spread invasive plants.

Point out invasive plants, scotchbroom, Himalayan blackberry, grasses. This is a great place to tell a personal anecdote on how your park deals or has problems with invasive plants/animals.

- C. If you are going to have people recreating on your land what are some of the things you need to think about?

What kind of use — day use, primitive camping, RV camping?

Would you collect fees? If so, how?

Fee station, camp host, Honest John?

How would you manage the area?

Paid rangers, volunteer hosts?

What kind of rules would you need?

Fires, pets, alcohol, fireworks, in and out times.

When planning recreational use of the forest, people's needs must be considered. If you had a campground, what kind of facilities would be needed? What might they cost?

Picnic tables \$100- 300; Vault toilets \$10,000; Water system \$10,000; Full service bathroom/shower \$5,000

What other kinds of amenities might your campground have?

Playground, shooting range, equipment rentals. Ideas?

- D. Vandalism can be a real problem for forest owners. How much might it cost to replace one of these signs?
\$200-300 for new sign and installation. Plastic signs are about \$10 plus cost of putting them up.

How might vandalism be prevented?

Members-only campgrounds, guards. Other ideas?

- E. Is this trail adequate? If a hiking trail gets lots of use, how could you make it a more sustainable trail?
Put surfacing on it, bark, gravel.

How much does it cost to put in a trail?

About \$1 a foot. Extra if lots of clearing and culverts are needed. \$10 dollars a foot for a road.

What are some important things for hikers to remember in order to be responsible hikers?

Stay on the trails, don't cut across switchbacks, leave no trace.

How might different users affect trails, horses, mountain bikes? Where roads or trails cross streams, streams need to be protected. What would happen to a stream if there was no culvert?

Mud would be put into the stream every time it was crossed.

- F. What do you think makes a good campsite? Is this one? What are some of the problems with this site?
Not flat, poor access, not near a restroom. If they had a fire, it would be too close to the trees.
- G. Recreation can have major impacts on wildlife. Care must be taken so that recreationists do not endanger wildlife or themselves. Can you think of some situations that would endanger wildlife, or people, how might they be avoided?
Animals becoming dependent on people for food. Education programs teaching people how feeding wild animals affects their well being. Bears getting trash, endangering themselves and people. Bear-tight food containers and trashcans. Educate people about the problem. Fires destroying campgrounds and habitat. Place trails and roads with wildlife habitat needs taken into consideration.
- H. Bird watching and mushroom picking are two growing forms of recreation. (Share information on mushroom poster and sample mushrooms)

When you have completed the last station, have the students imagine how they would use the property for recreation.

- I. Public safety is a major concern for recreation managers. People get lost in the woods quite often (on the news yesterday) What are two pieces of information that should be left behind when you head out for a hike or camping trip?
Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to be back.

Search and Rescue experts will tell you to “hug a tree” if you should find yourself lost in the woods. What do they mean?

A large tree like this can provide shelter. Also, experience has shown lost people are much more likely to be found if they stay in one place rather than try to find their own way out, because searchers use a grid pattern.

What are the suggested “10 essentials” to always bring when heading out into the forest? Of these, which do the rescue professionals consider the most important? (*)Why?

Map & compass, first aid kit, pocket knife, water, garbage bag*, flashlight, whistle*, trail food, matches/fire starter, sunscreen. *The whistle is to signal where you are and the garbage bag to keep you warm and dry.