CONTENTS

Preface, viii
About the companion website, x

PART I INTRODUCTION, 1

1 Wildland Recreation and Resource Impacts, 3
  1.1 What is Wildland Recreation?, 3
  1.2 What is Recreation Resource Impact?, 6
  1.3 Ecological Impacts of Wildland Recreation, 6
  1.4 Recreation Ecology, 9
  1.5 The Importance of Ecological Impacts, 10
  1.6 The Manager’s Role, 12
  1.7 Recreational Capacities, 12
  1.8 Themes of this Book, 14
References, 16

PART II IMPACTS TO RESOURCE COMPONENTS, 19

2 Soil, 21
  2.1 Basic Soil Ecology, 21
    2.1.1 What is soil?, 21
    2.1.2 Soil texture and structure, 21
    2.1.3 Pore space, 22
    2.1.4 Bulk density, 23
    2.1.5 The soil profile, 23
  2.2 Effects of Recreation on Soils, 24
    2.2.1 Organic matter, 25
    2.2.2 Profile truncation, 27
    2.2.3 Soil compaction, 28
    2.2.4 Macroporosity and infiltration rate, 29
    2.2.5 Soil moisture, 31
  2.3 Soil Erosion, 32
    2.3.1 Erosion as a natural process, 32
    2.3.2 Recreation and erosion, 33
    2.3.3 Other soil impacts, 35
    2.3.4 Impacts associated with campfires, 36
  2.4 Summary, 37
References, 38

3 Vegetation, 41
  3.1 Vegetation Impact Parameters, 41
    3.1.1 Amount of vegetation, 41
    3.1.2 Species composition and other properties, 43
    3.1.3 Tree condition, 43
  3.2 Understanding Vegetation Impacts, 43
    3.2.1 Ground cover, 44
    3.2.2 Shrubs and saplings, 51
    3.2.3 Mature trees, 51
  3.3 Summary, 53
References, 53

4 Wildlife, 56
  4.1 Recreation Influences on Wildlife Responses, 56
  4.2 Wildlife Responses to Recreation, 57
  4.3 Human–Wildlife Interactions, 58
  4.4 Recreation–Wildlife Impacts, 59
    4.4.1 Animal disturbance and harassment, 60
    4.4.2 Harvest, 62
    4.4.3 Habitat modification, 63
4.4.4 Alteration of behavior, 64
4.4.5 Species displacement and reproduction level, 66
4.4.6 Species composition and structure, 67
4.5 Impacts on Wildlife Species, 67
  4.5.1 Large mammals, 67
  4.5.2 Medium-sized animals, 73
  4.5.3 Small animals, 74
  4.5.4 Fish, 75
4.6 Summary, 75
References, 76

5 Water, 80
  5.1 Dispersed Recreation and Water Impacts, 80
  5.2 Basic Water Ecology, 81
    5.2.1 Water temperature and flow, 82
    5.2.2 Dissolved oxygen, 83
    5.2.3 Nutrient influx, 83
    5.2.4 Coliform bacteria and other pathogens, 85
  5.3 Backcountry Camping and Drinking Sources, 88
  5.4 Solid Waste and Foreign Materials, 89
  5.5 Suspended Matter and Turbidity, 90
  5.6 Summary, 93
References, 93

PART III IMPACT PATTERNS AND TRENDS, 97

6 Impact Patterns, 99
  6.1 Spatial Patterns of Impact, 99
    6.1.1 Impact zone, 100
    6.1.2 Intersite zone, 101
    6.1.3 Buffer zone, 101
  6.2 Impact Patterns at Multiple Spatial Scales, 103
  6.3 Temporal Patterns of Impacts, 104
  6.4 Recovery Rates of Resources, 108
  6.5 Summary, 110
References, 111

7 Trends in Wildland Recreation, 113
  7.1 Use and Impacts, 113
  7.2 Early, Recent, and Projected Outdoor Recreation Use, 113
  7.3 Trends in Wildland and Wilderness Use, 117
  7.4 Trends in Wildland and Wilderness Users, 120
    7.4.1 Conclusions drawn from trend synthesis, 122
  7.5 Trends in Wildland Impacts, 124
    7.5.1 Trail impact trends, 124
  7.5.2 Campsite impact trends, 125
  7.6 Summary, 129
References, 129

PART IV FACTORS AFFECTING IMPACTS, 133

8 Environmental Durability, 135
  8.1 Vegetation, 136
  8.2 Soil Characteristics, 141
  8.3 Topographic Characteristics, 143
  8.4 Ecosystem Characteristics, 144
    8.4.1 Wildlife, 145
  8.5 Aquatic Environments, 146
  8.6 Season of Use, 146
  8.7 Map-Based Analysis Approaches, 147
  8.8 Summary, 147
References, 149

9 Visitor Use and Behavior, 152
  9.1 Amount of Use, 153
  9.2 Use Distribution, 156
    9.2.1 Type of use, 157
  9.3 Party Size, 157
  9.4 User Behavior, 160
    9.4.1 Minimum impact knowledge, 160
    9.4.2 Experience level, 163
    9.4.3 User motivation, 164
    9.4.4 Social group and structure, 164
  9.5 Place Bonding, 165
  9.6 Mode of Travel, 167
    9.6.1 Snowmobiles, skis, and snowboards, 167
    9.6.2 Motorboats, personal watercraft, and nonmotorized boats, 168
    9.6.3 Off-road vehicles, mountain bikes, stock, and foot travel, 169
  9.7 Summary, 173
References, 174

PART V MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES, 179

10 Strategies and Concepts of Management, 181
  10.1 General Principles, 181
  10.2 Planning for Management, 183
    10.2.1 Recreation opportunity spectrum, 183
    10.2.2 A visitor use management framework, 184
### Contents

10.3 Management of Problems, 189  
10.3.1 Strategic purpose, 189  
10.3.2 Types of undesirable visitor actions, 191  
10.3.3 Types of management approaches, 191  

References, 194

11 Monitoring Recreational Impacts, 196  
11.1 Camp and Picnic Sites, 196  
11.1.1 Photographs, 198  
11.1.2 Condition class estimates, 199  
11.1.3 Multiple parameter systems, 200  
11.2 Trails and Roads, 208  
11.2.1 Samples at fixed locations, 208  
11.2.2 Rapid survey samples, 210  
11.2.3 Census techniques, 211  
11.2.4 Informal trails, 212  
11.2.5 Roads and off-road vehicle trails, 214  
11.3 Water Bodies, 215  
11.4 Wildlife, 216  
11.5 Developing a Monitoring System, 216  

References, 217

12 Visitor Management, 219  
12.1 Use Limits, 220  
12.2 Length of Stay Limits, 224  
12.3 Dispersal of Use, 225  
12.4 Concentration of Use, 231  
12.5 Restrictions on Type of Use, 232  
12.6 Group Size Limits, 234  
12.7 Low Impact Education, 236  
12.7.1 Message content, 236  
12.7.2 Effective communication, 238  
12.8 Seasonal Limitations on Use, 241  
12.9 Campfire Management Alternatives, 242  
12.10 Visitor Information Needed to Manage Recreation Impacts, 244  

References, 245

13 Site Management, 248  
13.1 Locating Use on Resistant Sites, 249  
13.2 Permanent Closures, 253  
13.3 Temporary Site Closures, 254  
13.4 Influencing Spatial Distribution of Use, 256  
13.5 Site Hardening and Shielding, 260  
13.6 Rehabilitation of Closed Sites, 270  

References, 275

14 Air, Sound and Technology: New Issues for Recreation Ecology, 277  
14.1 Air Quality, 277  
14.1.1 Within-park emissions, 278  
14.1.2 Importance of air pollution, 280  
14.1.3 Night sky light visibility, 283  
14.1.4 Summary and solutions, 284  
14.2 Natural Soundscapes, 284  
14.2.1 Understanding soundscapes and key ecological concerns, 286  
14.2.2 Impacts of noise on visitor experiences in wildlands, 288  
14.2.3 Assessment and monitoring of soundscapes, 290  
14.2.4 Summary and solutions, 291  
14.3 Technology, 291  
14.3.1 Improved technology, 291  
14.3.2 New recreational activities, 292  
14.3.3 Electronic technology, 293  
14.3.4 Summary and solutions, 295  

References, 295

PART VI CONCLUSION, 297

15 A Lasting Impact, 299  
15.1 Wildland Recreation and Resource Impacts: Necessities, 299  
15.2 Understanding the Resource, 300  
15.3 Environment and Visitor Influences, 300  
15.4 Some Management Tools, 301  
15.5 New Issues and Knowledge, 302  
15.6 Lasting into the Future, 303  

References, 305

Index, 306