

Classification of trail settings in an alpine national park using the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum approach

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It is important to consider trail settings in alpine national parks not only for conserving ecological character but also for maximizing visitor satisfaction. This study examines grading the preferences of trails in Daisetsuzan National Park, Japan using the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum approach. Data of users were obtained from a questionnaire survey, in which preferences of facility developments, accessibility and visitor encounters were asked. Respondents were classified into four groups that prefer different trail settings. We partitioned the trails by the difference of settings, and then graded them by each using the result of the visitor grouping. The northern part of the study area where access is easier and setting is moderately developed was preferred by all the groups, while the southern part of the area was preferred by only the group that favored the most primitive setting.