

Modelling recreation and tourism for comparing landuse alternatives on Crown Land in British Columbia / Canada

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Over the last few years, the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Lands has developed a Socio-Economic and Environmental Assessment (SEEA) tool for the purpose of evaluating and comparing different land use and forest management options. While SEEA captures a number of landuses in a satisfactory manner, first applications have shown that the consideration of tourism and recreation concerns is currently occurring on too coarse a scale. This presentation will explain how the SEEA tool can be expanded to consider select nature based tourism and outdoor recreation uses. The main activities under consideration are heli-skiing and cat-skiing, snowmobiling, backcountry skiing, hiking, mountain biking, fishing and river rafting / kayaking. The process starts with considering the ideal resource conditions for any particular activity, such as staging areas, logging roads or lack thereof, intact viewsheds, etc.).

A conceptual framework documents the positive, negative and neutral relationships between various landuses and any one of these select recreation (enjoyed by individuals travelling independently) and tourism (clients of commercial outfitters/guides) activities. Spatial overlays identify potential areas of conflict between various landuses and activities, as well as between the respective activities. The model also considers social carrying capacity issues within one activity as well as the conflicts between private and commercial users. While all this information is collected and assessed on a rather fine spatial scale, it is then aggregated to the management unit level in order to compare the recreation / tourism value other landuses. Currently the conceptual framework I under development, but the goal is to operationalize the model on a net present value basis.