Recreational Specialization Patterns within Outdoor Recreationists in Nevada

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Hunting in Nevada

- Nevada currently has high demand for Big Game hunting (with variety of game and geography enhancing demand).
- Mule deer hunter #'s versus game #'s (overall draw odds 1 in 3, 50% harvest rate in 2008).
- Social networks are disrupted for outdoor recreationists moving to Nevada from other states.
- Population growth tapering off (4.5% in 2006, 2.9% in 2007, 1.8% in 2008 1% in 2009).
- Possible outdoor recreation substitutions for hunting (fishing, camping, wildlife watching/photography, hiking etc.).
- Will hunting demand remain high if hunting is practiced intermittently and population increase.
Nevada Population, 1940 to 2025

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, March 2001
Theoretical Perspectives Informing Future Hunting Demand.

- Recreational specialization
  - Increasing commitment to few recreations
- Discontinuation/desertion
  - Loss of social support for among social group.
- Substitutionality
  - Willingness of the individual to choose other recreations when preferred recreation is unavailable.
- Social capital
  - Formation of group identity and information resources among recreationists.
What is the Social Structure of Consumptive Recreation?

- Do consumptive recreationists tend participate in more than one type of hunt?
- Do these recreations tend to form along consumptive/non-consumptive recreation groups?
- What are the opportunities for transitions between consumptive and none consumptive recreations?
Data

- The 2005 Nevada Rangeland Vegetation Survey
- Mail survey
- The first 1,000 addresses were generated to be representative of the state of Nevada overall, according to the 2000 census.
- The second 1,000 addresses were distributed over rural counties, with heavier weighting on Elko, White Pine, Humboldt, and Washoe Counties.
- 30% response rate on deliverable surveys $n = 576$
Methods

- Descriptive statistics
- Factor analysis
  - Principle Axis Factoring
- SPSS version 18
- Oblique OBLIMIN rotation
Results

- Average individual engaged in five recreations.
- Two factor solution most interpretable based on theoretical assumptions and review of communalities and inter-item correlations.
- Factor 1 (consumptive recreations): Hunting, Fishing, Target Shooting, Camping, ORV and Antler collecting.
  - Factor loadings between .880 and .416
  - Cronbach’s Alpha .820 n=6
  - Factor loadings between .741 and .520
  - Cronbach’s Alpha .740 n=4
Results Cont.

- Hunting had low correlations with non consumptive recreations.
- Fishing had some low to moderate correlations with non consumptive activities such as hiking and wildlife viewing.
- Hiking had some low to moderate correlations with consumptive activities such as fishing and ORV use.
Discussion

- Nevada outdoor recreationists tend to engage in multiple outdoor recreations.
- Nevada outdoor recreationists tend to engage in primarily consumptive or non-consumptive recreations.
- Hunting demand should remain high if hunter’s are willing and able to substitute other consumptive recreation while hunting on an intermittent schedule (mixed recreation social network).
Conclusion

- The Nevada Department of Wildlife should promote consumptive recreation social groups that encourage the development of social capital and group identity in order to offset discontinuation that results from intermittent participation.
- Non consumptive activities such as hiking and camping could provide opportunities for consumptive and non consumptive recreationists to broaden the range of outdoor activities and moderate discontinuation.
Limitations and Future Research

- Urban and rural samples are not corrected for over sampling of rural population.
- Not longitudinal
- Future research should look at what effects creating cross recreational social groups has on consumptive recreations.
  - Will outdoor recreationists engage in this type of group?
  - Is it effective in creating a cross recreation culture?
Thank You

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