

5. Management actions

Overview on management actions

Following Booths' (2006) framework on visitor research, recreation management processes and techniques are the seventh category of visitor information needed for protected area management. As well the evaluations of management measures as well as the knowledge that these actions influence the behaviour of visitors are important. Booth (2006) lists the following questions to deal with:

- What systems have been developed to manage visitors?
- How successful are they?
- What new systems are required?
- How do managers' actions and perceptions influence recreationists?

Manning (1999) divides management actions by their directness with which they act on visitor behaviour; direct management actions consequently act directly on the behaviour of visitors, giving them few choices of behaviour while indirect management actions are based on influencing the decisions of visitors. Direct management actions are regulatory, restrict the individual choice and stand for a high degree of control. Limiting visitor numbers and zoning of an area are typical direct management measures. Indirect management actions are based on the freedom of visitors to choose and the emphasis to influence or modify the behaviour of the visitors. Educational programmes as well as the improvement (or not) of e.g. paths are such indirect management practices. Indirect management actions are often favoured, due to their less restrictive character which still gives the visitors the possibility of choice (Manning 1999). Nevertheless, they are often seen as ineffective. It is suggested, that direct and indirect management actions could often complement each other.

Checklist

- Have you considered already existing infrastructure and management actions (e.g. existing information boards)?
- Have you also considered the wishes and requirements of local players?
- Have you elaborated the management actions in a cooperative manner?
- Did you consider possibilities to "advert" sustainable recreational use through e.g. alpine associations?
- Are objectives clearly identified and justified?
- Are there strategies to achieve each objective?
- Is the site zoned for management purposes?
- Are there tailor-made management objectives for the site?
- Do stakeholders own the plan and assist with its implementation?
- Are there sufficient legal powers to implement the strategies?

Literature

BOOTH, K. (2006): Review of visitor research for the Department of Conservation. DOC Research and Development Series.

MANNING, R. (1999): Studies in Outdoor Recreation. Search and Research for Satisfaction. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis.