

21. Fieldwork questions for evaluation of visitor areas

Aim

The following provides sample questions to assist students to:

- Observe popular visitor areas in a national park.
- Become aware of the different positive and negative impacts of visitor use.
- Investigate how specific sites could be managed.

1. Why do people come to this site? (Tick one or more)

- picturesque/scenic site
- camping
- picnicking/barbecuing
- walking
- swimming
- riding
- bird watching
- nature viewing
- other (explain)

Name of park:

Name of site:

.....

2. Human impacts

Is there evidence of	Effects of the activity (personal point of view)			
	No	Yes	Positive	Negative
• tracks				
• fences				
• toilets				
• electric/gas barbecue				
• fire place and fire wood				
• rubbish				
• timber cutting				
• bushfire				
• erosion				
• weeds				
• car parking				
• walking				
• horse riding				
• bike riding				
• other (explain)				

3. Assess the site

Vegetation cover	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> OK	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent
Soil	Bare	Some covering		Well covered
Weeds	None	Few	Some	Lots
Facilities (picnic tables, BBQ etc.)	Poor condition	OK	Good condition	
Litter present	Paper	Plastic	Glass	Metal
	Food	Other		
Litter quantity	None	Few	Some	Lots
Recreation	Overused	OK	Good	Excellent

4. I like this site because
.....

5. I dislike this site because
.....

6. Would you recommend this site to others? (Circle your answer.)
Yes No Maybe
Why?

7. Suggestions for improving the site.

I would improve or change this site by:

Suggested improvement/change	Reason
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

8. Major recreation impacts

What are the three impacts on the site that create the most important problems? Suggest two management strategies which could reduce or remove the problem.

Impact problem	Management strategy
1.	• •
2.	• •
3.	• •

Carefully observe the site. What management strategies are in place? Do these management actions seem to be successful?
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Some of the above adapted from *The Forest Fieldwork File. A series of fieldwork activities for secondary teachers.* Forestry Education Project. NRE. 1999.