


IRIS
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Trends in nature-based outdoor recreation participation in the U.S. — Part II

**Trends in Viewing and Photographing
Wildlife, Birds, Trees and Scenery**

A RECREATION Research Report in the IRIS Series¹

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¹ The Internet Research Information Series (IRIS) is an internet accessible science report series covering outdoor recreation statistics (RECSTATS), wilderness research (WILDERNESS) and other human-dimension and demographics research (DEMOSTATS) related to natural resources. This research is a collaborative effort between the USDA Forest Service's Southern Research Station and its Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Athens, Georgia; the University of Georgia in Athens; and the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee.

<http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/nrrt/nsre/IrisReports.html>

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Introduction

This is Part II of the 2010 IRIS National Assessment Series. Part I presented trends for the decade just past for 7 composites of nature-based outdoor recreation activities. These included visiting recreation and historic sites, viewing and photographing nature, backcountry activities, motorized activities, non-motor boating, hunting and fishing, and snow skiing and boarding. This Part II of the IRIS Assessment Series describes trends for five activities in the viewing and photographing nature composite. This series of IRIS research reports are adapted from the forthcoming Forest Service RPA Assessment (<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/rpa/>). The data source is the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) (Cordell et al, 2004).

Shown in the line graphs below are 3-year moving averages of total annual number of activity days on which participation in viewing and photographing nature activities occurred across the U.S. population of persons 16 or older. These moving averages are indexed to the estimated number of days in the year 2000, where the index value for 2000 is shown as zero. Graphing for subsequent years shows whether there was an upward or downward trend, above or below the 2000 zero base line. More detail on this data analysis approach was given in Part I.

Summary of Trend

Figure 1 shows indexed trends for activities associated with viewing and photographing nature. By the middle years of this decade, all of these 5 activities were showing growth, especially viewing and photographing wildflowers and trees, as well as natural scenery. Slower growth, but growth nonetheless occurred for viewing and photographing wildlife, birds, and for visiting



nature centers. As a group of activities, the ones shown in figure 1 showed consistent growth patterns likely indicating increasing interest in nature.

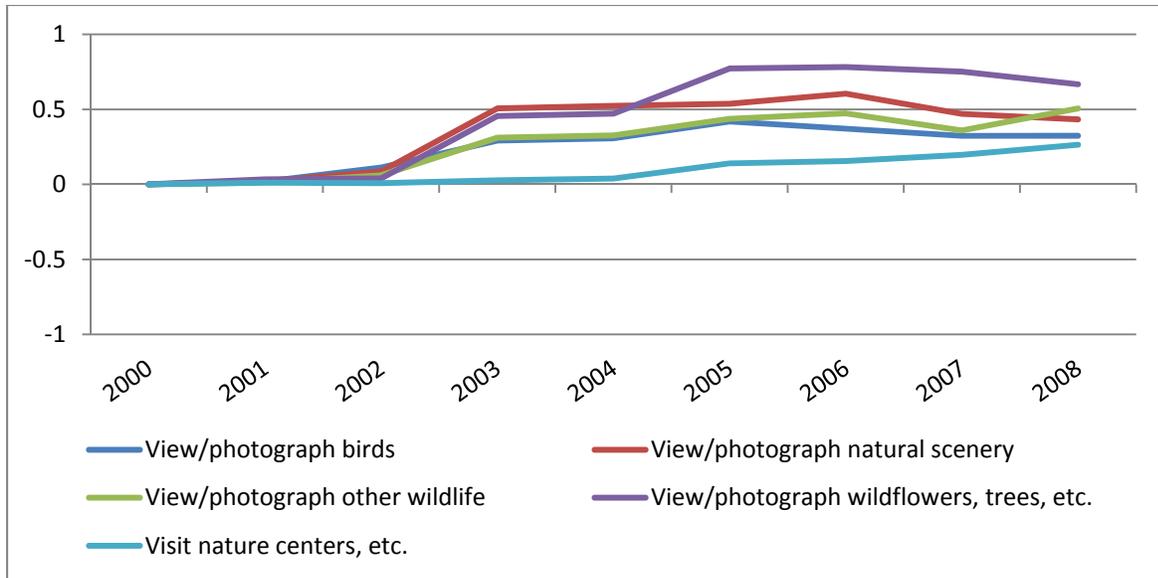


Figure 1—Indexed moving average of total activity days for viewing and photographing nature activities for year 2000 to 2008

References

- Cordell, H.K., Betz, C.J., Green, G.T., Mou, S., Leeworthy, V.R., Wiley, P.C., Barry, J.J., and Hellerstein, D. 2004. Outdoor recreation for 21st century America: a report to the nation: the national survey on recreation and the environment. State College, PA: Venture Publishing, 293 p.