

Outdoor recreation impacts and management

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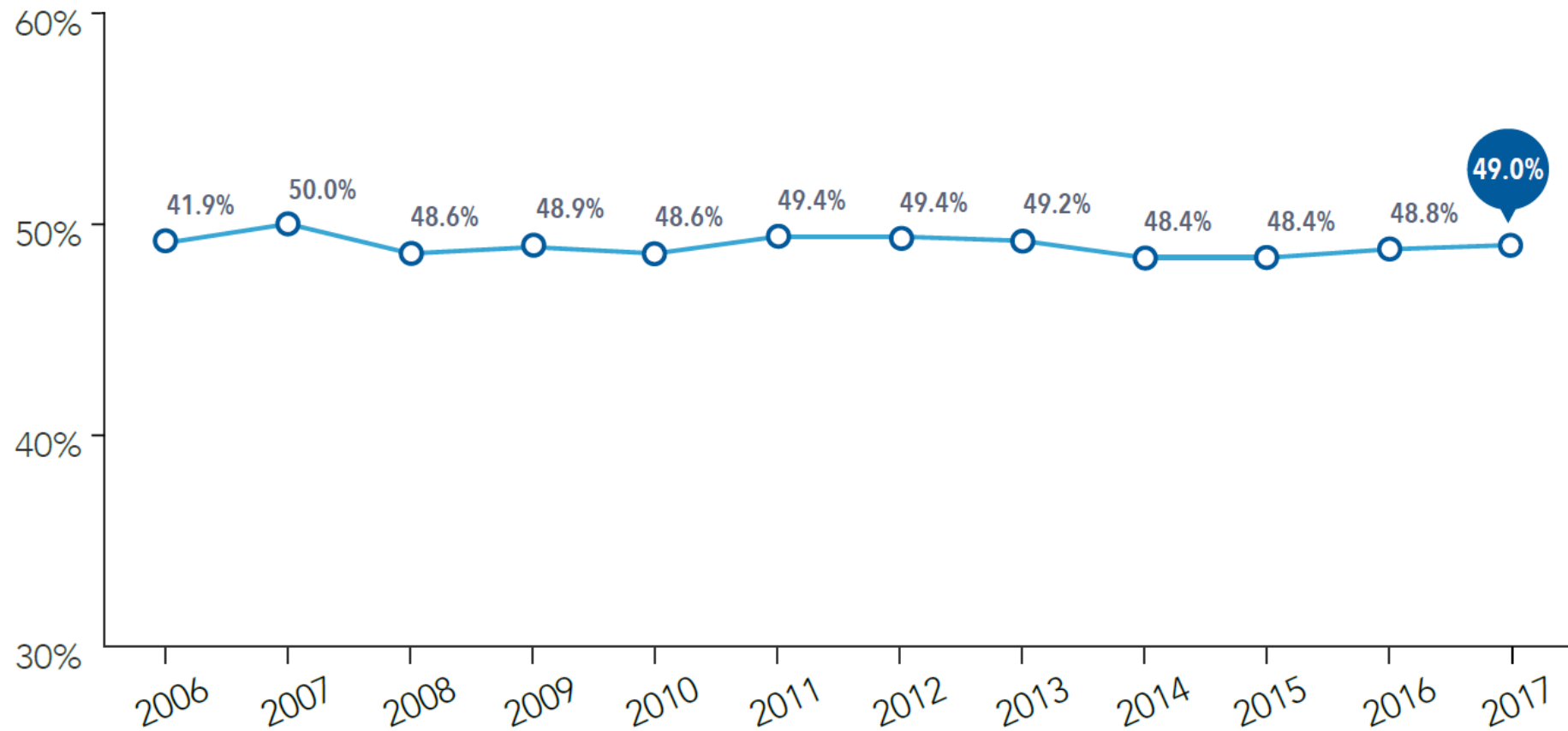
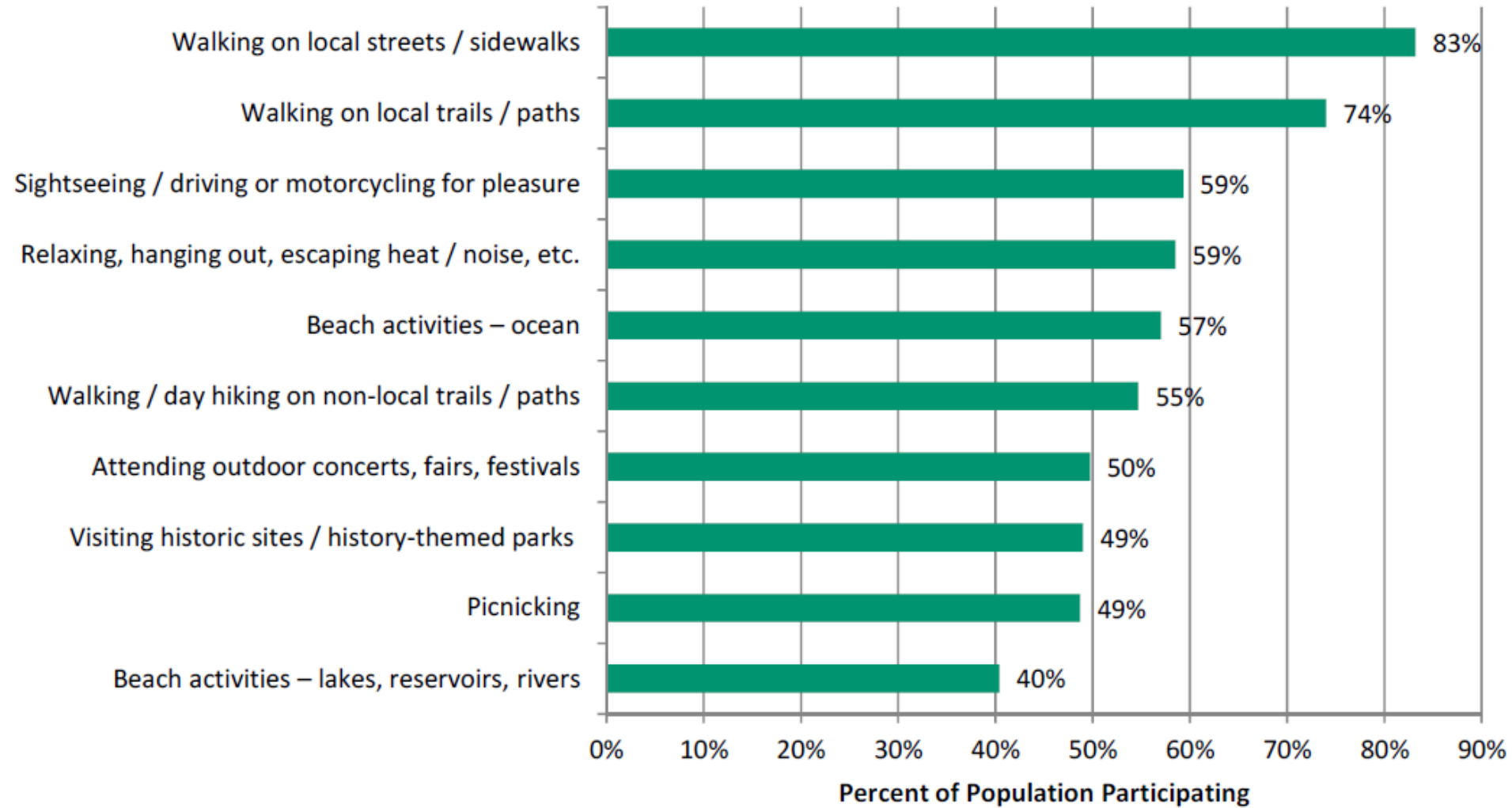


Figure 2.2. Top ten activities for Oregon residents, 2017, percent population participating





If recreation is permitted...

...some degree of impact is **inevitable**.



Illustration by Michael Byers

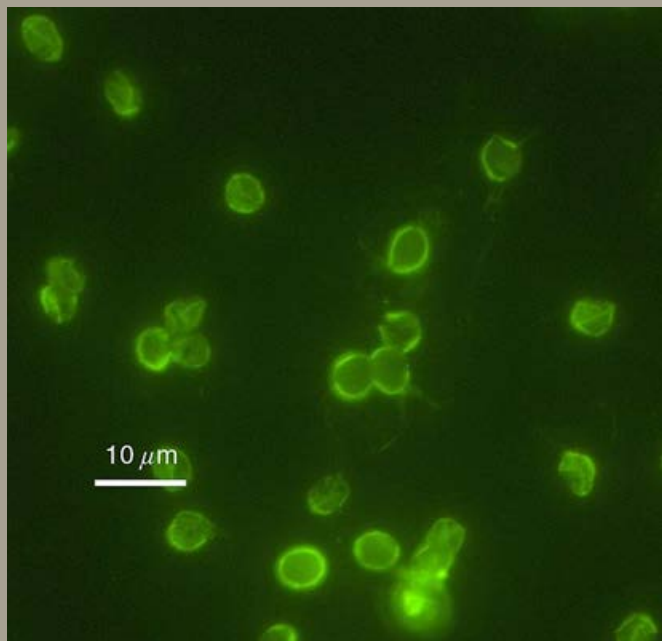
Recreation Ecology

the study of the **environmental consequences** of **outdoor recreation/nature-based tourism** activities and their **effective management**.

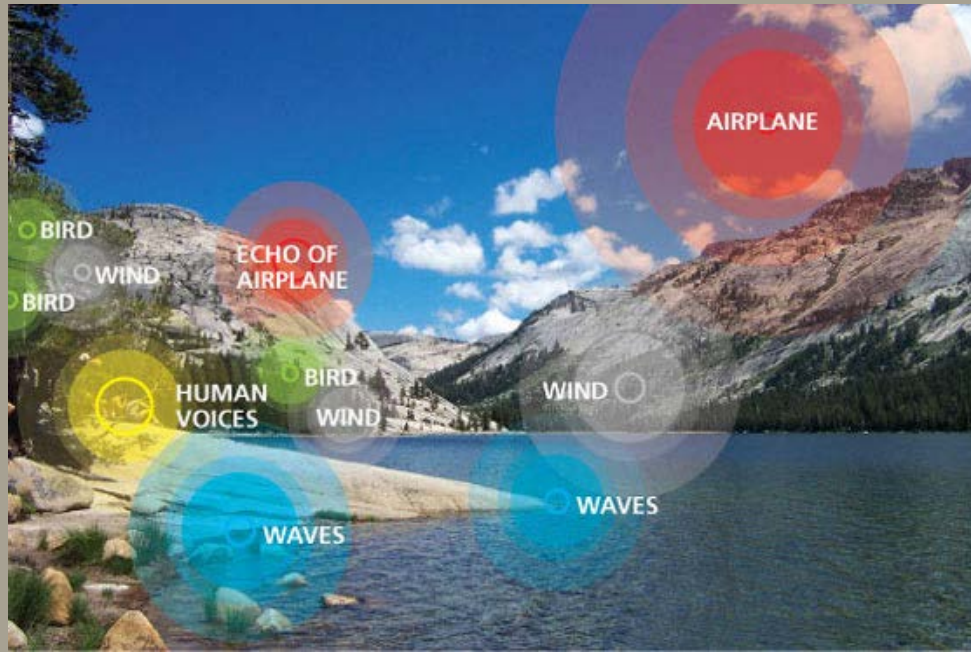
Interdisciplinary field that combines social and ecological sciences



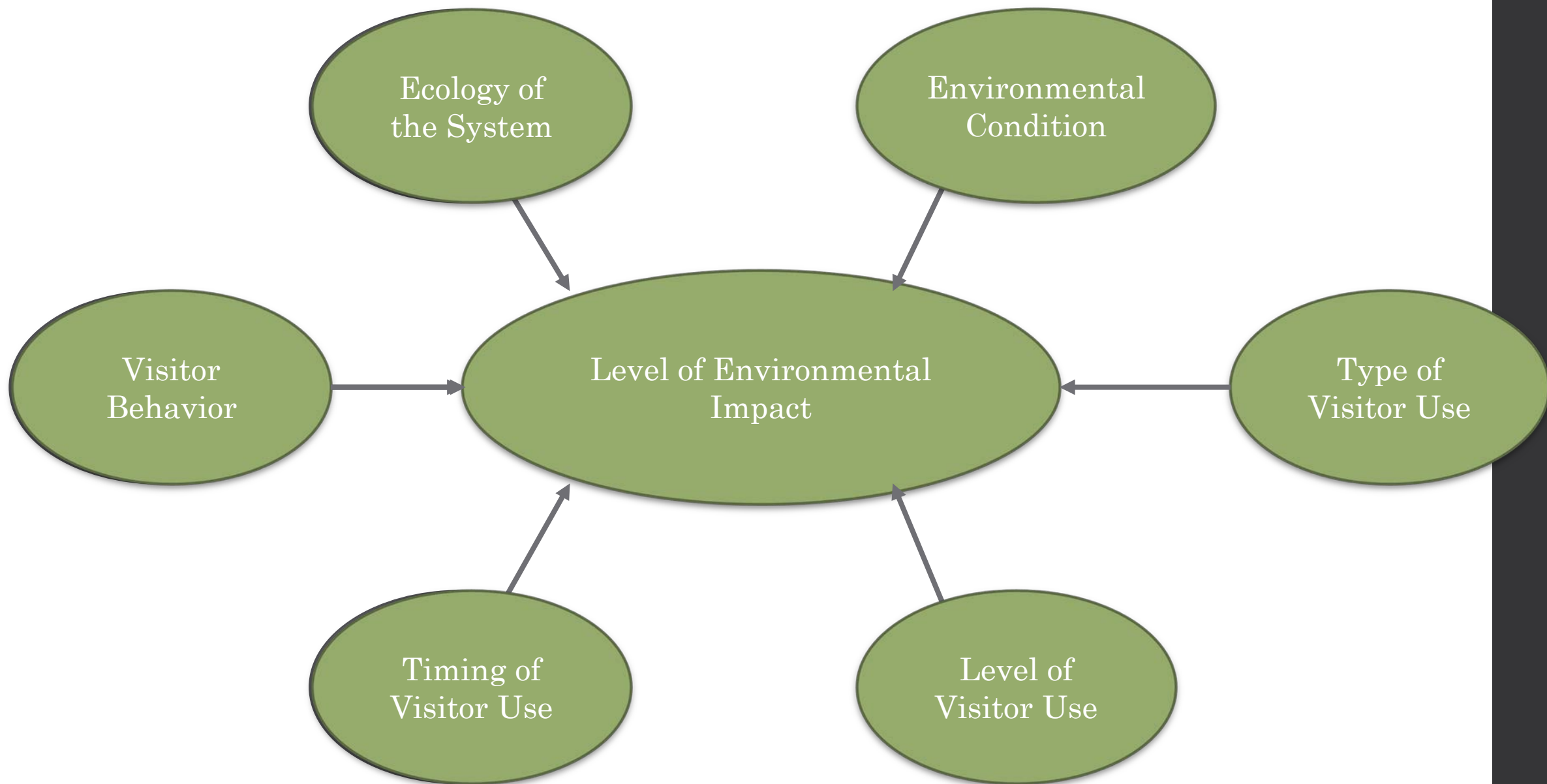
Soil & Vegetation



Wildlife
& Water

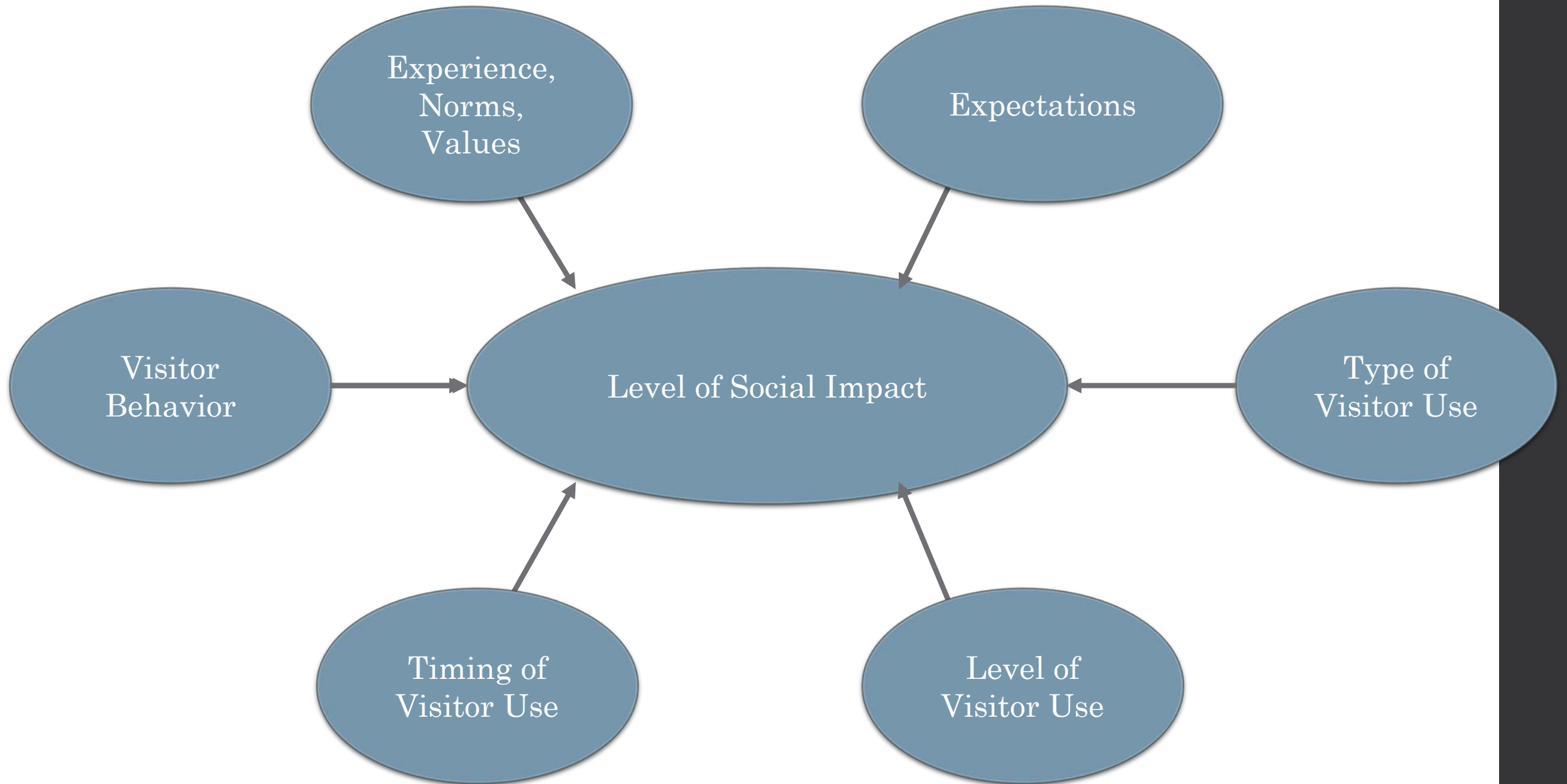


Air Quality & Soundscapes



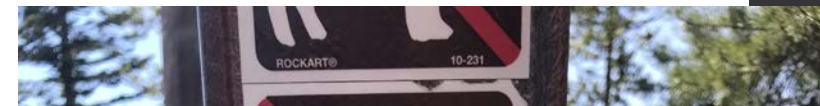
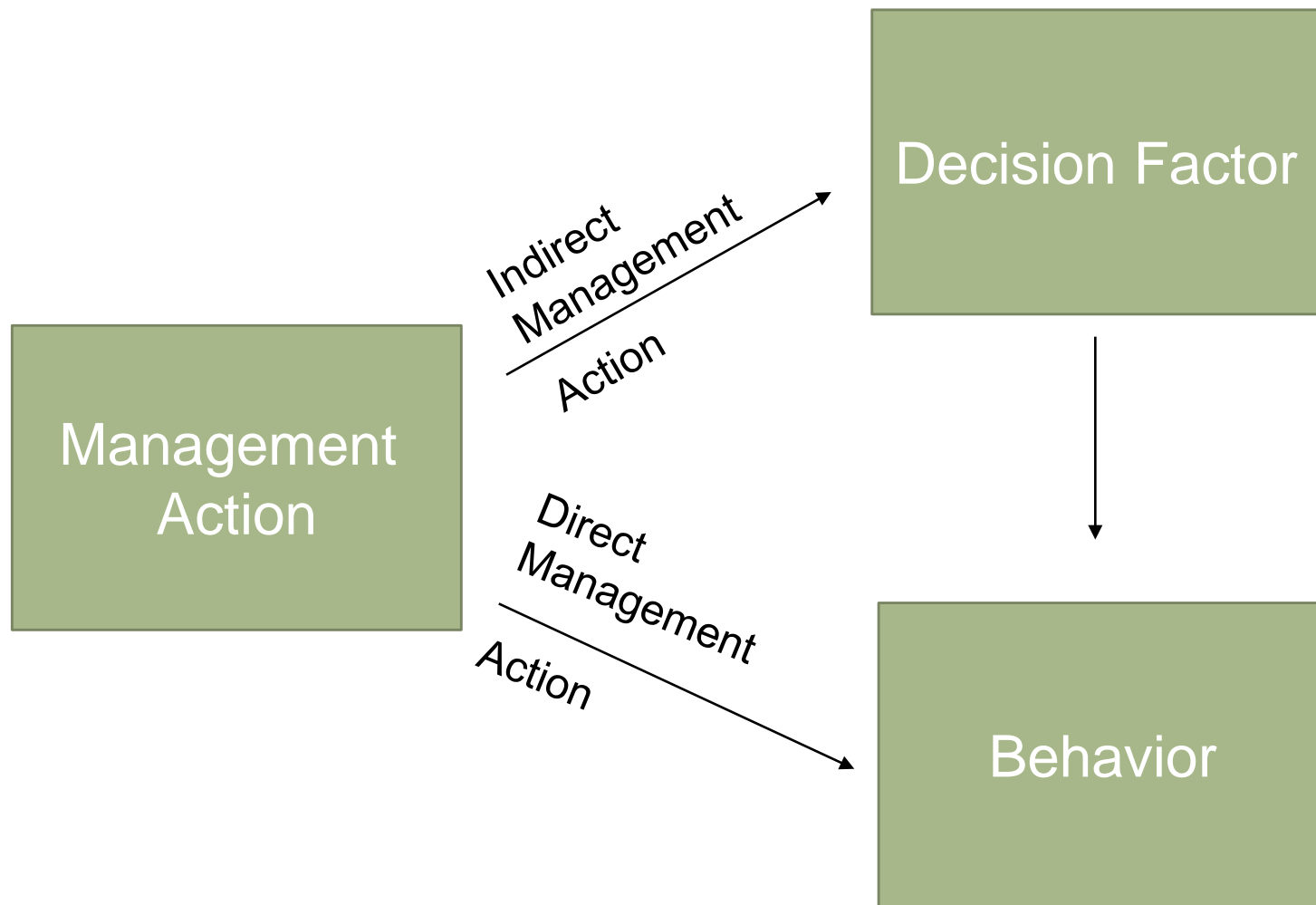


Social





How do you
manage for
these social
and ecological
impacts?



Examples of Direct Management

- Fines
- Spatial and temporal zoning of use
- Limit usage via entry zone
- Limit length of stay



Advantages of Direct Management

- Requires less knowledge about users
- Management maintains high degree of control
- Disadvantages:
 - Enforcement & compliance
 - Equity issues

From inside Petrified Forest National Park by theft, you pay from \$325 on up, including possible jail time.

United States District Court
Violation Notice

Case No. A113
P 066706
John Smith
786

5-16-03 1780 36 CFR 2 (d)(1)(3)
Petrified Forest National Park
Theft of Petrified Wood
(6 lbs)

wood is impounded
since. You are not
ed to keep any!

675

510



Examples of Indirect Management

- Design of original setting
- Improve/don't improve access roads
- Installation of facilities
- Education & interpretation

Advantages of Indirect Management

- Generally more accepted by visitors
 - Generally less cost intensive
 - Less potential for confrontations and conflict
 - Less of a burden on the visitor
 - Involves and empowers the visitor
-
- Disadvantages:
 - Effectiveness
 - Delivery (timing & method) is important



Best approach?



+

THE 7 PRINCIPLES of Leave No Trace

1. Plan Ahead & Prepare
2. Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors



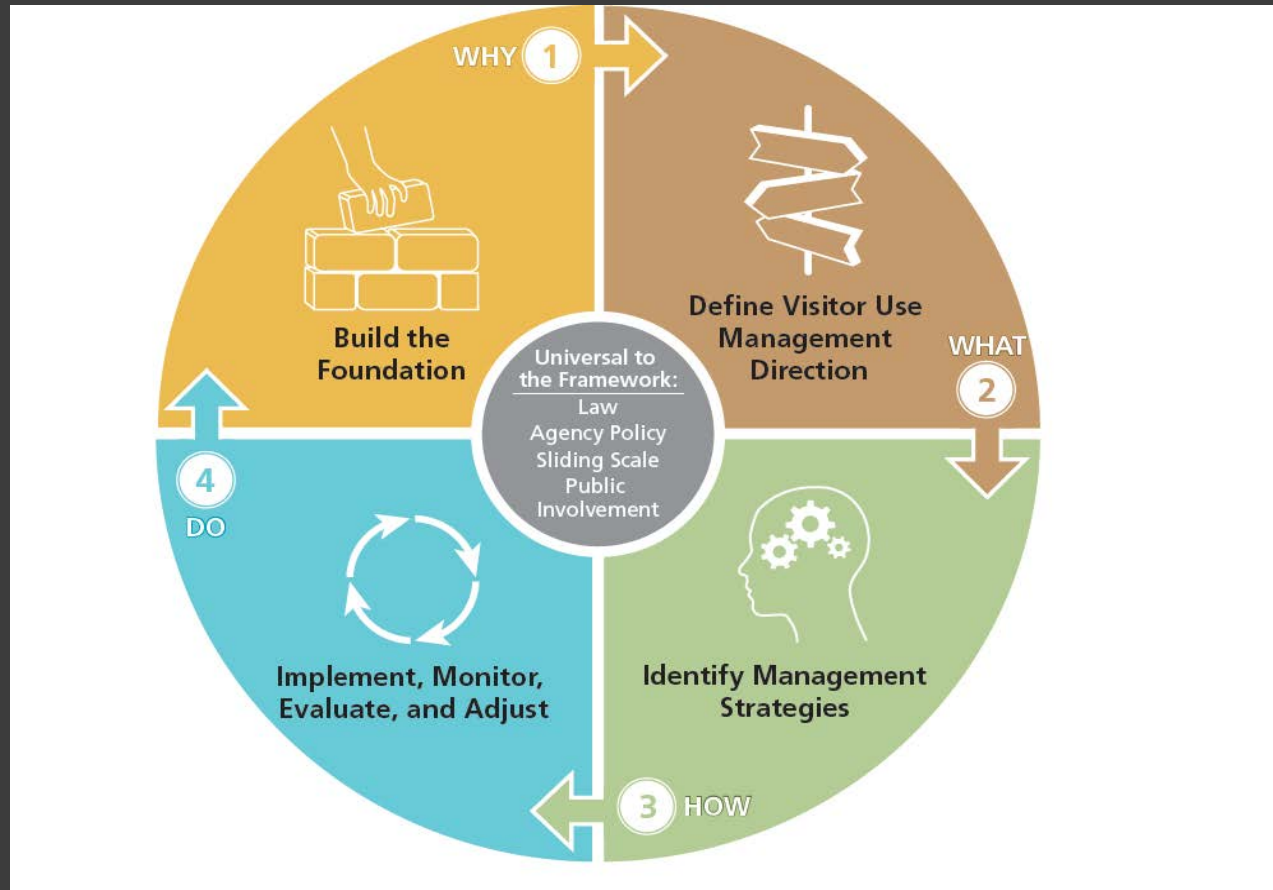
Center for Outdoor Ethics | LNT.org



Why do we still see impacts?

- Constraints:
 - Funding
 - Staff
 - Time
- Visitor compliance & enforcement
- Stakeholder “buy-in”
- Difference in values and norms
 - can be especially relevant in social conflict

How to decide where, when, and how to allow recreation?



Interagency Visitor
Use
Management
Framework

“Build the foundation”

- ❖ What is the purpose of this recreation management project?
 - ❖ How does it align with the mission of the land managers/agencies?
- ❖ Compliance with relevant policies
- ❖ Interdisciplinary team that is engaged with the public
 - ❖ What makes this area unique? What values are associated with these lands?
- ❖ **Inventory**
 - ❖ Social → values, preferences, current use levels, cultural resources, etc.
 - ❖ Ecological → habitat types, watershed, wildlife, etc.
 - ❖ Managerial → \$, staff, management capacity, etc.

Outdoor Recreation Management Decisions

- **Management Objectives** = broad, narrative statements that articulate the desired conditions for the protected area – the natural resources, visitor experiences, and level of management presence.
- **Desired Conditions** = *What* do you want the area to look like in the future?
 - Does NOT address the “how”



DESCHUTES
LAND
TRUST

LANDS IN TRUST PROTECTED FOREVER
DESCHUTES.LANDTRUST.ORG

OUR VISION FOR WHYCHUS CREEK

The Deschutes Land Trust has worked since 1995 to protect the forests, meadows, and creeks that Central Oregonians—people and wildlife—need to thrive. During that time, we've directed much of our energy toward conserving Whychus Creek, a tributary of the Deschutes River that flows from mountain glaciers, through ponderosa pine forests, past lush creekside meadows, and into desert canyons. We've done this work inspired by a vision of a restored and revitalized Whychus Creek that is an ecological and social centerpiece of our community.

IMAGINE A WHYCHUS CREEK THAT IS...

PROTECTED FOREVER

Through strategic land conservation the Land Trust will create a permanently protected wildlife corridor along Whychus Creek.

HEALTHY

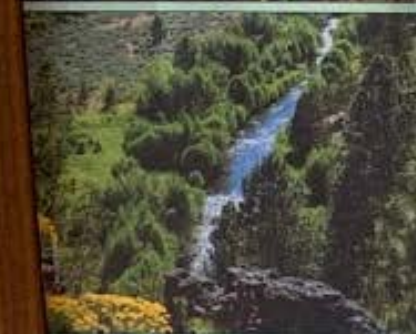
The Land Trust will return ecological well-being to Whychus Creek and its surrounding lands so salmon, steelhead, deer, elk, songbirds, and eagles can thrive.

CONNECTED

The Land Trust believes in inspiring people of all ages to connect with Whychus Creek. This is why we offer guided hikes, trails, and interpretive opportunities at our Preserves for people to explore and enjoy.



Now is the time to realize our vision for Whychus Creek.
Together we can ensure a bright future for Whychus Creek! Join us today...



Take Home

- Recreation → increasing, many benefits to individuals & society
- Recreation → even non-consumptive is not impact-free
- It might not be appropriate to have “all the recreation, everywhere, at all times”

Questions

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