

Crowding, Conflict & Displacement



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Crowding, Satisfaction & Displacement

- ✦ The link between crowding and satisfaction is often very weak.
- ✦ Satisfaction depends upon more than crowding.
- ✦ People will re-define their expectations to match the situation they encounter.
- ✦ "Displacement" and the "Last Settler Syndrome" result

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Displacement

- ✦ Recreation Displacement is the decision to change your behavior caused by adverse changes in the recreation environment.
- ✦ Other causes of displacement:
 - ▢ Age
 - ▢ Family life cycle
 - ▢ Career
 - ▢ Residency



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Last Settler Syndrome

✦ Even though the setting has changed considerably, at any point in time, most visitors express high levels of satisfaction.

WHY?

✦ Those dissatisfied with the changes have been displaced; those remaining judge the existing setting based upon how they first encountered it.

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What is the Role of Crowding?

Crowding involves Privacy / Personal Space / Territoriality

✦ Privacy -- an interpersonal boundary process by which a person or group regulates interaction with others.

✦ Personal Space -- the area immediately surrounding the body where a person alters their distance & angle of orientation from others to control level of desired interaction.

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What is Crowding?

✦ Territoriality -- behaviors that include possession, marking, & defense of objects and areas.

✦ Commonly exhibited examples in recreation settings:

- beach blanket, picnic table w/picnic basket
- camp chair, tent, cooking gear

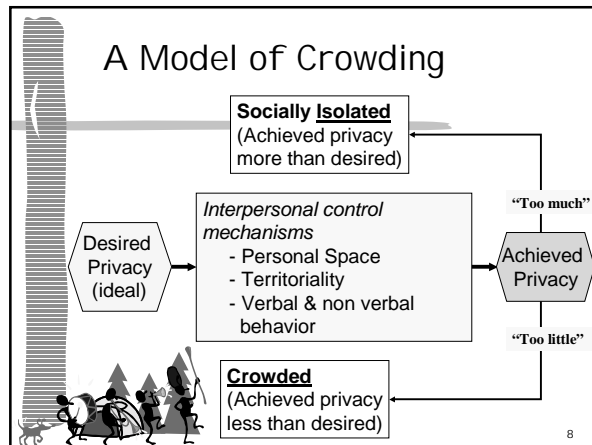
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"Crowding" Defined

- ✱ Density = Number of people per area
- ✱ Crowding results when your Achieved level of Privacy is less than your Desired level of Privacy
- ✱ Different norms for:
 - Place
 - Season
 - Activities
- ✱ Norms for Behavior
- ✱ Norms for Privacy

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A Model of Crowding




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The Role of Solitude

- ✱ Solitude varies with the setting
- ✱ "True Solitude" = Complete Social Isolation
- ✱ Paradox of Solitude
 - People want to be "Alone with Others"
- ✱ "Backcountry Solitude" = Achieving the desired level of privacy (isolation) for you and your group.

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Recreation Conflict

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What is Recreation Conflict?

- ✦ Is it just one activity pitted against another?
- ✦ Is it just a question of motor versus muscle?
- ✦ Does it mean that all skiers hate all snowboarders?
- ✦ Does it mean that different activities can never co-exist?

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Recreation Conflict

- ✦ For an individual, conflict is defined as goal interference attributed to another's behavior.
- ✦ Not the same as competition for scarce resources or opportunities.
- ✦ Conflict is a special class of user dissatisfaction, where the cause of one's dissatisfaction is identified as another group or individual's behavior.

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Factors Affecting Recreation Conflict

* Experience levels

- more experienced users are more sensitive to higher densities of use.

* Characteristics of those encountered

- perceptions of alikeness
- similar mode of travel
- smaller parties are preferred



* Asymmetric antipathy (*unequal impact*)

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Factors Affecting Recreation Conflict

* Location of encounters

- less tolerant near campsites
- more tolerant at portals and along trails

* Activity specialization

- intensity of participation (central life interest)
- longer experience
- higher skill level
- more specialized equipment
- more specific resource dependency

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Factors Affecting Recreation Conflict

* **Lifestyle Tolerance** -- the tendency to accept or reject lifestyles different from one's own.

* **Situational Group Norms** -- following the crowd, taking cues from the reaction of others around you.



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Reactions to Recreation Conflict

- ✳ **Stereotyping** -- asymmetrical disruptions may lead to blanket accusations.
- ✳ **Scapegoating** -- the process whereby feelings of personal frustration or failure are projected onto another.
- ✳ **Displacement or Anti-Social Behavior**

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