

NPS Book Explores Vista Preferences

Visual Preferences of Travelers Along the Blue Ridge Parkway is the title of Scientific Monograph #18 in the NPS science series. Edited by Francis P. Noe and William E. Hammitt, this book of nine chapters by 15 authors offers guidance on the best possible use of funds and manpower to protect and preserve the rural landscape.

In a foreword to the book, Blue Ridge Parkway Superintendent Gary Everhardt describes the NPS mission "to protect and preserve the integrity of these natural features as well as the cultural and natural visual resources that make the parkway so unique." The chapter on visual experiences of sightseers states one of the underlying causes of a dilemma faced in many parts of the National Park System: "Economic exploitation during our national history has increased the value of the remaining pristine lands. At the same time . . . economic development has supported the arts and humanities, which have taught us to appreciate nature and has provided the wealth that allows us to preserve national landscapes."

The book describes the visual and management preferences of sightseers and the analysis procedures used to identify them; explores the use of interpretation to gain visitor acceptance of vegetation management, and considers the influence of sociocultural factors on scenic preferences. The highly visual nature of the subject matter is illustrated in this 200-page book (ISBN 0-943475-00-7) with both full color and black and white vistas.

The book is available from Jim Wood, NPS science publications editor, Southeast Region, 75 Spring St. S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303; (404) 331-4916.