

Multi-scale modelling of spatial variations in perceived wildness in the Hohe Tauern and Cairngorm National Parks

Steve Carver¹, Steffen Fritz²

¹School of Geography, University of Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK

²International Institute for Advanced Spatial Analysis, A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria

Abstract

A multi-scale approach to mapping variations in perceived wildness based on application of GIS and Mutli-Criteria Evaluation (MCE) methods is described. Public surveys are used to inform the model about the impacts of four attributes on perceived wildness of the landscape. These include: a) perceived naturalness of the land cover; b) absence of modern human artefacts; c) rugged and challenging natural of the terrain; and d) remoteness from mechanised access. These are combined using a MCE model and weights derived from public opinion surveys to derive maps of spatial variability in perceived wilderness quality. Results from the application of this method to the Cairngorm National Park in northeast Scotland are described and used to inform a re-application of the method to the Hohe Tauern National Park using local data and results from opinion surveys based on a sample of visitors to the Rudolfshutte/Weissee area in 2008/2009. Maps of perceived wildness are compared to the zoning system developed for the Hohe Tauern National Park. Models are up-scaled using to map perceived wildness across the whole of the park. Conclusions are drawn on how perceived wildness may be used in a decision support capacity in managing visitor experience and development. Comparisons are made between the two parks in terms of topography, settlement and landuse patterns, with a view to explaining differences in IUCN Catgeory.

Contact

Dr. Steve Carver
s.j.carver@leeds.ac.uk

School of Geography
University of Leeds
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS2 9JT
UK

A long version will be provided on the website www.hohetauern.at/symposium2009 after the conference.