

Planning and Managing Tourism in Protected Areas

Mobile Seminar — September 10-25, 2013





Introduction

The Mobile Seminar on Planning and Managing Tourism in Protected Areas is an intensive, 2.5 week field-based training event for individuals working to promote sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation in parks and nature reserves worldwide. The seminar will build the skills of participants to plan and manage public use and outdoor recreation programs in protected areas to build support for conservation, contribute to public health, fund protected area management, and provide economic benefits to local communities and national economies. Ideal participants will be mid-level professional and technical personnel who work for governmental or nongovernmental conservation and tourism organizations, in academia, in the private sector, and in community-based and indigenous tourism and conservation initiatives in or near protected areas.



Seminar Overview

The seminar will begin on the campus of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, next to the majestic Rocky Mountains, one hour north of Denver, Colorado's capital city. Most of the seminar will be spent in the field visiting protected areas offering a wide range of tourism programs and activities. These parks and reserves include a variety of habitat types managed by federal, state, and local governments; NGOs; and private landowners. Highlights include trips to Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone, and Grand Teton National Parks, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, and several national forests, wildlife refuges, and monuments, plus visits to a western dude ranch and a variety of other local and regional tourism attractions. A variety of protected area management categories, governance types, and types and levels of tourism activities will be discussed to provide participants with unparalleled opportunities to learn about tourism planning and management approaches in protected areas and adjacent gateway communities.

Themes And Topics Covered

- Planning for tourism and public use in protected areas: zoning, management plans, carrying capacity, stakeholder involvement, and destination planning
- Legal and policy frameworks: best practices in legal and policy frameworks to support sustainable tourism and conservation
- Typology of tourism activities in protected areas: recreational opportunity spectrum; and common activities (hiking, biking, sport fishing, sport hunting, water sports, winter sports, bird watching, camping, picnicking, and guided tours)
- Tourism and climate change: resilience, mitigation, adaptation, and education
- Institutional arrangements: role of different government actors and levels of government; local communities, landowners, academia, businesses, NGOs, indigenous people, universities, industry associations, user groups, volunteers, and concessionaires and other public-private partnerships
- Monitoring and evaluation: visitor expectations, behavior, and impacts; environment impact assessment; long term monitoring of environmental, economic and social impacts of tourism on natural areas, cultural heritage, communities and wildlife, and risk assessment
- Infrastructure: transportation networks; hotels; campsites; souvenir shops; restrooms; food and fuel; emergency services; signage; staff housing and facilities; and public services (water, sewerage, electricity, trash disposal, communications, etc.)
- Interpretation and environmental education: guided and self guided walks and trails; visitor centers; night programs; wayside exhibits; publications; and the role of guides and outfitters

Learning methodology

Participants will travel to a number of destinations over a 2.5 week period. The workshop will combine a series of modules and activities on cross-cutting issues that involve intensive and active engagement of the participants. Teaching methods will include lectures, discussion sessions, small group exercises, participant presentations, and informal exchanges among participants, faculty and invited speakers. The workshop will also include a variety of activities to build camaraderie and help participants understand the challenges to sustainable tourism in natural areas and the importance of highly trained personnel. These include a challenge “ropes” course, interpreter-guided hikes, and spending time with concessionaires and outfitters to experience firsthand protected area tourism programs. Throughout the course, there will be numerous times where participants will present on selected topics to the rest of the group, thereby sharing their expertise and providing examples from around the world.

Participants

You can expect to participate with a group of around 18 to 24 participants from many different backgrounds. English language competency is a prerequisite for participation.

Course Costs

The course fee of \$5,000 includes course registration and tuition, course materials, lodging, all meals and ground transportation costs during the workshop, insurance (health and accident), and basic outdoor equipment. Air travel costs and visa and passport fees are not included in the course fee. It is recommended that participants bring an additional \$300 to purchase appropriate personal equipment for field trips. This cost does not include airfare from participants' countries to Denver, Colorado (DEN) or from Jackson Hole, Wyoming (JAC) to their home countries; these are the beginning and ending airports we will use. CSU does not offer scholarships to the course. Participants and their organizations are expected to cover their travel and tuition costs directly or with the help of sponsors such as bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, NGOs, and industry associations. CSU can help accepted participants to process short-term visas for their travel to the United States once tuition has been deposited into our course account.





2013 Course Dates

2013 Course Dates: September 10-25, 2013.
Participants must arrive in Denver, Colorado (DEN) on September 9, and must plan to depart from Jackson Hole, Wyoming (JAC) on September 26.

Course Coordinators

The course coordinators are Jim Barborak (jim.barborak@colostate.edu) and Ryan Finchum (ryan.finchum@colostate.edu). Dr. Steve McCool of the University of Montana will serve as senior course adviser. Additionally, the course draws on expertise from faculty and experts.

About Colorado State University

Colorado
State
University



For more than fifty years, Colorado State University's Warner College of Natural Resources has played a leadership role in research, teaching, training, and technical assistance related to the world's parks and protected natural areas and associated tourism and recreation activities. The Center for Protected Area Management and Training (CPAMT) at CSU was formed to assist protected area professionals in strengthening the management of the world's protected areas and adjacent lands. CPAMT has conducted training for tourism and conservation practitioners for more than 20 years in the U.S., Latin America, and around the world.

How to Apply

To learn more about the workshop, download additional information, and apply online, please visit:
<http://warnercnr.colostate.edu/cpamt-tourism-course>

Applications will be accepted May 6 - June 24 2013.
Successful applicants will be notified by July 1.
Tuition funds must be deposited by July 15, 2013.