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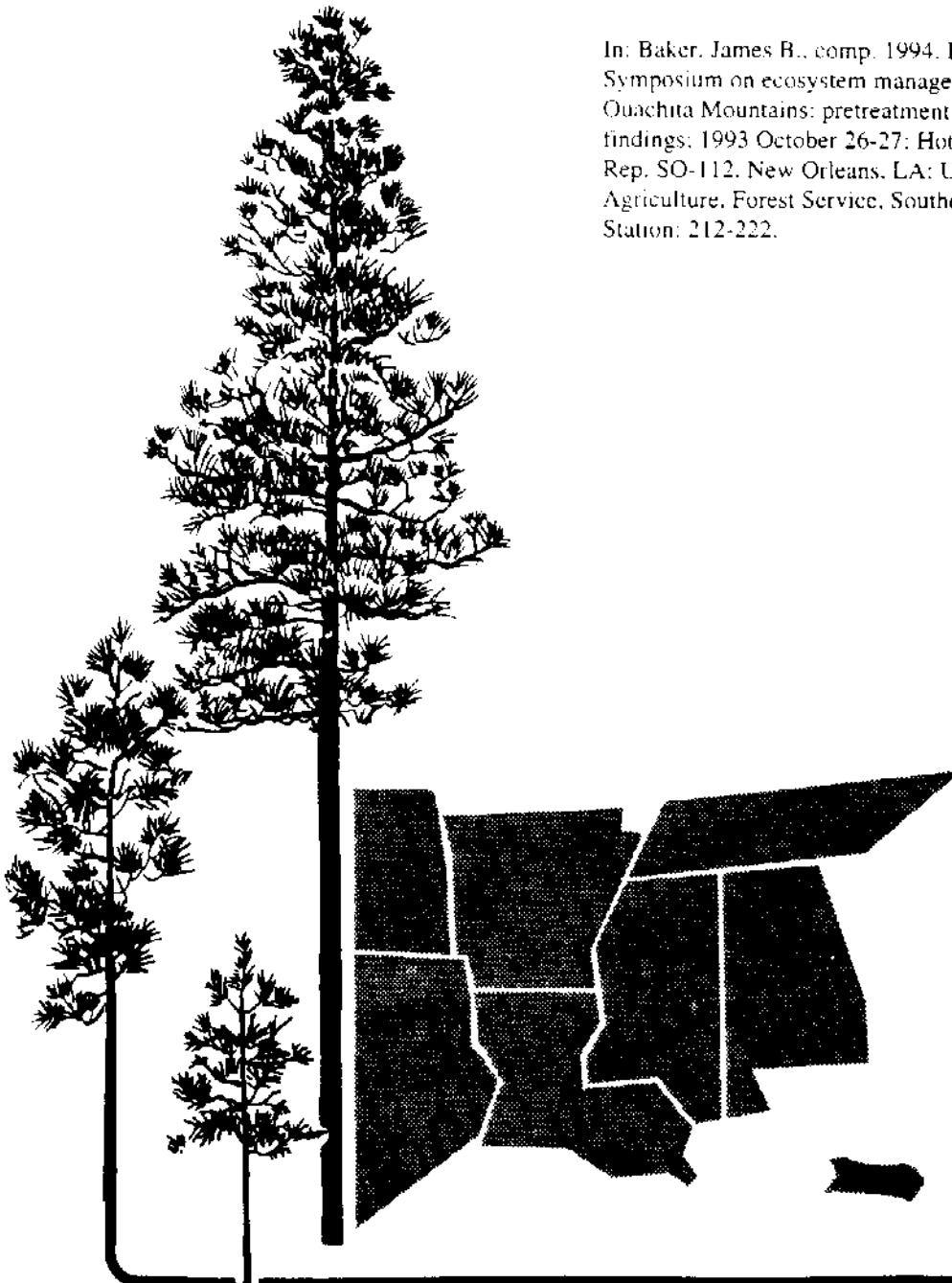
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VISITOR PREFERENCE FOR FOREST SCENERY IN THE OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST

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Visitor Preference for Forest Scenery in the Ouachita National Forest

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ABSTRACT

The majority of forest visitors interviewed between June through October 1991 and April through October 1992 preferred forest scenery that was "undisturbed," contained a "variety of natural features," or was associated with "natural" or "beauty" descriptions. Few respondents preferred "younger tree species with open areas." Results suggest that undisturbed conditions are important along with vegetation management to support a variety of natural features. Slight differences are noted when examining preferences by respondents' sex, age class, education level, principal recreation activity, month visited, and sites where interviewed. The order of questions appeared to affect the respondents' forest scenery descriptions. Interviews were conducted as part of an onsite survey involving a larger recreation-user study (CUSTOMER survey) for sites among four USDA Forest Service Ouachita National Forest ranger districts. Recommendations are made for using CUSTOMER survey data in future forest scenery preference research.

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USDA FS), National Forest System, is charged with managing its nearly 200 million acres of public land under a multiple-use philosophy. Recreation is one of the identified multiple uses. To adequately plan for recreation, public land managers need data describing the characteristics and preferences of recreating visitors.

To provide information about recreational use and users of public land, an interagency, multidisciplinary group of scientists, planners, and policy analysts developed tools and procedures necessary for the task. The result of this effort was the Public Area Recreation Visitor Survey (PARVS) developed and tested in 1985 by the Outdoor Recreation and Wilderness Assessment Group (ORWAG) of the USDA FS Southeastern Forest Experiment Station (Reed and others 1992). Data were collected on recreation activities, recreation trips, expenditures, demographics, and satisfaction with services and facilities. PARVS was later modified to obtain information about special issues identified by forest managers and believed to be important for particular sites. The revised PARV surveys became known as CUSTOMER surveys. CUSTOMER surveys were conducted for selected Ouachita National Forest sites in 1991 and 1992.

Parallel to CUSTOMER surveys, scientists from the visual quality research group associated with the New Perspectives (now Ecosystem Management) research team (Rudis and others 1994) began a study of various silvicultural treatments and their visual impacts. The ORWAG team and the visual quality research group made an effort to coordinate research activities for CUSTOMER survey sites on the Ouachita National Forest. However, due to budget and interview-time restrictions, flexibility in the use of additional questions and alternative sampling procedures was limited. As a compromise, two short questions were added to the special issues section: one ranking preferences for forest descriptions and another describing preferred forest scenery.

Presented in this report are initial findings of these two questions added to the special issues section. The primary goal is to describe the scenery preferences of CUSTOMER survey respondents by site and the utility of simplified survey questions to respondents' scenic preferences. A secondary goal is to develop likely hypotheses regarding differences in scenic preferences that vary with forest visitor demographics, principal recreation activity, month of visit, and survey site location.

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SURVEY SITES AND SAMPLING DESIGN

Survey sites were located in four ranger districts in the Ouachita National Forest. During the summer and fall of 1991, forest visitors were surveyed at 12 locations in or near the Winding Stair National Recreation Area (NRA) within Kiamichi ranger district in Oklahoma. In 1992, visitors were surveyed in Arkansas at 10 locations: 2 in the Caddo ranger district at Little Missouri Falls and Albert Pike Recreation Area; 1 in the Mena ranger district at Shady Lake; and 7 in or near Lake Sylvia on the Winona ranger district. A complete list of locations for both years appears in table 1.

Table 1 --Ouachita National Forest sites and locations where CUSTOMER survey interviews were conducted in 1991 and 1992

Site, ranger district (RD), time period, and survey locations	
Winding Stair National Recreation Area, Kiamichi RD June through October 1991 - Equestrian Campground Billy Creek - Winding Stair Cedar Lake South Cedar Lake North Cedar Lake Shady West End Vista Emerald Vista Kerr - Horsethief and Ouachita Junction Cedar Lake Dam - Cedar Lake Southshore	Lake Sylvia, Winona RD April through October 1992 - Lake Sylvia campground - Lake Sylvia beach and picnic area - Ouachita National Recreation Trail, trailhead - Trees of Forest Trail parking lot - Flatside/Pinnacle Vista parking lot - Winona Scenic Drive, FS #132 - Lake Winona Road FS #778 Caddo, Caddo RD June through August 1992 - Little Missouri Falls - Albert Pike Recreation Area Mena, Mena RD June through August 1992 - Shady Lake

Visitors responded to a 20 minute onsite interview that included a special issues section. Nearly all visitors encountered participated in the survey¹. These onsite surveys served as an exit interview of visitors who had completed or nearly completed their visits. Details on nonscenery questions and other responses from both onsite interviews and a related followup mail questionnaire are reported elsewhere (Coker and others 1993a, 1993b; Reed and others 1992).

In 1991, the survey instrument was split into two versions. Both versions contained identical demographic and trip profile sections. One version also contained questions about other onsite activities, contingent valuation, and the National Satisfaction Index. Another version contained an annual activity profile and the special issues section. An example of the special issues section for the Winding Stair NRA is found in the Appendix. In 1992, all the survey instruments were the same, and all onsite surveys contained a special issues section.

Examined in this report are two questions about forest scenery in the special issues section: (1) What type of scenery do you prefer in a forest environment? and (2) What words would you use to describe your preference in forest scenery? The two questions were asked in their present order for Winding Stair NRA and Lake Sylvia sites; reverse order was used for the Caddo and Mena sites.

For the first question, respondents were asked to rank forest descriptions in order of preference from "1" (most preferred) to "5" (least preferred). Results are reported for the one description comprising the majority of responses that were most preferred; i.e., ranked "1" or "2" out of 5, for each of the sites surveyed. A second description is listed if one description did not comprise the majority of responses. Forest descriptions provided were:

- Undisturbed.
- Large mature trees.
- Trees of mixed sizes and species.
- Younger tree species with open areas.
- Variety of natural features (cliffs, rocks, water, etc.).

¹ CUSTOMER survey staff, 1993 pers. comm. to senior author by phone. Athens, GA: USDA-FS, Outdoor Recreation and Wilderness Assessment Research Unit.

RESULTS

Ranked Forest Descriptions and Demographics

Table 2 presents the distribution of forest descriptions by rank for Winding Stair NRA. Most (71 percent) respondents indicated "variety of natural features" as the preferred forest scenery. The majority of respondents were males (63 percent), between the ages of 31 and 50 years old (65 percent), and who had completed high school or some college courses (64 percent). The majority were interviewed in July (53 percent) (table 3). Median preferences among demographic classes were for "variety of natural features" (table 3). Principal recreation activities of respondents were sightseeing (41 percent), followed by developed camping (25 percent), and other activities (33 percent) (table 4). Differences in preferred scenery were suggested, with sightseeing respondents preferring "variety of natural features" (77 percent) and developed campers preferring "undisturbed" scenery (63 percent) (table 4).

Respondent preferences at the Lake Sylvia site differed from those at Winding Stair NRA. The majority preferred "undisturbed" scenery; "large mature trees" and "trees of mixed sizes and species" were also important (table 5). Respondents were predominantly males (60 percent), between the ages of 21 to 50 years old (77 percent), and who had completed high school or some college courses (68 percent). The majority were interviewed in June and July (69 percent) (table 6). Median preferences among demographic classes were for "undisturbed" scenery and "large mature trees" (table 6). Principal recreation activities among respondents were camping (33 percent) and swimming (24 percent), followed by 18 other activities (43 percent) (table 7). Some variation in preferences existed among recreational activities.

Table 8 presents the distribution of forest descriptions by rank for the Caddo site. The majority (66 percent) of respondents indicated "undisturbed" as the most preferred forest scenery. The majority of respondents were males (65 percent), between the ages of 31 and 50 years old (57 percent), and who had completed high school or some college courses (65 percent). The majority were interviewed in August (52 percent) (table 9). Median preferences among demographic classes were for "undisturbed" scenery. Principal recreation activities among respondents were camping (49 percent) and sightseeing (22 percent), followed by eight other activities (28 percent) (table 10). Differences in scenery preferences between "variety of natural features" and "undisturbed" were slight, as both were closely ranked.

Respondent preferences at the Mena site were similar to those for Winding Stair NRA and the Caddo site. The majority indicated preference for "undisturbed" scenery, with "variety of natural features" competing for second place (table 11). Respondents were predominantly males (73 percent), between the ages of 31 and 50 years old (65 percent), and who had completed high school or some college courses (60 percent) (table 12). The majority were interviewed in July (85 percent) (table 12). Median preferences among age classes and education completed were for "undisturbed," "variety of natural features," and "trees of mixed sizes and species" (table 12). Principal recreation activities among respondents were camping (89 percent) and sightseeing (4 percent), followed by five other activities (7 percent) (table 13). The majority of campers preferred "undisturbed" scenery.

Comparisons of forest scenery preferences among the four sites were made by comparing modal rank; i.e., the rank associated with the maximum number of respondents. Modal rank for the "undisturbed" forest description is 1 (most preferred) for all sites (tables 2, 5, 8, and 11). Comparisons suggest that there are important differences in other preferences between Lake Sylvia and other sites. "Large mature trees" has a modal rank of 2 for Lake Sylvia and 3 for the other sites. "Trees of mixed sizes and species" has a modal rank of 2 for Lake Sylvia and 4 for other sites. "Younger tree species with open areas" has a modal rank of 3 at Lake Sylvia and 5 at other sites. "Variety of natural features" has a modal rank of 4 at Lake Sylvia and 1 at other sites.

Other modal rank comparisons suggest little difference in demographics (tables 3, 6, 9, and 12). A notable difference exists in principal activities between the variety of activities at Lake Sylvia and the prominence of sightseeing at Winding Stair NRA when compared with other sites (tables 4, 7, 10, and 13). Data in tables 2, 5, 8, and 11 illustrate a lack of response for forest descriptions from some forest visitors.

Table 2.-- Forest scenery preferences by forest description and rank (1=most preferred) in Winding Stair NRA, 1991, sample size=78

Forest description	Rank					Not ranked
	1	2	3	4	5	
--- frequency of responses ---						
Undisturbed	24	18	11	13	9	3
Large mature trees	14	20	26	12	3	3
Trees of mixed sizes and species	10	14	18	29	4	3
Younger tree species with open areas	1	1	9	7	57	3
Variety of natural features (cliffs, rocks, water, etc.)	29	24	9	12	1	3

Table 3.-- Preferred (ranked first or second out of five) forest descriptions for a majority of respondents by sex, age, education, and month of interview, Winding Stair NRA, 1991

Demographic category	Sample size	Majority preferred	
		Description	Frequency
All respondents	75	Variety of natural features	53
Sex			
Male	47	Variety of natural features	32
Female	28	Variety of natural features	21
Age class			
11-20	3	Undisturbed	3
21-30	11	Undisturbed	9
31-40	15	Variety of natural features	10
41-50	23	Variety of natural features	14
51-60	11	Variety of natural features	8
61-70	8	Undisturbed	6
71-80	4	Undisturbed	4
Education completed			
≤ 8th grade	1	Undisturbed	1
Some high school	3	Large mature trees	3
High school	22	Variety of natural features	16
Some college	26	Variety of natural features	18
Associate degree	13	Variety of natural features	12
Bachelor degree	10	Undisturbed, variety of natural features	6
Month of interview			
June	22	Variety of natural features	16
July	40	Variety of natural features	27
August	5	Undisturbed, variety of natural features	4
October	8	Variety of natural features	6

Table 4.-- Preferred (ranked first or second out of five) forest descriptions for a majority of respondents by principal activity, Winding Stair NRA, 1991

Principal activity	Sample size	Majority preferred	
		Description	Frequency
All respondents	75	Variety of natural features	53
Sightseeing	31	Variety of natural features	24
Developed camping	19	Undisturbed	12
Horseback riding	11	Variety of natural features	8
Day hiking	3	Variety of natural features	3
Fishing	3	Large mature trees	3
Backpacking	2	Undisturbed	2
Primitive camping	2	Trees of mixed sizes and species, variety of natural features	2
Bicycling	1	Trees of mixed sizes and species	1
Hunting	1	Large mature trees	1
Swimming	1	Trees of mixed sizes and species	1
Wildlife observation	1	Undisturbed	1

Table 5 -- Forest scenery preferences by forest description and rank (1 = most preferred). Lake Sylvia, 1992. sample size = 283

Forest description	Rank					Not ranked
	1	2	3	4	5	
	--- frequency of responses ---					
Undisturbed	127	26	25	6	81	18
Large mature trees	58	78	42	17	70	18
Trees of mixed sizes and species	31	94	70	31	39	18
Younger tree species with open areas	16	43	102	44	60	18
Variety of natural features (cliffs, rocks, water, etc.)	33	24	26	167	15	18

Table 6 -- Preferred (ranked first or second out of five) forest descriptions for a majority of respondents by sex, age, education, and month of interview. Lake Sylvia, 1992

Demographic category	Sample size	Majority preferred	
		Description	Frequency
All respondents	265	Undisturbed	153
Sex			
Male	159	Undisturbed	93
Female	106	Undisturbed	60
Age class			
11-20	11	Undisturbed	7
21-30	49	Undisturbed, trees of mixed sizes and species	25
31-40	97	Large mature trees	57
41-50	59	Large mature trees	34
51-60	32	Undisturbed	24
61-70	14	Undisturbed	9
71-80	3	Undisturbed	2
Education completed			
< 8th grade	4	Trees of mixed sizes and species	3
Some high school	18	Undisturbed	11
High school	89	Undisturbed	16
Some college	91	Undisturbed	18
Associate degree	38	Large mature trees	12
Bachelor degree	26	Undisturbed	16
Month of interview			
April	25	Undisturbed	14
May	32	Large mature trees	20
June	83	Large mature trees	46
July	101	Undisturbed	61
August	18	Undisturbed, large mature trees	10
September	6	Undisturbed	5

Table 7 -- Preferred (ranked first or second out of five) forest descriptions for a majority of respondents by principal activity. Lake Sylvia, 1992

Principal activity	Sample size	Majority preferred	
		Description	Frequency
All respondents	265	Undisturbed	153
Camping	87	Undisturbed, large mature trees	49
Swimming	64	Undisturbed	44
Running or jogging	25	Undisturbed, trees of mixed sizes and species	15
Relaxing	20	Undisturbed, trees of mixed sizes and species	11
Picnicking	17	Undisturbed, trees of mixed sizes and species	11
Family gathering	14	Trees of mixed sizes and species	9
Day hiking	7	Undisturbed	5
Fishing	5	Large mature trees	4
Backpacking	5	Undisturbed	3
Sightseeing	1	Undisturbed	2
Leading a group	4	Large mature trees	3
Sunbathing	3	Large mature trees	3
Nature study	2	Younger tree species with open areas, undisturbed areas	1
Walking	2	Large mature trees, younger tree species with open areas	1
Berry picking	1	Large mature trees	1
Getting wood	1	Undisturbed	1
Horseback riding	1	Trees of mixed sizes and species	1
Joy riding	1	Undisturbed	1
Small game hunting	1	Trees of mixed sizes and species, undisturbed	1
Volleyball	1	Large mature trees	1

Table 8 -- *Forest scenery preferences by forest description and rank (1 = most preferred), Caddo, 1992, sample size = 139*

Forest description	Rank					Not ranked
	1	2	3	4	5	
	--- frequency of responses					
Undisturbed	63	28	13	24	10	1
Large mature trees	14	44	49	25	5	2
Trees of mixed sizes and species	12	27	43	52	3	2
Younger tree species with open areas	0	7	3	16	109	4
Variety of natural features (cliffs, rocks, water, etc.)	50	33	30	18	8	0

Table 9 -- *Preferred (ranked first or second out of five) forest descriptions for a majority of respondents by sex, age, education, and month of interview, Caddo, 1992*

Demographic category	Sample size	Majority preferred	
		Description	Frequency
All respondents	139	Undisturbed	91
Sex			
Male	90	Undisturbed	63
Female	48	Variety of natural features	33
Age class			
11-20	6	Variety of natural features	4
21-30	21	Undisturbed	15
31-40	47	Undisturbed	31
41-50	32	Undisturbed	22
51-60	13	Undisturbed	11
61-70	15	Undisturbed	9
71-80	2	Variety of natural features	1
81-90	1	Younger tree species with open areas	1
Education completed			
≤ 8th grade	3	Large mature trees, variety of natural features	2
Some high school	11	Undisturbed	7
High school	48	Undisturbed	32
Some college	42	Undisturbed	33
Associate degree	19	Variety of natural features	11
Bachelor degree	15	Variety of natural features	12
Month of interview			
June	6	Undisturbed	5
July	60	Undisturbed	45
August	72	Variety of natural features	47

Table 10 -- *Preferred (ranked first or second out of five) forest descriptions for a majority of respondents by principal activity, Caddo 1992*

Principal activity	Sample size	Majority preferred	
		Description	Frequency
All respondents	139	Undisturbed	91
Camping	68	Variety of natural features	45
Sightseeing	31	Undisturbed, variety of natural features	22
Swimming	21	Undisturbed	15
Picnicking	9	Variety of natural features	6
Family gathering	3	Variety of natural features	2
Walking	2	Variety of natural features, large mature trees	1
Backpacking	1	Variety of natural features	1
Relaxing	1	Variety of natural features	1
Running or jogging	1	Variety of natural features	1
Fishing	1	Variety of natural features	1

Table 11. *Forest scenery preferences by forest description and rank (1 = most preferred). Mena, 1992, sample size = 87*

Forest description	Rank					Not ranked
	1	2	3	4	5	
	--- frequency of responses ---					
Undisturbed	38	13	7	20	7	2
Large mature trees	9	26	33	10	2	7
Trees of mixed sizes and species	10	21	21	27	1	7
Younger tree species with open areas	2	1	3	8	65	8
Variety of natural features (cliffs, rocks, water, etc.)	28	21	16	13	3	6

Table 12. *Preferred (ranked first or second out of five) forest descriptions for a majority of respondents by sex, age, education, and month of interview. Mena, 1992*

Demographic category	Sample size	Majority preferred	
		Description	Frequency
All respondents	85	Undisturbed	51
Sex			
Male	62	Undisturbed	38
Female	23	Undisturbed	13
Age class			
11-20	2	Variety of natural features	2
21-30	8	Variety of natural features	6
31-40	33	Undisturbed, variety of natural features	18
41-50	23	Undisturbed, variety of natural features	22
51-60	9	Undisturbed	7
61-70	8	Undisturbed, variety of natural features	5
71-80	2	Undisturbed	2
Education completed			
≤ 8th grade	3	Undisturbed	3
Some high school	7	Undisturbed	5
High school	25	Trees of mixed sizes and species, variety of natural features	14
Some college	26	Undisturbed	17
Associate degree	18	Variety of natural features	12
Bachelor degree	6	Undisturbed	5
Month of interview			
June	7	Undisturbed	6
July	72	Variety of natural features	42
August	6	Undisturbed	6

Table 13. *Preferred (ranked first or second out of five) forest descriptions for a majority of respondents by principal activity. Mena, 1992*

Principal activity	Sample size	Majority preferred	
		Description	Frequency
All respondents	85	Undisturbed	51
Camping	76	Undisturbed	46
Sightseeing	3	Undisturbed, variety of natural features	2
Swimming	2	Undisturbed, variety of natural features	1
Backpacking	1	Variety of natural features	1
Family gathering	1	Undisturbed	1
Picnicking	1	Undisturbed	1
No purpose	1	Variety of natural features	1

Content Analysis of Forest Scenery Preferences

Contents of forest scenery preferences described by respondents are reported in table 14. All word and word combinations comprising 5 percent or more of the responses are listed. Differences by order of the question presented, i.e., after and before the question about ranking of supplied forest descriptions, are apparent.

After Ranking Forest Descriptions

(Winding Stair NRA and Lake Sylvia sites)--Words occurring 10 percent or more included "tree," "natural," "undisturbed," and "variety"--all of which were listed in the previous survey question. Word combinations included "mixed variety," "hills or mountains," and "large trees."

Before Ranking Forest Descriptions

(Caddo and Mena sites).--Words occurring 10 percent or more included "beauty," "natural," "as is," "quiet," and "trees." "Beauty" and "as is" are difficult to translate into management terms. No word combinations appeared that represented 10 percent or more of the responses.

Table 14 *Frequently used word or word combinations given in answer to "What words would you use to describe your preference in forest scenery?" by order of question, site, and respondent frequency*

Order of question, site, and number of respondents	Word	Frequency (percent)	Word combinations	Frequency (percent)
After ranking forest descriptions				
Winding Stair NRA, all respondents = 78	Tree	33 (42)	Mixed variety	18 (23)
	Natural	32 (41)	Hills (and, or) mountains	12 (15)
	Undisturbed	21 (27)	Large trees	10 (13)
	Variety	14 (18)		
Lake Sylvia, all respondents = 283	Natural	76 (27)	All water	12 (9)
	Undisturbed	70 (25)	Hills (and, or) mountains	12 (9)
	Trees	51 (18)		
	Wild	22 (8)		
	Variety	22 (8)		
	Scenic	19 (7)		
	Mountains	16 (5)		
	Clean	13 (5)		
Before ranking forest descriptions				
Caddo, all respondents = 140	Beauty	82 (59)	All water	12 (9)
	Natural	71 (51)	Hills (and, or) mountains	12 (9)
	As is	20 (14)		
	Trees	12 (9)		
	Mountain	11 (8)		
	Clean	10 (7)		
Mena, all respondents = 87	Beauty	41 (47)	All water	7 (8)
	Natural	40 (46)	Hills (and, or) mountains	4 (5)
	As is	11 (13)		
	Quiet	11 (13)		
	Trees	10 (11)		

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The questions added to the CUSTOMER survey provide insight into respondents' preferences for forest scenery and forest descriptions. The majority of respondents preferred "undisturbed," "variety of natural features," "natural," or "beauty" forest descriptions. Variation existed in preferences by principal activity, user characteristics, recreation activity, and sites surveyed. "Younger tree species with open areas" was associated with few activities and few respondent preferences.

Results are consistent with findings for other recreation area studies in which visitors preferred conditions that were natural, but parklike, with some vegetation management that limits understory vegetation density (Hammit 1988, Ulrich 1977). Findings in our study indicate that natural, undisturbed scenes are preferred. Vegetation management also is important--primarily to maintain a variety of natural features.

It should be emphasized that forest descriptions are not mutually exclusive, as more than one description can be used for each site. However, the prevalence of high ranks for "undisturbed" and "variety of natural features" and low ranks for "younger tree species with open areas" suggests a consensus among respondents for the meaning of these phrases.

Notable are majority preferences for "large mature trees" and "trees of mixed sizes and species" for some principal activity categories at Lake Sylvia. Also, a large proportion of respondents at Lake Sylvia ranked secondary preferences at odds with the majority at other sites. Reasons for these differences are many, some of which were gleaned from CUSTOMER survey reports (Coker and others 1993a, 1993b; Reed and others 1992). Lake Sylvia sample locations were more numerous and diverse, associated with more diverse principal activities, tied to more developed areas, associated with more out-of-state visitors, and was, perhaps, better known than other sites in the CUSTOMER survey.

Preferred forest descriptions associated with particular recreation activities appear inconsistent among sites. Small sample size precluded detailed examination by site and activity. Sampling was not designed to compare differences among sites, as surveys were conducted at different times of the year. Because the primary goal was to describe results by site, it was decided not to combine the data or categories for this initial examination. For future analyses, combining data from all sites to provide a larger sample and to conduct additional analyses, such as discrimination and clustering of answers by respondents and by season, is recommended. Such a study could help researchers better understand differences between Lake Sylvia visitors and those from other sites and help managers gain insight into different customer market segments for forest-selected areas.

The data in these two questions supplement information about visitor preferences but have their limitations. Because respondents were interviewed at recreation areas, it is suspected that respondents may have been describing scenes in and around the interview site. The possibility exists that useful analysis of scenery preferences with other CUSTOMER survey data will provide insight into respondents' perceptions and related interests. It is recommended that future surveys incorporate photographs rather than descriptions, that direction regarding scenic-preference rankings depicting forest areas also include forest management areas outside the interview location, and that future surveys use ratings of scenic preference, rather than rankings, to improve opportunities for analysis.

Additional research on visitor preferences for forest scenes of pre- and postharvest stand-level (Phase II) treatments is planned (Baker 1994, Rudis and others 1994). Procedures will involve rating, rather than ranking, forest scenes as depicted in photographs--a procedure that permits increased statistical analysis and limits potential confounding of scenic preferences with views during onsite interviews. When combined with stand inventory information, photographs and forest scenery ratings should provide detailed information about vegetation conditions preferred by visitors.

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APPENDIX

Special Issues Section for Winding Stair National Recreation Area (NRA) CUSTOMER Study

Now, I have a few more questions about your use of this area

INTERVIEWER -- PLEASE TRY TO WRITE WORD FOR WORD THE ANSWERS YOU RECEIVE.

1. Are you aware that this area has been designated a National Recreation Area?
 YES (go to 2) NO (go to 3)
2. Does this designation have any effect on your decision to recreate here?
 YES NO
3. Are you aware that the road between Mena, AR and Tahleah, OK (OK ROUTE 1 - AR ROUTE 88) is a National Scenic Byway?
 YES NO
4. Did you pay a user fee to recreate here?
 YES NO
5. Are you willing to pay higher fees to recreate at an NRA than at other areas on the National Forest?
 YES NO
6. Is there some particular feature of Winding Stair NRA that attracts you here for recreation?
 YES (please specify) NO
7. Are there any problems occurring now that may have caused you to have an experience that was not as good as you expected?
 YES (please specify) NO
8. What could the Forest Service do to make your recreation experience better?
9. How do you feel about the Forest Service allowing a private individual to operate a concession (such as a small store) inside the NRA?
 Good idea Bad idea Other comment

10. Would you use this type of service if it were available?
- | | | | | |
|-----|----|-------|---------------|--|
| YES | NO | MAYBE | Other comment | |
|-----|----|-------|---------------|--|
11. Would you like to see outfitter/guide services (such as horseback riding with rental horses) available in the NRA?
- | | | | | |
|-----|----|--|--|--|
| YES | NO | | | |
|-----|----|--|--|--|
12. What additional facilities would you like to see on or near the NRA?
- | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|----|--------|----------|
| More campgrounds | YES | NO | | |
| Trails | YES | NO | | |
| Picnic areas | YES | NO | | |
| Visitor center | YES | NO | | |
| Lodge | YES | NO | On NRA | Near NRA |
| Restaurant | YES | NO | On NRA | Near NRA |
13. The Forest Service would like to improve some of the views and vistas along the Tahihena Scenic Drive (Skyline Drive). How do you feel about the removal of a few trees in order to do this?
- Check all that apply:
- Think it's a good idea
 - Don't like the idea
 - Vistas are fine the way they are
 - Would like to be able to see more as I'm driving
 - Other _____

Question 14. FOR TRAIL USERS ONLY:

14. How do you feel about different types of trail users such as horses, hikers, mountain bikes, all terrain vehicles sharing the same trails?
- 14a. Do any particular uses interfere with your recreation satisfaction?
- | | |
|-----|----|
| YES | NO |
|-----|----|
- If yes, which ones:
- Horses
 - Hikers
 - Mountain bikes
 - All-terrain vehicles
- 14b. What type of trail user are you on this trip?
- 14c. Do you ever do more than 1 of the 4 activities mentioned above on these trails?
- | | |
|-----|----|
| YES | NO |
|-----|----|
- If yes, which ones?

THESE LAST 2 QUESTIONS REFER TO YOUR PREFERENCES IN FOREST SCENERY.

15. What type of scenery do you prefer in a forest environment? Please rank order your preferences by marking "1" by the forest type most preferred, "2" next to the second preference, "3" next to the third preference, "4" next to the fourth preference, and "5" next to the least preferred.
- _____ Undisturbed
 - _____ Large mature trees
 - _____ Trees of mixed sizes and species
 - _____ Younger tree species, with open areas
 - _____ Variety of natural features (cliffs, rocks, water, etc.)
16. What words would you use to describe your preference in forest scenery?