

THE EXTENT OF TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES ON THE NATURAL AREAS OF THE HINTERLAND OF USHUAIA, TIERRA DEL FUEGO, ARGENTINA

Patricia A. Mosti
Universidad de la Patagonia
San Juan Bosco- Ushuaia – Argentina

The practice of recreational and tourist activities in natural areas has had an important growth. Global trends indicate that a steady increase on the demand of visitors interested in natural areas with contemplative purposes and activities related with nature contact has been detected during the last years. Ushuaia is not the exception to this trend; its hinterland is the scenery for the practices of tourists and residents. This scenery is not only the main physical support but also its attractiveness and set down of user's expectations. This article intends to recognize the preferences and requirements related to its public use. Two aspects were taken into account in order to systematize the information: the use of qualitative and quantitative techniques. The user information was obtained by means of surveys and direct observation on the identified sites; the characteristics of these sites were obtained through the implementation of field observation. Also, the methodology involves the use of a Geographical Information System (GIS) to analyze the spatial extent of recreational and/or tourism activities. Results indicate that the selection of the site is based on several factors and/or values, depending on the precedence of the users.

KEY WORDS: *hinterland, foreland, public use, tourists, recreationists.*