

VISUAL PREFERENCES ALONG A SCENIC PARKWAY

Perceptions of Vegetation Management

Vegetation management along the Blue Ridge Parkway can be conducted at various levels of intensity. For example, the roadside grass can be mowed weekly, monthly, bi-monthly, etc. We would like your opinion to some possible levels of grass mowing and tree clearing that might be practiced on the Parkway. By rating the vegetation management examples in our photos, we can determine what Parkway visitors prefer.

Instruction

There is a collection of photographs presented as three (3) pairs per page.

EXAMPLE:

<input type="checkbox"/>	1A	1B	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2A	2B	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	3A	3B	<input type="checkbox"/>

Each picture has a short description under it. Please pay particular attention to the described feature as you rate each photograph.

First, look through them quickly to get a general feeling for the photographs. Then, go back and carefully read the description. Rate EACH photo (compared to its pair) for HOW MUCH YOU LIKE IT. Simply circle the number of your choice below each photograph.

- | |
|--|
| 1 = not at all
2 = a little
3 = somewhat
4 = quite a bit
5 = very much |
|--|

Thank you!

Kathlyne A. McGee
The University of Tennessee

"There are idle spots on every farm-

and every highway is bordered by an idle strip as long as it is.

Keep cow, plow, and mower out of these idle spots, and the full

native flora, plus dozens of

interesting stowaways

could be part of the normal

environment of every citizen."



Aldo Leopold,

Pioneer Ecologist

from

A Sand County Almanac

Just a 50% reduction

in mowing on the

Blue Ridge Parkway

will save taxpayers \$71,000 per year.

There is an economy in natural things.



1a 1b

1 2 3 4 5 No mowing beyond guardrail.



1 2 3 4 5 Mowing to and beyond guardrail.



2a 2b

1 2 3 4 5 Mowed one mower width from roadside.



1 2 3 4 5 Mowed to treeline.



3a 3b

1 2 3 4 5 No mowing.



1 2 3 4 5 Complete mowing into treeline.



4a 4b

1 2 3 4 5 Vegetation not
mowed around sign.



1 2 3 4 5 Vegetation mowed
around & beyond sign.



5a 5b

1 2 3 4 5 Shrub vegetation
in near foreground.



1 2 3 4 5 Shrubs managed by
controlled burning.



6a 6b

1 2 3 4 5 Mowed one mower
width from roadside.



1 2 3 4 5 Mowing complete to
treeline.



7a

7b



1 2 3 4 5 Mowing to treeline.

1 2 3 4 5 Mowed one mower width from roadside.



8a

8b



1 2 3 4 5 Mowed only at mid-summer.

1 2 3 4 5 Mowed every three weeks.



9a

9b



1 2 3 4 5 Only roadside shoulder mowed.

1 2 3 4 5 Mowed to fenceline and beyond.



1 2 3 4 5 Trees closing in the scenic vista.

10a 10b

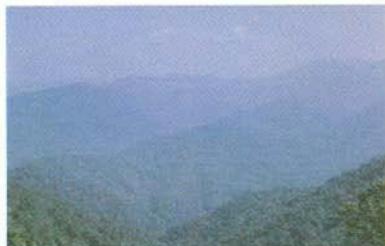


1 2 3 4 5 Low shrubs in distant foreground.



1 2 3 4 5 Vista with some trees in foreground.

11a 11b



1 2 3 4 5 Trees removed from foreground in vista.



1 2 3 4 5 Foreground trees in vista.

12a 12b



1 2 3 4 5 No foreground trees in vista.



13a 13b



1 2 3 4 5 Scene with foreground trees.

1 2 3 4 5 Foreground trees completely removed.



14a 14b



1 2 3 4 5 Hardwood and conifer (evergreen) trees present.

1 2 3 4 5 Hardwoods cut to emphasize conifers.



15a 15b



1 2 3 4 5 Shrubs in foreground.

1 2 3 4 5 Shrubs removed by cutting & controlled burning.



16a 16b



1 2 3 4 5 Trees closing in
vista more than 50%.

1 2 3 4 5 Selective cutting
to re-open vista.



17a 17b



1 2 3 4 5 Low shrubs in
distant foreground.

1 2 3 4 5 Mowing and cutting
of foreground vegetation.



18a 18b



1 2 3 4 5 Original scene
with edge trees.

1 2 3 4 5 Single edge tree
removed.

THANK YOU for rating the photos. We now have a few questions for you to answer which will help us interpret your ratings and leisure patterns.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

The following items describe various levels at which the grass and shrubs along the Blue Ridge Parkway could be maintained. Please indicate whether you support or do not support each of the following management options. (Circle the most appropriate response for each statement).

	Strongly Support	Support	Probably Support	Don't Know	Probably Don't Support	Don't Support	Definitely Don't Support
I. The roadside grass should be mowed:							
1. weekly, like a lawn.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. every two weeks, when 3 to 6 inches tall.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. once per month, when at least 10 inches tall.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. once in the Fall after the wildflowers are through blooming.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. only one mower width (7 feet) from the edge of the road surface.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

6. two mower widths (14 feet) from the road's edge.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. from the road's edge to the ditch or swale.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. from the road's edge to the treeline.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. as little as possible, only when necessary to maintain driver safety and help prevent grass fires.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

II. Shrubs and trees at pull-off vistas should be cut or trimmed:							
10. annually to maintain a completely clear view.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11. every 5 to 7 years, before the shrubs in the foreground block much of the distant view.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. just often enough so that no more than 1/3 of the view is blocked.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

We would like to ask some questions about the kind of outdoor recreation activities in which you participate. FIRST, place a check mark only by those activities in which you annually participate, AND SECONDLY, indicate how often you do these activities by circling the appropriate code number.

Code

- 1 1 wk+ = Once a week or more
 2 2-3 mth = Two to three times a month
 3 1 mth = Once a month
 4 1 cple mth = Once every couple months
 5 2-3 yr = Two to three times a year
 6 1 yr = Once a year

	1 wk+	2-3 mth	1 mth	1 cple mth	2-3 yr	1 yr
1. _____ Camping in remote wilderness areas	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. _____ Camping in developed campgrounds	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. _____ Hunting	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. _____ Fishing	1	2	3	4	5	6

5. _____ Riding motorcycles, trailmobiles, snowmobiles, etc. off the road	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. _____ Driving 4-wheel drive vehicles off the road	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. _____ Wildlife and bird photography	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. _____ Bird watching	1	2	3	4	5	6

9. _____ Hiking	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. _____ Nature walks	1	2	3	4	5	6
11. _____ Walking for pleasure	1	2	3	4	5	6
12. _____ Bicycling	1	2	3	4	5	6

13. _____ Horseback riding	1	2	3	4	5	6
14. _____ Canoeing	1	2	3	4	5	6
15. _____ Sailing	1	2	3	4	5	6
16. _____ Other boating (water skiing)	1	2	3	4	5	6

17. _____ Outdoor pool swimming	1	2	3	4	5	6
18. _____ Other swimming outdoors	1	2	3	4	5	6
19. _____ Golf	1	2	3	4	5	6
20. _____ Tennis	1	2	3	4	5	6

	1 wk+	2-3 mth	1 mth	1 cple mt.	2-3 yr	1 yr
21. _____ Playing other outdoor games or sports	1	2	3	4	5	6
22. _____ Going to outdoor concerts, plays	1	2	3	4	5	6
23. _____ Going to outdoor sports events	1	2	3	4	5	6
24. _____ Visiting zoos, fairs, amusement parks	1	2	3	4	5	6

25. _____ Sightseeing	1	2	3	4	5	6
26. _____ Picnicking	1	2	3	4	5	6
27. _____ Driving for pleasure	1	2	3	4	5	6
28. _____ Other outdoor activities (please specify) _____	1	2	3	4	5	6

Do you attend

29. _____ Football games	1	2	3	4	5	6
30. _____ Basketball games	1	2	3	4	5	6
31. _____ Baseball games	1	2	3	4	5	6
32. _____ Track and field	1	2	3	4	5	6
33. _____ Other _____	1	2	3	4	5	6
34. _____ How often do you watch sports on TV?	1	2	3	4	5	6

LEISURE ATTITUDES

These items measure your attitudes toward leisure. By this we mean how you feel about your leisure, your recreation, or the things you do in your free time. Please answer as quickly and accurately as possible indicating whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Circle the appropriate response for each statement).

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Probably Agree	Don't Know	Probably Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Leisure is my most enjoyable time.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2. I admire a person who knows how to relax.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3. I like to do things on the spur of the moment.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. I would like to lead a life of complete leisure.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5. Most people spend too much time enjoying themselves today.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. I don't feel guilty about enjoying myself.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7. People should seek as much leisure as possible in their lives.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8. I'd like to have at least two months vacation a year.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9. Leisure is great.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10. It is good for adults to be playful.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7