

# Resource-Based Outdoor Recreation

## Activity Definitions

Outdoor recreation, broadly defined, is any leisure time activity conducted outdoors. Within the vast range of such a definition lies an almost unlimited number of possible activities, from wilderness camping to neighborhood playground use and outdoor performances. This wide range of activities can generally be subdivided into “resource-based” and “user-oriented” recreation. Resource-based outdoor recreation is dependent on a particular element or combination of elements in the natural and cultural environments that cannot be easily duplicated by man. In contrast, user-oriented recreation can generally be provided anywhere, assuming the availability of space and funds for development.

This document provides activity definitions for a narrowed down list of outdoor recreation activities that are commonly provided on Florida’s conservation lands.

Generally, many activities not included in this list can be grouped into one of the activity types that utilize the same resource. For the purpose of planning outdoor recreation, some commonly identified activities, such as walking for pleasure have been omitted entirely because of the inability to practically measure and plan for the resources needed to support the activity.

Bicycling	Horseback Riding
Camping	Hunting
Canoeing/Kayaking	Motorized – OHV Riding
Freshwater and Saltwater Boating	Nature Study
Freshwater and Saltwater Fishing	Picnicking
Freshwater Swimming	Saltwater Beach Activities
Hiking	Visiting Archeological and Historic Sites

### **Bicycling**

Bicycling as a recreational activity is the simple act of riding a bicycle in an outdoor setting for the enjoyment, amusement, or pleasure of participation. Common bicycling activities are mountain biking, road cycling and bicycle touring. These activities differ from the utilitarian usage of bicycles for transportation, in that they are participated in for the enjoyment of natural and cultural resources. Participation can take place in many different settings, from city streets and neighborhood sidewalks to remote trails in a National Forest. A majority of the use occurs on trails designated for only bicycle riding and for shared use trails designed to support bicycle riding with other trail activities.

### **Camping**

Camping is the activity of spending one or more nights outdoors in a tent, primitive structure, travel trailer or recreation vehicle (RV) for the enjoyment of the natural environment. The level of development to support camping vary from a bare piece of grass to fully developed campgrounds with hard surface trailer camps, electricity, sanitary facilities, picnic tables and unlimited variety of others amenities. Camping may be an end unto itself, but often it is participated in conjunction with other activities. Examples include backpacking and canoe/kayak camping.

### **Canoeing/Kayaking**

Canoeing/kayaking refers to the use of one or more single or dual blades, paddles, to propel a canoe or kayak forward with only human muscle power. For planning purposes canoeing/kayaking also represents many different forms of paddling activities, such as outriggering and rafting or whitewater rafting. A majority of the use is facilitated through canoe/kayak launches and designated paddling trails, although such facilities are not absolutely required.

### **Freshwater and Saltwater Boating**

Freshwater and saltwater boating is the leisure activity of traveling by boat, or the recreational use of a boat focused on travel itself. Boats vary greatly, from powerboats to sailboats or human-powered vessels. Although there are many different forms of boating, their basic similarly is the requirement of a water body as their principal supporting resource. To provide access to a body of water, boat ramp facilities and marina facilities are commonly developed by outdoor recreation providers.

### **Freshwater Swimming**

Freshwater swimming is an outdoor recreation type embracing all of the various activities carried on in fresh water in which the participant is the sole means of locomotion. Specialized variations of swimming include diving, skin diving, and SCUBA diving. Resources and facilities commonly found at outdoor recreation areas that provide freshwater swimming include beach areas, docks and swimming and diving platforms.

### **Freshwater and Saltwater Fishing**

Fishing as a recreational activity is the act of catching fish primarily for pleasure. Generally, a major distinction can be made between freshwater fish and saltwater fishing. Freshwater species such as the largemouth bass and the various panfish are sought primarily with either cane pole or rod and reels, and the activity may be pursued from the bank or shore or from boat. Saltwater species of virtually infinite variety are generally sought with rod and reel. Saltwater fishing may be carried on from shore structures such as piers, bridges, and jetties, from the surf, or from boats which can range great distances after deep sea species. Also considered here as part of the overall

category are several specialized types of fishing. These include spear fishing, cast netting, gigging, crabbing, and gathering oysters and other shellfish, all of which are legal or practical only in salt water.

### **Hiking**

Hiking is a form of walking, undertaken with the specific purpose of exploring and enjoying the natural environment. Although it can be done virtually everywhere, for the purpose of planning outdoor recreation, it is often participated in on trails. Trails are typically characterized as purposefully laid out and marked routes, which take advantage of scenery, interesting terrain, and points of natural or historical significance.

### **Horseback Riding**

Horseback riding as an outdoor recreation activity refers to riding a horse for the purpose of experiencing the natural environment as opposed to the utilitarian use of a horse for transportation. Fox hunting and trail riding are common forms of horseback riding as an outdoor recreation activity. Trail riding can vary considerably in degree, from a simple and short bridle path to a prolonged trek on a back-country trail.

### **Hunting**

Hunting in its various aspects is probably one of the oldest forms of outdoor recreation known to man. The basic concept of hunting is simple - stalking and taking game birds and animals for sport – although the activity can be high specialized depending on the species being sought. Rifles, shotguns, pistols, longbows, compound bows, recurve bows, crossbows and birds of prey are common methods for taking game. Outdoor recreation providers often have designated upland and wetland areas to accommodate participants. Several other outdoor recreation activities are often participated in conjunction with hunting, including camping, hiking, and boating.

### **Motorized – Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Riding**

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) riding refers to recreational use of driving off of public roadways utilizing a variety of motorized vehicles. Common vehicle types include all terrain vehicles (ATV), trail motorcycles, dune buggies and modified conventional motor vehicles. OHV riding providers commonly supply both trails and open riding areas. Often, OHV riding is participated in conjunction with other outdoor recreation activities such as hunting, fishing and camping.

### **Nature Study**

The studious observation and appreciation of the natural landscape in any variety of aspects is called nature study. Commonly identified activities are bird watching and wildlife viewing. Nature study differs from hiking and walking for pleasure, in that the participant typically seeks the observation or study of a specific natural feature rather than natural features being secondary to the participation in the activity. Although, in practice, nature study can be conducted virtually anywhere a natural setting exists,

outdoor recreation providers often provide observation decks, overlooks, and trails with interpretive signage to encourage and facilitate participation.

### **Picnicking**

Picnicking is simply eating a meal outdoors for the enjoyment of the natural environment. Although picnicking can take place just about anywhere, most recreation areas have formal facilities such as tables and shelters. Typically picnicking is associated with outdoor recreation activities such as camping, hiking and visiting archeological and historic sites.

### **Saltwater Beach Activities**

Saltwater beach activities are a composite type of outdoor recreation comprised of several pastimes in which the beach or shoreline is used as the primary resource. Because they are all closely related, individually, these activities are considered as a group and are together distinguished from such major activities as fishing and boating, each of which may also involve the use of the shoreline in one way or another. Saltwater beach activities primarily consist of swimming, sunbathing, beachcombing, shell collecting, surfing and windsurfing.

### **Visiting Archeological and Historic Sites**

Archeological and historic sites are features or sites created by man, which are usually 50 years or more in age with significant cultural value. Types of features or sites include ruins, buildings, roads, mounds, cemeteries, landscapes and canals. Similar to a natural resource, archeological and historic sites are both fixed in amount and location and are generally treated as such.