

Abstract

This study includes a demographic profile of camper-groups staying at Blomidon Provincial Park, a county-level economic impact study of non-resident visitors camping at the park and a binomial logit regression analysis examining factors involved in determination of camper-group participation in hiking on the nearby Cape Split trail.

During the 2003 season self-administered questionnaires were distributed to camper-groups staying at Blomidon Provincial Park. It was found that more than fifty percent of non-resident campers at Blomidon Provincial Park reside within the province of Nova Scotia and a further twenty-five percent reside in other Canadian provinces. In addition, it was found that approximately seventy-five percent of camper-groups were traveling without dependents (children under fifteen years of age).

Incremental expenditures made by non-local camper-groups were shown to be responsible for creating (through direct, indirect and induced effects) approximately \$166 thousand in expenditures and \$25 thousand in income. Nearly sixty percent of these impacts were a result of non-local Nova Scotian groups. Non-Nova Scotian Canadian camper-groups and non-Canadians camper groups were responsible for the remaining forty percent with twenty-two percent and eighteen percent respectively.

A logit regression analysis found that the key factors in determining a camper-groups' propensity to hike at nearby Cape Split were the number of nights the party stayed at the park, the number of males in the group, the importance of the park in determining visitation to the area and the importance of hiking at Cape Split in determining visitation to the area.