The book has some limitations worth noting. The authors could have done more to consider the challenges relating to the desert regions of other continents, particularly those that are more densely populated than their Australian counterparts. Another limitation is that the book does not prescribe detailed plans or formulae. In this regard, the term ‘blueprint’ should not be taken too literally and readers seeking detailed solutions may be disappointed. Rather, the book provides fundamental principles to underpin the development of solutions based on the science and history of dryland regions which have already become accustomed to the types of challenges that are now spreading to more humid and densely settled regions.

Overall, Dry Times is an insightful and timely book which is highly relevant to planning and adapting to water stress, desertification and related effects of climate change. Though the book is mostly focused on Australian deserts, the lessons of the book draw on a well established global science program and relate to a broader international context. The book offers principles and strategies rather than prescribing detailed solutions. The strengths of this book are threefold. First, it is well written, highly engaging and likely to instil or extend an appreciation of desert environments. Second, the book conveys in-depth research spanning a range of social, economic and biophysical disciplines in an accessible manner. Third, it presents fundamental principles to facilitate adaptation to a warmer, drier climate based on regions which have already adapted to these challenges.

Thomas G. Measham*
Social and Economic Sciences Program, CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences, 1 Bellenden Street, Crace, Canberra ACT 2911, Australia

* Tel.: +61 2 62421789; fax: +61 2 62421705. E-mail address: Tom.Measham@csiro.au

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Outdoor recreation and outdoor recreation management have advanced and changed dramatically during the last few decades. Faced with increased use, new activities and technologies, and new pressures and challenges, outdoor recreation professionals and their many partners have responded accordingly. In Introduction to Outdoor Recreation, Roger L. Moore and B.L. Driver provide important insights of the principles and practices related to the field of outdoor recreation. The authors introduce concepts and skills relevant to professionals and providers of outdoor recreation services in numerous settings.

The primary purpose of this book is to introduce readers to the essential body of knowledge needed to be effective as outdoor recreation professionals. The focus is on the principles and concepts related to outdoor recreation policy, planning, management, visitor behavior, benefits desired and realized, and natural resource management as it relates to outdoor recreation opportunities.

The book consists of three parts, supported by 20 chapters. In Part I, the authors provide a historical perspective on outdoor recreation and discuss the foundational concepts of natural resource management, leisure, recreation and outdoor recreation. It is followed, in Part II, by an overview of the natural and relatively natural settings, providers, the provision, use of outdoor recreation and related amenity opportunities in selected countries of the world.

Part III (Chapter 11–20) contains most of the essential content including the decision processes, concepts, methods and paradigms on managing outdoor recreation opportunities. Chapter 11 is focused on policy development, management, administration, and planning. Chapter 12 reviews the most widely used science-based systems for managing outdoor recreation resources. Chapter 13 reviews specific systems for managing recreation-related impacts to natural resources and visitor experiences, and described the needs for and characteristics of the beneficial outcomes approach to leisure (BOAL) with special attention devoted to a growing application of BOAL through benefits-based management (BBM). Six categories of negative impacts of recreation use and the most important systems for managing negative recreation impacts that are commonly used today are introduced and discussed in Chapter 14. These include the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC), Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP), Visitor Impact Management system (VIM), and Visitor Activity Management Process (VAMP), all of which are “standards-based” rather than “formula-based.” Chapter 15 describes approaches for gathering the information needed for professional planning and managing outdoor recreation resources and opportunities. Four main topical concentrations in this chapter include methods to estimate recreation use, forecast future recreation use, gather user information and gather the information needed to identify and manage the negative impacts of recreation on natural resources and visitor experience. The bulk of Chapter 16 focuses on management strategies to influence and manage visitor behavior, including the indirect approaches of modifying the physical setting, I&E programs (either through a central of peripheral route to persuasion), user involvement, and fees or other economic constraints. Specific direct management approaches are also presented, including rules and regulations in general, restrictions on party size, length of stay, activities allowed, timing of use, location of use, and use levels. The discussion on Collaborative planning and management (CPM) is the main focus on Chapter 17. It traces the development of CPM, which replaced the limited public involvement approach, which had replaced the technocratic approaches used by most public agencies prior to the 1960s. The chapter illustrates that in spite of the barriers to CPM and the ongoing commitment required to make it work, CPM is the best alternative in the long run. Chapter 18 describes two categories of outdoor recreation resources common enough and with issues unique enough that all outdoor recreation professionals should have more than a basic understanding of them: wilderness resources and trails, greenways, and rivers. It provides an overview of the current scope of trail and greenway systems in the United States, and briefly discusses the benefits and current policies related to trails and greenways. The chapter ends with a short summary of river resources. Chapter 19 reinforces the notion that the leisure sector of the economy, especially outdoor recreation, is a very important aspect of the inquiry and concern of the outdoor recreation professional. It reviews how economists define the concepts of economic value and benefit, the concepts of merit, public, and non-market (i.e., unpriced) goods and services, the measures used by recreation economists to estimate the economic benefits of recreation, the arguments both for and against the use of entrance fees, and different means of financing park and recreation resources, programs, and services. The penultimate chapter offers key conclusions, which serve as guidelines to people beginning or considering careers as outdoor recreation professionals, and facing the new pressures and challenges.

The authors of this review think of Chapters 12 and 13 as the most important parts of the book. Chapter 12 traces the evolu-
tion of science-based management of outdoor recreation resources in the US. Management approaches and emphasis during four different era (from 1600s to in the middle to late 1800s, middle 1800s to 1930s–1940s, early 1930s to 1960, and 1960 to the present) illustrate the complexity and challenges of managing outdoor recreation. Significant legislations such as ORRRC (Outdoor Recreation Resource Review Commission) and Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Area Classification Plan (ACP) are also discussed. This chapter is an essential reading for students and professionals in the field. This chapter also analyzes the relationship between science-based outdoor recreation resource management systems and recreation demand. Based on the “Recreation Demand Hierarchy” (Driver and Brown, 1978), this chapter introduces the different stages of recreation demand and provides the rationale for the shift from Activity-Based Management (ABM), to Experienced-Based Management (EBM) and to Benefits-Based Management (BBM).

The Chapter also introduces the Sustainable Ecosystems Management (SEM) concept. The SEM is widely interpreted to be treated as an approach that integrates knowledge about natural ecosystems and needs of people in a way that serves human needs while maintaining diversity and productivity of natural ecosystems over time. Today, the concept of SEM is practiced widely by many public, private, and nonprofit land management and outdoor recreation organizations. Over time, greater consensus has been reached and it is now generally accepted that SEM does not mean “no use” by humans but refers to “wise use”. Better ecological sustainability is achieved when social needs, economic needs, and economic needs are well integrated as part of the SEM.

Chapter 13 can be considered as a supplement and an extension of Chapter 12. The Chapter shows how benefit-based management (BBM) expands and supplements the activity-based and experience-based management approaches. It also explains how BBM is only one specialized application of the beneficial outcomes approach to leisure (BOAL) that also covers leisure policy development, research, education, and marketing. The BOAL also plays an important role in “repositioning the image” of the social roles of leisure, as called for by Crompton (1993) and Crompton and Witt (1998). This Chapter details the development of BOAL, its purpose, and its characteristics. It rests on the premise that the basic idea of optimizing the realization of positive outcomes to a society and the minimization of negative outcomes should be the focus of all public agencies that provide social services, and not just those that provide leisure services. The Chapter then provides a detailed account of the 16 steps of the benefit-based management approach, which serves as a useful guide to its implementation.

By necessity, the book covers a broad range of issues, is interdisciplinary in its approach, and provides multiple perspectives. The language and the format of the book is easy to follow. The book is relevant to all students and professionals in the field of recreation, landscape planning and natural resource management. It is also relevant to students and professionals in tourism and commercial recreation, community recreation, park and visitor management.

Chengzhao Wu*

Department of Landscape Studies, College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University, 1239 Siping Road, 200092 Shanghai, China

Sanjay K. Nepal

Department of Park, Recreation and Tourism, Texas A&M University, United States

* Corresponding reviewer. Tel.: +86 2165977060; fax: +86 2165977060.
E-mail addresses: wuchzhao@vip.sina.com (C. Wu), sknepal@ag.tamu.edu (S.K. Nepal)

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