

Economic Guidance Memorandum 98-3, Unit Day Values for Recreation, Fiscal Year 1998

The national economic development (NED) benefit evaluation procedures contained in ER 1105-2-100 (28 Dec 90), Chapter 6, Section VIII, include three methods of evaluating the beneficial and adverse NED effects of project recreation: travel cost method (TCM), contingent valuation method (CVM), and unit day value (UDV) method.

The criteria for selecting the appropriate method are described in paragraph 6-90.d. and Figure 6-7 of ER 1105-2-100. If the UDV approach is used, the range of unit day value for FY 1998 studies is:

General Recreation	\$2.57	\$7.71
Specialized Recreation	\$10.45	\$30.54

If, when using the UDV method, evidence indicates a value outside the published range, use either TCM or CVM to evaluate recreation benefits.

Tables 6-28, 6-29 and 6-30 of ER 1105-2-100 are constructed as guidance for planners in the selection of unit day values for particular recreation activities. Tables 6-29 and 6-30 illustrate a method of assigning a point rating to a particular activity. Point values are assigned based on measurement standards described for the five criteria of activities, facilities, relative scarcity, ease of access, and aesthetic factors.

Tables 6-29 covers general recreation, involving relatively intensive development of access and facilities. The specialized recreation category, covered in Table 6-30, includes such unique experiences as big game hunting, wilderness pack trips, white water canoeing, and other activities generally categorized by more extensive, low density use.

A copy of Table 6-28 values for FY 1998 is attached. This table may be used to convert points to a UDV dollar amount if the point assignment method is used. The table was adjusted from Table K-3-1, Federal Register Vol. 44, No. 242, p.72962, December 4, 1979, using the CPI factor.

As a special note of warning, it is important to recognize that all specialized recreation activities claimed will require a regional model or a site-specific study, the results of which would probably not agree with the specialized values in the attached table (See ER 1105-2-1, Chapter 6, Section VIII, Figure 6-7). The only exception would be in those specific cases for which the unreliability or infeasibility of TCM or CVM can be stated convincingly (See ER 1105-2-100, Chapter 6, Section VIII, paragraph 6-112).

Revised Table 6-28 (FY 98)
 Conversion of Points to Dollar Values
 (See ER 1105-2-100, Chapter 6,
 Section VIII, for Table 6-29 and 6-30)

Point Values	General Recreation Values (1)	General Fishing and Hunting Values (1)	Specialized Fishing and Hunting Values (2)	Specialized Recreation Values other than Fishing and Hunting (2)
0	\$2.57	\$3.70	\$18.00	\$10.45
10	3.05	4.18	18.48	11.09
20	3.38	4.50	18.80	11.89
30	3.86	4.98	19.29	12.86
40	4.82	5.46	19.77	13.66
50	5.46	5.95	21.70	15.43
60	5.95	6.59	23.63	17.04
70	6.27	6.91	25.07	20.57
80	6.91	7.39	27.00	23.95
90	7.39	7.55	28.93	27.32
100	7.71	7.71	30.54	30.54

(1) Points from Table 6-29

(2) Points from Table 6-30