Leisure Recreation Pursuits

• While leisure & free-time activities are familiar venues for human development and quality of life, how does “place attachment” contribute to human well-being and quality of life?
• Well-being for this discussion is framed on the premise that “freedom of choice and action” are critical to being able to achieve what a person values doing or being.
Leisure and Place Attachment

- Leisure experiences are socially constructed within individual, family and society (Godbey, 2010);
- Place attachment is reflected in ways that we interact with our environment/sense of place: direct – through our senses to indirect - cognitive processes (Tuan, 1977);
- Sense of place is that “meaning” that people place on significant environments (Williams, 2008).
- For example, thinking back to a “time and place” where you were playing sports and what early recollections do you remember, and how have they impacted your life?
Family and Relationship to Place

- Family characterized as a relationship with place – how are the lives of individual family members, and bonds between family members organized around “place and/or place meanings”?
- People often value their relationships to outdoor places not merely because they were useful for pursuing recreation outcomes, but because these specific places conveyed a sense of individual identity and group affiliation and over time – people accumulate meaning and form emotional ties to specific places (Williams & Patterson, 2008)
Learning from Clients...

• Importance place has on ERS and their influence on overall wellbeing (+/-)
• Influence of recreation activities (+/-)
• Person’s attachment is primarily based on security, materials needs, physical and emotional health, and social relationships.
• Leisure often seen as a means for achieving goals at the individual and collective levels: physical & mental, economic survival, human development, well-being and environmental quality.
Summary

- People benefit from a sense of involvement, belonging, and/or identification with places they use for their leisure pursuits;
- There is a need for people to establish and maintain some control over their relationships to specific places that contribute to their sense of belonging and identity; and
- Understanding ERs and how to best interpret them when analyzing individual, family, and societal relationships to place is critical to understanding client attachments.