

A study for assessing the recreation potential of Yozgat Çamlığı National Park

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Abstract: Today, in addition to being a contribution to the conservation of nature, national parks are venues which benefit society for their natural, cultural and esthetic values and counter the people's demand for outdoor recreation where significant interaction in terms of culture and physical environment take place. Yozgat Çamlığı National Park, which is the first national park to gain legal protection status in Turkey, is an important public area that offers the opportunity to experience everyday life practices and has become a common usage area for urban life where city people can spend time and carry out social and recreational activities in parallel with urban development and increasing population. This study has been carried out to determine the present recreational potential of Yozgat Çamlığı National Park with its flora and fauna and its multiple services to the city people which allows daily usage and is preferred by local people as a nearby area for reshaping social relations, strengthening urban relations and dialogue. For this purpose, Inter-forest Recreational Potential has been assessed in terms of the scale value created by parameters such as climate value, accessibility, recreational convenience and negative factors as well as the landscape value of the national park and it has been found to have a medium scale recreational potential. As a result of the study it has been concluded that the national park has a unique potential to add aesthetic, ecological and panoramic values to the urban landscape, to integrate nature and urban people and to contribute to the environmental, psychological and social development of urban people. However, it has been observed that the alternative green areas in the city are inadequate and the national park is close to the city and the recreational demand for this area has increased which has had an adverse impact on the potential of the area from time to time due to picnic and daily use.

Keywords: Yozgat Çamlığı National Park, Outdoor recreation, Recreation potential