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Where to walk in Alentejo? Mapping outdoor recreation based on land cover pattern preferences by tourists

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Abstract:

This paper presents an expedite method to upscale land cover pattern preferences as expressed by tourists based on landscape metrics as indicators. Ten preferred land cover patterns previously considered in the Landscape Preferences Spatial Framework (LPSF) (Ribeiro et al, 2013) were searched and evaluated over the study area (Alentejo, Portugal) using PLAND (% of landscape of each land cover) maps built with FRAGSTATS moving window analysis. For each one of the preferred land cover patterns resulted one regional map that was further analysed through multiple regression predictions built upon class and landscape level FRAGSTATS metrics such as PLAND, LPI, TE, AREA_AM, PAFRAC, SHAPE_AM, ENN_AM, CONTAG, IJI, AI, SHDI, SIDI, SHEI e SIEI. The results show that landscape preferences could be an useful tool at strategic landscape planning level, as they express stakeholders interests, as well as at operational landscape planning level helping outdoor recreational zoning. These results were examined by local landscape experts that

assessed and in some cases validated the meaningfulness of the analysis here conducted selecting various areas for each landscape preferences. Finally results were refined by a logistic regression of the recognized landscapes areas against the most significant landscape metrics for each case.

Throughout the paper selected metrics and regression coefficients of each preferred landscape are discussed. Overall, it can be said this is a valid methodology to map regional scale landscapes preferences based on local (municipality) preference surveys but further work needs to be done to refine the approach namely by incorporating other landscape metrics beyond PLAND.

References:

Carvalho Ribeiro, Sónia; Migliozi, Antonello; Incerti, Guido; Pinto Correia, Teresa (2013). Placing land cover pattern preferences on the map: Bridging methodological approaches of landscape preference surveys and spatial pattern analysis. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 114, 53–68.

Date and time:

Wednesday, 11th September 2013 - 14:55 to 15:08



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