



FIGURE 9. MANAGEMENT PREFERENCE RESPONSES.

6. Visitor attitudes towards management options

Attitudes toward nineteen options for managing future increases in track use-levels were surveyed, with visitors indicating the degree to which they agreed or disagreed. These options included increasing the capacity of accommodation, dispersing use pressures, imposing use-limits, controlling motorboat activities, and providing pre-walk information (refer Appendix 1, Question 8). The complete list of responses, as summarised in Figure 9, indicates a variety of visitor attitudes.

The type of management approach which attracted consistently high support, was that associated with using pre-walk information to influence visitor choices about making track visits. Over 70% of kayakers agreed with these approaches while less than 5% disagreed. The only other management options supported to this level were controlling motorboat access to some places, and promoting alternative trip options. Kayakers also had predominantly positive attitudes toward the options of promoting smaller group sizes, and limiting water taxi access. For many of the other management options, the proportions of kayakers either for or against were more similar. Such options included providing more campsites and facilities, imposing hut booking systems, allowing more guided kayaking trips using their own facilities, requiring permits, and making alternative options cheaper. Generally, disagreement was much higher with the options of reducing facilities and services in order to discourage use (78%), allowing more freedom for campsite choice (71%), building more huts (60%), imposing campsite booking systems (59%), making peak times cost more for visits (55%), and providing more bunks in huts (46%).

Overall, these results indicated a pattern of preferences by visitors for different management options (also refer Table 4 and Figure 10). Indirect information-based approaches are clearly most favoured by almost all visitors. In addition, some control of motorboat access was highly favoured. Altering use of existing facilities and providing some alternative opportunities for kayaking and overnight stays tended to split visitors fairly evenly for or against. More direct actions to control and channel use, or to physically develop more accommodation options/facilities were clearly least favoured. Kayakers were mostly opposed to any developments that increased use of campsites, but were also strongly opposed to any campsite booking system to control use.

6.1 EFFECTS OF AGE, GENDER, NATIONALITY, AND CROWDING PERCEPTION

6.1.2 Background to analyses

Additional analyses were required to assess whether these management items varied significantly among visitors according to age group, gender, nationality, and crowding perception. Table 4 and Figure 10 show the attitudes to management scales created for these analyses (refer Section 4.1.1).

TABLE 4. ATTITUDES TO MANAGEMENT SUMMARY SCALES (REFER APPENDIX 2).

SCALE	DESCRIPTION
Rationing/use-limits	Hut/camp booking systems, limited permits
Manipulate use conditions	Cheap options, small groups, facility reduction, high peak costs, one-way track, limit boat/water taxi access
Information management	Encourage use elsewhere, promote low-impact behaviour
Increase accommodation	More hut/camp capacity, guided options, camping freedom, new tracks, guided options

6.1.2 Significant findings

Differences in these management scales according to age-group (over and under 40 years), gender (male/female), nationality (New Zealand and overseas), and crowding perception (uncrowded/crowded) were analysed (refer Section 4.1 for method). However, these analyses did not identify any significant differences between the attitudes of different visitor groupings.

Extreme responses

Despite no differences being identified between the visitor groupings, additional exploration of these data were undertaken, because attitudes of different visitor groups are sometimes substantially split both for and against various management options (refer Figure 10). The top and bottom 25% of scores for each of the management option scales were selected, representing the more extreme attitudes of those who most strongly agreed or disagreed with the options. Differences in the proportions of these extreme positive and negative attitudes were apparent according to age-group, nationality and crowding perceptions. Crowded kayakers with these extreme agree/disagree responses appeared more positive than uncrowded kayakers toward most types of management options, indicating higher levels of extreme agreement with booking systems (54% vs 39%), manipulating use conditions (56% vs 42%) and managing information use (60% vs 45%). New Zealand kayakers with these extreme attitudes indicated higher levels of extreme agreement than overseas kayakers with increasing accommodation options (63% vs 34%), while overseas

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