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Gender differences in the perceptions of wildlife management objectives and priorities in Australasia

Auteur(s) / Author(s)

MILLED Kelly K. ; JONES Darryl N. ;

Résumé / Abstract

It is now well established that men and women often differ significantly in their attitudes and responses to workplace situations, challenges and policies. The aim of this study was to examine the effect of gender on perceptions and priorities held by Australasian wildlife managers. Data were collected via a questionnaire distributed during December 2002 - February 2003 to members of the Australasian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS) and registrants of the 2002 AWMS annual conference. The results show that there are now significantly more female AWMS members than there were in the early 1990s, a possible indication of a change in the wider wildlife management profession in Australasia. Consistent with previous research, male respondents held different views from female respondents about wildlife and wildlife management. In particular, male respondents were significantly more likely to express the 'management/consumptive use of wildlife' perspective than female respondents. Interestingly, this gap was observed only in the 18-30-year age category. The paper examines what these differences might mean for the future of wildlife management in Australasia.

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