**Reviewer #1**

Rate the technical merit of the project:

1. Sound Scientific approach:

Approve/continue project

2. Achievable goals/objectives:

Excellent

3. Appropriate scope of activity to accomplish objectives:

Excellent

4. Potential for significant outputs(products) and outcomes and/or impacts:

Excellent

5. Overall technical merit:

Excellent

Comments

The rural economy is struggling as employment in the traditional primary employers of rural

workers (agriculture, logging, mining) has been in decline for decades. Recreation and tourism

represent an important economic development opportunity for many rural communities. This

project has assembled a very strong team that seeks to work on this important issue. I am

confident that this will be an extremely successful project.

Your Recommendation:

Approve/continue project

Response from authors: Thank you for your positive comments on this proposal

**Reviewer #2**

Rate the technical merit of the project:

1. Sound Scientific approach:

Approve/continue project

2. Achievable goals/objectives:

Excellent

3. Appropriate scope of activity to accomplish objectives:

Excellent

4. Potential for significant outputs(products) and outcomes and/or impacts:

Excellent

5. Overall technical merit:

Excellent

Comments

This is a very timely project proposal that will help to bind together a group of somewhat scattered tourism researchers, practitioners, and Extension/outreach specialists focused on supporting rural tourism businesses and projects. One potential shortcoming is that they did not (yet) articulate a strategy for being inclusive of a growing body of knowledge and a network of applied researchers working on related issues. For instance, there is recent momentum in the formation of networks that focus on agritourism research. I would recommend that they identify and articulate this into future modifications of this project and be open to bringing the knowledge being generated abroad and participating in these networks.

Your Recommendation:

Approve/continue project

Response from authors: We appreciate the comment about being open to bringing the knowledge being generated abroad and participating in current networks working on related issues and will be cognizant of the need to identify and collaborate with such networks. We will reach out to members of the National Extension Tourism (NET) Design Team to assist in identifying and connecting with existing networks of applied researchers working on related issues. We have a strong agritourism network in formation and several others being formed (outdoor recreation, etc.) that can provide the contacts and connections as we begin to build participation in this project. Additional information on inclusion added to the Outreach section of the proposal.

**Reviewer #3**

Rate the technical merit of the project:

1. Sound Scientific approach:

Approve/continue project

2. Achievable goals/objectives:

Good

3. Appropriate scope of activity to accomplish objectives:

Excellent

4. Potential for significant outputs(products) and outcomes and/or impacts:

Good

5. Overall technical merit:

Excellent

Comments

This proposal was very complete in its overview of the focus issue (tourism and recreation), the

particular dynamic they hope to explore (resilience) and how it fits into USDA's broader research

portfolio. Plus, there is a good integration of research and Extension activities which is important

for this particular topic. Was very happy to see the innovation proposed of using big data in addition to mixed traditional Methods. I could not view proposed membership to comment on the qualifications of the team and/or breadth of geographic coverage.

The only item I would have liked to seen more attention to is the inclusion, collaboration with or

advisement from state tourism boards and/or those who work on National Parks, forests and

seashores from the Dept of Interior.

Your Recommendation:

Approve/continue project

Respone from authors: The authors will take note of the comment to focus on inclusion, collaboration with or advisement from state tourism boards and/or those who work on National Parks, forests and seashores from the Dept of Interior and be sure to extend an invitation to them for participation on the technical advisory committee as their contribution as a member of the tourism industry and destination managers will be very important in order to help guide the research in a way that has both theoretical and practical implications to the resilience of destinations during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. See additional information on inclusion in the Outreach section

**Reviewer #4**

Rate the technical merit of the project:

1. Sound Scientific approach:

Approve/continue project

2. Achievable goals/objectives:

Excellent

3. Appropriate scope of activity to accomplish objectives:

Excellent

4. Potential for significant outputs(products) and outcomes and/or impacts:

Excellent

5. Overall technical merit:

Excellent

Comments

Excellent grasp of the relevant literature and the case for this line of research is laid out very well. The use of mixed methods to triangulate the results is optimal and more research programs should take the triangulation across multiple approaches. While I congratulate the use of triangulation of results, it is not exactly clear from the narrative how this triangulation will be carried out. While the tourism literature tends to be within journals that focus on tourism, make sure to bring in as much as an interdisciplinary perspective as possible. I could not find the list of participants for this proposal so cannot assess the breath and depth of the interdisciplinary potential.

Your Recommendation:

Approve/continue project

Response from authors: We have updated the proposal to include additional information on the use of triangulation in the Methods section. The list of participants has been provided.