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## Camping, weather, and disasters: Extending the Construal Level Theory

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### Abstract:

Camping is an outdoor accommodation and type of recreation that is susceptible to weather and climate change. Camping—in addition to the relationships camping shares with weather—remains understudied despite the subsector's salient economic impact and high participation rate. The observable effects of non-meteorological/climatological (e.g., pandemic) is also a topic that has received limited attention. Accordingly, we introduce the Camping-Weather-Disaster (CWD) framework to examine the concurrent impact of weather and the COVID-19 disaster on post-disaster camping trip plans among leisure travelers in the 48 contiguous United States (n=2,442). Extending the Construal Level Theory, the CWD framework considers traveler construal (i.e., understanding) of a disaster and psychological distance (i.e., mental frame of reference) from a disaster alongside empirically observable state-level weather and COVID-19 cases. Results demonstrate that (1) concrete construal about timing and distance of travel is positively related to post-disaster camping trip plans; (2) weather is a significant predictor of post-disaster camping trip plans where there are regionally fewer COVID-19 cases; and (3) state-level COVID-19 cases are the most salient predictor of post-disaster camping trip plans where there are regionally more COVID-19 cases. Although the study context is camping, the CWD framework can be applied to other subsectors of tourism to build understanding and adaptive capacity to future natural conditions and disasters.

**Keywords:** construal level theory; camping; coronavirus; climate change; camping climate index (CCI); weather

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# Camping, Weather, and Disasters: Extending the Construal Level Theory

## 1. Introduction

Tourism is among the most exposed industries to the effects of climate change including shifting weather patterns and extreme weather events (Reidmiller et al., 2018; UNWTO, 2019). Comparably, the COVID-19 pandemic has been the most economically impactful disaster tourism has ever experienced (Dolnicar & Zare, 2020). COVID-19 is a disease caused by the novel SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus (World Health Organization [WHO], 2021), and the global reach of the disease signifies a pandemic. The adverse effects of COVID-19 resulted in an approximately 70% decline in the global tourism industry from 2019 to 2020 (UNWTO, 2020).

Like weather and climate change, COVID-19 has not impacted all tourism subsectors equally (e.g., Gossling et al., 2020; Ruddy & Scott, 2010). For instance, Ma et al. (2021a) report that climate change improved weather for camping across much of the United States from 1984 to 2019. Concerning COVID-19, researchers and practitioners alike reported that nature-based tourism and recreation (e.g., camping) rebounded quickly compared to traditional forms of hospitality (e.g., hotels, dining) where permissible into the summer and fall 2020 meteorological seasons (CCG, 2020a; Craig & Karabas, 2021; Gossling et al., 2020; Kim & Lee, 2020; Yu et al., 2021; Rice et al., 2020). For example, in response to COVID-19, 59% and 41% of campers and non-campers in the United States, respectively, viewed camping as a safe form of travel (CCG, 2020a, p. 4). For comparison, far fewer campers and non-campers viewed large hotel (16% and 15%, respectively), small hotel (16% and 10%, respectively), and Airbnb accommodations (20% and 18%, respectively) as safe forms of travel.

Camping interactions with its external environment differ from other types of hospitality (CCG, 2020a; Ma et al., 2021b), though to-date the variable effects of weather and non-

1 meteorological/climatological disasters have not been empirically and concurrently investigated.  
2 To address this knowledge gap, we introduce the Camping-Weather-Disaster (CWD) framework  
3 to investigate the variable effects of weather and COVID-19 on post-disaster camping trip plans  
4 among travelers in the 48 contiguous United States (n=2,442). The CWD extends the Construal  
5 Level Theory (CLT; Trope & Liberman, 2010) by empirically investigating relationships that  
6 weather, a disaster (i.e., COVID-19), traveler construal (i.e., understanding) of a disaster, and  
7 traveler psychological distance (i.e., mental reference point) from a disaster share with a post-  
8 disaster tourism decision (i.e., camping trips where COVID-19 conditions permit).

9         Unfortunately, early projections that the tourism industry would not recover from  
10 COVID-19 until 2023 (STR and Tourism Economics, 2020) may still hold due in part to (1)  
11 COVID-19 variants accelerating faster than vaccination deployment (Pancevski et al., 2021) and  
12 (2) opposition to vaccination (i.e., “anti-vax”; Sear et al., 2020). Vaccination is the  
13 administration of a vaccine, which trains “your immune system to create antibodies, just as it  
14 does when it’s exposed to a disease” (WHO, 2020, par I) like COVID-19. Regardless the  
15 duration of the adverse impacts of COVID-19, like previous disasters (e.g., extreme weather  
16 [Mahn et al., 2020; Robbie, 2008], terrorist attacks [Arana & Leon, 2008; Floyd et al., 2008], and  
17 epidemics [van Lendt et al., 2017]), COVID-19 provides a fertile research landscape to theorize  
18 about and empirically investigate disaster response broadly among leisure travelers.

19         In support of our empirical analysis, we begin by reviewing select literature pertaining to  
20 camping, weather, climate, and disasters, introduce the CWD framework, and present our  
21 hypotheses. The remainder of the article consists of methods and measures, results and analysis,  
22 theory advancement, and conclusion sections.

23

## 1 **1.1 Camping, Weather, and Climate**

2 Camping provides a useful context to study travel decisions because it is susceptible to  
3 factors in the natural environment (e.g., weather, climate), has a high participation rate among  
4 United States households, and contributes over \$150 USD billion annually to the United States  
5 economy (CCG, 2019; Craig & Karabas, 2021; Rice et al., 2019). Characteristics of the 2018  
6 United States camping year include: (1) a new peak of 78.8 million camping households, (2)  
7 demand growth for new camping accommodation options (e.g., glamping, shared RV economy),  
8 and (3) an increase in nearby camping trips (CCG, 2019). Comparable to other alternative  
9 accommodations (e.g., Airbnb), camping is also becoming disruptive to traditional  
10 accommodations (e.g., hotels) (Chang & Sokol, 2020; Craig & Karabas, 2021) due in part to its  
11 naturally socially distant, lower risk setting (Ma et al., 2021a; CCG, 2019, 2020a, b; Gossling et  
12 al., 2020; Yu et al., 2021). COVID-19 risks (actual and perceived) are lower for camping than  
13 other accommodations because it is well ventilated, shared indoor spaces are not as prevalent  
14 (e.g., lobbies, bathrooms), and there is minimal close contact with other individuals (CCG,  
15 2020a; WHO, 2021a).

16 In addition to weather, traveler characteristics also influence camping trip plans. Studies  
17 in North America demonstrate that weather, changing climatic conditions, and socio-  
18 demographic factors are related to camping and other recreation decisions (CCG, 2019; Craig &  
19 Feng, 2018; Craig, 2019; Ma et al., 2021a,b; Hewer et al., 2017). For instance, Hewer et al.  
20 (2017) show: (1) there are differences in camping type (i.e., tent or other) and recreational  
21 activity (i.e., swimming/wading or other) based on age, and (2) there is variance in acceptable  
22 weather for camping based on gender and age. Craig and Karabas (2021) note that age, income,  
23 and employment are related to glamping, a form of camping with luxurious amenities.

1 Considering past significance of intrinsic factors on camping decisions, this study captures and  
2 controls for traveler characteristics including age, income, employment, gender, and ethnicity.

3 Like other sub-sectors of nature-based tourism (e.g., alpine skiing), weather is often the  
4 strongest predictor of camping (Ma et al., 2021a,b; Hewer et al., 2017; Tashman & Rivera, 2016;  
5 Wilkins et al., 2018). There are multiple factors that influence favorable conditions for camping,  
6 so we operationalize weather and climate using the composite Camping Climate Index (CCI; Ma  
7 et al., 2020). Weather occurs from minutes to weeks and climate from months (i.e., climatic  
8 variability) to decades (i.e., climate change). The CCI is calculated using seven weather variables  
9 (see Table I) and has been validated demonstrating better model fit compared to other tourism  
10 indices (e.g., Matthews et al., 2019; Mieczkowski, 1985; Ritty & Scott 2010) at for-profit (Ma et  
11 al., 2020) and non-profit (Ma et al., 2021b) campsites in the United States. The CCI is  
12 formulated to best describe camping weather and climate favorability because it empirically  
13 captures extreme, overriding temperature, precipitation, and wind events. Additional details  
14 about the CCI are provided in the methods section.

## 15 **1.2 Disasters**

16 COVID-19 is an external biological disaster and a man-made crisis (Aliperti et al., 2019;  
17 Rosollo et al., 2020; Sharuf et al., 2003). Disasters and crises are similar but distinct with no  
18 agreed upon definitions (Faulkner, 2001; Ritchie, 2004; Ritchie & Jiang, 2019; Shaluf et al.,  
19 2003). However, prior studies have analyzed the literature to establish features and  
20 characteristics for the two concepts (e.g., Al-Dahash et al., 2016; Aliperti et al., 2019; Ritchie &  
21 Jiang, 2019; Shaluf et al., 2003).

22 A comprehensive literature synthesis “reveals that the key features of any disaster are its  
23 sudden nature, being unforeseen, causing loss and damage, coping capacity, system recovery,

1 external assistance and involvement of multi stakeholders” (Al-Dahash et al., 2016, p. 1194).  
2 Common characteristics of disasters include they (1) only have negative effects, (2) are caused  
3 by the accumulation of previously overlooked circumstances or events, and (3) cause widespread  
4 harm (Sharuf et al., 2003). Criteria for disasters quantifies harm from events, with examples  
5 including substantial (1) loss of life (i.e., 25 or more), (2) injuries (i.e., 125 or more), (3)  
6 evacuations (i.e., 10,000 or more), and (4) economic impact (i.e., US\$1 million or more) (Sharuf  
7 et al., 2003).

8 Crises are closely related to disasters, especially when they result from a disaster.  
9 According to Al-Dahash et al. (2016), “the key features of a crisis are uniqueness, danger,  
10 troublesome or causing damage, being unexpected, and usually emotional” (p. 1195).  
11 Characteristics of crises include they (1) are man-made, (2) can be positive or negative, and (3)  
12 can stem from economic issues, political issues, or disasters (Sharuf et al., 2003). Criteria for  
13 crises are both qualitative and quantitative, with thresholds for harm typically lower than those  
14 for disasters (Sharuf et al., 2003). As a crisis, COVID-19 represents community and corporate  
15 crises (Sharuf et al., 2003) that uniquely impacts stakeholder groups (e.g., individuals,  
16 communities, governmental agencies, businesses).

17 A key distinction of a disaster that COVID-19 meets is that it “can be described as  
18 occurring outside the organization” (Ritchie, 2004, p. 670), where organization encompasses the  
19 stakeholder groups described above. As a disaster, COVID-19 has both natural and man-made  
20 traits, thus represents a hybrid biological disaster (Sharuf et al., 2003). Tourism researchers have  
21 previously explored a variety of disaster types—natural, man-made, and hybrid—including  
22 biological (e.g., epidemic), climatological (e.g., drought or wildfire), geophysical (e.g.,  
23 earthquake or volcano), hydrological (e.g., flood), industrial (e.g., accident), meteorological (e.g.,

1 storm or heatwave), and terroristic (e.g., 9/11 terrorist attacks) (e.g., Floyd et al., 2008; Ritchie &  
2 Jiang, 2019; Rosollo et al., 2020; Sharuf et al., 2003; van Lent, 2017). The tourism industry is  
3 susceptible to each disaster type (Yeh, 2020), though biological disasters are unique because they  
4 do not typically cause physical harm to infrastructure (e.g., buildings, forests), and the effects  
5 may not be as easily or immediately observable.

6         The proliferation of COVID-19 has led health researchers to consider the multiplicative  
7 effects of disasters (Sohrabizadeh et al., 2021). Few tourism researchers, however, have studied  
8 the coincident of events (Ritchie & Jiang, 2019). One exception is Cohen and Neal (2010),  
9 whose observational research found that concurrent economic and political crises magnified the  
10 adverse effects on the tourism and hospitality industries in Thailand. Bansal (2020) called on  
11 management researchers to explore the coincident of COVID-19 and climate change, though to-  
12 date, our study is the first known to provide an empirical framework to study the dual effects on  
13 a tourism outcome (i.e., travel plans). Climate change—and the effects of climate change—will  
14 continue to variably exacerbate the economic and human risks of each disaster type (Bansal et  
15 al., 2020; Becken et al., 2014; Reidmiller et al., 2018), justifying the theory development and the  
16 empirical investigation of COVID-19 inclusive weather and climate.

### 17 **1.3 Theory Development**

18         The Camping-Weather-Disaster (CWD) framework extends the Construal Level Theory  
19 (CLT; Trope & Liberman, 2010) by exploring the effects of two stimuli on post-disaster travel  
20 plans. The original CLT considers only one stimulus. The CWD is applicable to longitudinal  
21 studies because it captures changes to stimuli as they elapse (see Figure 1). The framework  
22 includes the two primary CLT components: construal of and psychological distance from a  
23 disaster. Construal is an individual's level of understanding, where stimuli response is either



1 outside (abstract) or within (concrete) their mental horizon (Trope & Liberman, 2010). Abstract  
2 construal is closely associated with uncertainty, the concept we use in this study to assess  
3 construal. For example, Glaser et al. (2015) established a relationship between uncertainty and  
4 greater perceived spatial distance (i.e., an abstract construal about distance). Comparably,  
5 Liberman and Trope (1998) found that attainable future temporal end-states are more concretely  
6 construed. An example of concrete construal is knowing the exact dates, duration, and distance  
7 of travel. Concrete construal is more closely related to a specific action than abstract construal  
8 (Craig et al., 2019; Chang et al., 2015; Kim et al., 2016; Mildenerger et al., 2019).

9 [Insert Figure 1 about here]

10 The second component of the CLT is psychological distance, or “the subjective distance  
11 stimuli maintain from a person’s direct experience” (van Lent et al., 2017). Psychological  
12 distance’s “reference point is the self, here and now, and the different ways in which” a stimulus  
13 may be removed from that point (Trope & Liberman 2010, p. 440). The original CLT conception  
14 of psychological distance includes temporal (when), spatial (where), social (to whom), and  
15 hypothetical (whether) proximity ranging from proximate to distant (Liberman & Trope, 2008;  
16 Trope & Liberman, 2010). Psychological distance is specific to a stimulus, or in our case,  
17 multiple stimuli. Tourism research using the CLT has operationalized psychological distance as  
18 nearby in time, physical distance, and within one’s social group (Dogan & Erdogan, 2020; Kim  
19 et al., 2016). The subjective nature of psychological distance does not inherently prevent an  
20 individual’s experience and/or perceptions to differ from these operationalizations (Trope &  
21 Liberman, 2010). Construal and psychological distance are related but not synonymous.  
22 Typically, psychological distance is more closely related to high-level, abstract construal and

1 decreased distance is related to low-level, concrete construal (Liberman & Trope, 2008; Trope &  
2 Liberman, 2010).

3         The CWD adapts time, space, and social inclusion from the CLT but not hypotheticality.  
4 Hypotheticality is omitted because stimuli (i.e., weather and COVID-19 cases) are not  
5 hypothetical events that may or may not happen in the future. Stimuli range from small (e.g.,  
6 daily average temperature, minimal COVID-19 cases) to large (e.g., global increase of long-term  
7 daily average temperature, COVID-19 hotspots). Including scale helps overcome a criticism of  
8 the CLT pertaining to individual construal and agency to act towards large-scale stimuli such as  
9 climate change. For instance, Brugger (2020, p. 3) refutes “the argument that climate change is  
10 too distant or abstract to be personally relevant, and that reducing this distance could increase  
11 personal relevance and action.” In support of Brugger (2020), other researchers have  
12 demonstrated that even when individuals understand stimuli (e.g., climate change) as concrete  
13 and proximate, stimulus scale can prohibit action (Bansal et al., 2018; Bowen et al., 2018). By  
14 integrating actual stimuli, psychological distance can be assessed while controlling for scale of  
15 the stimuli across both time and space.

16         The CWD includes two observable stimuli, individual construal, and individual  
17 psychological distance (time, space, social inclusion), extending the CLT by offering a clear  
18 mechanism for the *dynamic exploration of multiple stimuli* (e.g., weather and COVID-19) that is  
19 *indicative stimuli scale*. We assert that analyzing the variable impacts of weather, extremes, and  
20 disasters longitudinally, spatially, and concurrently alongside societal factors (i.e., construal and  
21 psychological distance), destination managers and authorities can increase their levels of  
22 understanding about their own complex socioecological systems (Craig, 2019). Positive  
23 consequences to understanding include organizational learning and increased business agency to

1 take adaptive and/or mitigative actions towards future natural conditions or disasters (Berger et  
2 al., 2016; Bhaskara & Filimonau, 2021; Craig, 2019). Applying the CWD, the study also makes  
3 a significant methodological contribution as the first known to integrate social, climate, and  
4 epidemiological data to assess a post-COVID-19 outcome.

#### 5 **1.4 Hypotheses**

6         The two social factors included in the CWD are individual construal and psychological  
7 distance. Using a survey instrument deployed between April 27<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the CWD  
8 operationalizes construal and psychological distance in terms of time, space, and social inclusion  
9 relative to COVID-19. The timing of data collection marks the height of travel restrictions in the  
10 48 contiguous United States. Specifically, (1) 37 states had stay-at-home orders, (2) four states  
11 had stay-at-home recommendations, and (3) seven states had some level of restrictions and  
12 closures though no stay-at-home orders (Miller, 2020).

13         On the survey, respondents were able to respond “uncertain” when asked about timing of  
14 travel (time) and distance of travel (space) after travel restrictions are lifted. Respondents were  
15 also asked about travel restrictions to establish if they were in a social in- or out-group (i.e.,  
16 social inclusion) relative to the disaster. Consistent with the CLT, respondents who reported  
17 higher levels of travel restrictions are considered the social in-group and those who reported  
18 fewer or no restrictions are considered the social out-group. Prior disaster studies have also  
19 operationalized social inclusion based on disaster experience (e.g., resident of a county that  
20 experienced a large wildfire or not; Spialek et al., 2021). Providing a definition for time, space,  
21 and social inclusion indicates that each of the constructs has contracted to fit within one’s mental  
22 horizon, thus representing concrete understanding (Trope & Liberman, 2010). The uncertain  
23 response category allows us to operationalize construal into two groups: those who have a

1 concrete understanding of when, where, and if they can travel and those who do not (i.e.,  
2 uncertain) (e.g., Glaser et al., 2015; Liberman & Trope, 1998).

3 *Hypothesis 1a: Lower levels of construal for time will be positively related to post-*  
4 *disaster camping trip plans.*

5 *Hypothesis 1b: Lower levels of construal for space will be positively related to post-*  
6 *disaster camping trip plans.*

7 *Hypothesis 1c: Lower levels of construal for social inclusion will be positively related to*  
8 *post-disaster camping trip plans.*

9 Based on the literature reviewed, we hypothesize that socio-demographic factors,  
10 weather, the COVID-19 disaster, and psychological distance (temporal, spatial, and social) will  
11 be significantly related to post-disaster camping trip plans.

12 *Hypothesis 2a: Socio-demographic factors will be related to post-disaster camping trip*  
13 *plans.*

14 *Hypothesis 2b: Weather will be related to post-disaster camping trip plans.*

15 *Hypothesis 2c: The COVID-19 disaster will be related to post-disaster camping trip*  
16 *plans.*

17 *Hypothesis 2d: Psychological distance will be related to post-disaster camping trip*  
18 *plans.*

## 19 **2. Methods**

### 20 **2.1 Survey Procedure**

21 A market research firm developed and administered an online survey between April 27  
22 and April 30, 2020. A private tourism business that operates campsites funded the survey to  
23 capture traveler responses to COVID-19 at the height of travel restrictions in the United States.

1 Questions for the survey were crafted by the marketing research firm based on the tourism  
2 business' information needs, and included single-item questions rather than previously validated  
3 scales. The use of single-item questions is a commonly used procedure for opinion polls  
4 conducted by consultants for commercial or political purposes. With the written permission from  
5 the tourism business, the market research firm provided de-identified data for the purpose of  
6 non-commercial scholarly inquiry. No additional information is provided to ensure  
7 confidentiality is protected.

8         The research firm solicited participation via email from their proprietary database of  
9 known leisure travelers age 18 or older with a total of 7,659 participants initially responding. All  
10 surveys were completed online. The number of outbound email solicitations sent to achieve the  
11 initial 7,659 responses is unknown, so it is not possible to calculate a true response rate. The final  
12 sample ( $n = 2,442$  out of 7,659), however, represents a completion rate 31.9% with a margin of  
13 error of 3% at the 99% confidence level. Our relatively low margin of error and 99% confidence  
14 level are measures of acceptable survey reliability.

## 15 **2.2 Measures and Sample**

16         In addition to socio-demographic questions (see Table II), there are independent variables  
17 for time of travel (time), distance of travel (space), and travel restrictions (social in- and out-  
18 groups). *Time* was operationalized with the question root "How long will it take for you to go  
19 camping once the restrictions in your area are lifted?" with eight response categories I feel that it  
20 is safe to go camping (1) now, (2) within the next 1 or 2 weeks, (3) within the next month, (4) in  
21 the next 1-2 months, (5) in the next 3-4 months, (6) in the next 5-6 months, (7) more than 6  
22 months, and (8) uncertain. *Space* was operationalized with the question root "What is the  
23 maximum distance you are willing to travel for a camping trip once the restrictions are lifted?"

1 with nine response categories: (1) within 25 miles, (2) 26-50 miles, (3) 51-100 miles, (4) 101-  
2 150 miles, (5) 151-200 miles, (6) 201-300 miles, (7) more than 300 miles, (8) none, I do not feel  
3 that there is a maximum distance, and (9) uncertain. *Social inclusion* was operationalized with  
4 the question root “How do you view the current level of restrictions regarding what you can and  
5 cannot do during the COVID-19 pandemic where you reside?” with response categories from (1)  
6 severe to (5) no restrictions, and (6) uncertain.

7 [Insert Table II about here]

8 The dependent variable of interest is *post-disaster camping trip plans* (i.e., future  
9 camping trips planned where COVID-19 conditions permit). An explanation of what constitutes  
10 a camping trip was first provided: “Camping trips are when you spend at least one night outside  
11 of your primary residence and stayed in accommodations such as a tent, trailer, RV, vehicle, or  
12 cabin/cottage (or other unique accommodation) at a campground.” Respondents were then asked  
13 to indicate the number of post-COVID-19 camping trips planned with the question root:  
14 “Planned trips after COVID-19?” with an [Enter] option.

### 15 **2.3 Camping Climate Index (CCI)**

16 The CCI is an outdoor tourism climate index that quantifies the desirability of weather  
17 and climatic conditions for camping (Ma et al., 2020). The CCI: (1) equally weights thermal  
18 comfort and sunshine hours and (2) incorporates overriding factors for minimum temperature,  
19 maximum temperature, precipitation, and windspeed (see Table I for CCI measures). CCI values  
20 range from 7-10 (ideal), 5-7 (good), 3-5 (acceptable), and 0-3 (poor). The climate variables in the  
21 CCI (e.g., thermal comfort and sunshine hours) are comparably rated from 0 to 10 indicating the  
22 relationship that each variable shares with travel behavior despite unit (e.g., degrees and hours).  
23 As shown in the equation, the CCI takes the average of thermal comfort and sunshine hours, and

1 when extreme overriding factors are observed, the CCI is forced to a maximum of 3 (i.e., poor).  
2 For a full explanation of the CCI, see Ma et al. (2020).

3  $CCI = TC*.5 + S*.5$  (minimum [CCI, 3] if  $TMIN < 8^{\circ}C$  or  $TMAX > 34^{\circ}C$  or  $P > 10mm$   
4 or  $W > 23km/h$ )

5 Daily weather data were obtained from January 1, 1984 to December 31, 2019 in a  
6 0.5\*0.5 gridded format through the Power Data Access Viewer (NASA, 2020). The data cover  
7 the 48 contiguous United States (3,264 grid points in total). The state-level CCI was calculated  
8 from the grid point coordinates by using the “maps” and “sp” packages in R. Then, we  
9 aggregated the daily CCI for each state to obtain spring monthly means for (1) March, April, and  
10 May in 2020 (see Figure 2).

11 [Insert Table II and Figure 2 about here]

## 12 **2.4 COVID-19 Cases**

13 We obtained COVID-19 cases through the Coronavirus Resource Center (Johns Hopkins,  
14 2020). We recorded confirmed cases for each of the 48 contiguous states one month apart on  
15 April 1 and April 30, 2020. This is the same method used in climate studies—and applied to  
16 March CCI in this study—to retrospectively analyze the lagged effect of past conditions. The  
17 lagging technique introduces an additional longitudinal element to the analysis to capture past  
18 and present scale of COVID-19 cases. April 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> represent days when (1) every state in  
19 the United States had reported COVID-19 cases and trajectory and transmission was beginning  
20 to display exponential growth (Center for Disease Control [CDC], 2020; Johns Hopkins, 2020)  
21 and (2) survey data collection halted and the peak of daily cases had passed in the Northeast  
22 (Oster et al., 2020).

23 Over half (i.e., 574 thousand) of the documented cases were from 11 states in the  
24 Northeast climate region: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New

1 Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. On April 1<sup>st</sup>,  
2 2020 and April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 there were 125.5 and 574 thousand confirmed COVID-19 cases in the  
3 Northeast United States and 96.8 and 544.3 thousand elsewhere, respectively (John Hopkins,  
4 2020). We consider the reported cases in the Northeast large scale as compared to small scale for  
5 all other COVID-19 case observations. Monthly CCI data and COVID-19 cases were integrated  
6 into the social science dataset. The sorting procedure represents a natural research design, where  
7 we were able to investigate differences among leisure travelers based on regional scale of  
8 COVID-19. Natural research designs are common in disaster studies allowing researchers to  
9 compare regions disproportionately impacted by natural disasters or climate change (Hein et al.,  
10 2019).

## 11 **2.5 Statistical Analysis**

12 The two statistical methods used to test hypotheses are independent sample t-tests and  
13 binary linear regression. Independent sample t-test determine if there is a significant difference in  
14 a dependent variable for two groups (i.e., high and low construal). Binary logistic regression  
15 determines model fit (Nagelkerke  $R^2$ ) compared to a null model (i.e., model without independent  
16 variables) and the likelihood ( $Exp(B)$ ), or odds, of dependent variable occurrence (i.e., post-  
17 COVID-19 camping trip plans). Binary logistic regression is commonly used in social and health  
18 sciences, making it an appropriate method for our interdisciplinary dataset (King, 2008). The  
19 software suite used to conduct the analysis was IBM SPSS version 25.

20 To test *Hypothesis 1*, we ran independent samples t-tests to determine if there were  
21 differences for the number of camping trips planned post-COVID-19 between those who  
22 answered “uncertain” for the time (*1a*), space (*1b*), and social inclusion (*1c*) (i.e., high level  
23 construal) and those who specifically responded (i.e., low level construal). We considered



1 responses to be low construal if a specific time, distance, or level of travel restrictions was  
2 defined. For example: responses from (1) travel within 1 to 2 weeks of restrictions being lifted to  
3 (7) travel more than six months after travel restrictions are lifted for time were considered low  
4 construal; responses from (1) travel within 25 miles when travel restrictions are lifted to (8) no  
5 maximum travel distance once travel restrictions are lifted were considered low construal, and;  
6 responses from (1) severe travel restrictions to (5) no travel restrictions were considered low  
7 construal.

8         A natural research design was used to address *Hypotheses 2a-d* because there were  
9 disparate COVID-19 case distributions in the United States at the time of the survey. A central  
10 feature of natural research designs is they assess the variable effects of individual experiences to  
11 stimuli such as weather, disasters, or policy (Messer, 2008). As described above, we conducted  
12 analysis for the (1) Northeast climate region and (2) the remaining 37 states not in the Northeast  
13 climate region. Climate regions were used because regional sections (1) are spatially proximate  
14 and share comparable natural environment conditions (Karl and Koss, 1984) and (2) provide a  
15 large enough sub-sample to maintain an acceptable margin of error when analyzed separately.

16         To test *Hypotheses 2a-d*, we used binary logistic regression to explore camping plan  
17 differences in (1) travelers who indicated they had one or more camping trips planned post-  
18 disaster, and (0) travelers who did not. We also recoded ethnicity and employment due to  
19 underrepresented response categories: (1) Caucasian/White and (0) other ethnic background, and  
20 (1) male and (0) female or other. Due to underrepresented response categories, and the influence  
21 of COVID-19 employment changes, employment was recoded (1) unemployed or furloughed  
22 because of COVID-19 and (0) not unemployed or furloughed because of COVID-19. Age and  
23 income were not recoded.



1 restrictions ( $n = 2400$ , mean = 1.87) and those who responded uncertain ( $n = 42$ , mean = 2.17;  $t$   
2 = -.466,  $df = 49.697$ ,  $p = .643$ ).

3        Though not causal, results from *Hypothesis 1a* and *1b* suggest psychological distance  
4 based on time and space is positively associated with the number of camping trips planned post-  
5 disaster. In terms of time, travelers are likely to think more concretely about events that are more  
6 temporally proximate. Concrete construal in turn is associated with more immediate action such  
7 as planning a camping trip (Craig, 2019; Kim et al., 2016; Trope & Liberman, 2010). In terms of  
8 space, people tend to focus on abstract features of physically distant stimuli and locations (Kim  
9 et al., 2016; Trope & Liberman, 2010).

10        We refrain from drawing conclusions for *Hypothesis 1c* (i.e., social inclusion) given the  
11 uneven cells between those who rated the level of restrictions in their area and others who were  
12 uncertain. However, among our sample the finding that only 42 out of 2,442 travelers were  
13 uncertain about travel restrictions demonstrates widespread lower-level, concrete construal.

## 14 **3.2 Hypothesis 2**

### 15 **3.2.1 Northeast Climate Region**

16        *Hypothesis 2* posits that socio-demographic factors (*2a*), weather (*2b*), disasters (*2c*), and  
17 psychological distance (*2d*) will be related to post-disaster camping trips. These hypotheses are  
18 supported, but inclusion of weather and disaster variables in models is also related to disaster  
19 scale. For the Northeast climate region, a significant final model emerged with good fit ( $R^2$   
20 = .316,  $p = .000$ ,  $n = 442$ ) where there are significant factors from three of the four blocks:  
21 significant socio-demographic factors include age ( $Exp(B) = -.982$ ,  $p = .016$ ), income ( $Exp(B) =$   
22  $1.474$ ,  $p = .024$ ), and ethnicity ( $Exp(B) = -.325$ ,  $p = .000$ ); there are no significant weather  
23 factors; significant COVID factors include April 1 cases ( $Exp(B) = 1.106$ ,  $p = .005$ ) and April 30

1 cases ( $Exp(B) = -.975, p = .021$ ), and; psychological distance factors include time ( $Exp(B) = -$   
2  $.824, p = .001$ ), space ( $Exp(B) = 1.211, p = .083$ ), and social inclusion ( $Exp(B) = -.905, p = .04$ ).

3 As shown in Table IV, each successive block significantly explains additional model variability.

4 In Block 2 April CCI ( $Exp(B) = 1.568, p = .041$ ) is positively related to post-disaster  
5 camping trips but May CCI ( $Exp(B) = -.406, p = .000$ ) is negatively related. The odds-ratios, or  
6 likelihood of camping trips, mean that travelers that experienced better CCI in April are 1.568  
7 times more likely to have post-disaster camping trip plans whereas future CCI in May are 2.63  
8 times less likely to have post-disaster camping trip plans. This directionality is shared for April 1  
9 and April 30 COVID-19 cases in Block 3 where the former ( $Exp(B) = 1.107, p = .003$ ) is  
10 positively related to post-disaster camping trip plans and the latter is negatively related ( $Exp(B)$   
11  $= -.975, p = .016$ ). The significant relationships that April 1 and April 30 COVID-19 cases share  
12 with camping trip plans in Block 3—combined with CCI becoming insignificant—are an  
13 indication that scale of COVID-19 has an overriding impact on traveler plans despite favorable  
14 current (April CCI) and/or improving weather (May CCI). This overriding effect is why May  
15 CCI was inadvertently negatively related to post-disaster camping trip plans in Block 2 but then  
16 became insignificant in Block 3 with the addition of April 1<sup>st</sup> COVID-19 cases (i.e., smaller  
17 scale) and April 30<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 cases (i.e., larger scale).

18 There are two key take-aways from the findings from the Northeast climate region. First,  
19 after controlling for socio-demographic factors, the most salient predictor of post-disaster  
20 camping trip plans are April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> state-level COVID-19 cases. COVID-19 scale—  
21 both small and large—superseded all CCI variables in the final model. The natural research  
22 design allows us to capture scale at two points in time showing post-disaster camping trips are

1 positively related to the relatively smaller scale of COVID-19 cases on April 1<sup>st</sup> and negatively  
2 related to the larger scale of COVID-19 cases on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

3         Second, each of the three psychological distance variables are significant thus supporting  
4 the empirical inclusion in the CWD framework. Post-disaster camping trips decrease with  
5 expected time of travel (time), increase with distance willing to travel (space), and decrease with  
6 severity of travel restrictions (social inclusion). As the CLT predicts (Trope & Liberman, 2010),  
7 travelers who concretely report closer temporal proximity of travel (e.g., within 1 or 2 weeks) are  
8 significantly more likely to have post-disaster camping trips already planned. Also, travelers in  
9 close social proximity (i.e., the social in-group with more severe levels of travel restrictions) are  
10 1.10 less likely to have travel plans compared to the more socially distant (i.e., the social out-  
11 group with lower levels of travel restrictions) travelers. Interestingly, more distant geographic  
12 proximity of travel is positively related to post-disaster camping trip plans. In response to  
13 COVID-19, travelers have expressed a desire for non-communal spaces and less crowded  
14 locations (CCG, 2020b; Craig, 2021), characteristics that may be even more important than the  
15 distance to a campground. Considering the scale of COVID-19 in the Northeast climate region  
16 on April 30<sup>th</sup>, it may also be that travelers wanted to put more physical distance between  
17 themselves and the region most impacted by COVID-19 when camping.

### 18 **3.2.2 All Other Climate Regions**

19         For the remainder of the climate regions in the United States, a significant final model  
20 emerged with acceptable fit ( $R^2 = .209$ ,  $p = .001$ ) where there are significant factors from three of  
21 the four blocks: significant socio-demographic factors include age ( $Exp(B) = -.990$ ,  $p = .009$ ),  
22 income ( $Exp(B) = 1.19$ ,  $p = .000$ ), gender ( $Exp(B) = 2.193$ ,  $p = .000$ ), and ethnicity ( $Exp(B) = -$   
23  $.514$ ,  $p = .000$ ); the lone significant weather factor includes March CCI ( $Exp(B) = 1.171$ ,  $p =$

1 .089); there are no significant COVID-19 factors, and; psychological distance factors including  
2 time ( $Exp(B) = -.815, p = .000$ ) and social inclusion ( $Exp(B) = -.934, p = .008$ ) are also  
3 significant. As shown in Table IV, only the block with COVID-19 cases did not significantly  
4 improve model fit.

5 For the all other climate regions' regression model, after controlling for socio-  
6 demographic factors ( $R^2 = .142, p = .000$ ), psychological distance is the strongest determinant of  
7 post-disaster travel ( $R^2\Delta = .045, p = .000$ ) followed by CCI in March ( $R^2\Delta = .020, p = .000$ ).  
8 Those with plans to travel in the more proximate future are 1.227 times more likely to have post-  
9 disaster camping trip plans; travelers with more severe travel restrictions are 1.07 times less  
10 likely to have post-disaster camping trip plans; and travelers that experienced better CCI in  
11 March are 1.171 times more likely to have post-disaster camping trip plans.

12 Compared to the Northeast climate region model, COVID-19 is not a significant  
13 predictor in the all other climate region model. However, state-level CCI for March 2020 is a  
14 significant predictor of post-disaster camping trip plans in the final all other regions model while  
15 there are no significant weather variables in the final Northeast model. Close temporal proximity  
16 and proximate social inclusion (i.e., the in-group with more severe travel restrictions) are also  
17 significant predictors though space (i.e., miles willing to travel after travel restrictions are lifted)  
18 is not in the all other climate region model. Combined, the findings suggest that travelers outside  
19 the Northeast climate region with post-disaster camping trip plans are influenced by favorable  
20 camping weather resources (i.e., CCI), are planning to camp within shorter amounts of time, and  
21 come from areas with fewer travel restrictions.

22

23

#### 1 **4. Theory Advancement**

2           Introducing the CWD, we provide a framework that can help build organizational  
3 understanding of complex socioecological challenges, addressing calls to concurrently consider  
4 the interconnectedness of salient natural and societal factors (Bansal et al., 2020). The tourism  
5 industry is one of the most susceptible to weather, climate change, and non-  
6 meteorological/climatological disasters like COVID-19 (Reidmiller et al., 2018; UNWTO,  
7 2020), providing useful perspectives compared to other industries. While the results and  
8 implications are within the context of camping, the theoretical advancements—and the  
9 applicability of the CWD—extend to other subsectors of tourism and also other industries,  
10 especially those reliant on the natural environment.

11           Developing and operationalizing the CWD, there are two theoretical advancements to the  
12 CLT (Trope & Liberman, 2010). First, the CWD framework accounts for multiple empirically  
13 observable stimuli. In this study, stimuli include weather desirability (i.e., CCI) and a biological  
14 disaster (i.e., COVID-19). The framework is operationalized with two quadrants and stimuli, but  
15 more stimuli could be included (see Figure 1). For instance, a salient climate change-induced and  
16 weather-related natural disaster overlapping the COVID-19 pandemic in California, United  
17 States is wildfire. Freedman (2020) notes that “California just witnessed one of its hottest  
18 weekends in memory, which intensified destructive wildfires that occurred” (par. I) necessitating  
19 the rescue of over 200 trapped campers on September 6, 2020. The extreme temperatures—as  
20 high as 49 °C or 15 °C above the extreme temperature threshold for the CCI (Ma et al., 2020)—  
21 prompted a National Weather Service alert for the entirety of the state of California (Freedman,  
22 2020). Despite the dangerous wildfire conditions, many campers, destination managers, and  
23 authorities did not heed warnings. The lack of reaction highlights the need for more concrete

1 understanding of temporally and spatially proximate climate and weather-related risks among  
2 individuals to inform mitigative and/or adaptive actions (e.g., campsite closures).

3         The second advancement is the inclusion, operationalization, and observation of disaster  
4 scale alongside individual psychological distance, a socioecological approach that includes the  
5 natural environment. Where COVID-19 scale was the largest (i.e., the Northeast climate region),  
6 COVID-19 cases are the most predictive factor of post-disaster camping trip plans when  
7 controlling for socio-demographics. Where scale was smaller (i.e., the rest of the contiguous  
8 United States), COVID-19 is not a significant factor. Findings about scale are consistent with  
9 consumer responses for other forms of hospitality. For instance, Kim and Lee (2020) found that  
10 greater COVID-19 scale is related to avoiding public dining and vice versa. In general, the  
11 results build on previous tourism disaster studies (e.g., Craig, 2021; Craig & Karabas, 2021;  
12 Craig et al., 2021; Floyd et al., 2008; Granvorka & Strobl, 2013; van Lent et al., 2017)  
13 demonstrating differences in future traveler decisions based on the scale of disaster despite type  
14 (e.g., extreme weather, pandemic, terrorism). The results are also consistent with two recent  
15 wildfire studies that found resident proximity to wildfire (i.e., those located in the same country  
16 as a large, documented wildfire or not) is related to concrete actions including (1) support for  
17 enhanced public/private collaboration to manage wildfires and (2) disaster communication  
18 before, during, and after a wildfire (Craig et al., 2020; Spialek et al., 2021).

19         Guided by previous tourism research about accommodations (Dogan & Erdogan, 2020;  
20 Kim et al., 2016), we operationalized temporal and spatial psychological distance as duration  
21 until travel and distance to destination. Comparable to other disaster stimuli that have influenced  
22 travel decisions—the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001 (Floyd et al., 2008) and  
23 the 2014 Ebola epidemic (van Lent et al., 2017)—we report significant relationships between



1 camping travel decisions, time, and distance. As expected, in the Northeast where COVID-19  
2 scale is greater, travelers willing to camp soon are significantly more likely to have post-disaster  
3 camping trip plans. Contrary to findings about hotel accommodations (Dogan & Erdogan, 2020;  
4 Kim et al., 2016), however, spatial psychological distance of travel is positively related to post-  
5 disaster camping decisions. Post-hoc analysis of a CDC report about COVID-19 hotspots in the  
6 United States (Oster et al., 2020) offers some additional insights about the Northeast. When the  
7 survey was conducted, not only were there over double the number of cases in the Northeast  
8 region (Johns Hopkins, 2020), but 84% of the population lived in a county designated as a  
9 “hotspot” (Oster et al., 2020). It is conceivable that the widespread spatial distribution of  
10 COVID-19 hotspots throughout the region is why campers are willing to travel greater physical  
11 distances (Craig et al., 2021).

#### 12 **4.1 Camping Implications**

13       The results from *Hypotheses 1a-c* suggest that destination managers and authorities  
14 wanting to develop strategies targeting post-disaster campers should (1) identify travelers with a  
15 clear timeframe and distance for travel and (2) communicate specific, concrete messages to these  
16 travelers. At the time the survey was conducted, travelers uncertain about time and distance were  
17 less likely to have camping trip plans highlighting the potential to communicate specific,  
18 concrete messages to promote temporal and spatial certainty about camping. Regardless temporal  
19 or spatial construal, messages should highlight advantageous camping resources such as  
20 favorable weather (i.e., CCI) and for biological disasters like COVID-19, the ability to practice  
21 social distancing. For man-made disasters (e.g., industrial explosions, terroristic attacks), the  
22 natural and rural setting of camping is also an advantageous travel resource.

23       When considering the entirety of the contiguous United States, there are three consistent  
24 findings of interest: (1) travelers who are willing to camp in the near future are more likely to

1 have post-disaster camping trip plans, (2) travelers living in areas with fewer travel restrictions  
2 are more likely to have post-disaster camping trip plans, and (3) distance traveled may not be as  
3 big of a hindrance as previously thought within the context of camping during a biological  
4 disaster (i.e., COVID-19). Camping is unique (e.g., nature-based, socially distant, accessible by  
5 personnel vehicle) compared to other forms of accommodations and recreation (CCG, 2019,  
6 2020a,b; Craig, 2021; Gossling et al., 2020). These characteristics offer a plausible explanation  
7 for why future traveler camping decisions are not constrained by physical distance like previous  
8 disasters (e.g., 9/11, Ebola) for other accommodation types (Dogan & Erdogan, 2020; Floyd et  
9 al., 2008; Kim et al., 2016; van Lent et al., 2017).

#### 10 **4.2 Limitations and Future Research**

11 This study is not without limitation. Primarily, the study is exploratory where cross-  
12 sectional social science data was collected to address managerial needs of a private tourism  
13 business. The tourism business quickly reacted to COVID-19 by collecting survey data at the  
14 height of travel restrictions to inform their future strategic response. The managerial needs and  
15 operationalization of these needs by the marketing firm (i.e., crafting the survey questions)  
16 resulted in data being collected at one point in time, the use of single-item questions, and a  
17 response option for the space construal independent variable without a clearly defined mileage  
18 distance for travel after restrictions are lifted (i.e., (8) none, I do not feel that there is a maximum  
19 distance). Also, the context of the dependent variable, “Planned trips after COVID-19,” prompts  
20 travelers to indicate trips planned after COVID-19. Though, it is not possible to infer whether  
21 travelers attributed “after COVID-19” trips to those planned before the onset of COVID-19 but  
22 occurred after where permissible. Moreover, this study relies on travel self-report on actions that

1 may happen in the future. Drawing strong conclusions based on travelers' plans for the future  
2 may not reflect an eventual behavior.

3         The integration of the CCI and COVID-19 cases at multiple points in time added a  
4 longitudinal element to the study to assess change in post-disaster camping trip plans, though  
5 future researchers should track individual construal (i.e., time, space, social inclusion) over time  
6 as well as assess both planned and enacted behaviors (e.g., planned camping trips compared to  
7 actual camping trips). Considering that distance was positively related to post-disaster camping  
8 trip plans, it will be fruitful for researchers to consider (1) characteristics of campgrounds (e.g.,  
9 shared versus private bathrooms), (2) previous camping experiences and camper experience, (3)  
10 accommodation type (i.e., owned versus rented), (4) transportation type (i.e., personal versus  
11 shared), and (5) possible interaction effects between distance and COVID-19 scale. Such results  
12 will help inform future iterations and applications of the CWD. Conducting longitudinal studies  
13 will also allow future researchers to assess potential differences between perceived psychological  
14 spatial distance and actual distance traveled.

15         The  $R^2$  changes in the models for COVID-19 cases and CCI are modest (see Table IV),  
16 though the findings are impressive considering the variables used were state-level stimuli.  
17 However, the study provides: (1) a framework (i.e., CWD) and empirical justification for  
18 comparable mixed-methods future research and (2) guidance for future researchers to utilize  
19 experimental designs to generate groups based on more granular climate experience (e.g.,  
20 household or county-level) and more clearly define local restrictions (e.g., county-level  
21 restrictions) to establish causality. To accommodate more robust experimental research designs,  
22 it is important that researchers also collect higher resolution location data (e.g., household, zip-  
23 code, county) from travelers to more accurately capture temporal, spatial, and social proximity to

1 natural environment stimuli. Using higher resolution location data will also make it possible for  
2 destination managers and authorities to geographically segment potential future travelers more  
3 accurately.

#### 4 **5. Conclusion**

5 COVID-19 represents a new yet salient non-meteorological/climatological disaster  
6 influencing leisure travel decisions. Climate change continues to impact nature-based tourism—  
7 especially camping—as a destination’s resources consist of multiple weather variables that  
8 tourists experience during visitation. Extending the Construal Level Theory (CLT), we introduce  
9 the theoretical and empirical Camping-Weather-Disaster (CWD) framework to capture multiple  
10 stimuli (i.e., CCI and COVID-19) also taking into consideration (1) traveler construal about a  
11 disaster, (2) traveler psychological distance (time, space, social inclusion) from a disaster, and  
12 (3) the scale of stimuli. Study findings highlight the salience of disaster scale, where greater  
13 scale is inversely related to travel plans despite favorable or improving weather. Results also  
14 indicate that leisure travelers who live where disaster scale is the greatest are willing to travel  
15 further to camp. The theoretical development and empirical verification of the CWD highlight  
16 the importance for destination managers and authorities to enhance understanding of  
17 socioecological systems upon which their organizations rely. In turn, understanding can promote  
18 organizational learning and help build organizational agency to take mitigating/adaptive actions  
19 to address future natural conditions, disasters, and crises.

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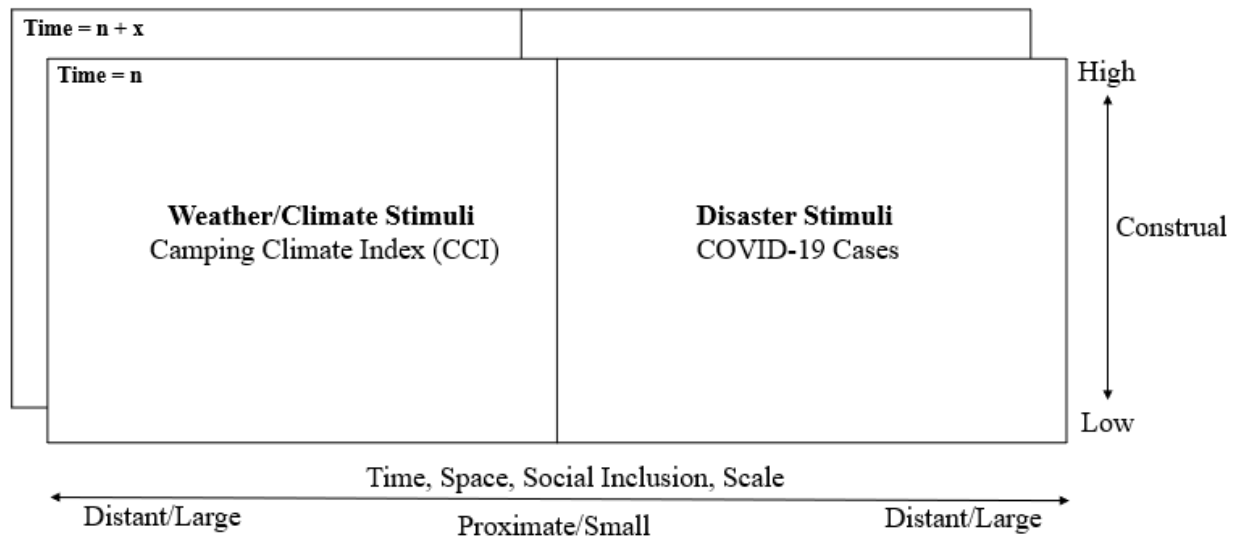
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1 **Figures and Tables**

2 **Figure 1.** Camping-Weather-Disaster (CWD) framework



3

4 **Table I.** CCI weather variables

Sub-index variable	Initials	Climate Resource	Units	Climate variable required
Thermal Comfort	TC	Thermal	Reported as °C	Mean temperature (°C) Mean dew point temperature (°C)
Temperature	TMIN, TMAX	Thermal	°C	Minimum temperature and maximum temperature (°C)
Sunshine hours	S	Aesthetic	Hours (hr)	Solar radiation (w/m <sup>2</sup> ) Location coordinates
Precipitation	P	Physical	Millimeters (mm)	Precipitation (mm)
Windspeed	W	Physical	Kilometer per hour (km/hr)	Windspeed (km/hr)

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1 **Table II.** Sample characteristics  
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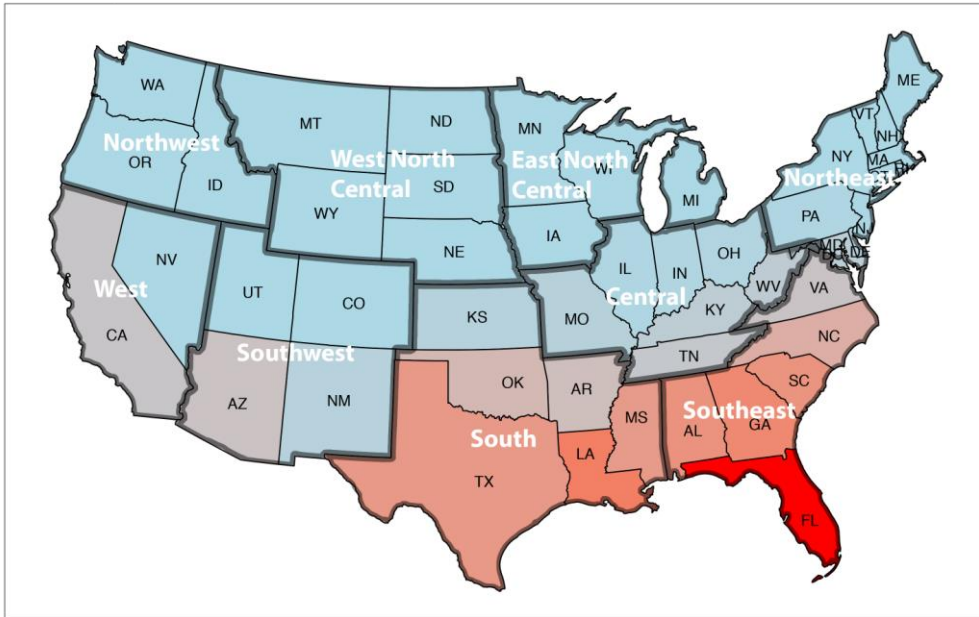
<b>Northeast climate region (n = 442)</b>	
Age	Average = 40.31; range 18 to 102
Income	9.7% under \$25,000, 17.0% \$25,000 - \$50,000, 14.0% \$50,000 - \$75,000, 14.7% \$75,000 - \$100,000, 23.3% \$100,000 - \$150,000, 12.2% \$150,000 - \$200,000, 9.0% over \$200,000
Ethnicity	81.7% Caucasian/White, 18.3% other ethnic background
Gender	56.3% male, 43.4% female, .2% other
Employment	67.0% full-time, 11.1% part-time, 6.6% student, 6.6% retired, 2.7% home maker/stay at home parent, 5.6% unemployed or furloughed because of COVID-19, .5% unemployed or furloughed not related to COVID
Time	19.5% now, 13.6% within next 1 or 2 weeks, 13.1% within month, 17.2% 1-2 months, 14.0% 3-4 months, 11.8% 5-6 months, 10.9% more than 6 months
Space	9.3% within 25 miles, 22.2% 26-50 miles, 22.4% 51-100 miles, 15.6% 101-150 miles, 5.4% 151-200 miles, 6.3% 201-300 miles, 8.8% more than 300 miles, 10.0% no maximum distance
Social Inclusion	34.8% (1) severe, 38.9% (2), 14.3% (3), 8.4% (3), 3.6% (5) none
<b>All other climate regions (n = 1372)</b>	
Age	Average = 39.08; range 18 to 102
Income	12.0% under \$25,000, 23.3% \$25,000 - \$50,000, 16.0% \$50,000 - \$75,000, 14.7% \$75,000 - \$100,000, 18.5% \$100,000 - \$150,000, 7.8% \$150,000 - \$200,000, 8.7% over \$200,000
Ethnicity	73.0% Caucasian/White, 27.0% other ethnic background
Gender	46.9% male, 52.5% female, .7% other
Employment	60.4% full-time, 12.6% part-time, 7.0% student, 7.0% retired, 5.4% home maker/stay at home parent, 5.9% unemployed or furloughed because of COVID-19, 1.7% unemployed or furloughed not related to COVID
Time	21.7% now, 15.9% within next 1 or 2 weeks, 12.5% within month, 16.0% 1-2 months, 14.2% 3-4 months, 10.3% 5-6 months, 9.3% more than 6 months
Space	9.3% within 25 miles, 20.6% 26-50 miles, 19.5% 51-100 miles, 14.6% 101-150 miles, 7.7% 151-200 miles, 10.0% 201-300 miles, 9.6% more than 300 miles, 8.8% no maximum distance
Social Inclusion	23.1% (1) severe, 33.5% (2), 25.7% (3), 13.3% (4) and 4.4% (5) none

3 \*Note. "Uncertain" responses were removed to prepare the binary logistic regression for time, space, and social  
 4 inclusion  
 5  
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7 **Figure 2.** Spring monthly CCI scores 2020

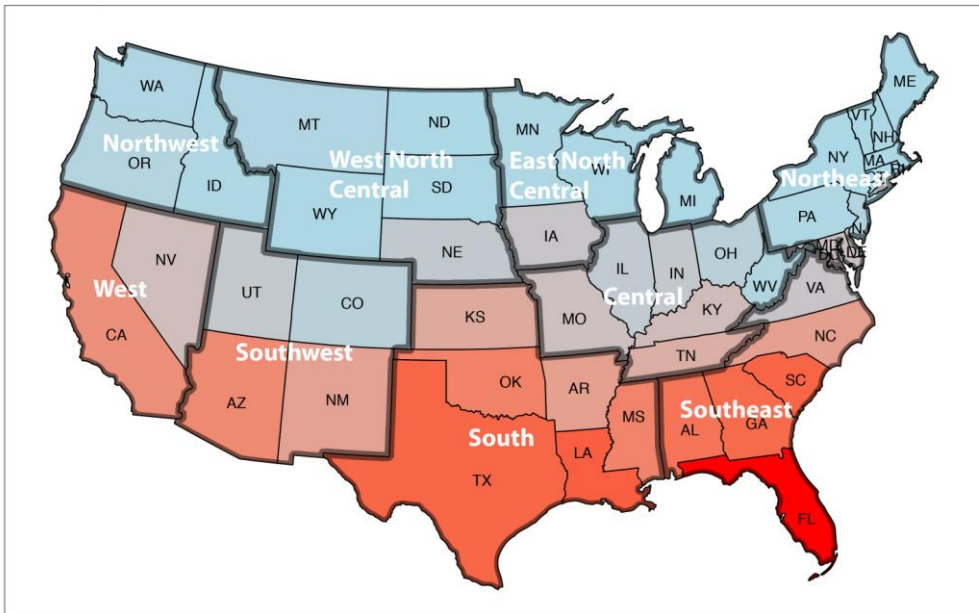


### March



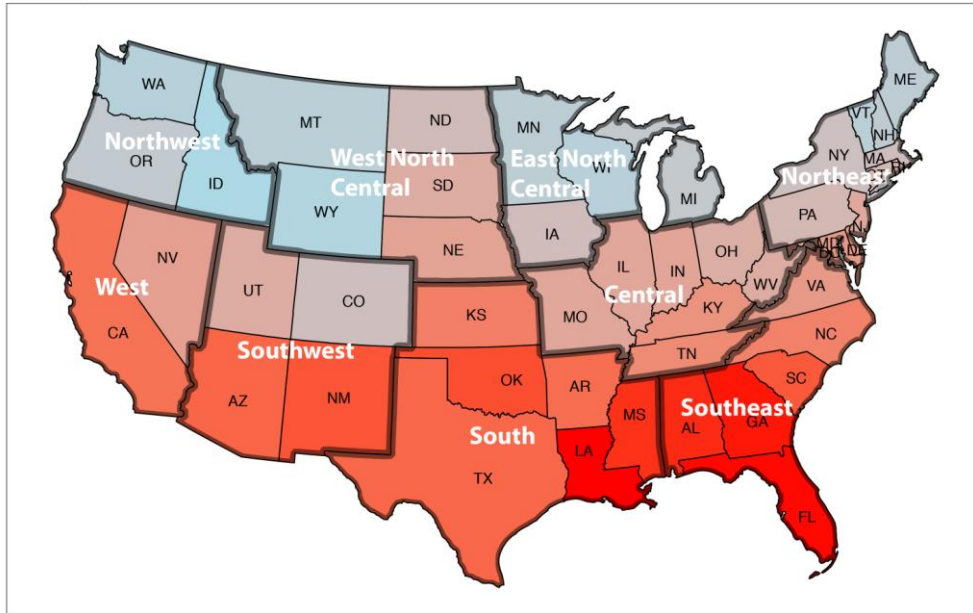
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### April



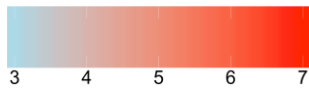
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# May



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1 **Table III.** Descriptives for psychological distance variables

<b>Northeast climate region</b>							
	N	M	SD	Skewness	SE	Kurtosis	SE
Time	442	3.710	1.985	0.120	0.116	-1.188	0.232
Space	442	3.900	2.154	0.627	0.116	-0.792	0.232
Social	442	2.070	1.072	0.980	0.116	0.358	0.232
<b>All other regions</b>							
Time	1372	3.530	1.973	0.232	0.066	-1.164	0.132
Space	1372	4.030	2.146	0.436	0.066	-0.998	0.132
Social	1372	2.420	1.112	0.458	0.066	-0.548	0.132

2

3 **Table IV.** Binary logistic regression for post-disaster camping trip plans

<b>Northeast climate region (n = 442)</b>						<b>All other climate regions (n = 1,372)</b>					
<i>Block 1 (R2 = .160, p = .000)</i>						<i>Block 1 (R2 = .142, p = .000)</i>					
<i>Variable</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>S.E.</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Exp(B)</i>	<i>Variable</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>S.E.</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Exp(B)</i>
Age	-.023	.007	1	.001	.977	Age	-.014	.004	1	.000	.986
Income	.228	.064	1	.000	1.256	Income	.168	.034	1	.000	1.182
Gender	.752	.216	1	.000	2.122	Gender	.952	.12	1	.000	2.592
Ethnicity	-.958	.295	1	.001	.384	Ethnicity	-.63	.135	1	.000	.533
Laid-Off	.413	.455	1	.364	1.512	Laid-Off	.521	.253	1	.039	1.683
Constant	.404	.581	1	.486	1.498	Constant	-.348	.304	1	.253	.706
<i>Block 2 (R2 = .203, Δ = .043, p = .001)</i>						<i>Block 2 (R2 = .162, Δ = .020, p = .000)</i>					
Age	-.023	.007	1	.002	.977	Age	-.013	.004	1	.001	.987
Income	.193	.065	1	.003	1.212	Income	.155	.034	1	.000	1.167
Gender	.709	.221	1	.001	2.032	Gender	.887	.122	1	.000	2.428
Ethnicity	-.932	.302	1	.002	.394	Ethnicity	-.576	.136	1	.000	.562
Laid-Off	.249	.47	1	.596	1.283	Laid-Off	.468	.256	1	.067	1.597
March CCI	-.844	1.275	1	.508	.43	March CCI	.191	.085	1	.025	1.211
April CCI	.45	.22	1	.041	1.568	April CCI	-.062	.08	1	.439	.94
May CCI	-.902	.231	1	.000	.406	May CCI	.123	.081	1	.131	1.131
Constant	7.079	5.153	1	.17	1186.32	Constant	-1.746	.464	1	.000	.174

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1 **Table IV cont.**

Northeast climate region (n = 442)						All other climate regions (n = 1,372)					
<i>Block 3 (R2 = .272, Δ = .069, p = .00)</i>						<i>Block 3 (R2 = .164, Δ = .002, p = .420)</i>					
<i>Variable</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>S.E.</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Exp(B)</i>	<i>Variable</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>S.E.</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Sig.</i>	<i>Exp(B)</i>
Age	-.02	.007	1	.008	.98	Age	-.013	.004	1	.001	.987
Income	.116	.07	1	.095	1.123	Income	.148	.035	1	.000	1.159
Gender	.458	.234	1	.05	1.582	Gender	.865	.123	1	.000	2.375
Ethnicity	-.99	.303	1	.001	.372	Ethnicity	-.563	.136	1	.000	.57
Laid-Off	.161	.468	1	.73	1.175	Laid-Off	.467	.256	1	.068	1.596
March CCI	-1.009	1.33	1	.448	.365	March CCI	.164	.091	1	.071	1.179
April CCI	.324	.226	1	.152	1.382	April CCI	-.036	.092	1	.696	.965
May CCI	.046	.296	1	.877	1.047	May CCI	.093	.088	1	.288	1.098
April 1 Cases	.101	.034	1	.003	1.107	April 1 Cases	.015	.064	1	.808	1.016
April 30 Cases	-.025	.01	1	.016	.975	April 30 Cases	.002	.011	1	.845	1.002
Constant	3.526	5.271	1	.504	33.999	Constant	-1.675	.469	1	.000	.187
<i>Block 4 (R2 = .316, Δ = .044, p = .000)</i>						<i>Block 4 (R2 = .209, Δ = .045, p = .000)</i>					
Age	-.018	.008	1	.016	.982	Age	-.01	.004	1	.009	.99
Income	.166	.073	1	.024	1.18	Income	.174	.036	1	.000	1.19
Gender	.388	.241	1	.107	1.474	Gender	.785	.126	1	.000	2.193
Ethnicity	-1.124	.315	1	.000	.325	Ethnicity	-.665	.14	1	.000	.514
Laid-Off	.053	.481	1	.912	1.054	Laid-Off	.353	.256	1	.168	1.423
March CCI	-.991	1.424	1	.486	.371	March CCI	.158	.093	1	.089	1.171
April CCI	.345	.232	1	.138	1.412	April CCI	-.002	.094	1	.986	.998
May CCI	.121	.305	1	.691	1.129	May CCI	.086	.09	1	.341	1.09
April 1 Cases	.1	.036	1	.005	1.106	April 1 Cases	.032	.065	1	.625	1.032
April 30 Cases	-.025	.011	1	.021	.975	April 30 Cases	0	.012	1	.985	1
Time	-.193	.06	1	.001	.824	Time	-.205	.031	1	.000	0.815
Space	.192	.111	1	.083	1.211	Space	.05	.055	1	.36	1.052
Social Inclusion	-.099	.048	1	.04	.905	Social Inclusion	-.068	.025	1	.008	.934
Constant	3.669	5.666	1	.517	39.232	Constant	-.912	.527	1	.083	.402

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3