

Relationships Among Measures

The resulting natural amenity measures are interrelated, but not so much so that any are redundant (table 2). Often, there are tradeoffs. Areas with more extensive water area, for instance, tend to have less winter sun and greater summer humidity. In other cases, the amenities tend to go together—areas with more winter sun also tend to have warmer winters, for instance. The highest correlation among the measures ($r = 0.44$) is between topographic variation and temperate summer.

Mountainous areas tend to have cooler summers than plains areas with the same winter temperatures.

Average correlations among the natural amenity measures is near zero. No measure is consistently related, either positively or negatively, to the other measures. The low and inconsistent correlations suggest that most counties have some negative and some positive aspects to their amenities.

Table 2—Correlations among natural amenity measures, nonmetro counties

Amenity	Warm winter	Winter sun	Temperate summer	Low summer humidity	Water area	Topographic variation	Natural amenity scale
Warm winter	1.00	0.26	-0.04	-0.28	0.01	-0.14	0.36
Winter sun	0.26	1.00	-0.40	0.20	-0.29	-0.25	0.25
Temperate summer	-0.04	-0.40	1.00	-0.09	0.13	0.44	0.41
Low summer humidity	-0.28	0.20	-0.09	1.00	-0.28	0.22	0.40
Water area	0.01	-0.29	0.13	-0.28	1.00	-0.13	0.19
Topographic variation	-0.14	-0.25	0.44	0.22	-0.13	1.00	0.52
Average correlation with other measures	-0.04	-0.09	0.01	-0.04	-0.11	0.03	