

NSRE 2000 UPDATE

NATIONAL SURVEY ON RECREATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

July 11, 2000

To date Versions I, II, and III of the **NSRE 2000** have been completed. Version III's data were collected from February, 2000 through June, 2000. This version contained questions pertaining to people's recreation participation, their values, beliefs and attitudes towards the management and recreational use of Forest Service lands, opinions concerning the employment of recreation user fees, and demographics. A total of 2,700 interviews were collected for Version III.

Version III's data, along with data from Version I and II, have been examined for differences between the demographics of the survey and the Census of population. Enough differences were found to warrant weighting the data. After examining the data very carefully and exploring various weighting options, a weighting strategy that used a combination of both multi-variate and multiplicative weights (i.e., age, race, sex * education * urban/rural strata) was considered the most appropriate weighting adjustment. This weighting adjustment assures better estimates of recreation participation and trends across the general population.

Initial analysis of Version III's data supports the results obtained in Version I and II that outdoor recreation participation in America, in general, has continued to increase over the last five years, with the simple (low cost) activities (e.g, walking, bicycling, hiking, picnicking, family gatherings etc) increasing the most.

Version IV of the **NSRE 2000** was started in late February, 2000 and is expected to be completed by July 19, 2000. To date, Version IV has just over 4,850 completed interviews. This version contains questions relating to people's recreation participation, wilderness values and opinions, leisure lifestyles, environmental values and opinions, and demographics.

Version V of the **NSRE 2000** has recently finished being pilot tested and data is now being collected. Version V was begun in July, 2000 and is expected to be completed in September, 2000. To date, Version V has almost 250 completed interviews. Version V contains questions pertaining to people's recreation participation (with particular regard to fresh and saltwater activities), sightseeing, use of bicycling helmets (by adults and children), and demographics.

The **NSRE 2000** is being conducted from three survey centers: the Human Dimensions Research Laboratory and the Social Science Research Institute at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and the Center for Applied Social Research at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. These centers operate Monday through Sunday for six-to-eight-hour shifts. To date, 30,000 hours of interviewing have been spent on data collection alone.

For further information regarding the content, progress and results of the NSRE 2000 survey, contact Gary T. Green on (706)-559-4269 or gtgreen/srs_athens@fs.fed.us. Information may also be obtained at <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends/>