

Chapter 6: Recreation Management Issues

As stated before, the NSRE was designed to provide information that can be used by recreation planners and managers at various levels of agencies. These data can also help guide policy decisions in forest management. The United States Forest Service (USFS) is one of the sponsoring agencies for which NSRE data should help in making management decisions in the growing arena of outdoor recreation.

Some of the NSRE survey questions were oriented to specific issues of importance to current and future management decisions for the Forest Service. These questions fall into four categories: characteristics of outdoor recreation trips, wildlife as a component of recreation trips, service and accessibility issues for persons with disabilities, and user attitudes and opinions concerning site attributes, funding, and management policy.

The following text reviews results from the specific questions posed to help understand the significance of certain issues to the public for land management guidance.

Characteristics of Outdoor Recreation Trips

The data in this section were obtained by asking questions regarding the availability and use of specific facilities, fees charged, the operator, and the type and setting at the recreation sites visited by respondents.

Results are presented by Forest Service RPA region (Tables 6.1-6.7).

Table 6.1 provides the regional percentages of respondents who reported that the listed service or facility was available at the area the respondent last visited. Visitor centers and outdoor education programs are common facilities and services provided in such outdoor recreation areas. To assist management agencies in matters concerning visitor centers and outdoor programs, Table 6.2 describes the frequency of use of these facilities and programs.

Table 6.3 presents data obtained by asking who operated the area the respondent last visited. The type of site last visited by the respondent is presented in Table 6.4 and the type of setting of the respondent's main activity on their last trip is shown in Table 6.5.

The setting of outdoor recreation areas contribute to the overall experience for a visitor. Many visitors desire "developed" areas, others "primitive" areas. To further understand recreational use of primitive areas, Table 6.6 gives the percentage of persons who answered "Yes" to four questions about primitive areas.

The last question in this section addresses an issue of concern to many forest managers. How much (if at all) to charge a visitor to enter an area or use a facility? Table 6.7 enumerates the amount spent on entry fees, passes, or tickets for the respondent's last trip.

Table 6.1 – Percentage of population over the age of 15 by services or facilities provided at recreation area last visited and by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Area Provided Service or Facility	Region			
	North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Primitive camping areas	38.5	41.3	56.0	45.5
Developed campground	51.3	52.6	58.4	54.6
Restaurant/food service	60.2	54.1	42.0	57.8
Activity facilities	56.8	42.9	36.1	57.0
Recreation activity instruction program	36.3	31.0	22.8	32.6
Entertainment facilities	34.9	27.4	19.6	31.1

Table 6.2 – Percentage of persons over the age of 15 who use visitor centers or outdoor education programs on visits to recreation areas by frequency of use and by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Facility or Program	Frequency of Use	Region			
		North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Visitor Centers	Never	19.1	19.2	13.8	20.0
	Sometimes	51.3	42.9	57.2	48.8
	Usually	17.9	25.2	18.4	18.1
	Always	10.4	12.1	10.5	11.7
	Refused	1.3	0.7	0.1	1.5
Outdoor Education Programs	Never	49.1	41.6	42.3	47.7
	Sometimes	39.2	42.7	48.2	39.6
	Usually	7.7	11.4	7.6	8.0
	Always	2.8	3.2	1.3	3.1
	Refused	1.2	1.2	0.6	1.6

Table 6.3 – Percentage of population over the age of 15 by operator of last recreation area visited and by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Operator of Last Area Visited	Region			
	North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Private Business	27.8	19.3	15.2	23.4
Private non-profit business	3.7	2.3	3.5	3.4
Local government	12.4	13.2	8.4	11.8
State government	24.6	22.9	24.3	24.5
Federal government	5.5	14.0	22.5	8.7
Other private property	1.6	2.9	2.4	2.2
Private landowner	4.4	3.0	3.6	3.9
Don't Know	20.0	22.4	20.1	22.2

Table 6.4 – Percentage of last outdoor recreation by type of site visited and by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Type of Last Site Visited	Region			
	North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Local or state park or resort	54.2	39.2	34.5	47.7
Other local or state government land	12.5	10.8	10.6	13.4
National forest	4.3	11.7	20.0	6.2
National Park	8.0	15.8	13.9	11.0
Area in the National Wilderness Preservation System	1.8	2.5	1.6	1.1
Other federal land	1.8	2.1	4.4	3.0
Reservoir or lake	4.2	4.7	7.3	4.0
River or Ocean	4.6	7.0	1.9	5.1
Refused	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3
Don't Know	8.3	6.0	5.9	8.1

Table 6.5 – Percentage of last outdoor recreation trips by type of setting for main activity and by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Type of Setting	Region			
	North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Developed Site	44.5	43.7	38.9	48.1
On or near a maintained gravel/paved road	21.7	19.5	25.2	23.8
Walking or riding away from roads	24.7	28.4	29.4	19.4
Refused	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.9
Don't know	8.7	7.6	5.9	7.7

Table 6.6 – Percentage of persons over the age of 15 answering “yes” to questions about recreational use of primitive areas by question and by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Question about Primitive Areas	Region			
	North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Do you plan trips to recreate in primitive areas?	28.8	34.3	47.3	33.9
Have you visited a primitive area in the last 12 months?	31.4	38.5	51.9	35.1
Did you stay overnight on your last trip to a primitive area?	45.9	57.5	63.1	54.9
Are you aware of the National Wilderness Preservation System?	43.0	48.3	49.4	40.7

Table 6.7 – Percentage of last outdoor recreation trips by estimated amount spent on entry fees at destination site and by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Estimated dollars spent	Region			
	North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Less than 3 dollars	79.4	78.1	81.1	82.0
3-4.99 dollars	3.2	3.1	3.2	2.0
5-7.99 dollars	3.1	5.3	4.1	3.0
8-9.99 dollars	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9
10-14.99 dollars	2.2	3.1	2.8	1.9
15-19.99 dollars	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.5
20 dollars or more	9.7	8.0	6.4	8.9

Wildlife as a Component of Recreation Activities

The opportunity to see wildlife is often a significant component of an outdoor recreation trip and activities specifically involving wildlife are very popular. This section covers wildlife as an attraction for outdoor recreation. This area may be of great concern for agencies responsible for the management of wildlife populations and the recreation opportunities associated with wildlife.

Table 6.8 presents data obtained by asking respondents if their last trip involved any wildlife activities. If the trip did involve a wildlife activity, the type of activity was identified.

Many outdoor recreation activities do not specifically involve or depend upon wildlife, but may be enhanced by its presence. Because of this, the interaction of recreation activities with wildlife is of great interest to land managers. Table 6.9 first gives the percentage of persons participating in outdoor activities involving a wildlife component and identifies the activity.

Finally, following up the question of whether or not a respondents last trip included a wildlife activity, Table 6.10 enumerates the number of trips in the 12 months prior to the interview that a respondent engaged in activity involving wildlife.

Persons with Disabilities: Services and Accessibility

Outdoor recreation experiences are enhanced by services and facilities present on the site. Of concern to many land managing agencies are the special needs of persons with disabilities. Table 6.11 lists the services or aids that would enhance an outdoor recreation experience for respondents with disabilities, or who require assistance from others, adaptive equipment, or special facilities in order to participate in outdoor recreation.

People choose recreation areas for expected specific experiences. To make a variety of outdoor experiences possible, a variety of outdoor areas must be available. Although providing access to public lands for all people, including those with special needs is an important priority for managers of public lands. A special case is providing primitive experiences with few or no facilities, with more difficult access and with few to no conveniences for disabled persons. Table 6.12 presents the level of agreement by persons with disabilities to statements concerning accessibility in Wilderness areas.

User Preferences and Opinions Concerning Site Attributes, Source of Funding, and Management Policies

The popularity of outdoor recreation is astounding. Results of this survey have shown that 94.5 percent of Americans participated in some form of outdoor recreation in 1994-95. This survey also shows a trend of increasing numbers of participants, both from increases in the total population of the Nation and from increases in the proportion of people participating.

Because the number of participants in most outdoor recreation activities has increased, greater demands have been placed on existing recreation resources. In addition to the increase in the total number of participants, the client base is changing as well. Because of this, recreation resource managers are faced with increasingly difficult challenges of satisfying user demands and formulating policies that provide a balance between the protection of the resource base and user satisfaction for the greatest number of people.

This section explores the attitudes, concerns, and opinions of outdoor recreation participants. The results presented specifically address 3 issues: site attributes, sources of funding, and management policies concerning provided services, wildlife issues, and wilderness areas.

The wide range of management agencies, area operators, and types of sites and settings provided, result in a wide diversity of potential outdoor recreation opportunities. Not only does an individual have opportunities to engage in outdoor recreation activities, they also have a wide range of sites at which to participate, each with its own attributes and characteristics. Table 6.13 presents the level of importance of nine attributes of recreation sites that contribute to making the site an ideal recreation setting.

The various public land management agencies are an important part of outdoor recreation. They are responsible for the operation and provision of many of the areas and opportunities to engage in outdoor recreation. However, public agencies are faced with some problems that private businesses do not face, most notably, the sources for financing services and facilities.

Along with the concerns about a balanced budget, increased taxes, and government spending, many Americans and land managers are concerned with the current and future status of funding public lands. To assist policy makers addressing this issue, respondents were asked whether the cost of a variety of services and facilities should be paid for by user fees, taxes, a

combination of both, or not provided at all. The results are presented in Table 6.14.

Policies concerning public land management not only shape the future of outdoor recreation, they are continually being formed from data from the past and input from the present. The NSRE, in general, and Tables 6.15-6.17, in particular, provide some of this data and participant input, which may be useful in forging future outdoor recreation policy.

Table 6.15 addresses the levels of agreement by participants with general statements about policies and services of land management agencies. Table 6.16

concerns itself with more specific policies concerning wildlife issues.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 allows Congress to set aside certain undeveloped lands for their preservation as Wilderness Areas. These areas provide benefits such as protecting water and air quality, scientific research, protecting ecosystems, primitive outdoor recreation opportunities, etc. Table 6.17 describes the level of agreement for respondents, both aware and not aware of the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS), to various values of wilderness. This list of values is by no means exhaustive because Wilderness Areas represent many different values for different people.

Table 6.8 – Percentage of last outdoor recreation trips involving wildlife activities by activity and by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Wildlife Activity Involvement	Region			
	North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Don't Know	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6
Refused	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1
No	70.1	67.0	59.7	66.4
Yes	28.8	32.0	39.5	32.9
Wildlife viewing	66.3	64.5	63.6	62.3
Photography	35.1	41.4	34.9	35.9
Sketching	2.1	3.5	3.5	2.7
Painting	0.6	0.6	2.4	2.0
Hunting	8.0	5.3	11.4	12.9
Fishing	19.6	20.8	23.7	21.4
Other	3.9	1.5	2.2	3.0
Refuse	1.1	0.6	0.1	0.0

Table 6.9 – Percentage of persons over the age of 15 participating in outdoor activities involving wildlife as a component of their outdoor recreation activity by activity and by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Recreation Activity and Wildlife Interaction	Region			
	North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Outdoor recreation activities involving wildlife	38.3	48.0	43.5	34.5
While day hiking	56.9	70.3	80.6	53.4
While camping or backpacking	55.1	66.2	81.1	50.8
While sightseeing	87.7	85.9	90.3	86.6
While doing water activities	54.3	63.3	59.4	66.8
While picnicking	74.1	69.0	74.3	72.4
While doing "backyard" activities	75.7	56.7	59.1	68.8

Table 6.10 – Percentage of persons over the age of 15 by number of trips in the last 12 months which involved wildlife by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Number of Trips	Region			
	North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
0	7.6	3.2	2.4	4.1
1-2	21.4	19.6	7.4	23.4
3-5	30.8	24.7	28.2	28.9
6-8	10.0	16.9	13.5	9.3
9-12	11.0	15.0	15.3	13.3
13 or More	19.2	20.6	33.1	21.0

Table 6.11 – Percentage of persons over the age of 15 with disabilities indicating specified services or aids would enhance their outdoor recreation experience by service or aid and by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Service or Aid to Enhance Experience	Region			
	North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Wheelchair availability	23.4	26.1	22.1	22.2
Power scooter availability	17.0	25.2	21.6	24.2
Braille or tactile signs and displays	7.6	6.1	10.0	13.8
Large print brochures and signs	19.0	24.3	23.0	22.9
Use of captions in films and videos	8.3	19.4	14.2	16.8
Assistant learning systems	11.2	14.1	13.9	8.5
Sign language interpreters	2.0	7.3	3.8	6.2
Telecommunication device for the deaf	4.7	8.1	6.5	7.1
Oral interpreters	3.6	8.9	5.7	8.3

Table 6.12 – Percentage of persons over the age of 15 with disabilities by agreement or disagreement with statements concerning accessibility in Wilderness Areas by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Accessibility Statement	Level of Agreement	Region			
		North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
To protect Wilderness Areas, accessibility will usually be less than in Non-Wilderness Areas.	Strongly Agree	5.6	10.3	13.8	9.3
	Agree	48.6	51.6	40.9	43.9
	Disagree	10.3	7.0	10.3	9.6
	Strongly Disagree	1.8	2.5	2.9	1.7
	R/DK ¹	33.7	28.6	32.3	35.5
Motorized wheelchairs should be banned in Wilderness Areas.	Strongly Agree	4.0	6.4	9.6	7.4
	Agree	17.2	18.4	18.4	15.7
	Disagree	27.8	29.0	23.5	27.2
	Strongly Disagree	16.4	16.5	14.6	13.7
	R/DK	34.7	29.7	33.9	36.0
Trails should be kept narrow to protect the environment.	Strongly Agree	4.6	9.3	12.9	7.7
	Agree	22.9	32.0	25.6	24.3
	Disagree	32.0	23.1	20.4	25.9
	Strongly Disagree	7.4	6.5	6.4	7.2
	R/DK	33.1	29.1	34.8	35.0
Preservation of Wilderness Areas is more important than accessibility.	Strongly Agree	7.6	9.7	11.3	6.2
	Agree	29.0	30.5	33.4	34.9
	Disagree	22.2	17.1	15.0	14.9
	Strongly Disagree	5.5	4.8	2.5	5.4
	R/DK	35.7	37.9	37.8	38.6
Accessibility in Wilderness Areas is more important than preservation of the environment.	Strongly Agree	3.4	2.8	3.3	4.3
	Agree	21.5	15.1	11.4	18.6
	Disagree	29.6	36.9	36.3	29.5
	Strongly Disagree	4.4	10.7	11.0	8.0
	R/DK	41.1	34.5	38.1	39.5
A permit system for managing use should be allowed.	Strongly Agree	6.3	5.4	8.0	5.5
	Agree	41.1	44.8	38.9	41.0
	Disagree	10.3	9.4	13.4	11.1
	Strongly Disagree	0.4	1.4	2.6	1.4
	R/DK	41.8	38.9	37.2	41.0

¹This level of agreement indicates the respondent refused to answer the question or did not know.

Accessibility Statement	Level of Agreement	Region			
		North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
The focus of managing agencies should be on making non-system primitive areas accessible, not Wilderness Areas.	Strongly Agree	3.7	6.1	7.4	3.1
	Agree	35.0	29.6	22.3	33.4
	Disagree	17.2	23.5	23.8	18.1
	Strongly Disagree	4.3	3.2	5.7	4.2
	R/DK	39.9	37.6	40.8	41.3
Bridges, trails, campsites and other Wilderness Area modifications should always be made disability accessible.	Strongly Agree	10.6	13.1	10.7	9.2
	Agree	29.5	24.2	27.6	32.7
	Disagree	20.7	25.5	23.7	19.8
	Strongly Disagree	1.5	2.6	2.0	2.1
	R/DK	37.7	34.5	36.0	36.2

Table 6.13 – Percent of population over the age of 15 indicating the importance of recreation site attributes as they contribute to making the site an ideal recreation setting by level of importance and by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Site Attribute and Level of Importance	Region			
	North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Nearness to home				
Not Important	12.6	12.9	12.8	12.0
Moderately Important	45.1	48.9	44.7	42.2
Very to Extremely Important	42.3	38.2	42.5	45.8
Good roads and parking at the area				
Not Important	5.0	6.3	8.9	4.6
Moderately Important	32.3	37.9	38.3	30.8
Very to Extremely Important	62.7	55.7	52.8	64.6
Cleanliness of restrooms, facilities and grounds at the area				
Not Important	1.7	1.6	4.8	2.2
Moderately Important	16.3	21.3	21.2	14.2
Very to Extremely Important	82.0	77.2	73.9	83.5
Helpfulness of area employees				
Not Important	5.2	5.6	8.8	3.7
Moderately Important	30.2	39.1	36.2	29.8
Very to Extremely Important	64.7	55.3	55.0	66.4
Safety and security at the area				
Not Important	3.1	3.1	5.4	2.3
Moderately Important	15.0	22.1	21.5	13.7
Very to Extremely Important	81.9	74.7	73.1	84.1
Quality of scenery at the recreation area				
Not Important	2.1	1.1	1.9	1.7
Moderately Important	21.2	22.3	21.0	22.8
Very to Extremely Important	76.7	76.6	77.1	75.5
Reasonable fees for use of the area				
Not Important	2.6	3.5	4.9	2.9
Moderately Important	29.1	32.4	30.9	28.6
Very to Extremely Important	68.3	64.1	64.2	68.4
Map, informational signs, and bulletin boards at the area				
Not Important	5.5	5.6	7.4	4.7

Site Attribute and Level of Importance	Region			
	North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Moderately Important	37.5	40.5	39.1	38.1
Very to Extremely Important	57.0	53.9	53.6	57.2
Opportunity to bring pets into the area				
Not Important	45.4	44.6	40.7	46.7
Moderately Important	35.0	32.7	35.3	31.8
Very to Extremely Important	19.5	22.6	24.0	21.6

Table 6.14 – Percentage of persons over the age of 15 by preferred source of financing for services and facilities on public lands by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Service or Facility	Source of Financing	Region			
		North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Visitor Centers	User Fees	22.8	28.9	33.3	22.5
	Taxes	38.4	30.2	28.0	39.7
	Both	34.9	35.7	35.7	34.3
	Don't Provide	0.6	1.7	0.0	0.4
	R/DK ²	3.3	3.5	2.9	3.1
Special Exhibits & Presentations	User Fees	44.8	44.9	48.7	43.1
	Taxes	14.9	11.3	12.7	16.0
	Both	34.9	37.9	34.9	35.2
	Don't Provide	0.9	0.5	0.7	1.9
	R/DK	4.5	5.5	3.1	3.8
Trails	User Fees	21.6	24.5	30.5	27.6
	Taxes	42.5	35.2	31.6	38.0
	Both	30.5	35.1	30.7	30.4
	Don't Provide	1.3	1.0	2.8	0.9
	R/DK	4.1	4.2	4.4	3.2
Picnic Areas	User Fees	22.2	20.3	29.6	24.2
	Taxes	44.1	38.6	34.1	40.9
	Both	31.0	37.7	31.6	32.1
	Don't Provide	0.6	0.4	1.0	0.6
	R/DK	2.0	3.0	3.8	2.2
Campgrounds	User Fees	47.1	40.0	45.9	43.0
	Taxes	15.2	15.7	14.2	15.5
	Both	34.3	41.5	35.8	39.7
	Don't Provide	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.4
	R/DK	3.3	2.7	3.7	1.5
Restrooms	User Fees	16.5	14.6	19.4	12.4
	Taxes	53.6	50.2	48.9	53.5
	Both	26.9	32.0	27.0	30.8
	Don't Provide	0.3	0.0	0.6	0.4
	R/DK	2.7	3.1	4.2	2.8

²This level of agreement indicates the respondent refused to answer the question or did not know.

Service or Facility	Source of Financing	Region			
		North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Boat Ramps	User Fees	56.3	63.6	59.1	52.1
	Taxes	14.2	11.5	12.1	18.1
	Both	23.8	19.8	21.5	23.6
	Don't Provide	0.9	0.4	1.5	0.8
	R/DK	4.8	4.8	5.8	5.3
Parking Areas	User Fees	33.2	34.2	28.5	27.4
	Taxes	35.4	27.9	35.5	39.7
	Both	28.1	35.0	31.6	30.2
	Don't Provide	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.2
	R/DK	3.1	2.6	3.8	2.5
Historical Sites	User Fees	16.4	13.9	20.1	17.8
	Taxes	43.0	42.9	37.0	40.5
	Both	36.3	39.6	38.2	39.1
	Don't Provide	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.3
	R/DK	3.8	2.9	3.8	2.2

Table 6.15 – Percentage of persons over the age of 15 by level of agreement with statements about policies and services of land management agencies by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Statement	Level of Agreement	Region			
		North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
Management is well balanced between use/access and protection.	Strongly Agree	5.0	4.9	7.2	5.4
	Agree	62.2	54.4	62.2	60.7
	Disagree	18.7	25.8	21.2	18.3
	Strongly Disagree	4.1	5.7	3.4	4.6
	R/DK ³	9.9	9.2	6.0	11.1
Agencies are constantly improving management by applying research results.	Strongly Agree	4.7	3.6	7.2	5.1
	Agree	56.6	51.4	55.5	56.5
	Disagree	20.3	26.1	21.3	21.9
	Strongly Disagree	3.3	4.9	3.2	3.2
	R/DK	15.1	14.0	12.7	13.3
The U.S. has a responsibility to share resource management knowledge.	Strongly Agree	19.6	23.0	23.4	21.6
	Agree	59.1	58.3	57.5	59.0
	Disagree	11.6	13.6	13.9	11.1
	Strongly Disagree	2.1	1.0	2.1	1.4
	R/DK	7.7	4.0	3.1	6.9
I use on-site signs and maps to get the most out of visits.	Strongly Agree	21.4	23.5	22.2	20.3
	Agree	64.2	66.5	65.4	68.7
	Disagree	9.1	6.5	9.5	8.1
	Strongly Disagree	1.1	0.3	0.4	0.0
	R/DK	4.2	3.2	2.5	3.0

³This level of agreement indicates the respondent refused to answer the question or did not know.

Statement	Level of Agreement	Region			
		North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
I use off-site signs and maps to get the most out of visits.	Strongly Agree	9.9	12.5	13.5	11.1
	Agree	60.2	64.3	65.4	59.1
	Disagree	22.6	17.4	17.1	21.1
	Strongly Disagree	1.6	0.5	0.0	1.5
	R/DK	5.7	5.3	4.0	7.2
Government should allow more private development on public lands.	Strongly Agree	8.7	3.9	3.5	7.6
	Agree	40.1	32.2	33.1	40.6
	Disagree	35.0	39.3	36.4	35.0
	Strongly Disagree	10.0	13.8	18.6	9.0
	R/DK	6.2	10.8	8.4	7.8
Outdoor recreation areas must be maintained to better serve the public.	Strongly Agree	37.8	34.5	32.4	35.6
	Agree	57.8	61.6	63.2	60.2
	Disagree	1.9	0.8	2.7	1.9
	Strongly Disagree	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.2
	R/DK	2.1	2.6	1.6	2.2

Table 6.16 – Percentage of persons over the age of 15 by level of agreement with statements about wildlife management and by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Statement	Level of Agreement	Region			
		North	Pacific Coast	Rockies	South
The opportunity to view wildlife and/or fish in a natural setting is important in my selection of outdoor recreation sites.	Strongly Agree	26.5	36.0	33.1	23.6
	Agree	53.7	47.4	51.5	58.7
	Disagree	15.8	12.7	12.4	13.3
	Strongly Disagree	1.4	1.7	0.0	2.2
	R/DK ⁴	2.6	2.3	3.0	2.3
If asked, I would contribute time, money, or both to an organization that works to improve the quality of wetlands, streams, and lakes, even if the results of this activity may not be observed for five to ten years.	Strongly Agree	15.0	18.4	15.5	11.5
	Agree	57.4	54.4	59.9	59.4
	Disagree	20.8	20.5	13.8	20.3
	Strongly Disagree	2.0	2.1	0.5	1.9
	R/DK	4.8	4.7	10.4	6.8
I prefer to look for wildlife where there are interpretive signs or other information sources to answer any questions I may have.	Strongly Agree	8.9	11.7	8.4	9.4
	Agree	58.4	58.2	49.5	59.7
	Disagree	26.5	23.5	32.5	23.3
	Strongly Disagree	0.8	2.6	3.1	1.5
	R/DK	5.4	4.1	6.5	6.1
When I encounter wildlife during an outdoor recreation trip, it always makes me more satisfied with the trip.	Strongly Agree	30.2	38.2	39.9	28.0
	Agree	60.3	51.3	51.9	63.2
	Disagree	6.1	6.2	5.1	5.5
	Strongly Disagree	0.5	1.6	0.0	0.9
	R/DK	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.4

⁴This level of agreement indicates the respondent refused to answer the question or did not know.

Table 6.17 – Percentage of persons over the age of 15 who feel the listed values for wilderness are extremely important to not important by awareness of the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) and by Forest Service RPA Region, 1994-95.

Value of Wilderness	Level of Agreement	Region							
		North		Pacific Coast		Rockies		South	
		Aware of NWPS	Not Aware of NWPS	Aware of NWPS	Not Aware of NWPS	Aware of NWPS	Not Aware of NWPS	Aware of NWPS	Not Aware of NWPS
Protecting Water Quality	Extremely Important	47.2	41.4	52.3	42.9	46.7	35.5	48.6	48.9
	Very Important	33.4	33.0	29.3	38.4	30.3	37.8	33.0	24.1
	Important	17.5	21.8	14.9	15.7	18.8	20.6	16.6	21.1
	Slightly Important	0.3	0.3	1.5	1.2	0.0	3.9	0.8	0.8
	Not Important	0.9	1.5	1.1	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.6	0.4
	R/DK ⁵	0.6	2.0	0.9	1.8	1.7	2.2	0.3	4.7
Knowing that future generations will have wilderness areas	Extremely Important	44.0	37.4	48.8	34.0	41.7	38.0	43.2	41.8
	Very Important	36.0	34.3	30.2	43.1	31.6	36.6	34.3	30.9
	Important	18.0	23.3	18.1	18.5	24.2	22.8	20.2	21.5
	Slightly Important	1.2	1.8	1.1	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.4	2.0
	Not Important	0.2	0.5	0.3	1.9	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.9
	R/DK	0.6	2.7	1.6	2.0	1.7	1.7	0.7	2.8
Providing recreation opportunities	Extremely Important	18.7	18.5	18.1	19.4	21.1	13.7	19.4	21.0
	Very Important	33.0	25.2	27.6	26.1	25.2	30.2	31.9	30.2
	Important	35.9	46.0	41.2	39.0	44.0	47.4	39.3	35.0
	Slightly Important	9.1	6.3	7.4	6.0	4.5	5.9	6.3	8.8
	Not Important	2.3	1.9	4.5	7.1	3.5	0.0	2.3	2.0
	R/DK	0.9	2.2	1.3	2.4	1.7	2.8	0.8	3.1
Protecting wildlife habitat	Extremely Important	47.7	39.3	49.1	43.5	44.5	37.47	42.9	44.2
	Very Important	34.4	33.7	34.9	38.6	30.5	42.6	36.0	27.2
	Important	13.4	23.3	13.9	13.2	16.0	14.3	19.3	21.9
	Slightly Important	2.4	1.2	0.0	1.0	2.8	2.0	0.0	2.3
	Not Important	0.9	0.3	1.1	1.3	3.7	0.9	1.1	1.6
	R/DK	1.1	2.3	0.9	2.4	2.5	2.8	0.7	2.9
Providing spiritual inspiration	Extremely Important	17.4	18.4	22.7	20.1	24.7	11.8	20.3	24.4
	Very Important	25.7	17.6	15.4	23.3	24.9	28.9	22.4	23.6
	Important	37.2	41.4	38.5	33.5	31.5	34.6	39.9	32.4
	Slightly Important	11.1	10.4	12.5	9.7	8.6	11.5	7.5	9.5
	Not Important	7.2	7.7	8.1	7.4	8.6	10.4	8.2	7.0
	R/DK	1.5	4.6	2.9	5.9	1.7	2.8	1.8	3.2

⁵This level of agreement indicates the respondent refused to answer the question or did not know.

Value of Wilderness	Level of Agreement	Region							
		North		Pacific Coast		Rockies		South	
		Aware of NWPS	Not Aware of NWPS	Aware of NWPS	Not Aware of NWPS	Aware of NWPS	Not Aware of NWPS	Aware of NWPS	Not Aware of NWPS
Preserving natural areas for scientific study	Extremely Important	16.6	16.6	21.3	14.9	16.8	15.9	18.4	20.4
	Very Important	28.8	24.1	26.4	28.6	29.0	28.3	33.5	24.3
	Important	38.4	41.5	35.3	35.9	40.5	31.2	37.9	38.4
	Slightly Important	9.6	9.2	10.8	6.7	8.6	13.3	6.1	8.4
	Not Important	4.2	4.9	3.7	10.6	1.7	6.2	2.7	5.7
	R/DK	2.4	3.7	2.5	3.3	3.4	5.2	1.4	2.9
Preserving unique plant and animal ecosystems and genetic strains	Extremely Important	35.4	27.8	39.1	28.6	31.5	37.2	34.3	32.1
	Very Important	30.9	27.1	33.6	35.8	31.9	27.2	27.3	25.4
	Important	25.5	32.5	21.3	27.5	24.2	25.5	29.7	30.4
	Slightly Important	4.2	4.5	2.5	3.6	6.9	5.1	3.4	4.0
	Not Important	3.1	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.3	1.0	1.9	3.8
	R/DK	0.9	4.1	1.6	2.4	3.2	4.1	3.4	4.3
Knowing that in the future I will have the option to visit a Wilderness area or primitive area of my choice	Extremely Important	26.3	24.1	33.8	28.0	31.3	30.7	33.1	30.7
	Very Important	31.1	27.2	31.3	33.4	34.7	28.9	31.5	26.5
	Important	33.1	37.2	26.1	29.5	26.3	29.3	28.1	32.5
	Slightly Important	4.7	5.6	2.6	2.4	2.6	4.2	2.9	2.5
	Not Important	4.0	2.8	4.6	4.3	3.3	4.1	2.7	4.1
	R/DK	0.8	3.1	1.6	2.4	1.7	2.8	1.7	3.7
Protecting air quality	Extremely Important	47.2	44.6	49.7	47.0	49.7	37.1	46.8	48.5
	Very Important	28.5	29.5	28.4	34.2	29.1	38.3	31.6	27.9
	Important	20.1	20.3	19.0	15.0	15.6	20.9	18.7	19.1
	Slightly Important	2.6	1.5	0.0	0.7	1.6	0.9	0.7	1.1
	Not Important	0.9	1.3	1.6	0.7	2.2	1.1	1.4	0.9
	R/DK	0.7	2.8	1.3	2.4	1.7	1.7	0.7	2.6
Providing income for the tourist industry	Extremely Important	5.8	7.8	6.0	9.8	3.7	8.2	4.9	13.3
	Very Important	15.1	16.2	9.6	12.1	11.5	11.8	17.1	12.0
	Important	35.5	36.0	28.2	34.0	34.2	33.6	38.7	32.9
	Slightly Important	17.4	15.0	24.4	14.2	24.6	21.5	16.7	20.4
	Not Important	23.7	20.6	28.6	22.6	22.8	18.9	21.9	17.9
	R/DK	2.5	4.4	3.1	7.2	3.1	6.1	0.7	3.5

Value of Wilderness	Level of Agreement	Region							
		North		Pacific Coast		Rockies		South	
		Aware of NWPS	Not Aware of NWPS	Aware of NWPS	Not Aware of NWPS	Aware of NWPS	Not Aware of NWPS	Aware of NWPS	Not Aware of NWPS
Protecting rare and endangered species	Extremely Important	44.8	39.4	46.4	38.1	32.9	42.1	43.0	43.4
	Very Important	29.8	30.6	21.9	37.1	33.6	36.0	31.3	26.4
	Important	18.9	23.5	23.0	16.0	17.1	17.4	21.5	22.0
	Slightly Important	3.2	2.6	4.2	1.3	6.6	2.8	0.3	2.5
	Not Important	2.4	1.2	2.5	2.8	3.1	0.0	2.8	2.5
	R/DK	0.9	2.6	2.0	4.7	6.7	1.7	1.1	3.2
Providing scenic beauty	Extremely Important	30.2	26.6	34.7	27.4	24.0	27.2	27.1	33.3
	Very Important	31.7	30.2	27.7	28.8	29.1	32.6	32.3	22.8
	Important	31.1	36.1	31.6	32.5	39.3	30.9	35.2	35.4
	Slightly Important	4.6	3.4	2.8	4.0	2.8	6.6	2.7	3.5
	Not Important	1.5	1.3	1.8	2.6	1.7	1.1	1.4	2.5
	R/DK	0.9	2.5	1.3	4.7	3.1	1.7	1.3	2.6
Just knowing that Wilderness and primitive areas exist	Extremely Important	29.1	23.7	37.0	28.2	32.9	24.9	32.0	29.1
	Very Important	25.7	25.8	26.8	26.2	26.0	34.2	26.9	25.7
	Important	37.8	42.1	26.4	34.6	32.3	30.3	36.0	36.1
	Slightly Important	3.9	3.9	5.6	4.9	5.7	7.8	1.8	4.4
	Not Important	2.6	2.5	2.8	1.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	1.7
	R/DK	0.9	2.1	1.3	5.1	3.1	2.8	1.2	2.9