



**OUTDOOR RECREATION
AND OUR NATIONAL
FORESTS:**

**USING THE NATIONAL SURVEY ON
RECREATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT
SEMINAR, WASHINGTON OFFICE
MARCH 21, 2001**

**Sponsored by Recreation, Heritage and Wilderness,
Strategic Planning and Resources Assessment, and
Resource Use and Valuation Research Staff Groups,
Washington Office, Washington, DC**

www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends

**NATIONAL SURVEY
ON RECREATION
AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**

NSRE 2000

NSRE 2000

- A sample of over **50,000 households**, from the Keys to ANWR
- Includes **individuals 16 years or older**
- Is the **8th** of the United States on-going **National Recreation Surveys**, the first of which was done for the Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission in 1960
- **Interagency** sponsorship—USFS, NOAA, ERS, EPA, NPS, BLM.
- **Others** involved, National Scenic Byways Program, Heritage, Wilderness, Bicycle Safety, The Heinz Center
- State of the Art delivery—**Internet**, books and reports

MODULES OF QUESTIONS

- **Participation in Recreational Activities**
- **Recreation Participation in Coastal States**
- **Frequency of Participation in Days**
- **Favorite Activities and Constraints**
- **Risk Activity Participation**
- **Nature-based Trip Taking and Tourism**
- **Environmental Attitudes and Values**
- **Vision, Values and Objectives for Management of Public Lands**
- **Wilderness Values, Knowledge, Visitation, and Preferences for Management**
- **Ownership of Private Land**
- **Lifestyles, Demographics and Disabilities**



DETAILED HOUSEHOLD AND INDIVIDUAL DATA



(Uses all the Bureau of Census Protocols)

Number of household members by age and sex

Citizenship, where born and country of origin

Race and ethnicity

Occupation and employment status

City, rural/urban, ZIP Code

Childhood origin

Income and education

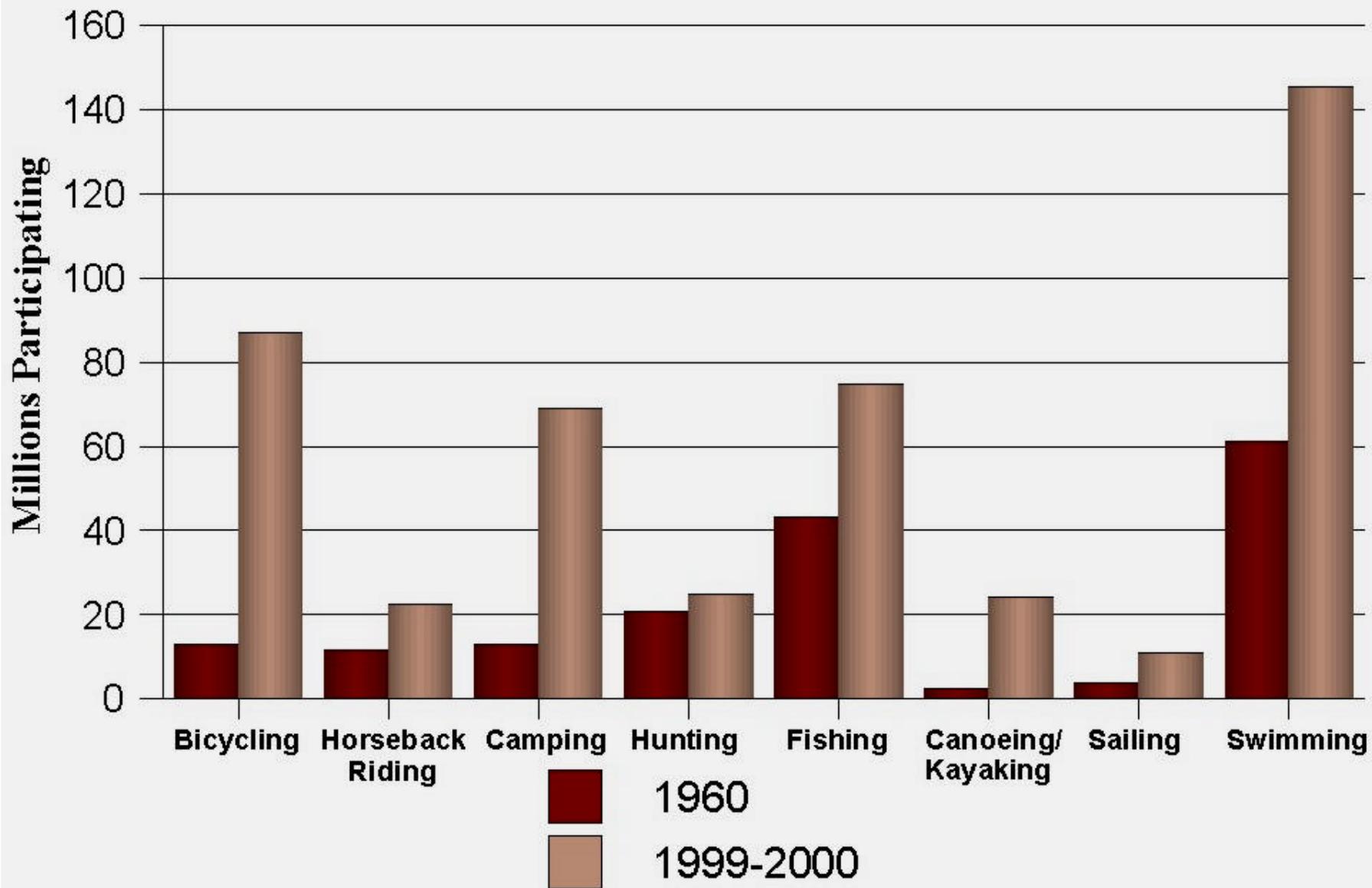
Disabilities



CONTINUOUS POPULATION SURVEYING



**RECREATION
TRENDS IN THE
UNITED STATES**





Activities Adding the Most Participants 16 or older, 1982- 2001

	<u>Millions</u>	
	<u>Growth</u>	<u>No. in 2000</u>
Walking	85.4	179.0
Bird watching	50.0	71.2
Hiking	48.4	73.1
Swimming/river, lake, or ocean	36.4	92.9
Sightseeing	32.7	114.0
Picnicking	31.8	116.6
Bicycling	27.4	83.9
Developed camping	22.8	52.8
Motor boating	17.8	51.4
Off-road driving	17.3	36.7
Backpacking	14.6	23.4

Shifts

- The average participant is changing; Fewer HS educated, lower income, large household visitors; More College educated, high income, diversity of races, and smaller households.
- People are **remaining active** in their chosen activities longer in life.
- Working parents **mixing recreation with business travel**, bringing family along.
- Increasingly Americans support **“green” travel**.
- Resurgence in interest in **family travel**.
- Use of **RVs, other motorized vehicles**, and high-tech equipment is booming.

Percentage of Americans 16 and Older

	United States
Walk for pleasure	84.85
Family gathering	73.85
All sightseeing, driving, etc.	63.04
All swimming, diving, etc.	60.79
Visit nature centers	59.27
Picnicking	57.34
View/photograph natural scenery	55.09
Sightseeing	53.98
Driving for pleasure	53.66
Visit historic sites	48.71
Non-pool swimming	44.38
All nature viewing/photography	41.68
Bicycling	41.63
View/photograph flowers, etc.	41.19
View/photograph other wildlife	41.05
Visit beach	39.96
All boating	36.91
Day hiking	36.48
Visit a wilderness	35.45

Percentage of Americans 16 and Older (2001)

	United States
All fishing	31.80
View or photograph birds	30.07
Gather mushrooms, berries, etc.	27.97
Freshwater fishing	27.80
Visit waterside besides beach	27.09
Developed camping	26.83
Motorboating	23.90
Mountain biking	23.39
Outdoor team sports	22.51
View or photograph fish	21.68
Visit prehistoric sites	21.30
Warmwater fishing	20.17
Drive off-road	17.01
Primitive camping	16.18
All hunting	10.54
Rafting	9.95
Jet skiing	8.85
Waterskiing	7.92
Saltwater fishing	7.90

Comparison of South Carolina, South, and Nation

(Percentage Participating)

	South Carolina	South	United States
All snow/ice activities	9.90	13.14	31.58
Horseback riding	9.12	10.59	9.99
Coldwater fishing	8.14	10.37	14.37
Horseback riding on trails	9.70	8.87	8.09
Backpacking	9.61	8.61	12.15
Small game hunting	9.76	8.54	6.46
Canoeing	5.65	7.51	10.23
Snorkeling	2.53	6.13	6.95
Downhill skiing	5.81	4.37	10.26
Sailing	4.04	3.99	5.43
Rowing	3.44	3.31	4.99
Anadromous fishing	3.87	3.16	4.83
Migratory bird hunting	2.59	2.73	2.21
Scuba diving	2.10	2.14	1.77
Snowboarding	2.30	2.02	5.83
Kayaking	2.41	1.82	3.51
Surfing	2.31	1.48	1.52
Snowmobiling	1.07	1.36	7.06
Cross-country skiing	0.00	1.22	5.03
Windsurfing	0.94	0.75	0.85



PROFILE OF NATIONAL FOREST VISITORS





Who Visits National Forests?

	Percent		Percent
Female	33		
		< 30 years old	19
White (non-Hispanic)	91	30-49 years	55
Black (non-Hispanic)	5	50-59 years	11
Hispanic	2	60+	15
Asian	1		
Native	<1	One-person parties	30
		Two-three persons	40
<\$20,000	12	10 or more persons	7
\$20,000 - \$34,999	19		
\$35,000 - \$74,999	43		
>\$75,000	14		



**DISPERSED
RECREATION AND
TRAILS**

Hiking & Backpacking

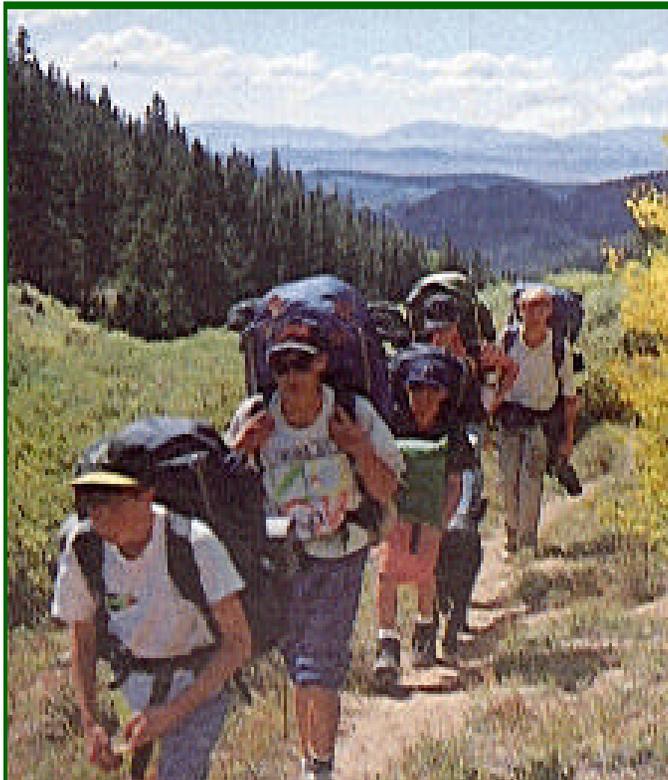
Trends

No. 2 and 3 in growth rate (+196% & +166% since 1982)

Participation

Hiking, 33.4%

Backpacking, 10.8%



Profile (percentage)

	<u>Hiking</u>	<u>Backpacking</u>
Female	46.1	37.6
White	70.7	76.8
Hispanic	21.7	14.9
Under 35 years	41.6	55.1
55 or older	17.8	7.8
Foreign born	15.0	8.3
Urban	81.1	81.3



Horseback Riding

Trends

+35.9% since 1982: long-term trend flat

Participation 9.8% of those 16+

Profile

Percent

Female

50.2

White

76.8

Hispanic

14.5

Under 35 years

52.2

55 or older

10.2

Foreign born

5.6

Urban

74.9





Mountain Biking



Trends Growth leveling out

Participation 21% of those 16+

<u>Profile</u>	Percent
Female	42.6
White	75.1
Hispanic	13.4
Under 35 years	54.0
55 or older	8.8
Foreign born	7.1
Urban	81.6

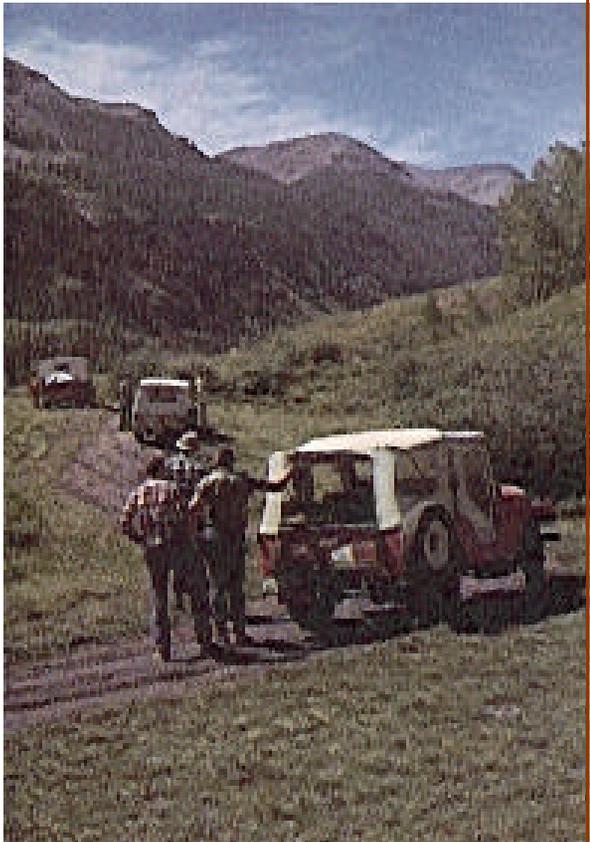
THE PUBLIC'S PREFERRED OBJECTIVES

- Expand volunteer programs to help with maintenance, including trails (73.3% support)
- Develop trails across public and private land for non-motorized use (56.5% support)
- Designate some trails for specific uses such as snowmobiles or bikes (55.1% support)
- Expand commercial recreation, including outfitters (28.8% support)
- Develop trails across public and private land for motorized vehicles (28.8% support)
- **Can contrast opinions of users with public**

OFF-HIGHWAY MOTORIZED VEHICLES



Driving Off- Road



Trends

Sixth fastest growing activity
at +89.2% since 1982

Participation

17.5% of those 16+

Profile

	Percent
Female	40.1
White	77.4
Hispanic	11.3
Black	8.0
Under 35 years	54.9
55 or older	11.9
Foreign born	4.3
Urban	72.3
South	46.9

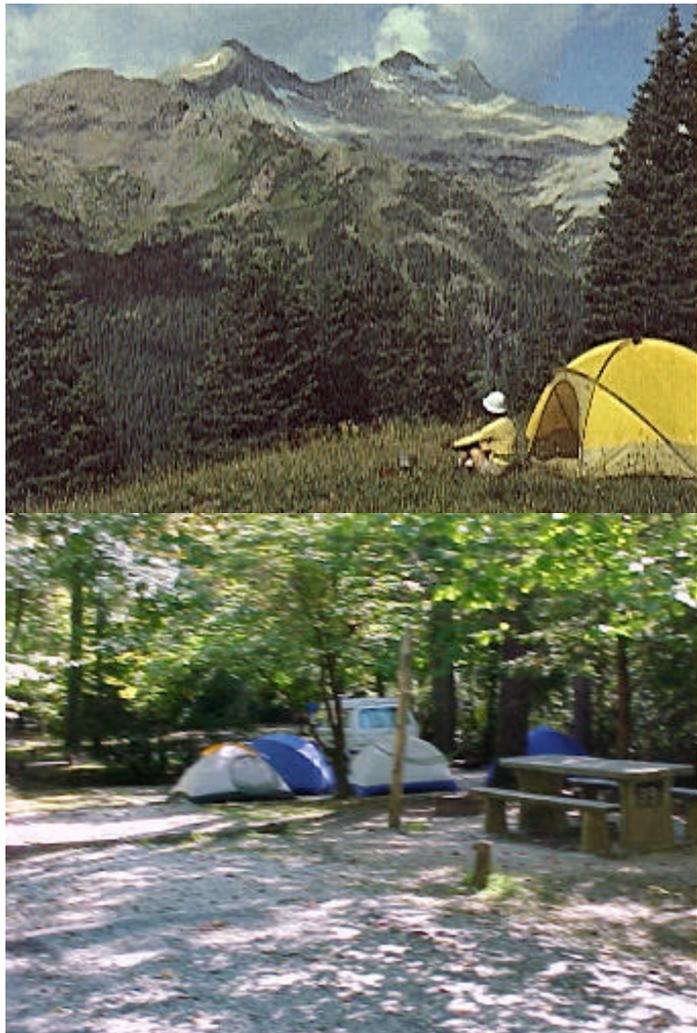
THE PUBLIC'S PREFERRED OBJECTIVES

- Inform the public about trail etiquette and respect for wildlife (86.7% support)
- Preserve opportunity to have a wilderness experience (73.4% support)
- Designate more wilderness that stops development and motorized uses (59% support)
- Expand access for motorized, off-highway vehicles (19.6 % support)
- Develop trails across public and private land for motorized vehicles (28.8% support)



DEVELOPED
RECREATION

Developed Recreation



Trends Developed Camping +76.0%
 Picnicking +37.5%

Participation (percentage)

Family Gathering	73.8
Sightseeing/Driving	63.0
Nature/Visitor Centers	59.3
Picnicking	57.3
Developed Camping	26.8

Profile (percentage)

	Family Gathering	Visitor Centers	Camping
Female	52.8	51.1	48.4
White	69.6	73.0	77.3
Hispanic	14.2	14.0	13.4
Black	12.8	9.6	6.1
Under 35 years	38.9	39.7	44.5
55 or older	24.5	20.7	15.7
Foreign born	7.8	7.8	6.1
Urban	79.5	82.0	78.7

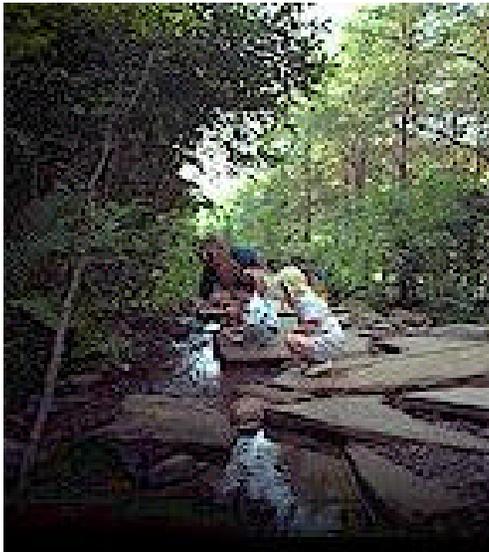
THE PUBLIC'S PREFERRED OBJECTIVES

- Expand volunteer programs to help with maintenance, including developed sites (73.3% support)
- Introduce a recreation fee (55.5% support)
- Expand commercial recreation including developed sites (28.8% support)
- Develop new paved roads for access by cars and RVs (18.1 percent support)



INTEREST IN INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

Viewing/ Learning Activities



Trends Birdwatching (No. 1) +236%
 Sightseeing +40%

Participation (percentage)

Visit Nature Centers	59
View/Photo Scenery	55
Sightseeing	54
View/Photo Wildlife	41
View/Photo Flowers	41
View/Photo Birds	30
View/Photo Fish	22

Profile (percentage)

	<u>Nature</u> <u>Centers</u>	<u>View</u> <u>Flowers</u>	<u>View</u> <u>Birds</u>
Female	51.1	55.9	55.9
White	73.0	76.4	77.9
Hispanic	14.0	11.6	10.7
Under 35 years	39.7	33.5	27.7
55 or older	20.7	27.0	31.6
East	67.1	66.7	60.9

THE PUBLIC'S PREFERRED OBJECTIVES

- Inform the public about recreation concerns such as safety and respect for wildlife (86.7% support)
- Inform the public about impacts of forest and grassland uses (81.7% support)
- Inform the public about economic value of NF resources (67.6% support)

Segmenting the American Public

- ❖ Interpretation, education, outreach, involvement - "Does one Size Fit All?"
- ❖ Outdoor Recreation Is a Path to Identifying and Reaching Different Segments
- ❖ Eight Groups, Eight Lifestyles

Nature Lovers (27.2%)

- ❖ Viewing/photographing birds, flowers, wildlife, fish, natural scenery, gathering mushrooms and berries, and learning at nature centers, visitor centers, historic sites and archeological sites
- ❖ Nature Lovers are much into birding, photographing flowers, and viewing wildlife, over 70% of them
- ❖ Not into hunting, fishing, active sports or motorized activities
- ❖ 61 % female, mostly white, middle aged and seniors, not foreign born
- ❖ New England and Prairie states well represented
- ❖ Donate to civic or charitable organizations, spend time with grand children, invest, creative arts, collect things, garden, and read environmental magazines
- ❖ Aware of the NWPS, cross-section of American's values regarding wilderness, especially future options
- ❖ Believe humans are abusing the earth, the balance is delicate, and we are on a course for catastrophe



Hunt-n-Fish Men's Motor Club (6.3%)



- Hunt, fish, motorized, camp, motorboat, canoe
- Don't participate in beach activities nor are they much into viewing/learning
- 88% male, 90% white, under 45, U.S. born, much more rural than any other segment, from Prairie and Southern states
- Belong to wildlife conservation group, read nature magazines, woodworking, own a business, garden, have pets and do home improvements
- Believe Wilderness is there to use
- Humans were meant to rule over the earth and environmental crisis is exaggerated

The Urban Beach Boys (3.8%)

- ☞ Diving, Surfing, Snorkeling, Kayaking, Sailing, Backpacking, Snowboarding, Saltwater Fishing, Water Skiing, More active than most people in most activities, except hunting
 - ☞ Two-thirds white, Asian/Pacific Islanders well represented, majority under 35, U.S. born, and urban
 - ☞ South Atlantic and Pacific Coast states
 - ☞ Regularly like to go to movies, use internet at home, participate in environmental groups, invest, and attend classes, involved as a youth volunteer, and into the arts
 - ☞ Advocate wilderness preservation for option and existence values
 - ☞ Like most Americans feel humans are abusing the earth, we're on a course for ecological catastrophe and the balance of nature is delicate
- 

Young New England Wind Surfers (0.9%)



- ψ Wind surfing, surfing, kayaking, sailing, non-motorized winter activities, diving, snorkeling, rowing and canoeing
- ψ More active than most Americans in all activities
- ψ Over 85% white; two-thirds male; one half under 25, urban, U.S. born
- ψ New England and Pacific Coast residents strongly represented
- ψ Into movies, lifelong learning classes, participate with environmental groups, regularly attend movies, belong to a country club, on the internet and into the stock market
- ψ Value preserving wilderness, especially for scientific and recreational values
- ψ More strongly believe environmental crisis is greatly exaggerated, even though they also believe we are nearing the earth's limits

The Inactives (22.0%)



Not very active in outdoor activities, except for a bit of walking, family gatherings, and picnicking

55% female, blacks and Hispanic well represented, spread across age groups, mostly urban and U.S. born

Spend time with grandchildren, cook at home, regularly attend religious services, collect things like coins and antiques

Not much aware of NWPS, show a bit more support for using wilderness for recreation, tourism promotion, and science

More strongly believe human ingenuity will insure the earth, humans were meant to rule over nature, humans can control nature, and the environmental crisis is exaggerated



The Nor Easter Musclers (6.2%)

- Cross-country skiing, rowing, kayaking, canoeing, downhill skiing, sailing, backpacking, snowboarding, and fishing
- They don't hunt, but are active in most other activities
- Somewhat more male than female, white and Asian/Pacific Islander, young to middle aged (not seniors), urban, from New England, Prairie, Mountain and Pacific states
- Members of conservation groups, use the internet at home, attend concerts, have vacation property, invest, belong to a country club
- 2/3 aware of wilderness; back preservation, not use
- More belief that we are abusing the earth, the balance of nature is delicate and we may be heading for disaster

The Thrill Seekers (8.3%)



-  Waterskiing, jet skiing, rafting, snowmobiling, snowboarding, motorboating, downhill skiing, driving off-road, rowing and canoeing
-  Very active across a large number of activities
-  Equally male/female, white and American Indians well represented, two thirds under 35, almost all born in the U.S., from Plains states
-  Youth volunteers, belong to a country club, use the internet, attend movies, watch sports on TV, gather with friends and neighbors
-  Wilderness is a recreation resource, but also important for protecting wildlife and water quality
-  Balance of nature is delicate, humans are abusing the earth, and a disaster is looming

The Take it Easies (25.3%)

- ❖ Sightseeing, driving for pleasure, picnicking, visiting historic sites, family gatherings, visiting nature centers, and walking
- ❖ They don't ski, view/photograph, hunt, or fish
- ❖ More female than male, Blacks and Asian/Pacific Islander well represented, all ages, all regions
- ❖ Attend cultural events, go to movies and church, raise children and spend time with grandchildren, use the internet, and eat out
- ❖ Less aware of NWPS, lean toward using rather than preserving wilderness, except for water and air quality
- ❖ Believe humans can insure the liveability of the earth and the environmental crisis is exaggerated



HERITAGE



Heritage Uses

Trends

Prehistoric Sites +24.9% (+867M)

Historic Sites +11.9% (+1,050M)

Participation

Prehistoric Sites 20.7%

Historic Sites 47.0%

Profile (percentage)

	<u>Prehistoric</u>	<u>Historic</u>
Female	50.0	50.0
White	71.7	75.2
Hispanic	14.1	10.7
Black	10.8	10.2
Under 35 years	38.3	37.4
Over 55	21.1	23.0



THE PUBLIC'S PREFERENCES

- Preserve the cultures and history associated with our natural heritage (Very important to 70%)
- Preserve historic sites and places (Very important to 66%)
- Preserve cultural uses of National Forests, including ceremonial access (58.4% support)



THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF FEES



In your opinion, how should we pay for recreation facilities and services on federal lands, such as national forests? (Percentage agreeing with option.)

Race	Users should pay	General tax fund	Users & taxes
White, NH	17.2	12.0	70.8
Black, NH	18.4	21.7	59.9
American Indian, NH	17.0	5.8	77.3
Asian/PI, NH	32.9	32.8	34.3
Hispanic	10.5	22.3	67.3

Note: "NH" and "PI" denote non-Hispanic and Pacific Islander.

What share of the costs of providing recreation services on federal lands should be paid by the visitor? (Percentage agreeing with share.)

Race	<25%	25-50%	51-75%	>75%
White, NH	26.4	49.0	16.9	7.7
Black, NH	45.2	31.4	11.1	12.3
American Indian, NH	23.1	26.3	43.8	6.8
Asian/PI, NH	35.4	37.8	16.3	10.5
Hispanic	38.0	38.3	17.9	5.8

Note: "NH" and "PI" denote non-Hispanic and Pacific Islander.

In the past 12 months, have you gone to a public recreation area where you decided not to stay because there was an entrance fee?

Race	Yes	No
White, NH	9.1	90.9
Black, NH	12.1	87.9
American Indian, NH	18.7	81.3
Asian/PI, NH	5.2	94.8
Hispanic	15.1	84.9

Note: "NH" and "PI" denote non-Hispanic and Pacific Islander.

Who managed that site where an entrance fee was being charged?

Race	Fed. Govt.	State Govt.	Local Govt.	Priv. Individ/bus.
White, NH	24.2	53.2	16.6	6.0
Black, NH	11.4	37.9	37.9	12.8
American Indian, NH	13.3	68.3	0.0	18.4
Asian/PI, NH	33.0	28.4	26.8	11.8
Hispanic	7.0	28.1	22.5	42.4

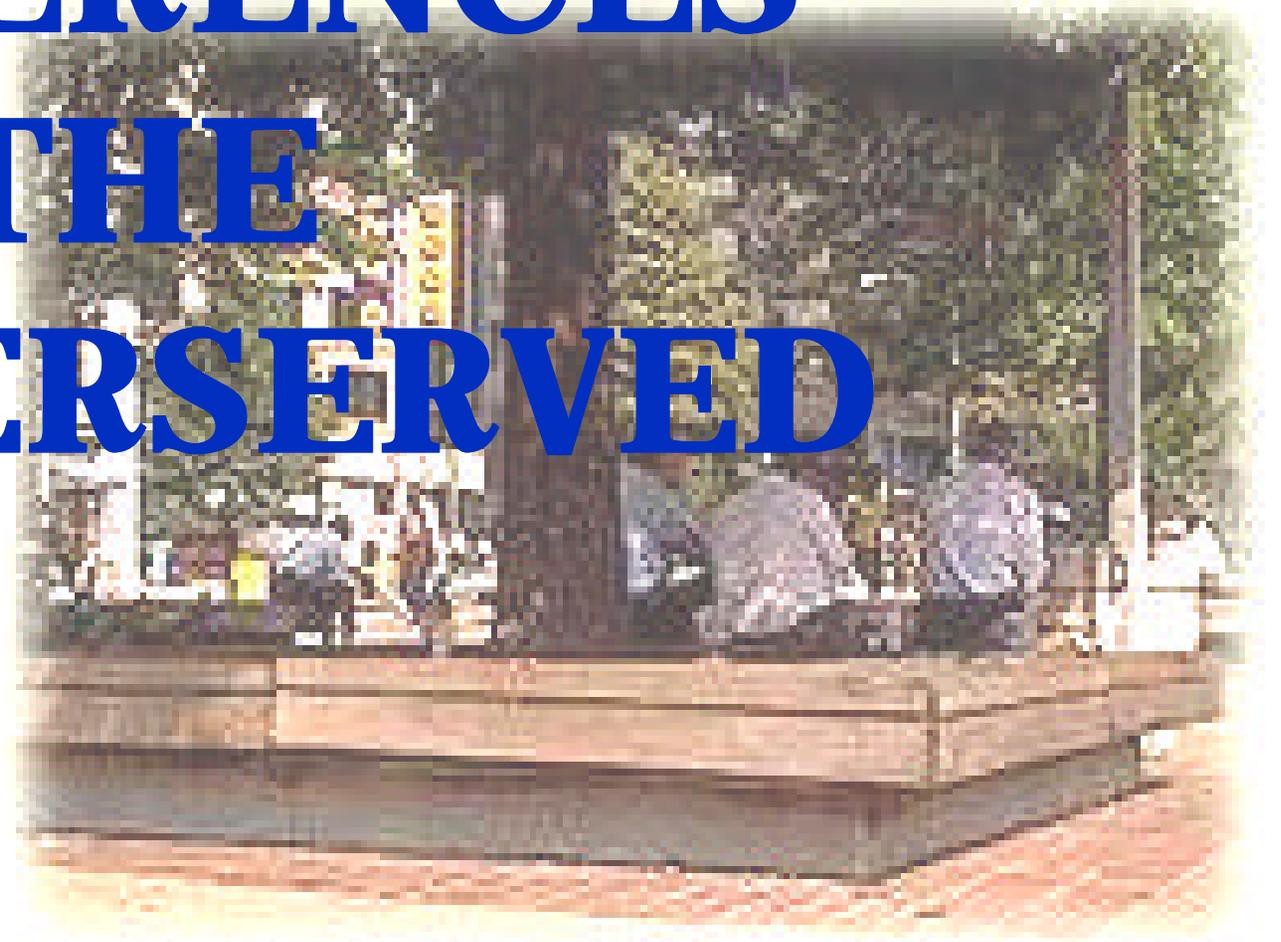
Note: "NH" and "PI" denote non-Hispanic and Pacific Islander.

If you knew that fees charged for using a particular recreation site would go mostly back into maintaining and improving that site, would you be more willing to pay fees when visiting there?

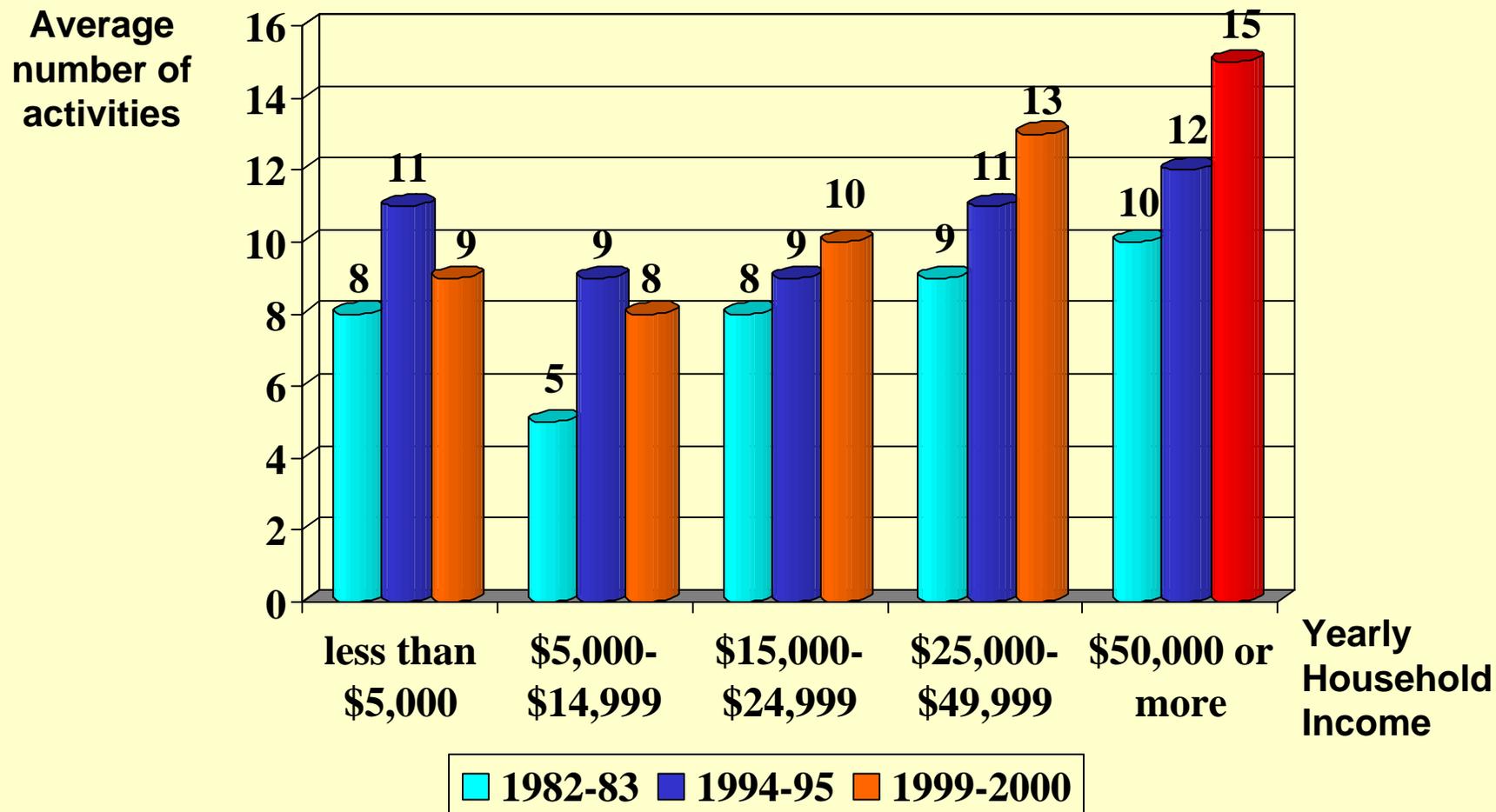
Race	Yes	No
White, NH	95.2	4.8
Black, NH	87.7	12.3
American Indian, NH	98.8	1.2
Asian/PI, NH	95.5	4.5
Hispanic	92.6	16.4

Note: "NH" and "PI" denote non-Hispanic and Pacific Islander.

THE ISSUES OF DIFFERENCES AND THE UNDERSERVED

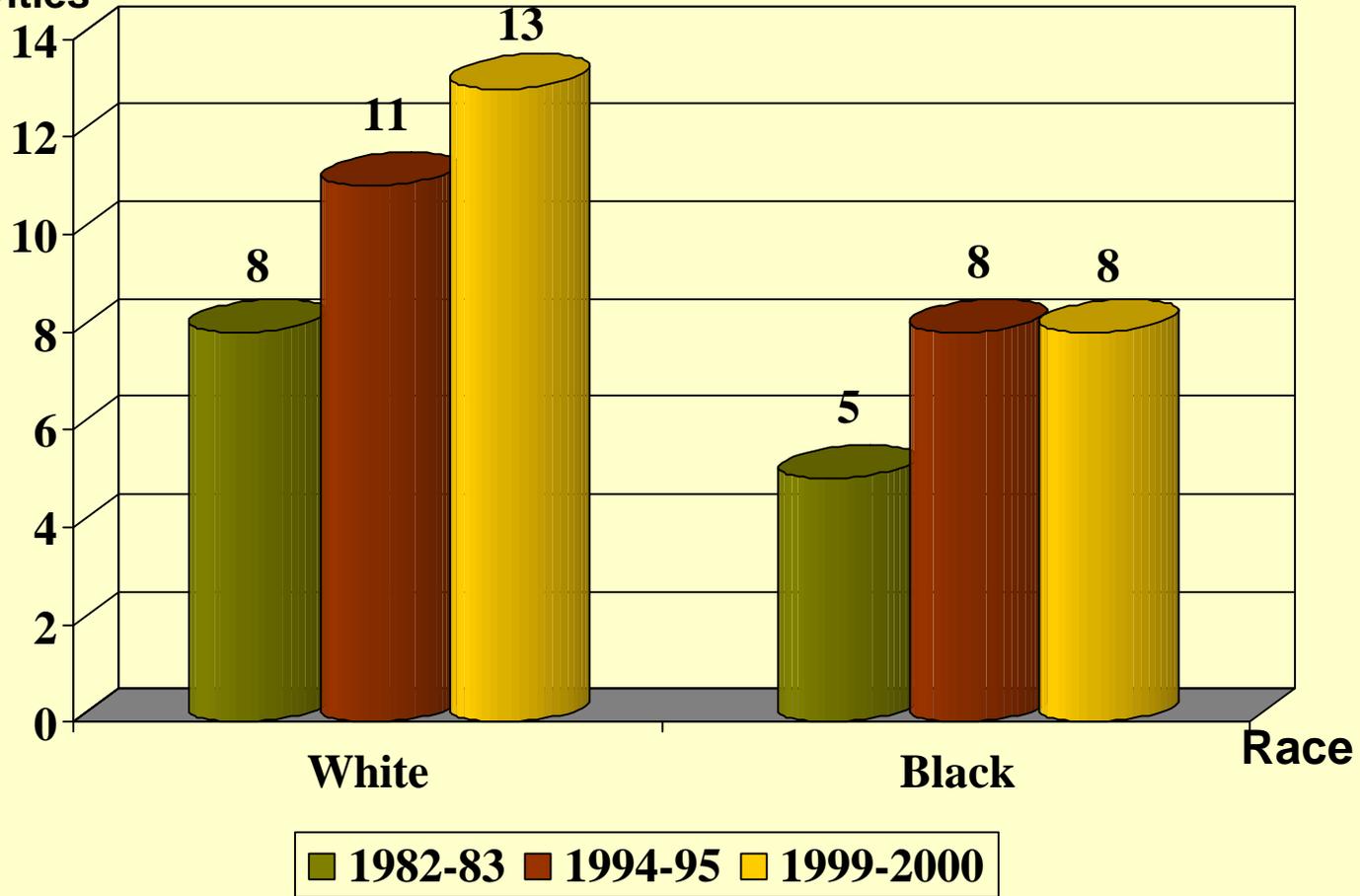


INCOME DIFFERENCES



RACE DIFFERENCES

Average number of activities



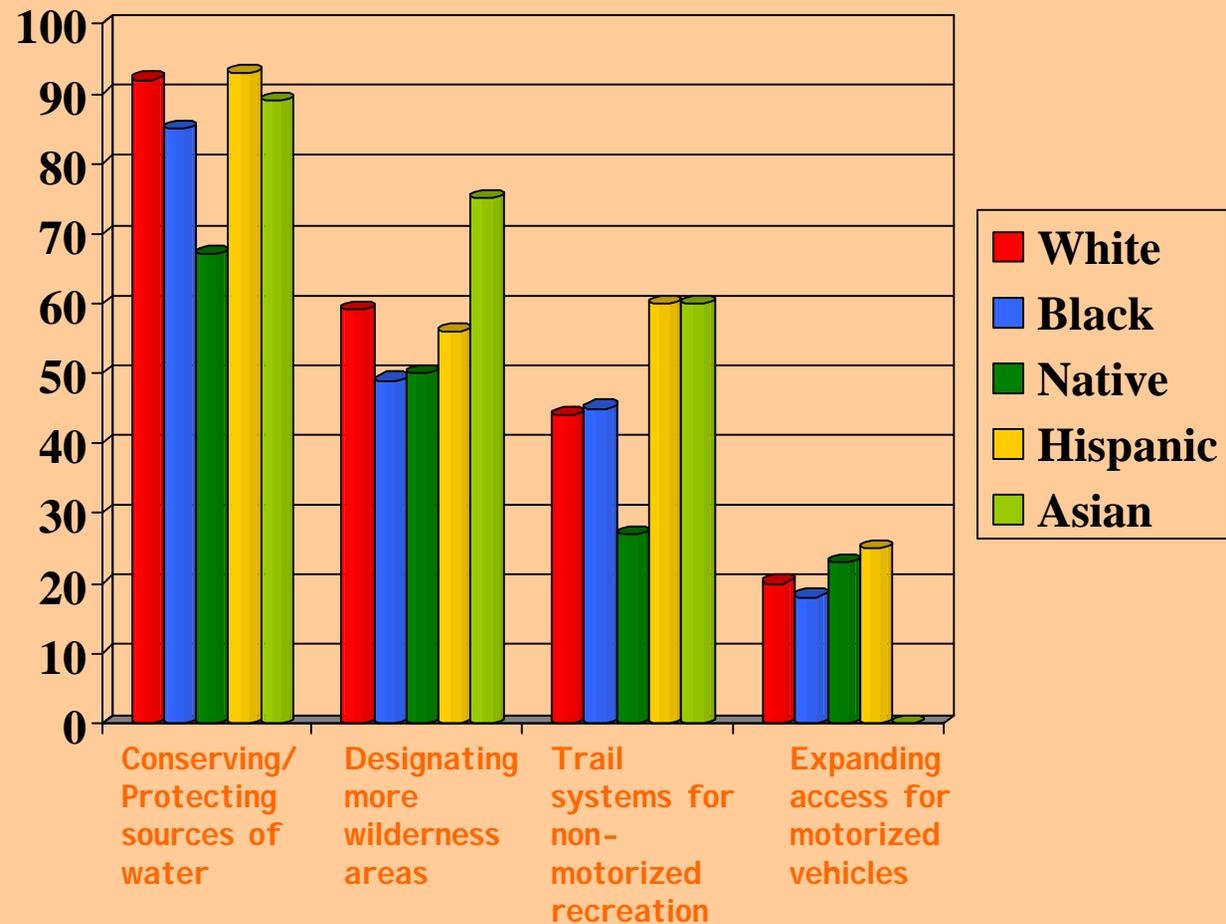
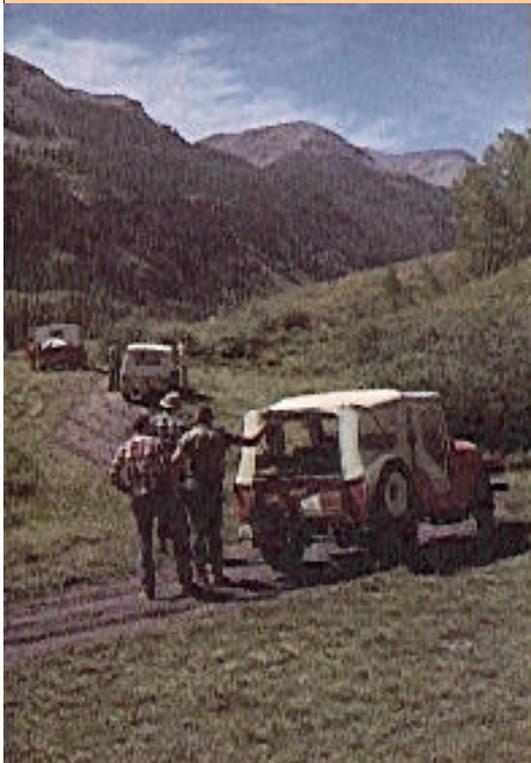
Estimated ratios of percentage of participants to percentage of total population for 10 outdoor activities by race and country.

Group	Walking	Swimming Outdoors	Hiking	Driving Off-road	Downhill Skiing	Big Game Hunting
Percent of Total Population	83.8	43.8	33.4	17.4	8.3	8.2
Race/Ethnicity						
White	1.02	1.15	1.03	1.13	1.20	1.28
Black	1.00	0.49	0.34	0.63	0.33	0.27
American Indian	1.00	1.00	1.14	1.57	1.57	2.00
Asian/ PI	1.08	0.92	0.96	0.85	1.46	0.23
Hispanic	0.88	0.75	1.42	0.74	0.55	0.43
Place of Birth						
United States	1.02	1.04	0.93	1.05	1.05	1.07
Another Country	0.81	0.56	1.67	0.48	0.44	0.30

Estimated ratios of percentage of participants to percentage of total population for 10 outdoor activities by age and income.

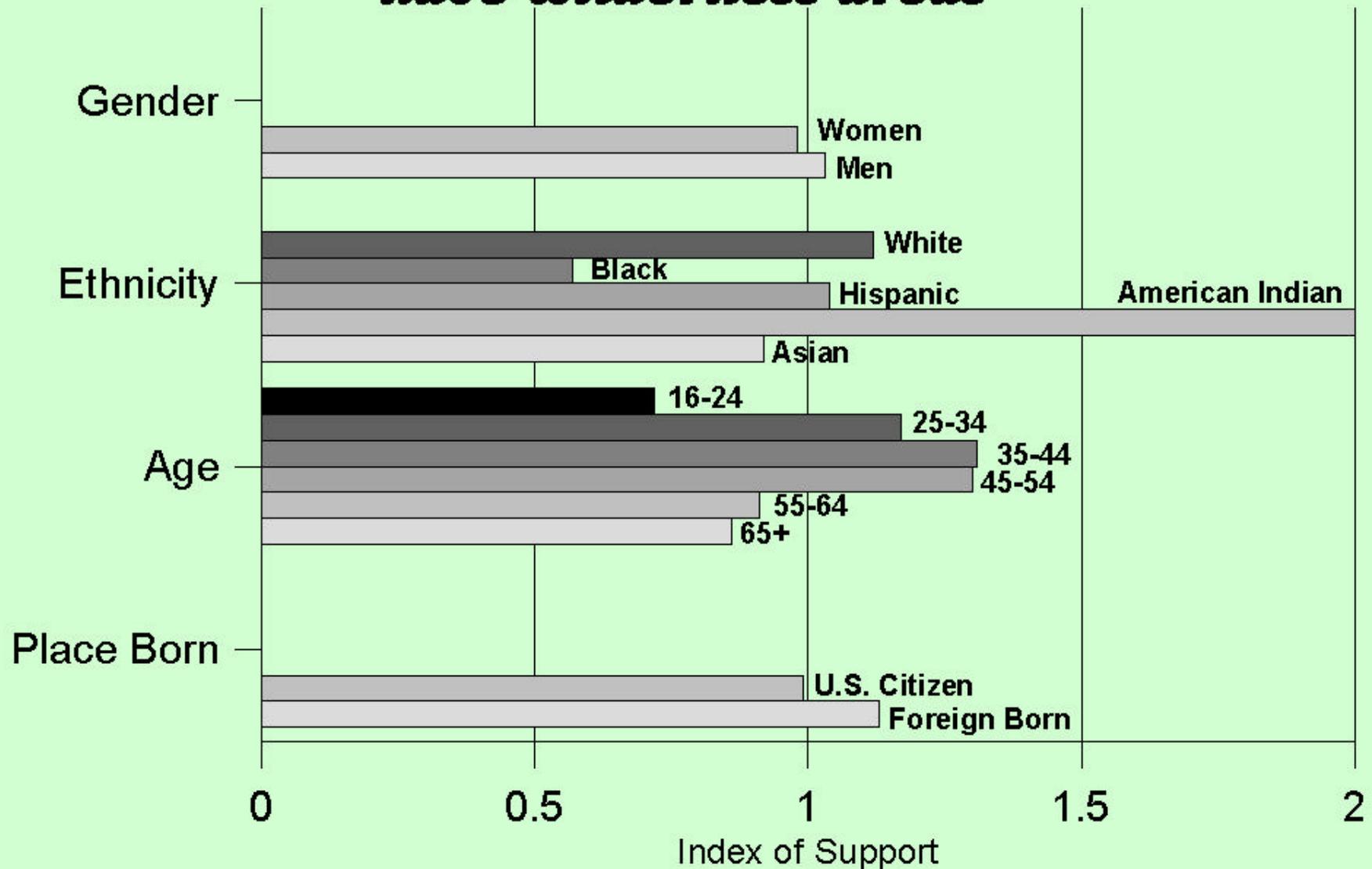
Group	Walking	Swimming Outdoors	Hiking	Driving Off-road	Downhill Skiing	Big Game Hunting
Percent of Total Population	83.8	43.8	33.4	17.4	8.3	8.2
Age						
16-24	1.02	1.37	1.11	1.62	1.89	1.17
25-34	1.01	1.21	1.20	1.38	1.32	1.25
35-44	1.03	1.19	1.21	1.02	1.14	1.13
45-54	1.01	0.99	1.04	0.81	0.78	0.99
55-64	0.98	0.68	0.78	0.59	0.32	0.82
65+	0.94	0.37	0.55	0.32	0.12	0.54
Income						
<\$15,000	0.91	0.62	0.88	0.58	0.48	0.38
\$15,000-\$24,999	0.98	0.79	0.98	0.83	0.41	0.81
\$25,000-\$49,000	1.02	1.10	1.04	1.09	0.75	1.31
\$50,000-\$74,999	1.08	1.28	1.11	1.27	1.17	1.38
\$75,000-\$99,999	1.09	1.39	1.20	1.23	1.86	1.21
\$100,000+	1.09	1.43	1.29	1.47	2.76	1.09

COMPARING IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC LAND OBJECTIVES BETWEEN ETHNIC GROUPS



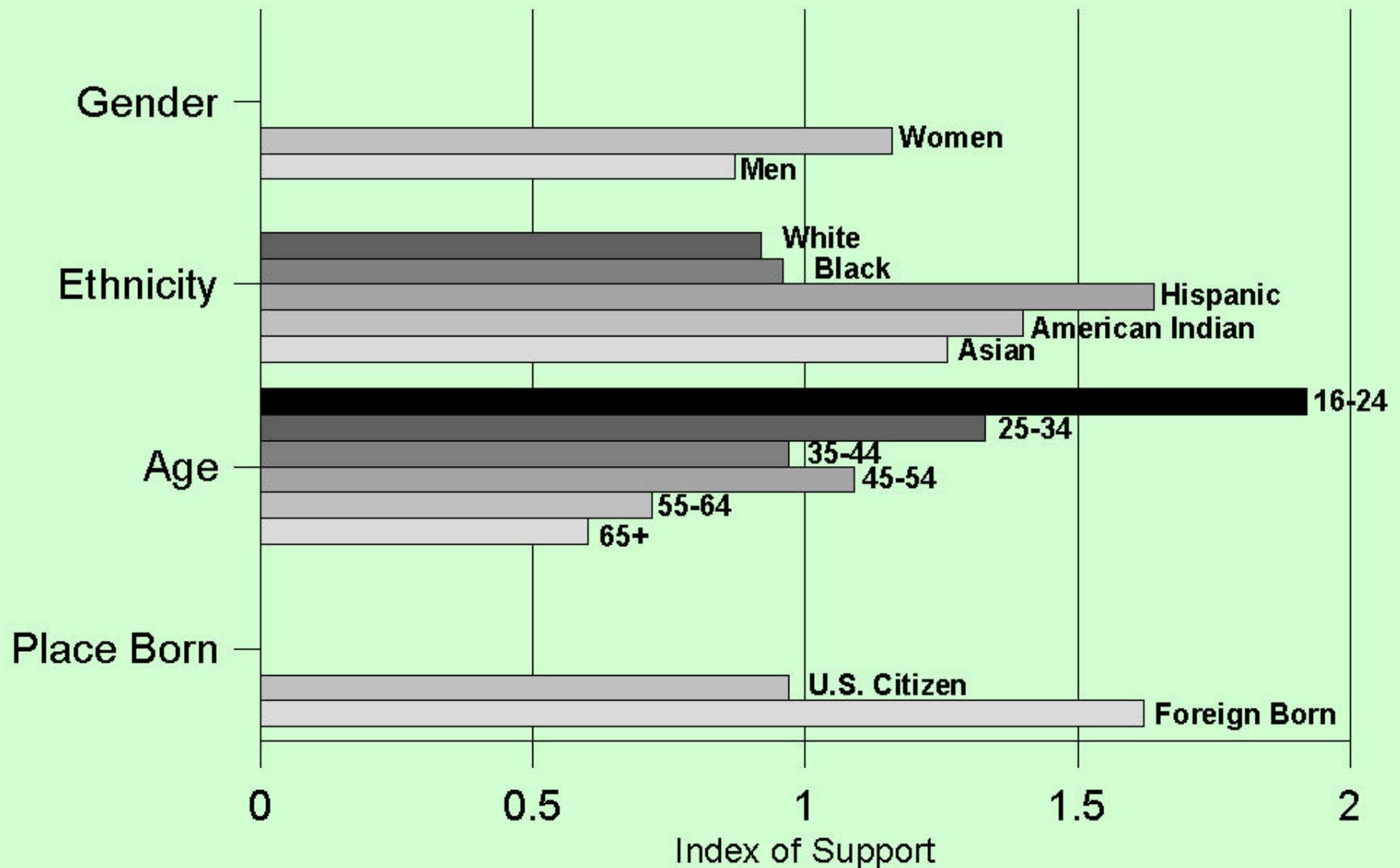
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Knowing that future generations will have wilderness areas



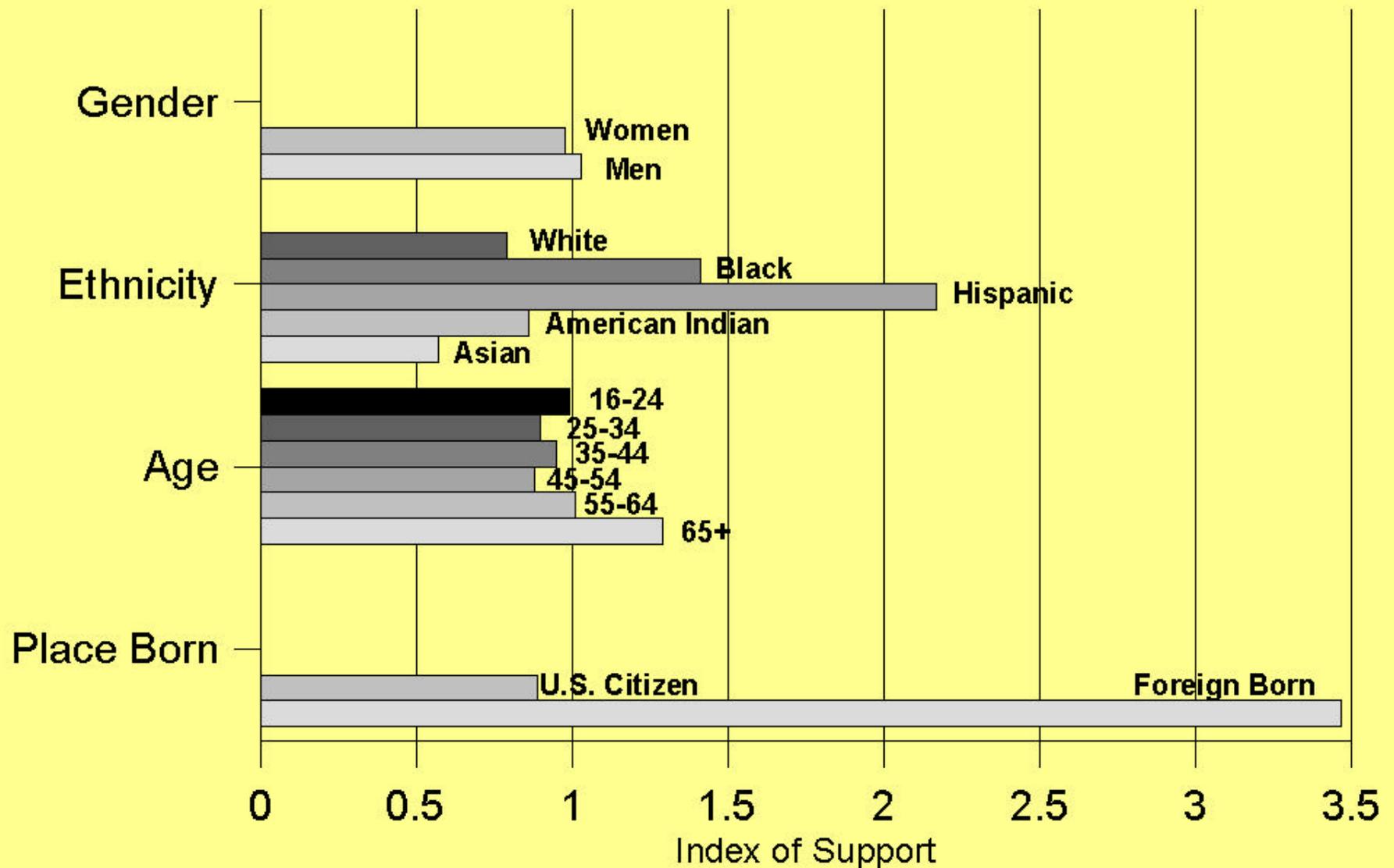
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Protecting wildlife habitat



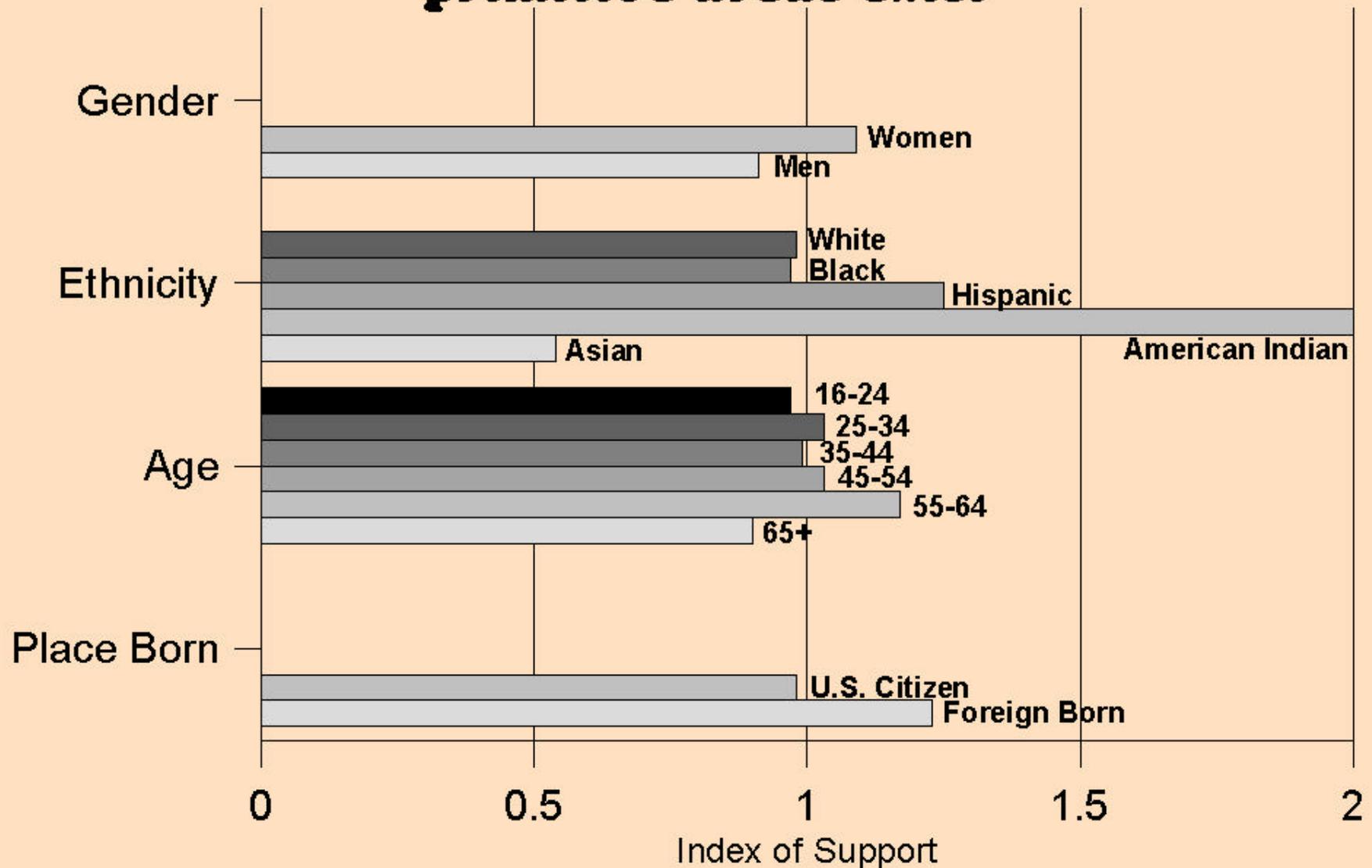
The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Providing income for the tourist industry



The Most Important Benefits of Wilderness

Just knowing that wilderness and primitive areas exist



A photograph of a lush green forest with tall, thin trees and dense foliage. The text is overlaid in the center.

**A VISION OF
NATIONAL
FOREST
CORE
VALUES**

A VISION OF THE FUTURE

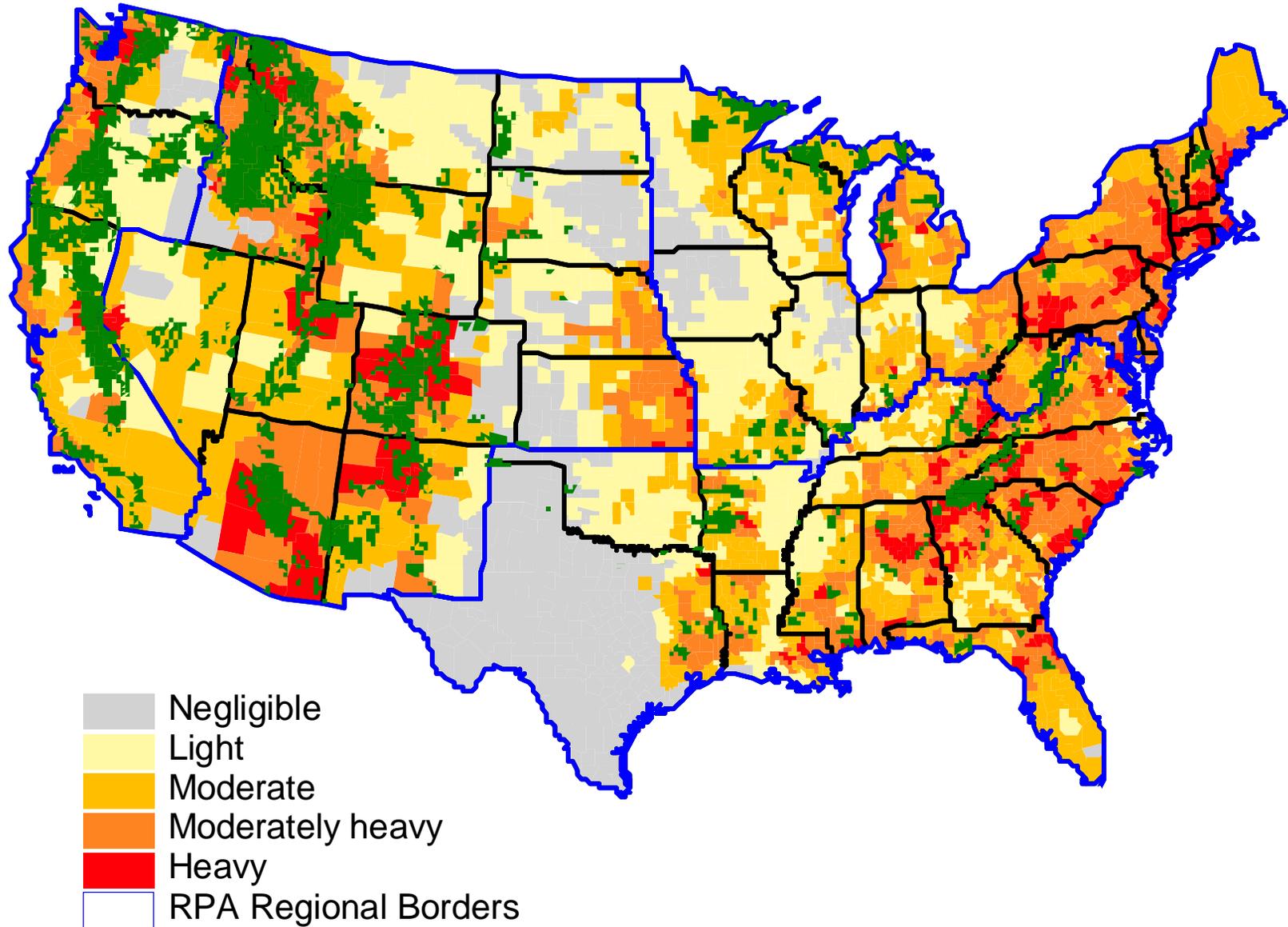
- **Protect streams and other sources of clean water (95%)**
- **Maintain NFs for future generations (94%)**
- **Protect Habitat for wildlife and fish (90%)**
- **Manage to leave forests natural in appearance (88%)**
- **Protect rare and endangered species (86%)**
- **Provide information and education about forests (81%)**
- **Plant and manage for an abundant timber supply (79%)**
- **Provide quiet, natural places for personal renewal (77%)**
- **Provide access, services and information for OR (71%)**
- **Provide roads, accommodations and services to support local tourism businesses (51%)**
- **Provide permits for grazing livestock (46%)**
- **Produce raw materials to support local industries (39%)**



(In parentheses are percentages agreeing to strongly agreeing)

Future Forest Hotspots (2020)

Ambient Population Pressures on Counties with Forests





[www.srs.fs.fed.us/
trends](http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends)