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# Recreation Statistics Update<sup>1</sup>

Update Report No. 1  
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## Participation Rates for Outdoor Activities in 2004<sup>2</sup>

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The United States is a fast growing country in many ways. One of those ways is its populations' participation in outdoor recreation. The table provided at the end represents the latest update of recreation participation statistics from the Nationwide Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) of people 16 or older across the country from Florida to Hawaii. NSRE will start up again in the fall of 2004.

In the table provided here, percentages and millions participating in the past 12 months in 37 nature-based activities are reported. Prominent among the activities with highest numbers participating are viewing/photographing nature and history, driving, visiting the beach, swimming, and picnicking. Water activities play prominent roles in Americans' outdoor pursuits. So do motorized activities such as driving and motor boating. Over 37 percent went fishing at least once, and over 29 percent participated in some sort of winter snow activity.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Percent participating</b>	<b>Participants (millions)</b>
View/photograph natural scenery	70.6	151.2
Visit nature centers, etc.	63.5	135.9
Driving for pleasure	61.2	130.9
View/photograph other wildlife	58.2	124.6
View/photograph wildflowers, trees, etc.	57.0	122.0
Visit beach	56.9	121.8
Swimming in lakes, streams, etc.	54.2	116.1
Visit historic sites	53.1	113.6
Picnicking	52.4	112.1

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<sup>1</sup>This update is based on research information generated for the Forest Service's 2005 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Assessment Update Report.

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<b>Activity</b>	<b>Percent participating</b>	<b>Participants (millions)</b>
Boating	44.2	94.6
View/photograph birds	39.8	85.2
Day hiking	38.0	81.3
Bicycling	37.6	80.5
Fishing	37.5	80.3
Visit a wilderness or primitive area	33.6	71.9
View/photograph fish	32.1	68.7
Developed camping	31.1	66.5
Freshwater fishing	30.9	66.1
Motorboating	30.3	64.9
Snow/ice activities	29.2	62.4
Drive off-road*	22.5	48.1
Visit prehistoric/archeological sites	21.6	46.2
Mountain biking	19.8	42.5
Primitive camping	15.5	33.1
Rafting	15.5	33.1
Jet skiing	13.4	28.7
Hunting	13.1	28.1
Coldwater fishing	13.0	27.7
Canoeing	12.6	26.9
Backpacking	12.1	25.8
Horseback riding (general)	8.9	19.1
Horseback riding on trails	7.1	15.2
Kayaking	7.0	15.0
Downhill skiing	6.8	14.5
Snowmobiling	6.3	13.5
Snowboarding	5.9	12.6
Cross country skiing	2.7	5.7

\* Off-road is defined as off of paved or graveled roads.

This Recreation Statistics Update Report is based on recent data that updates the estimated participation statistics reported in **Outdoor Recreation for 21<sup>st</sup> Century America**, published by Venture Publishing, College Station, PA. Copies of **Outdoor Recreation for 21<sup>st</sup> Century America** may be obtained from Venture Publishing at their website (<http://www.venturepublish.com>) or telephone at 1-814-234-4561. To see more of our research, please visit our website (<http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends>).