



Social Science Program
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Visitor Services Project



Big Cypress National Preserve ORV Permit Holder/Camp Owner

Spring 2007



Park Studies Unit
Visitor Services Project
Report 184.2



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April 2008

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**Visitor Services Project
Big Cypress National Preserve
ORV Permit Holder/Camp Owner
Report Summary**

- This report describes the results of a visitor study of Big Cypress National Preserve Off Road Vehicles (ORV) Permit Holders/Camp Owners mailed on May 2, 2007, with a pre-notification sent on April 25, 2007. A total of 549 questionnaires were sent to a random sample of visitors who registered with Big Cypress National Preserve as ORV Permit Holders or Camp Owners. Of those, 29 were not deliverable, reducing the usable sample size to 520. A total of 240 questionnaires were returned resulting in a 46.2% response rate.
- This report profiles a systematic random sample of ORV Permit Holders and Camp Owners registered with Big Cypress National Preserve. Most results are presented in graphs and frequency tables. Summaries of visitor comments are included in the report and complete comments are included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.
- Twenty-nine percent of visitor groups were in groups of five or more and 42% were groups of two or three. Forty-one percent of visitor groups were in family and friends groups.
- Fifty-four percent of visitors were ages 31-55 years and 11% were ages 15 years or younger.
- United States visitors were from Florida (96%), Ohio (1%), and 11 other states. International visitors were too few in number to provide reliable data.
- Fifty-seven percent of visitor groups visited the preserve five or more times in the 12 months prior to the survey. Eighty-one percent of visitors visited the preserve five or more times in their lifetime. Big Cypress National Preserve was the primary destination for 92% of visitor groups.
- Among visitor groups who stayed less than 24 hours, 54% stayed seven or more hours. Most visitor groups who stayed 24 hours or more stayed two to three days (60%). The average length of stay by all respondents was 2.5 days. Sixty-six percent of visitor groups enter the preserve once on this visit.
- The most common activities included off road driving (72%), camping (49%), hunting (45%), and wildlife viewing other than birds (42%). The most common site visited was the backcountry (55%), with most groups entering at Monroe Station North (26%) and Bear Island (22%).
- Regarding use, importance, and quality of visitor facilities, it is important to note the number of visitor groups that responded to each question. The most used facility was trails (92%). The facility that received the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings was the scenic drive (80%, N=70). The facility that received the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings was the scenic drive (76%, N=68).
- The most used information services included the preserve brochure/map (75%), NPS preserve website (51%), and outdoor exhibits/bulletin boards (40%). The information services that received the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings included the NPS preserve website (82%, N=75), assistance from preserve staff (82%, N=51), and preserve brochure/map (74%, N=113). The information services that received the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings were assistance from preserve staff (86%, N=48), indoor exhibits (77%, N=34), and NPS preserve website (76% N=74).
- Average group expenditure in and outside the preserve (areas south of Lake Okeechobee) was \$689, with a median (50% spent more and 50% spent less) of \$200. The average total expenditure per person was \$236.
- Most visitor groups (70%) rated the overall quality of services, facilities, and recreational opportunities at Big Cypress National Preserve as “very good” or “good.” Four percent of visitor groups rated the overall quality as “very poor” or “poor.”

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho at (208) 885-7863 or the following website <http://www.psu.uidaho.edu>.

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INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a visitor study at Big Cypress National Preserve on April 25, 2007 by the National Park Service (NPS) Visitor Services Project (VSP), part of the Park Studies Unit (PSU) at the University of Idaho.

The freshwaters of the Big Cypress Swamp, essential to the health of the neighboring Everglades, support the rich marine estuaries along Florida's southwest coast. Protecting over 720,000 acres of this vast swamp, Big Cypress National Preserve contains a mixture of tropical and temperate plant communities that are home to a diversity of wildlife, including the elusive Florida panther.

Culturally, the Big Cypress Swamp has served as home and refuge to many people throughout time including the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, the Seminole Tribe of Florida and early settlers.

Organization of the report

The report is organized into three sections.

Section 1: **Methods**. This section discusses the procedures, limitations, and special conditions that may affect the results of the study.

Section 2: **Results**. This section provides summary information for each question in the questionnaire and includes a summary of visitor comments. The presentation of the results of this study does not follow the same order of questions in the questionnaire.

Section 3: **Appendices**

Appendix 1: *The Questionnaire*. A copy of the questionnaire distributed to visitor groups.

Appendix 2: *Additional Analysis*. A list of options for cross-references and cross comparisons. These comparisons can be analyzed within park or between parks. Results of additional analyses are not included in this report as they may only be requested after the results of this study have been published.

Appendix 3: *Decision rules for checking non-response bias*. An explanation of how the non-response bias was determined.

Appendix 4: *Visitor Services Project Publications*. A complete list of publications by the PSU. Copies of these reports can be obtained by visiting the website:

<http://www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp/reports.htm> or contacting the PSU office at (208) 885-7863.

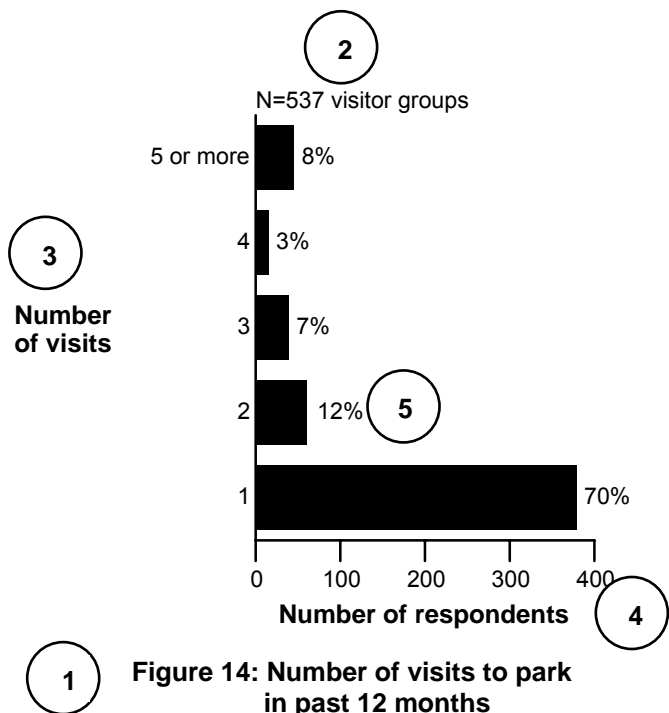
Visitor Comments Appendix: A separate appendix provides visitor responses to open-ended questions. It is bound separately from this report due to its size.

Presentation of the results

Results are represented in the form of graphs (see example below), scatter plots, pie charts, tables, or text.

SAMPLE ONLY

- 1: The figure title describes the graph's information.
- 2: Listed above the graph, the "N" shows the number of individuals or visitor groups responding to the question. If "N" is less than 30, "**CAUTION!**" is shown on the graph to indicate the results may be unreliable.
- * appears when total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.
- ** appears when total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer choice.
- 3: Vertical information describes the response categories.
- 4: Horizontal information shows the number or proportions of responses in each category.
- 5: In most graphs, percentages provide additional information.



METHODS

Survey Design

Sample size and sampling plan

All VSP questionnaires follow design principles outlined in Don A. Dillman's book *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method* (2000). The sample size was calculated based on the number of permit holders and landowners on the preserve mailing list. The original mailing list contained 1390 names and addresses (1320 permit holders and 70 landowners). Of those, 45 people had been intercepted and given a visitor study on site. These people were then omitted from the permit holder/camp owner survey.

A cross check was conducted between permit holder and landowner lists. If a person's name appeared on both lists, the contact was assigned as primarily landowner and omitted from permit holder list. Names with the same address were consolidated as one contact. The final mailing list contained 1269 contacts (1202 permit holders and 67 landowners). With 95% confidence level and the margin of error within $\pm 3\%$ (assuming maximum variation 50/50), the sample size was calculated to be 549. The addresses were sorted by zip code and samples were proportionally selected.

Questionnaire design

The Big Cypress National Preserve ORV Permit Holder/Camp Owner questionnaire was developed at a workshop held with preserve staff to design and prioritize the questions. Some of the questions were comparable with VSP studies conducted at other parks while others were customized for Big Cypress National Preserve. Many questions asked visitors to choose answers from a list of responses, often with an open-ended option, while others were completely open-ended.

No pilot study was conducted to test the Big Cypress National Preserve ORV Permit Holder/Camp Owner questionnaire. However, all questions followed Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines and/or were used in previous surveys. Thus, the clarity and consistency of the survey instrument have been tested and supported.

Survey procedure

A pre-notification postcard was sent to all 549 contacts to inform them about the survey on April 25, 2007. The actual survey questionnaire was sent one week after the notification postcard on May 2, 2007. Two weeks after the mailing of the questionnaire, a reminder/thank you postcard was mailed to all participants. Replacement questionnaires were mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires four weeks after the mailing of the first questionnaire. A second round of replacement questionnaires was mailed to visitors who had not returned their questionnaires seven weeks after the mailing of the first questionnaire. Due to a low response rate, a third round of replacement questionnaires were mailed to visitors who had not returned their questionnaires fifty days after the mailing of the first questionnaire.

Data Analysis

Returned questionnaires were coded and the information was entered into a computer using custom and standard statistical software applications—Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), and a custom designed FileMaker Pro application. Descriptive statistics and cross-tabulations were calculated for the coded data and responses to open-ended questions were categorized and summarized. The data was entered twice—by two independent data entry staff—and validated by a third staff member.

Limitations

Like all surveys, this study has limitations that should be considered when interpreting the results.

1. This was a self-administered survey. Respondents completed the questionnaire after the visit, which may have resulted in poor recall. Thus, it is not possible to know whether visitor responses reflected actual behavior.
2. The data reflect visitor use patterns of current Big Cypress National Preserve ORV Permit Holder/Camp Owners during their most recent visit. The results do not necessarily apply to other types of visitors.
3. Caution is advised when interpreting any data with a sample size of less than 30, as the results may be unreliable. Whenever the sample size is less than 30, the word "CAUTION!" is included in the graph, figure, table, or text.
4. Occasionally, there may be inconsistencies in the results. Inconsistencies arise from missing data or incorrect answers (due to misunderstood directions, carelessness, or poor recall of information). Therefore, refer to both the percentage and N (number of individuals or visitor groups) when interpreting the results.

Special Conditions

This was a mail survey. No face-to-face contact was made with participants. The questionnaire was designed to obtain information from the visitor's most recent visit. Therefore, visitor opinions/experience may not reflect evaluation of preserve services and facilities at the same period of time.

Checking Non-response Bias

Initially 549 permit holders and landowners were contacted by mail. Of those 28 addresses were non-deliverable due to incorrect addresses or the persons had moved without a forwarding address. One person contacted survey team and asked to be removed from the list because he was no longer a permit holder. That reduced the actual sample size to 520. Questionnaires were completed and returned by 240 permit holders/camp owners, resulting in a 46% response rate for this study.

Two variables were used to check non-response bias. Respondents and non-respondents were compared to determine if they were from different mailing groups (permit holder vs. camp owner) or from different geographical areas (by Florida counties and outside of Florida) where they live. Table 1 shows insignificant differences between group types. There is insignificant difference between respondent and non-respondent in term of mailing location (see Table 2). See Appendix 3 for more details of the non-response bias checking procedure.

**Table 1: Comparison of respondents and non-respondents
group type**

Group type	Respondent	Non-respondent	Total
Permit Holder	220	259	479
Camp Owner	20	21	41
Total	240	280	520

Chi-square = 0.124 df = 1 p-value = 0.725

**Table 2: Comparison of respondents and non-respondents
County of resident**

County	Respondent	Non-respondent	Total
Broward	40	44	84
Collier	40	41	81
Lee	27	20	47
Miami-Dade	87	126	213
Monroe	7	4	11
Palm Beach	5	10	15
Other counties	32	27	59
Outside Florida	2	8	10
Total	240	280	520

Chi-square = 11.88 df = 7 p-value = 0.104

Two out of two tests show insignificant differences between respondents and non-respondents. Therefore, the response bias is judged to be insignificant. The data is a good representation of a larger Big Cypress National Preserve ORV Permit Holder/Camp Owner population for the duration of the survey period.

RESULTS

Demographics

Visitor group size

Question 18

For your most recent visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, how many people were in your personal group, including yourself?

Results

- 29% of visitors were in groups of five or more (see Figure 1).
- 22% were in groups of three.
- 20% were in groups of two.

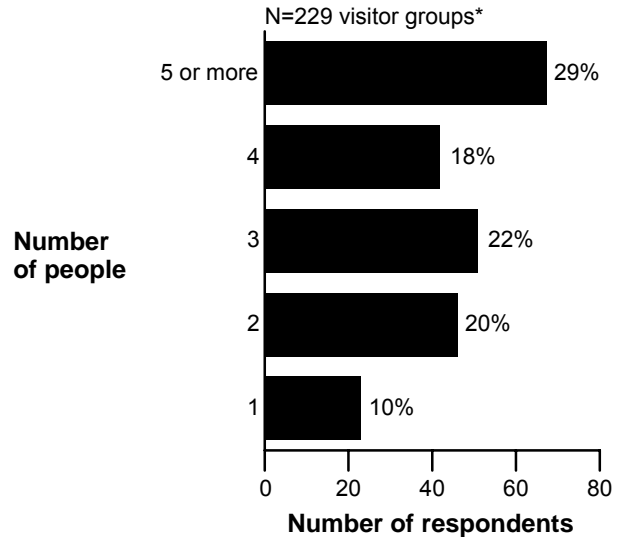


Figure 1: Visitor group size

Visitor group type

Question 17

On your most recent visit, what kind of personal group (not guided tour/educational/organized group) were you with?

Results

- 41% of visitor groups were made up of family members and friends (see Figure 2).
- 34% were with friends.
- 14% were with family members.
- “Other” groups (1%) included:

Jeep Club
Florida Alert Response Team

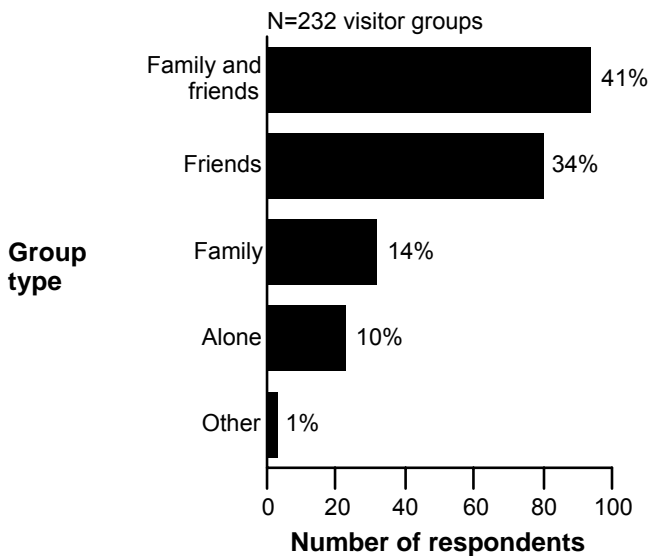


Figure 2: Visitor group type

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Visitors with organized groups

Question 16a

On your most recent visit, were you and your personal group with a commercial guided tour group?

Results

- Less than 1% of visitor groups were traveling with a commercial guided tour group (see Figure 3).

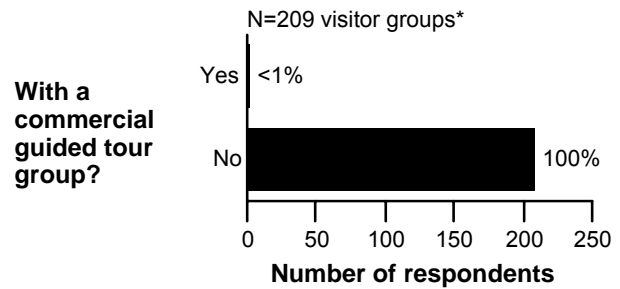


Figure 3: Visitors traveling with a commercial guided tour group

Question 16b

On this visit, were you and your personal group with an educational group (school, etc.)?

Results

- Less than 1% of visitor groups were traveling with an educational group (see Figure 4).

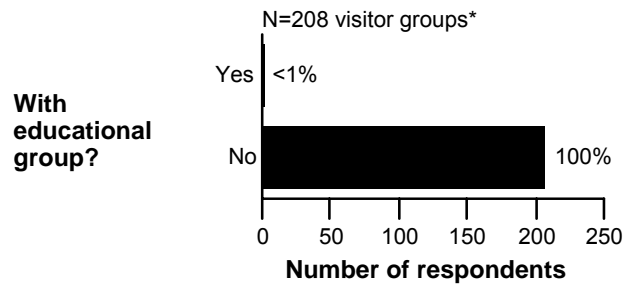


Figure 4: Visitors traveling with an educational group (school, etc.)

Question 16c

On this visit, were you and your personal group with an other organized group (church, business, etc.)?

Results

- 3% of visitor groups were traveling with an other organized group (see Figure 5).

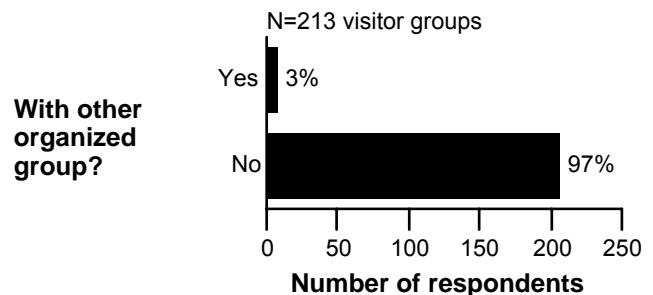


Figure 5: Visitors traveling with an other organized group (church, business, etc.)

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

United States visitors by state of residence

Question 19b

Table 3: United States visitors by state of residence*

For you and your personal group, what is your state of residence?

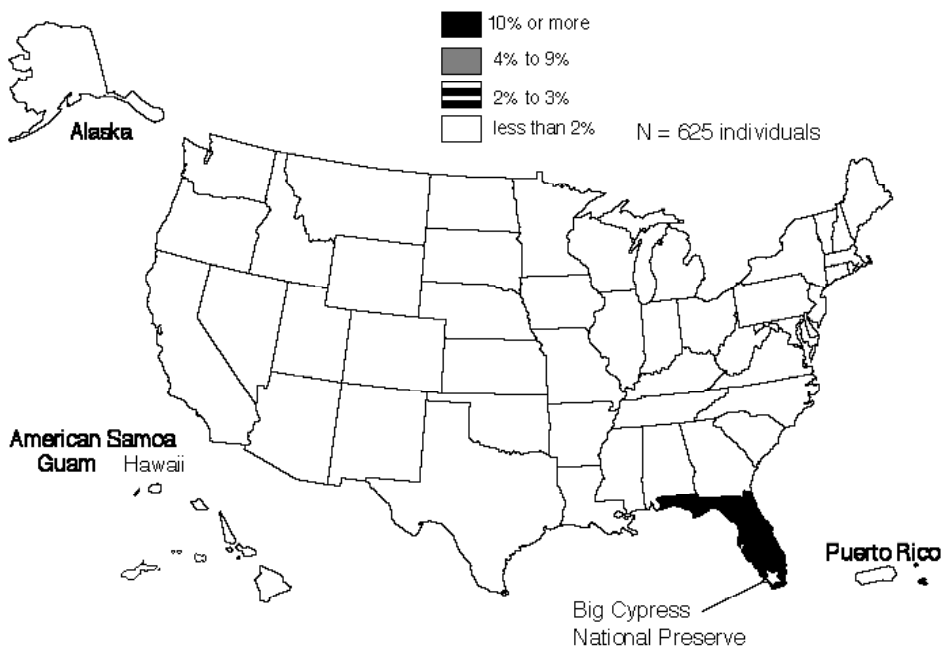
Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

Results

- U.S. visitors were from ten states and comprised 99% of total permit holders during the survey period.
- 96% of U.S. visitors came from Florida (see Table 3 and Map 1).
- Smaller portions came from 9 other states.

State	Number of visitors	Percent of U.S. visitors N=625 individuals	Percent of total visitors N=629 individuals
Florida	600	96	95
Ohio	9	1	1
New York	3	<1	<1
Colorado	2	<1	<1
Missouri	2	<1	<1
Tennessee	2	<1	<1
Georgia	1	<1	<1
Louisiana	1	<1	<1
Massachusetts	1	<1	<1
Vermont	1	<1	<1
Unspecified states	3	<1	<1

Note: Visitors from Florida may include seasonal residents.



Map 1: Proportions of United States visitors by state of residence

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

International visitors by country of residence

Question 19b

For you and your personal group,
what is your country of residence?

Note: Response was limited to seven
members from each visitor group.

Results – **Interpret with CAUTION!**

- Not enough visitor groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Table 4).

**Table 4: International visitors by country of residence
CAUTION!**

Country	Number of visitors	Percent of international visitors N=4 individuals	Percent of total visitors N=629 individuals
Cuba	1	25	<1
Dominican Republic	1	25	<1
Germany	1	25	<1
Spain	1	25	<1

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Number of visits to the preserve in past 12 months

Question 19c

How many times have you and your personal group visited Big Cypress National Preserve in the past 12 months (including your most recent visit)?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

Results

- 57% of visitors visited the preserve five times or more in the past 12 months (see Figure 6).
- 25% visited up to two times.
- 18% visited three or four times.

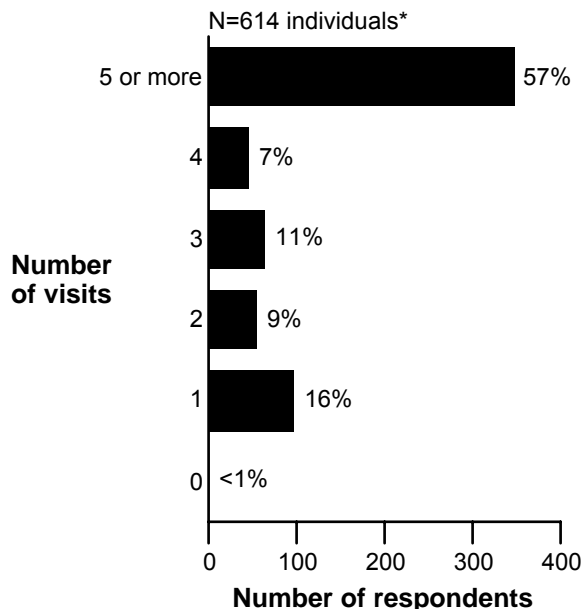


Figure 6: Number of visits to preserve in the past 12 months

Number of visits to the preserve in lifetime

Question 19d

How many times have you and your personal group visited Big Cypress National Preserve in your lifetime (including your most recent visit)?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

Results

- 81% of visitors visited the preserve five or more times in their lifetime (see Figure 7).
- 14% visited up to two times.
- 6% visited three or four times.

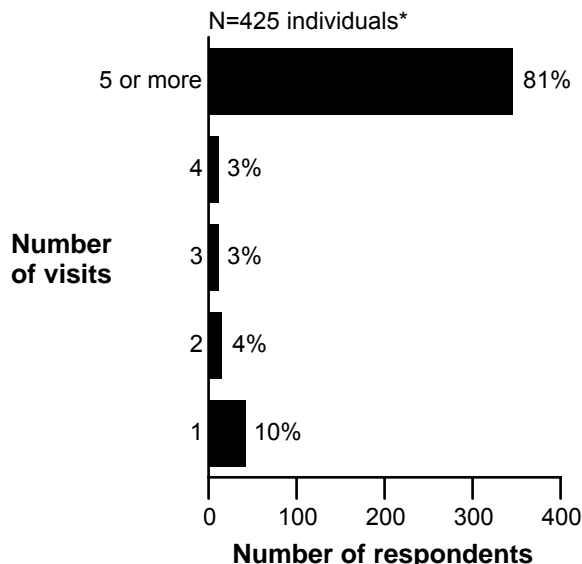


Figure 7: Number of visits to preserve in lifetime

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Visitor age

Question 19a

For you and your personal group, what is your current age?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

Results

- Visitor ages ranged from 1 to 86 years old.
- 54% of visitors were in the 31-55 years age group (see Figure 8).
- 11% were 15 years or younger.
- 8% were 66 or older.

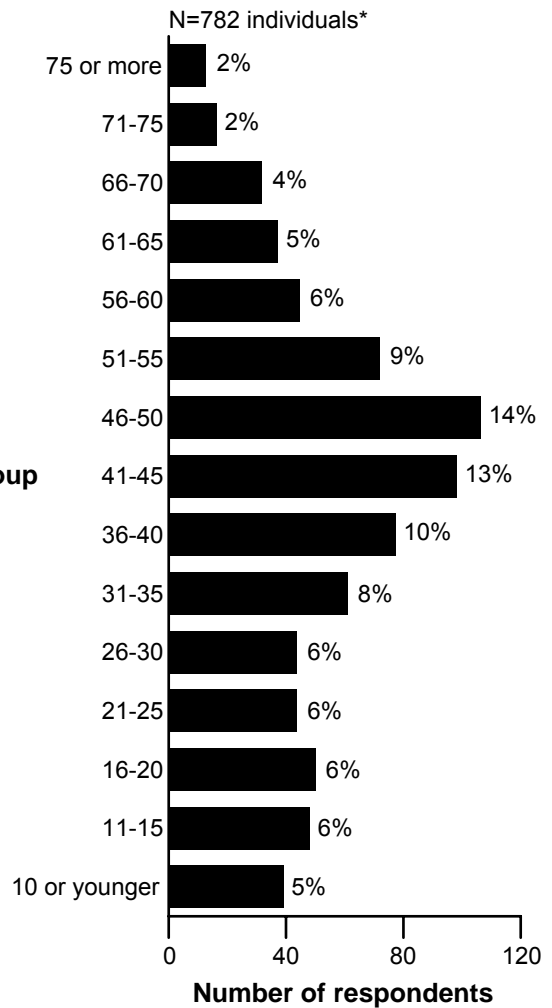


Figure 8: Visitor age

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Visitor ethnicity

Question 19e

Are you or members of your group, on your most recent visit, Hispanic or Latino?

Results

- 13% of visitors were Hispanic or Latino (see Figure 9).

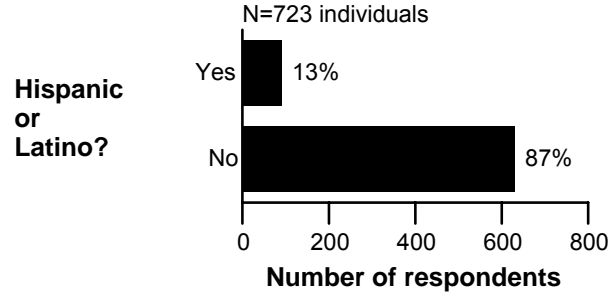


Figure 9: Visitor ethnicity

Visitor race

Question 20

What is your race? What is the race of each member of your personal group?

Results

- 98% of visitors were White (see Figure 10).
- 3% were American Indian or Alaska Native.

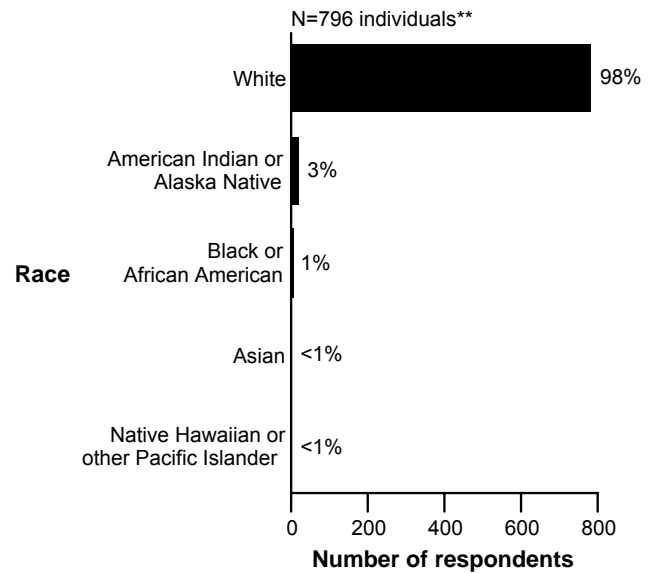


Figure 10: Visitor race

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Preferred languages for speaking and reading

Question 21a

When visiting an area such as Big Cypress National Preserve, what one language do you and most members of your group prefer to use for speaking? (open-ended)

Results

- Most visitor groups (97%), preferred to speak English (see Table 5).

Table 5: Preferred language for speaking
N=224 visitor groups

Language	N	Percent
One language		
English	218	97
Spanish	2	1
Multiple languages		
Spanish/English	4	2

Question 21a

When visiting an area such as Big Cypress National Preserve, what one language do you and most members of your group prefer to use for reading? (open-ended)

Results

- Most visitor groups (98%) preferred to read English (see Table 6).

Table 6: Preferred language for reading
N=216 visitor groups

Language	N	Percent
One language		
English	212	98
Spanish	1	<1
Multiple languages		
Spanish/English	3	1

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Preferred services provided in other languages

Question 21b

What services in the preserve would you and your group like to have provided in languages other than English? (open-ended)

Results

- Most visitor groups (98%) did not desire to have services provided in languages other than English (see Table 7); 2% wanted services in other languages.

Table 7: Preferred services in languages other than English
N=127 visitor groups

Service	N	Percent
None	124	98
All	3	2

Question 21c

Which language, other than English, would you and your group like services to be provided in?

Results – **Interpret with CAUTION!**

- Not enough visitor groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Table 8).

Table 8: Preferred language*
N=11 visitor groups
CAUTION!

Language	N	Percent
Spanish	9	81
Swahili	1	9
All	1	9

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Trip/Visit Characteristics and Preferences

Visitor awareness

Question 1b

Before receiving this questionnaire, were you aware that national preserves are managed differently than national parks?

Results

- 70% of visitor groups were aware, prior to receiving the questionnaire, that national preserves are managed differently than national parks (see Figure 11).

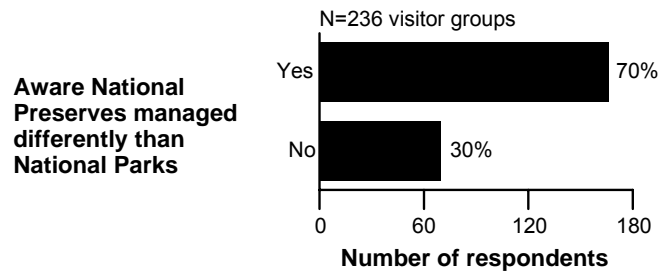


Figure 11: Visitors who were aware that national preserves are managed differently than national parks

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Information sources prior to visit

Question 2a

While planning your most recent visit to the preserve, did you obtain additional information besides what you knew from previous visits?

Results

- 69% of visitor groups did not obtain any additional information about the preserve while planning their most recent visit (see Figure 12).

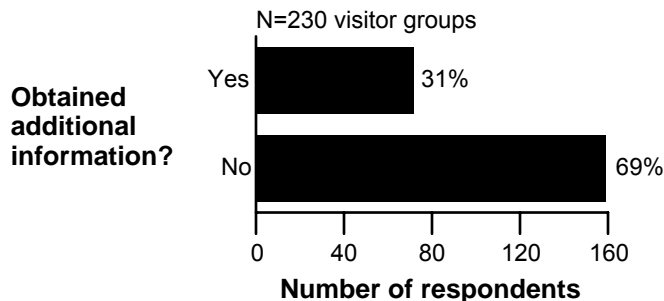


Figure 12: Visitor groups who obtained additional information about the preserve while planning their most recent visit

Question 2b

If YES, what sources of information about Big Cypress National Preserve did you and your group use?

Results

- 64% of visitor groups obtained additional information about the preserve to plan their most recent visit from the preserve website (see Figure 13).
- 59% of visitor groups obtained information from friends/relatives/word of mouth.
- “Other” sources of information (14%) included:

- Bear Island
- Big Cypress brochure
- Big Cypress regulations
- Check stations
- Club news
- Florida Alert Response Team
- GFC brochures
- Hunting regulations
- Information from FWC
- Oasis ranger station
- Personal research
- Resident of the area
- Travel information

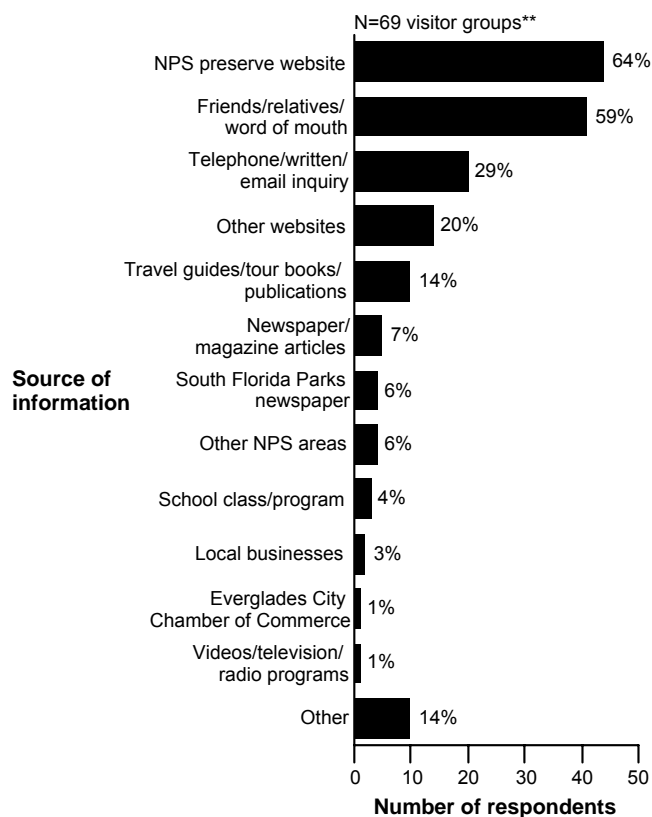


Figure 13: Sources of information (in addition to information from previous visits) used by visitor groups to plan their most recent visit

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Question 2d

From the sources you used prior to the most recent visit, did you and your group receive the type of information about the preserve that you needed?

Results

- 89% of visitor groups received the information they needed for their most recent trip to Big Cypress National Preserve (see Figure 14).

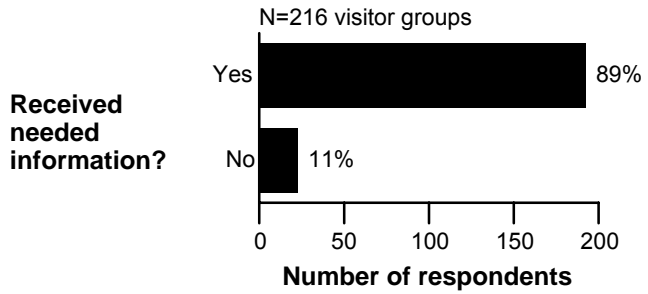


Figure 14: Visitor groups who received needed information prior to their most recent visit

Question 2e

If NO, what type of information did you and your group need that was not available?

Results

- Additional information that visitor groups (N=23) needed included:

- Detailed map
- Information about ATVs
- Information about the trails
- Water levels
- Open and close dates
- ORV use information
- Tent rules
- Travel guides
- What areas are open

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Information sources for future visit

Question 2c

For future trips to Big Cypress National Preserve, what sources would you and your group prefer to use to obtain information in planning your visit?

Results

- 61% of visitor groups preferred to obtain information for a future visit from the NPS preserve website (see Figure 15).
- 56% preferred to obtain information from friends/relatives/word of mouth.
- 34% preferred to obtain information by telephone/written/email inquiry.
- “Other” sources of information (9%) included:

- Big Cypress brochure
- Information from FWC
- GFC brochures and regulations
- Green Corn
- Hunting rules
- Information from sportsmen’s clubs
- Oasis ranger station
- Park Service information
- Personal knowledge

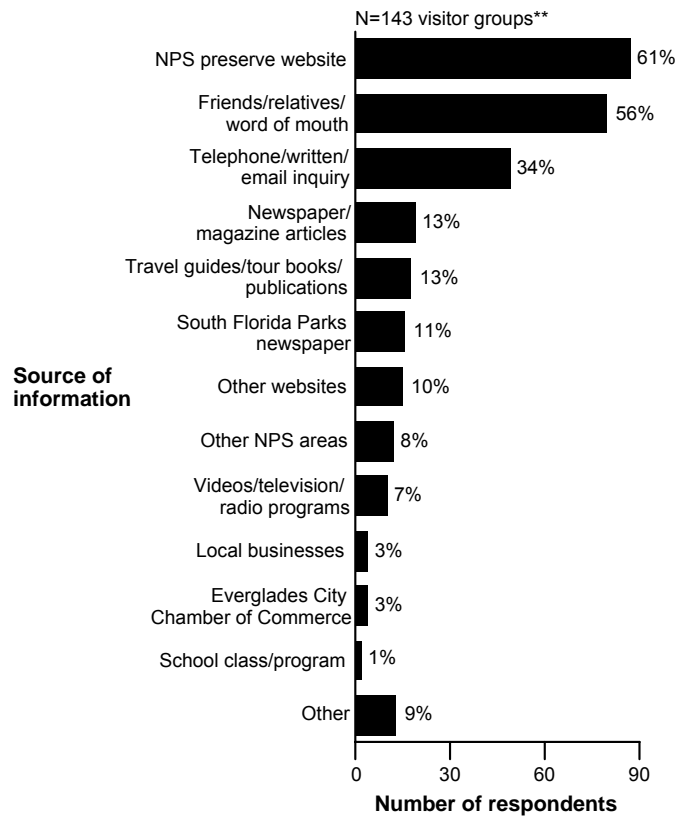


Figure 15: Sources of information preferred for a future visit

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Date of most recent visit

Question 1a

When was your most recent visit to Big Cypress National Preserve?

Results

- 27% of visitor groups had their most recent visit in Big Cypress National Preserve in April 2007 (see Table 9).
- 17% have not visited the preserve since 2006.
- As shown in Table 10, the months that visitor groups most often visited the preserve in were:

28% April
16% March
15% May

Table 9: Date of most recent visit

N=225 visitor groups

Date	N	Percent
Before 2006	2	1
During 2006	39	17
January 2007	18	8
February 2007	15	7
March 2007	34	15
April 2007	61	27
May 2007	34	15
June 2007	11	5
July 2007	6	3
August 2007	3	1
October 2007	1	<1
November 2007	1	<1

Table 10: Month of most recent visit

N=225 visitor groups

Date	N	Percent
January	19	8
February	17	8
March	36	16
April	64	28
May	34	15
June	13	6
July	6	3
August	4	2
September	0	0
October	9	4
November	11	5
December	12	5

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

How Big Cypress National Preserve fit into travel plans

Question 8

On your most recent trip, how did Big Cypress National Preserve fit into your travel plans?

Results

- 92% of visitor groups reported that Big Cypress National Preserve was the primary destination on their most recent visit (see Figure 16).
- 6% reported the preserve was one of several destinations.
- 2% reported the preserve was not a planned destination.

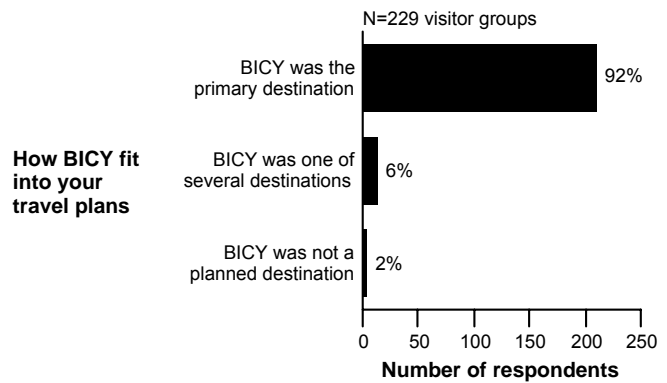


Figure 16: How Big Cypress National Preserve fit into travel plans

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Places visited in the South Florida region

Question 3

On your most recent visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, what other places in South Florida (areas south of Lake Okeechobee) did you and your group visit?

Results

- 50% of visitor groups only visited Big Cypress National Preserve on their most recent visit (see Figure 17).
- As shown in Figure 18, other places visited in South Florida area (area south of lake Okeechobee) were:

- 54% Naples
- 50% Everglades City
- 46% Everglades National Park

- “Other” places (7%) included:

- Boca Raton
- Green Swamp
- Holyland
- Immokalee
- Marquesas Keys
- Palm Beach
- Picayune Strand

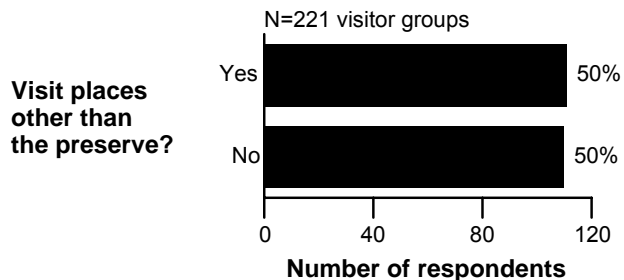


Figure 17: Visited other places in South Florida (areas south of Lake Okeechobee)

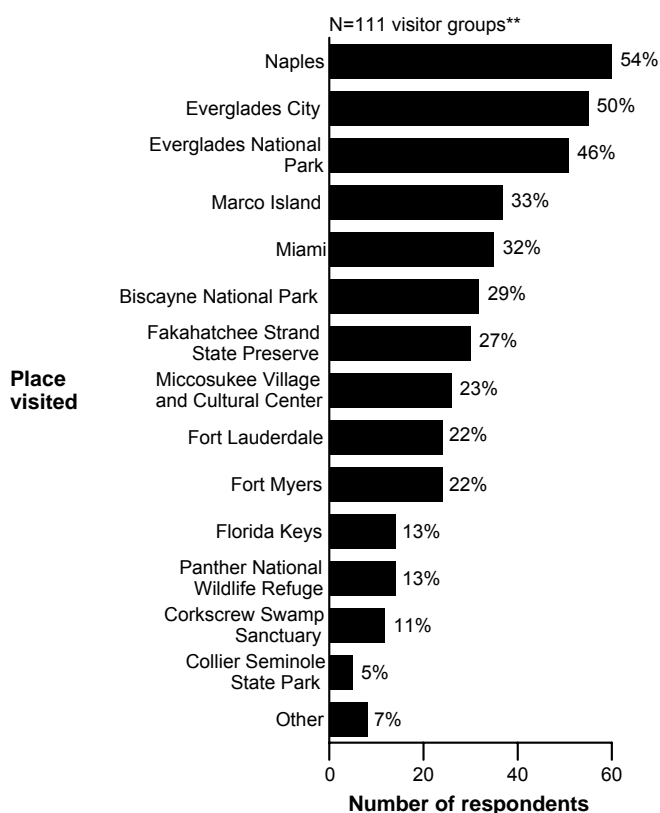


Figure 18: Places visited in the South Florida (areas south of Lake Okeechobee)

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Length of visit

Question 4a

On your most recent visit how long did you and your group spend at Big Cypress National Preserve?

Number of hours if less than 24

Results

- 54% of visitor groups spent seven or more hours at Big Cypress National Preserve (see Figure 19).
- 23% spent five or six hours.
- 12% spent three or four hours.
- 11% spent up to two hours.

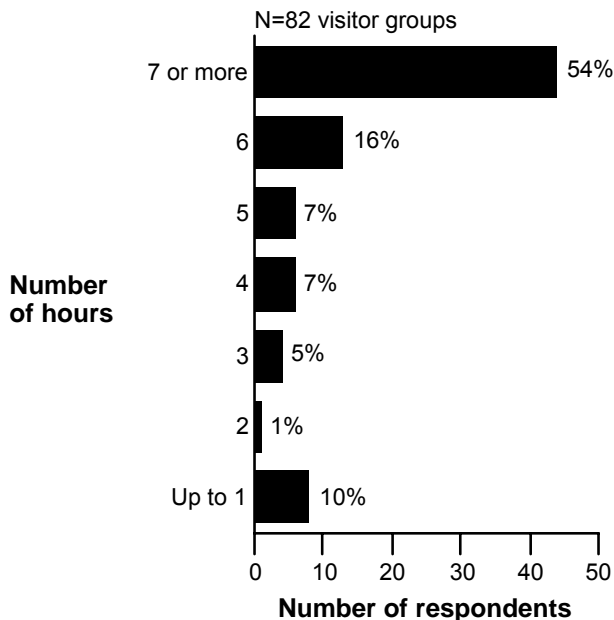


Figure 19: Number of hours spent visiting the preserve, if less than 24 hours

Question 4b

On your recent visit how long did you and your group spend at Big Cypress National Preserve?

Number of days if more than 24 hours

Results

- 32% of visitor groups spent three days at Big Cypress National Preserve (see Figure 20).
- 31% spent up to two days.
- 22% spent four or five days.
- 16% spent six or more days.

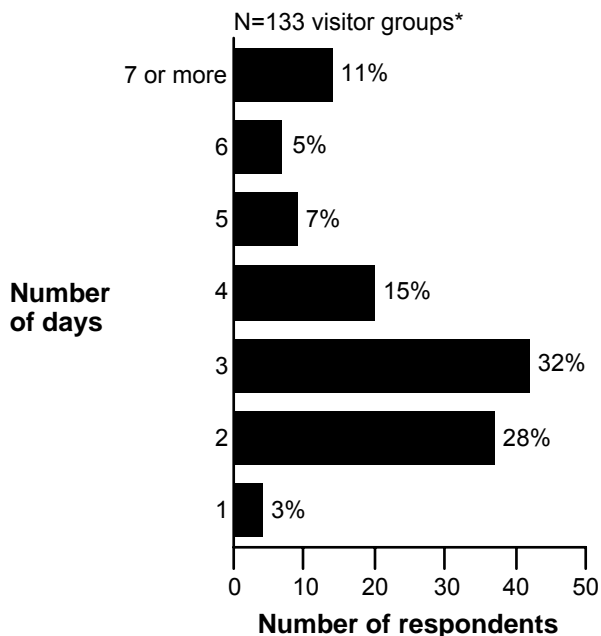


Figure 20: Number of days spent visiting the preserve, if 24 hours or more

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Number of vehicles

Question 7a

On your most recent visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, how many vehicles did you and your group use to arrive at the preserve?

Results

- 50% of visitor groups used one vehicle to arrive at the preserve (see Figure 21).
- 28% used two vehicles.

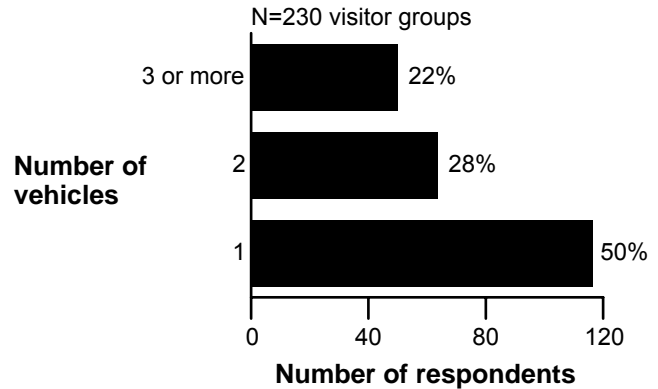


Figure 21: Number of vehicles used to arrive at the preserve

Number of preserve entries

Question 6

On your most recent visit, how many times did you and your group enter Big Cypress National Preserve?

Results

- 66% of visitor groups entered the preserve once (see Figure 22).
- 20% entered two or three times.
- 15% entered four or more times.

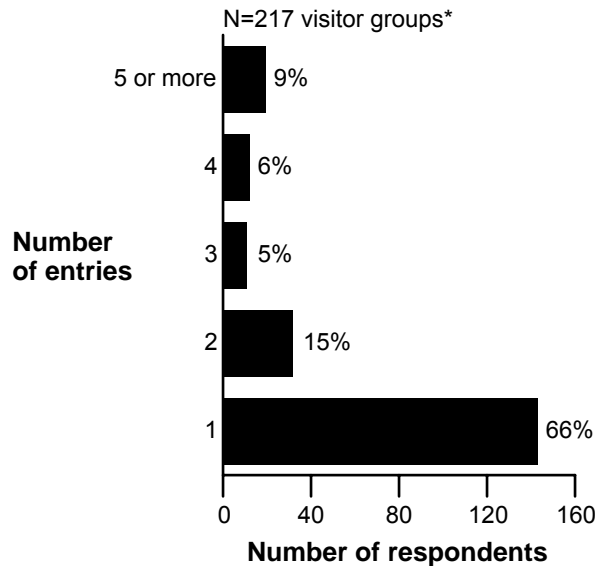


Figure 22: Number of times entered the preserve

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Visitors who arrived by airplane

Question 7b

On your most recent visit, did your group have any members who arrived in Florida by airplane?

Results

- 3% of visitor groups had at least one member that arrived in Florida by airplane (see Figure 23).

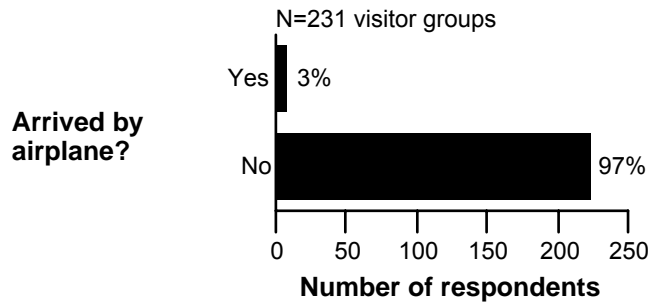


Figure 23: Visitors who arrived in Florida by airplane

Florida airport used

Question 7c

If YES, at which Florida airport did that person(s) arrive?

Results – **Interpret with CAUTION!**

- Not enough visitor groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Table 11).

Table 11: Florida airports used by visitor groups

N=8 visitor groups;

some visitor groups listed more than one airport.

CAUTION!

Airport	Number of times mentioned
Fort Myers-SW Florida International Airport	4
Miami International Airport	3
Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport	1

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Overnight stay

Question 5a

On your most recent visit, did you and your group stay overnight away from home in the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee)?

Results

- 56% of visitor groups stayed overnight away from home in the South Florida region (see Figure 24).

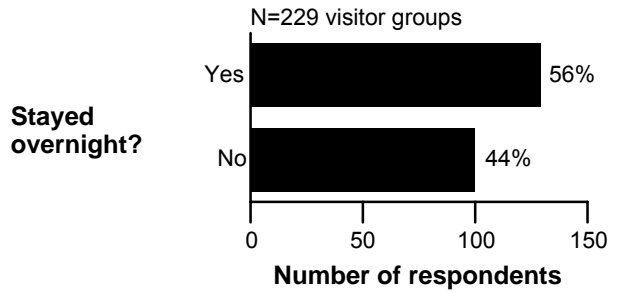


Figure 24: Overnight stay away from home in the South Florida region

Question 5b

If YES, please list the number of nights you and your group stayed in the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee).

Number of nights inside the preserve

Results

- 36% of visitor groups stayed two nights inside the Big Cypress National Preserve (see Figure 25).
- 34% spent three or four nights.
- 20% spent five or more nights.

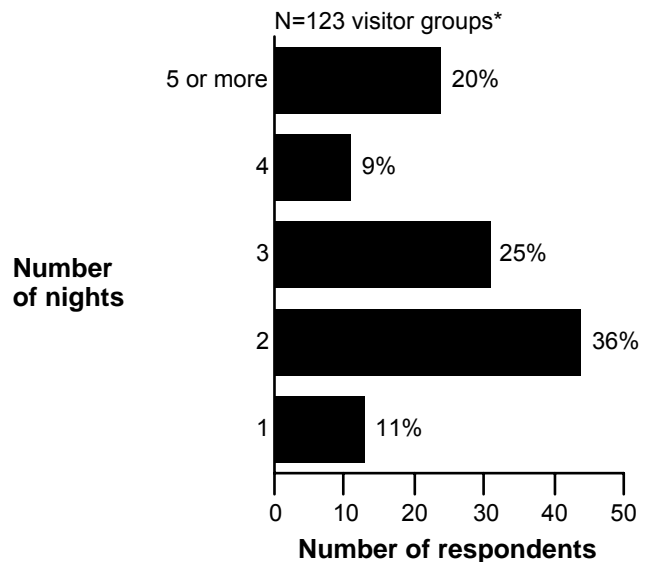


Figure 25: Number of nights stayed in Big Cypress National Preserve

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Question 5b

If YES, please list the number of nights you and your group stayed in the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee).

Number of nights in East coast (Atlantic coast) communities

Results – Interpret with CAUTION!

- Not enough visitor groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figure 26).

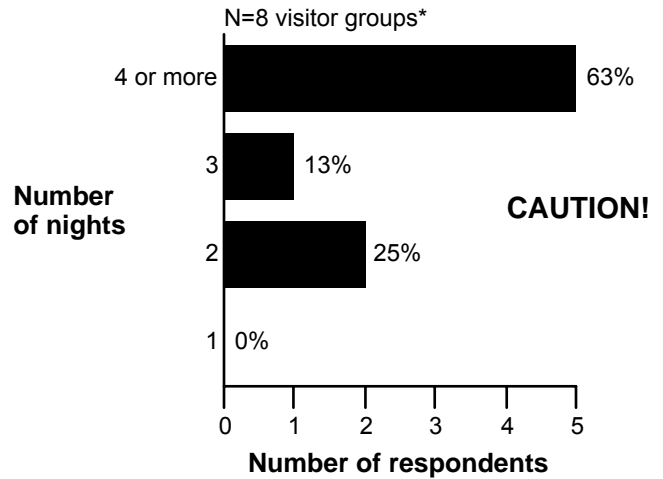


Figure 26: Number of nights stayed in East coast communities

Question 5b

If YES, please list the number of nights you and your group stayed in the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee).

Number of nights in West coast (Gulf coast) communities

Results – Interpret with CAUTION!

- Not enough visitor groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figure 27).

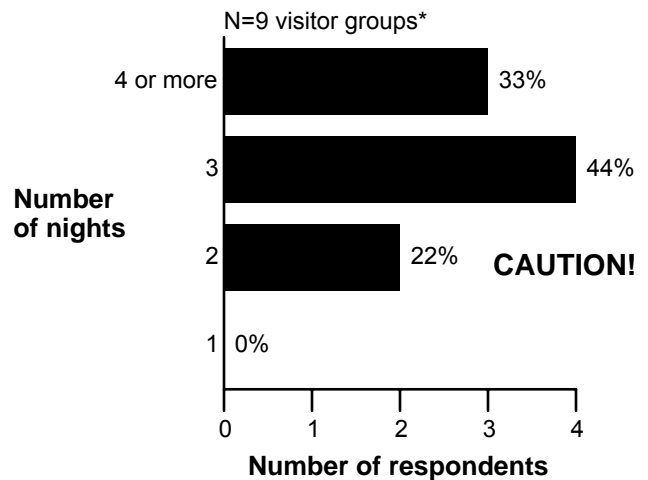


Figure 27: Number of nights stayed in West coast communities

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Overnight accommodations

Question 5c

In what type of lodging did you and your group spend the night(s)?

Type of lodging inside the preserve

Results

- 48% of visitor groups camped in a private camp (see Figure 28).
- 37% stayed in backcountry camping.

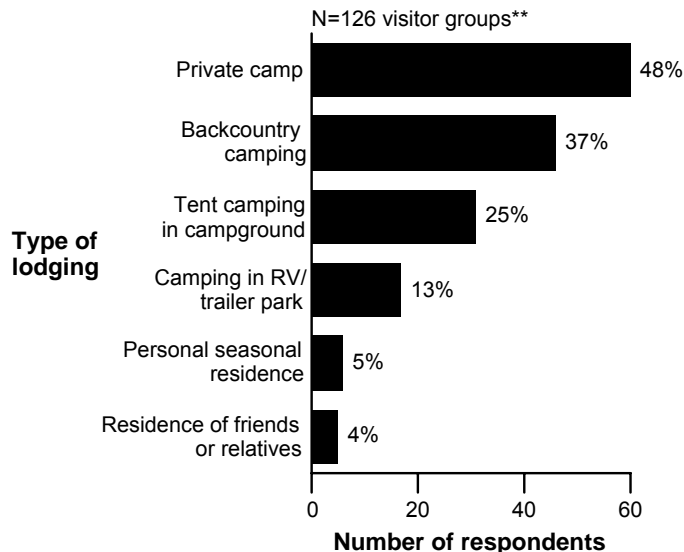


Figure 28: Type of lodging inside the preserve

Question 5d

In what type of lodging did you and your group spend the night(s)?

Type of lodging in East coast (Atlantic coast) communities

Results – Interpret with CAUTION!

- Not enough visitor groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figure 29).

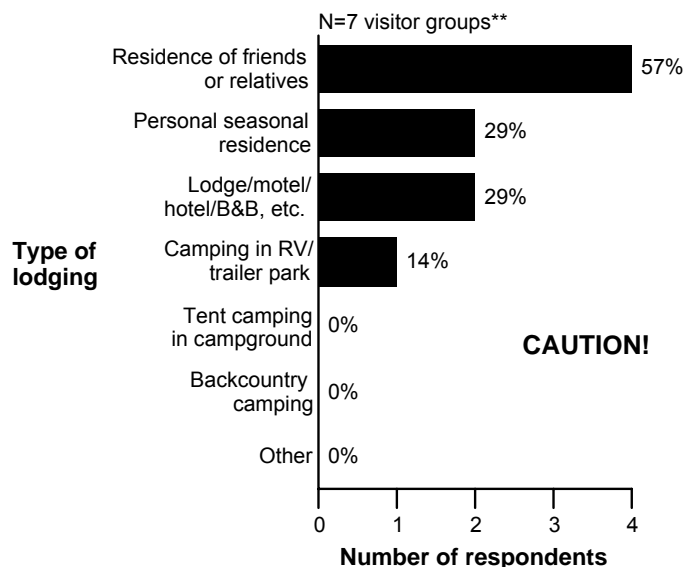


Figure 29: Type of lodging in East coast communities

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Question 5d

In what type of lodging did you and your group spend the night(s)?

Type of lodging in West coast (Gulf coast) communities

Results – Interpret with CAUTION!

- Not enough visitor groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figure 30).

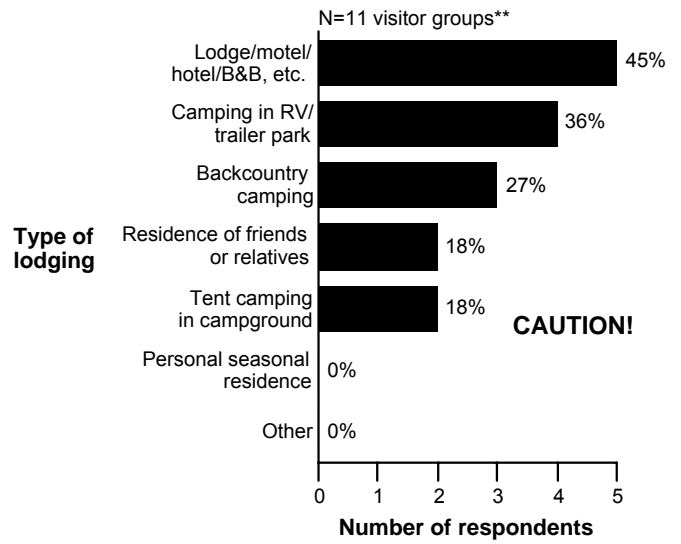


Figure 30: Type of lodging in West coast communities

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Sites visited

Question 9a

During your most recent visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, which of the following sites did you and your group visit?

Results

- As shown in Figure 31, the most commonly visited sites were:
 - 55% Backcountry
 - 39% Turner River/Birdon/Wagonwheel Road Loop Area
 - 31% Oasis Visitor Center/wildlife viewing area

- “Other” sites visited (11%) included:

- Bathtub Head
- Bear Island
- Boundary Line
- Burns Lake
- Concho Billie Trail
- Corn Dance Trail
- Iron Pot Hammock
- Jetport
- L-28 Tieback
- Monroe Station North
- Monument Lake
- MP 69
- New Lands
- Pace’s Dike
- Pink Jeep Camp
- Rest area
- Skillet Strand North
- Stairsteps Unit
- Turner River Road North

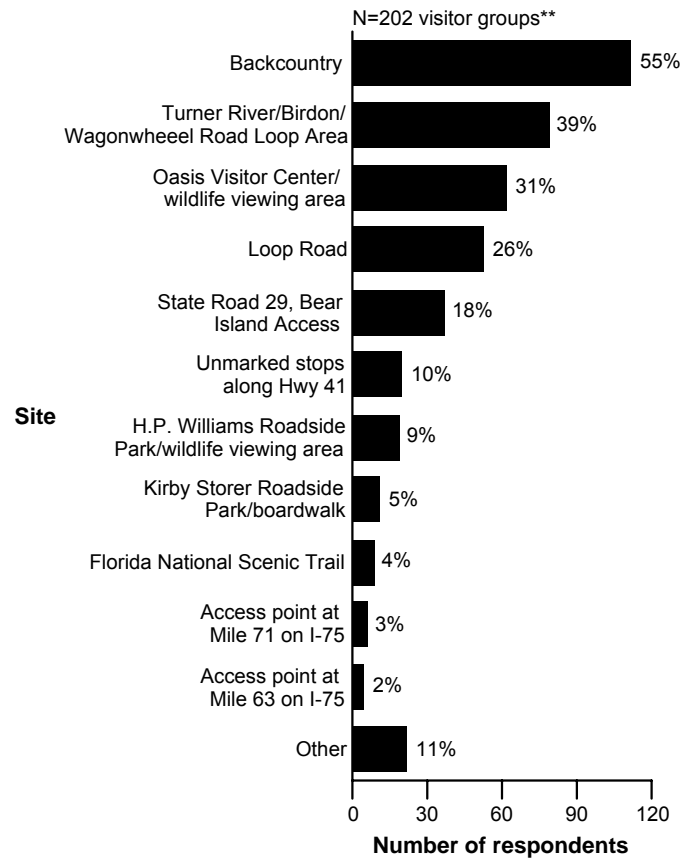


Figure 31: Sites visited

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Question 9a

During your most recent visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, which of the following were your primary access points to the backcountry?

Results

- 26% of visitor groups used Monroe Station North as a primary access point to the backcountry (see Figure 32).
- 22% used Bear Island.

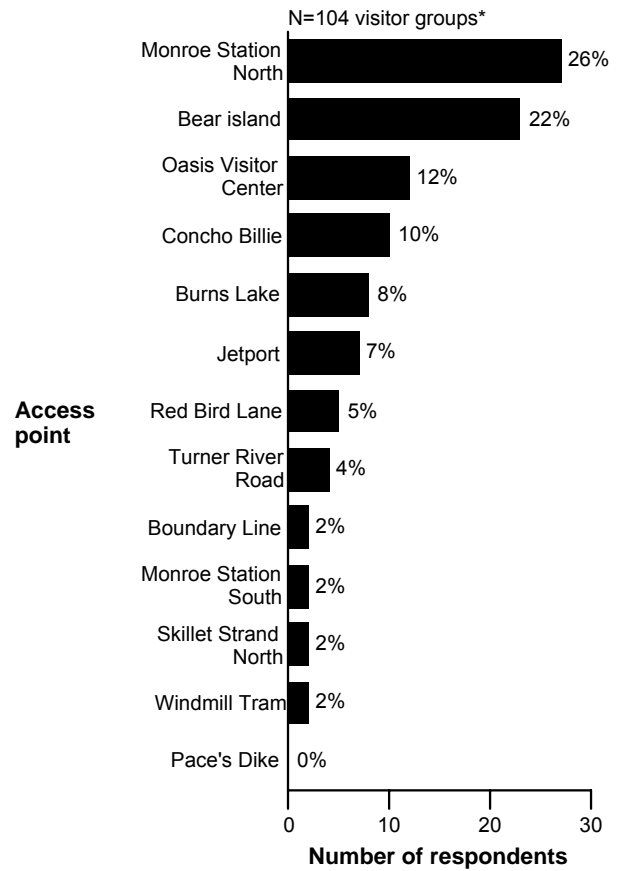


Figure 32: Backcountry access points

Question 9b

Which wildlife management unit did you and your group primarily use on your most recent visit?

Results

- 40% of visitor groups used the Turner River unit (see Figure 33).
- 30% used the Bear Island unit.
- "Other" wildlife management units (6%) included:

- Loop Unit
- Deep Lake Unit
- Addition Lands Area
- Florida National Scenic Trail

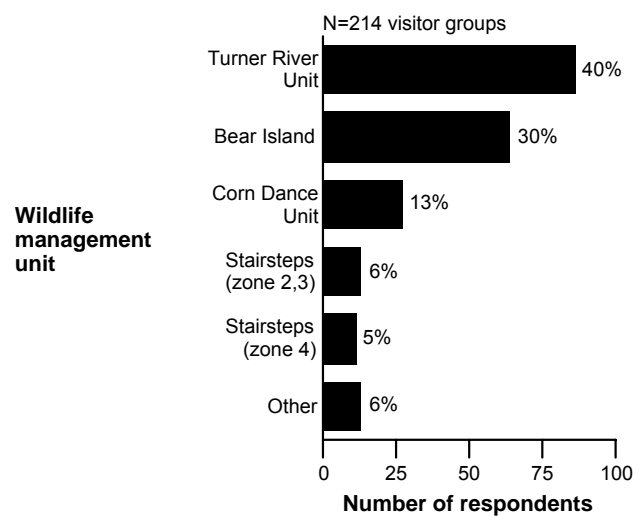


Figure 33: Primary wildlife management unit

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Backcountry access

Question 27a

On your most recent visit, did you and your group desire to explore the backcountry of Big Cypress National Preserve?

Results

- 95% of visitor groups desired to explore the backcountry on their most recent visit (see Figure 34).

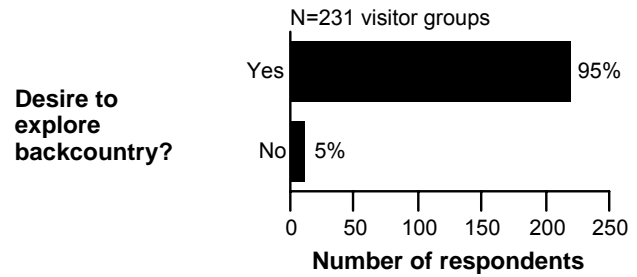


Figure 34: Desire to explore backcountry

Question 27b

If YES, were you able to access the backcountry?

Results

- 85% of visitor groups were able to access the backcountry on their most recent visit (see Figure 35).

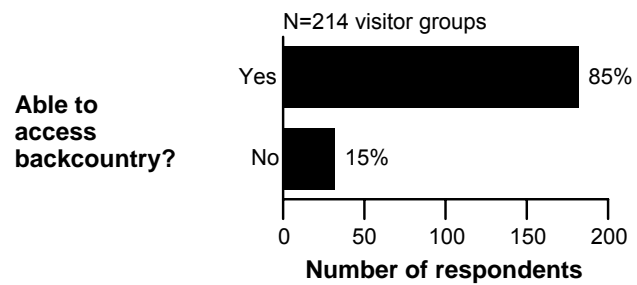


Figure 35: Ability to access backcountry

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Question 27d

If YES, how did you and your group access the backcountry?

Results

- 54% of visitor groups accessed the backcountry with ATVs (see Figure 36).
- 49% accessed the backcountry with swamp buggies.
- 20% accessed the backcountry via hiking.
- “Other” types of transportation (3%) included:
 - All terrain cycle
 - Amphibious ATV
 - Waded
 - UTV cart

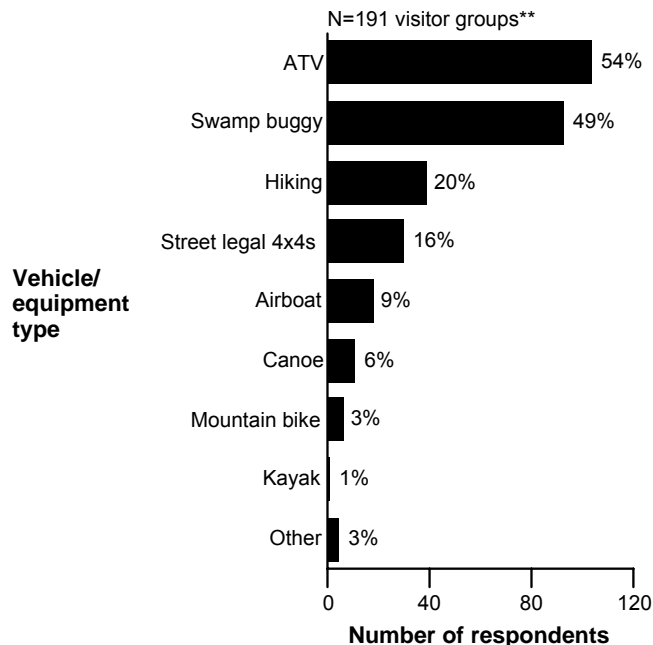


Figure 36: Types of transportation used to access the backcountry

Question 27c

If NO, what prevented you from accessing the backcountry?

Results

- Table 12 lists visitor groups’ reasons for not accessing the backcountry.

Table 12: Reasons why visitors did not access the backcountry

N=30 comments;
some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Inadequate trails	4
Limited trails	4
Limited access to airboats and swamp buggies	3
Limited ORV access	3
Bad airboat trails	2
Had a child in the group	2
Had other work to do	2
Accessibility of some areas	1
Age	1
Did not have a map	1
Fire	1
Got lost	1
New airboat rules	1
No airboats	1
Did not have ORV permit	1
No water	1
Thick vegetation in trails	1

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Vehicles/equipment used to access Big Cypress backcountry

Question 28a

If you or members of your personal group own any of the vehicles/equipment mentioned in Question 27d, please indicate the type of vehicle/equipment that you and/or members of your group own?

Results

- 63% of vehicles/equipment were ATVs (see Figure 37).
- 46% were swamp buggies.
- “Other” vehicles/equipment type (3%) included:

- Boat
- Glade skiff
- Motorcycle
- Pirogue
- Swamp boat
- Trailer

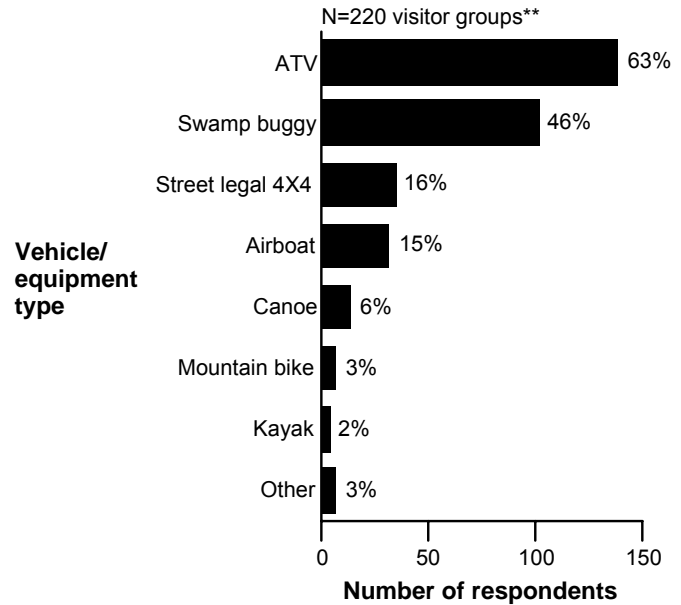


Figure 37: Type of vehicles/equipment that visitor groups owned

Question 28b

Do you primarily use the vehicle/equipment (more than 50% of the time) to access Big Cypress National Preserve backcountry?

Results

- 71% of the above vehicles/equipment were primarily used to access Big Cypress National Preserve backcountry (see Figure 38).

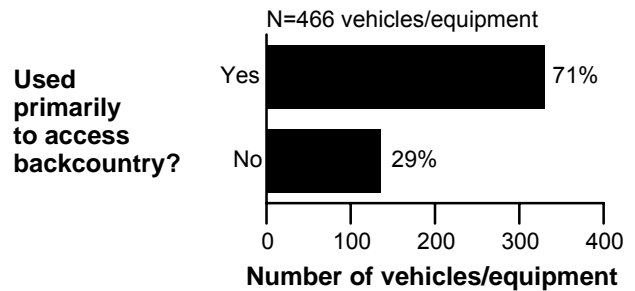


Figure 38: Vehicles/equipment used primarily in Big Cypress National Preserve backcountry

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Question 28c

In what year did you purchase the vehicle/equipment?

Results

- 57% of vehicles/equipment were purchased during or after 2001 (see Figure 39).
- 22% were purchased in 1990 and before.
- 21% were purchased between 1991 and 2000.

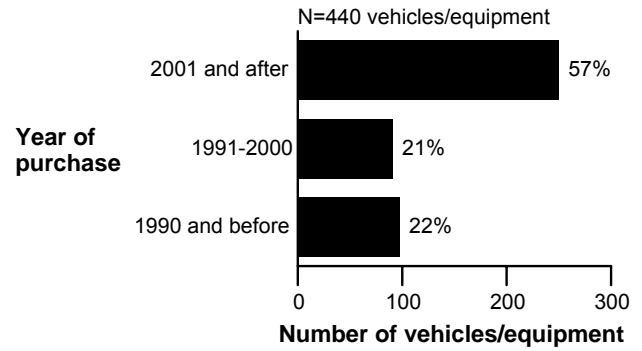


Figure 39: Year of purchase of vehicles/equipment

Question 28d

Did you purchase the vehicle/equipment in South Florida (areas south of Lake Okeechobee)?

Results

- 85% of vehicles/equipment were purchased in South Florida (see Figure 40).

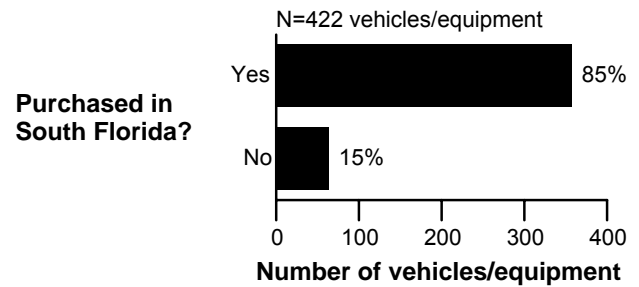


Figure 40: Vehicles/equipment purchased in South Florida

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Question 28e

How much did the vehicle/equipment cost?

Results

- 51% of vehicles/equipment cost \$5,000 or less (see Figure 41).
- 34% cost between \$5,001 and \$10,000.

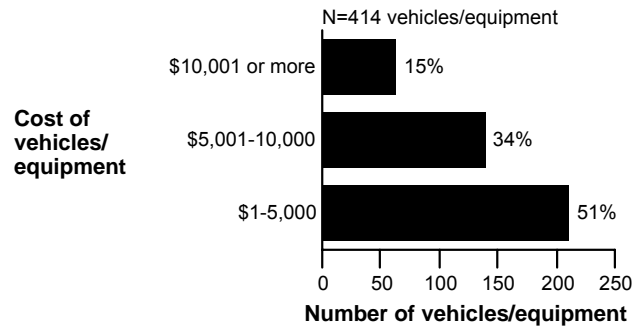


Figure 41: Cost of vehicles/equipment

Question 28f

What was the condition of the vehicle/equipment when you purchased it?

Results

- 60% of the vehicles/equipment owned by visitor groups was purchased as “new” (see Figure 42).
- 41% were purchased as “used” either from a private owner or a dealer.

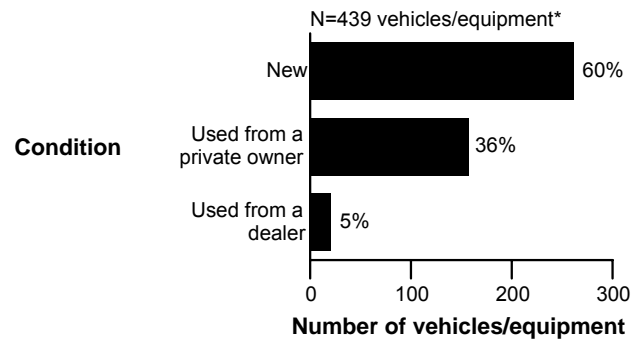


Figure 42: Condition of vehicles/equipment when purchased

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Activities

Question 10a

On your most recent visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, what activities did you and your group participate in?

Results

- As shown in Figure 43, the most common activities visitor groups participated in were:

- 72% Off road vehicle driving
- 49% Camping
- 45% Hunting
- 42% Wildlife viewing (other than birds)

- “Other” activities (10%) included:

- Club meeting
- Fire fighting
- Frogging
- Going to camp house in Big Cypress
- Preparation for hunting season
- Property maintenance
- Relaxation
- Scouting for hunting
- Spending quality family time
- Visit Clyde Butcher Gallery
- Work on camp
- Working on runaway

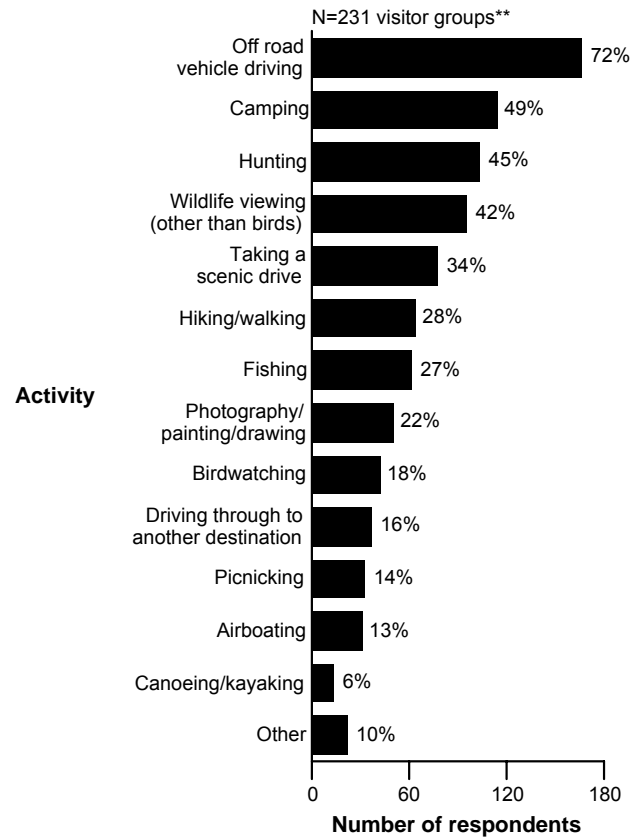


Figure 43: Activities participated in

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Frequency of activities

Question 10b

For visits to Big Cypress National Preserve during the past 12 months (including your most recent visit), please list the number of times you and your group participated in these activities.

Results

- Visitor responses are shown in Table 13.

Table 13: Frequency of activities during past 12 months*

N=number of visitor groups who participated in each activity

Activity	N	Frequency of activity (%)				
		Daily	Several times a week	Several times a month	Several times a year	Only once
Off road vehicle driving	158	8	7	23	56	6
Camping	122	11	8	21	56	4
Hunting	121	9	12	25	50	5
Wildlife viewing (other than birds)	92	7	3	30	52	8
Taking a scenic drive	80	9	4	25	55	8
Hiking/walking	66	8	8	21	59	5
Fishing	60	12	10	17	57	5
Photography/painting/drawing	51	6	6	22	63	4
Birdwatching	45	13	9	31	42	4
Driving through to other destinations	42	5	12	26	48	10
Airboating	39	10	8	23	51	8
Picnicking CAUTION!	29	14	7	10	55	14
Canoeing/kayaking CAUTION!	18	0	11	11	50	28
Other CAUTION!	17	0	0	24	71	6

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Ratings of Visitor Services, Facilities, Elements, Attributes and Resources

Visitor facilities used

Question 12a

Please indicate all of the visitor facilities that you and your group used during your most recent visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

Results

- As shown in Figure 44, the most commonly used visitor facilities included:
 - 92% Trails
 - 41% Restrooms
 - 36% Campgrounds
 - 36% Scenic drive
- The least used facility was:
 - 6% Access for disabled persons

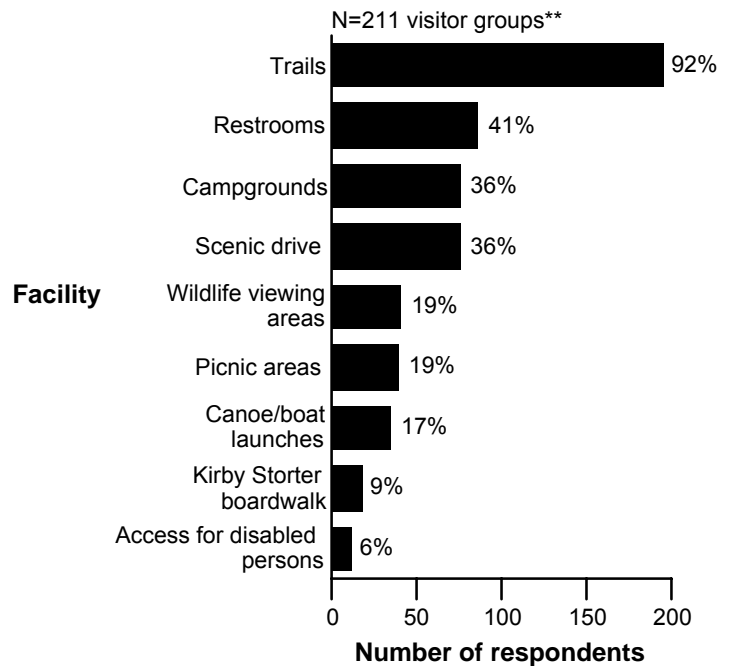


Figure 44: Visitor facilities used

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Importance ratings for visitor facilities

Question 12b

For the facilities that you and your group used, please rate their importance from 1 to 5.

- 1=Not important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Moderately important
- 4=Very important
- 5=Extremely important

Results

- Figure 45 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for visitor facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:
 - 80% Scenic drive
 - 77% Wildlife viewing areas
 - 77% Campgrounds
 - 76% Trails
- Figures 46 to 54 show the importance ratings for each facility.
- The facilities receiving the highest “not important” rating by 30 or more visitor groups were:
 - 7% Restrooms
 - 7% Trails

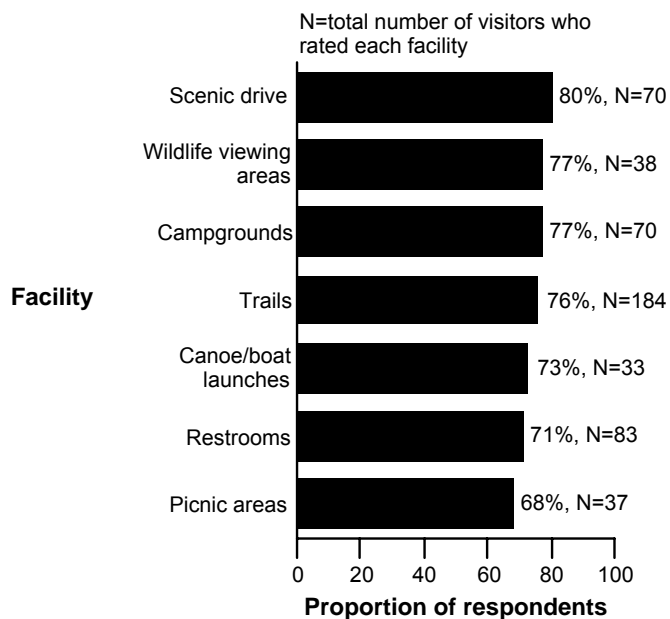


Figure 45: Combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for visitor facilities

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

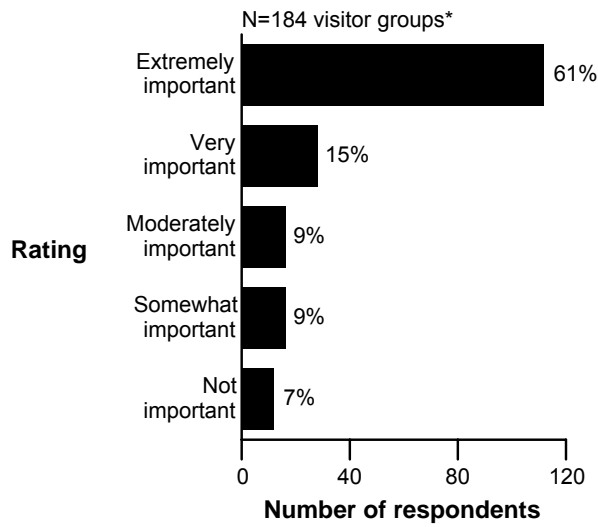


Figure 46: Importance of trails

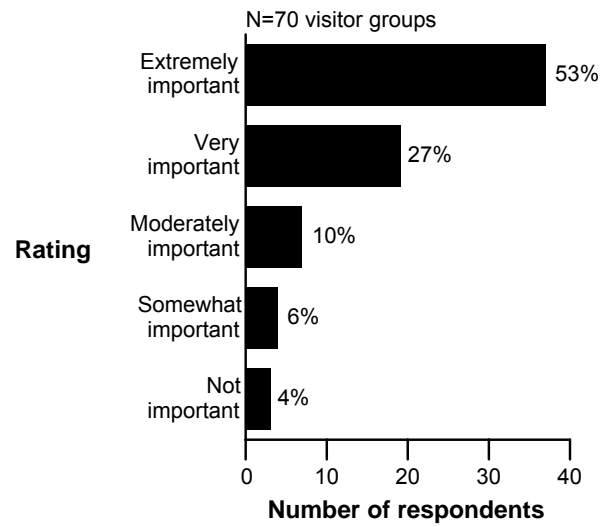


Figure 47: Importance of scenic drive

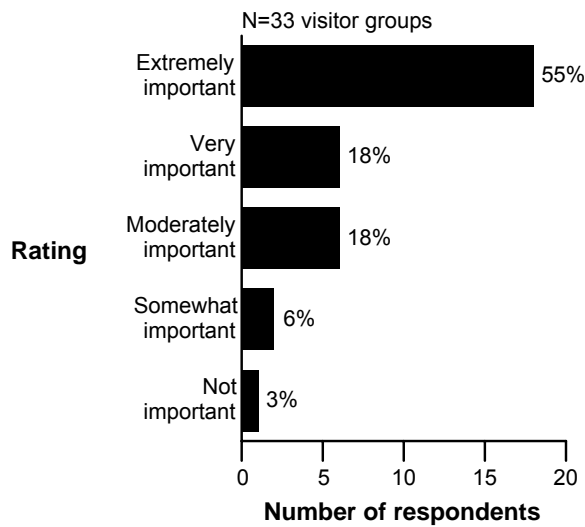


Figure 48: Importance of canoe/boat launches

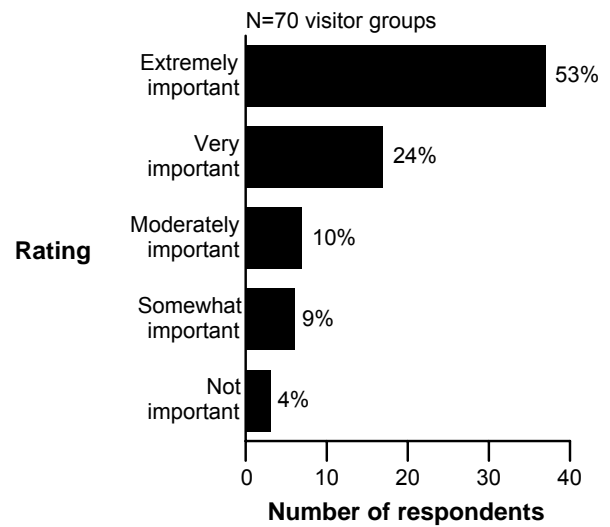


Figure 49: Importance of campgrounds

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

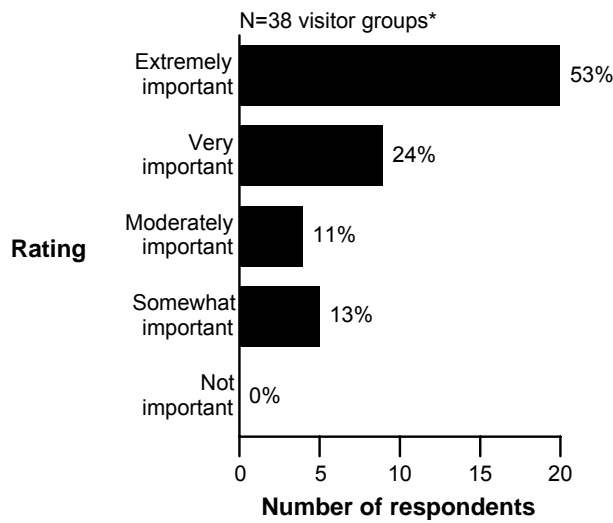


Figure 50: Importance of wildlife viewing areas

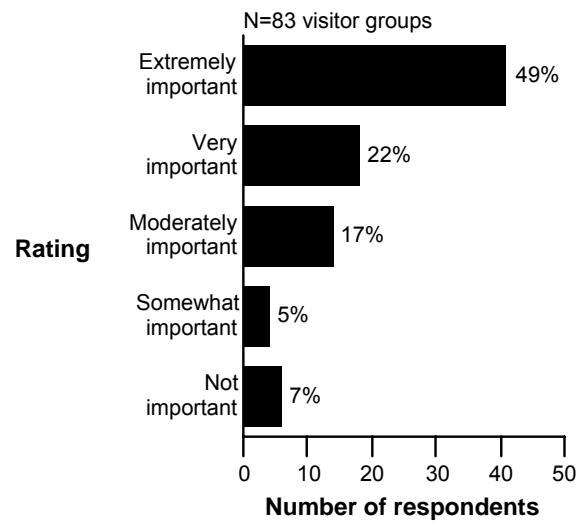


Figure 51: Importance of restrooms

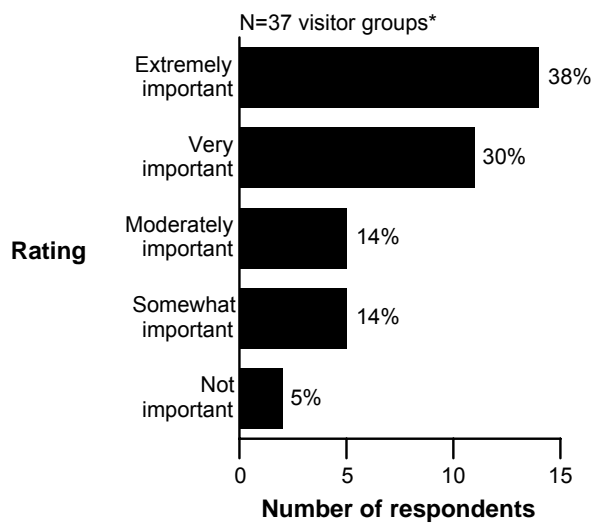


Figure 52: Importance of picnic areas

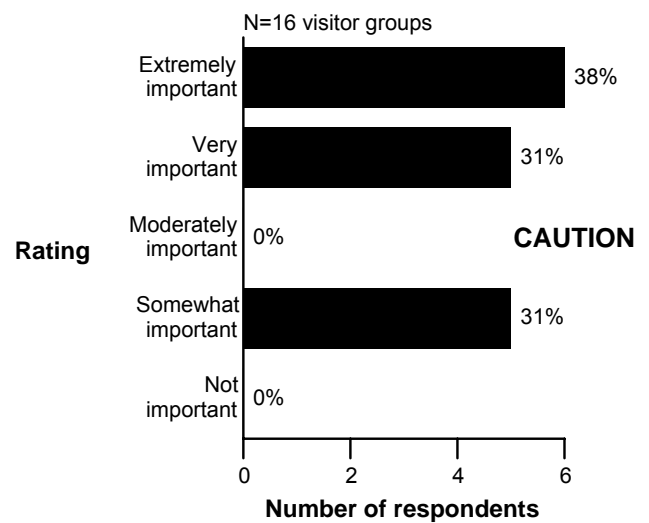


Figure 53: Importance of Kirby Starter boardwalk

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

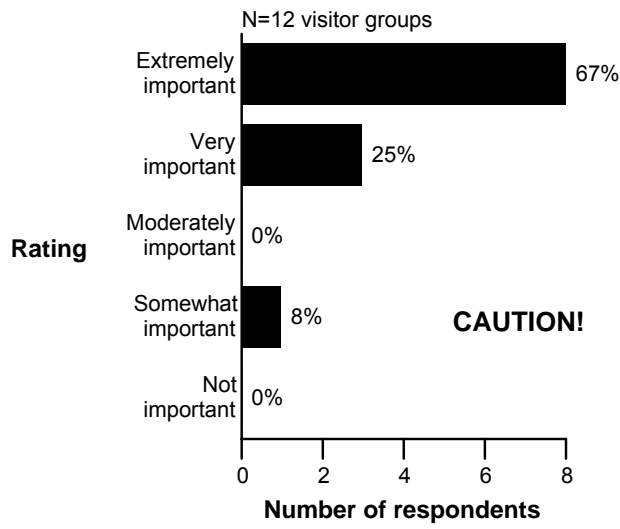


Figure 54: Importance of access for disabled persons

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Quality ratings for visitor facilities

Question 12c

Next, for only those facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

- 1=Very poor
- 2=Poor
- 3=Average
- 4=Good
- 5=Very good

Results

- Figure 55 shows the combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings for visitor facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The facilities that received the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings were:
 - 76% Scenic drive
 - 73% Wildlife viewing areas
 - 64% Campgrounds
- Figures 56 to 64 show the quality ratings for each facility.
- The facility receiving the highest “very poor” quality rating by 30 or more visitor groups was:
 - 10% Scenic drive

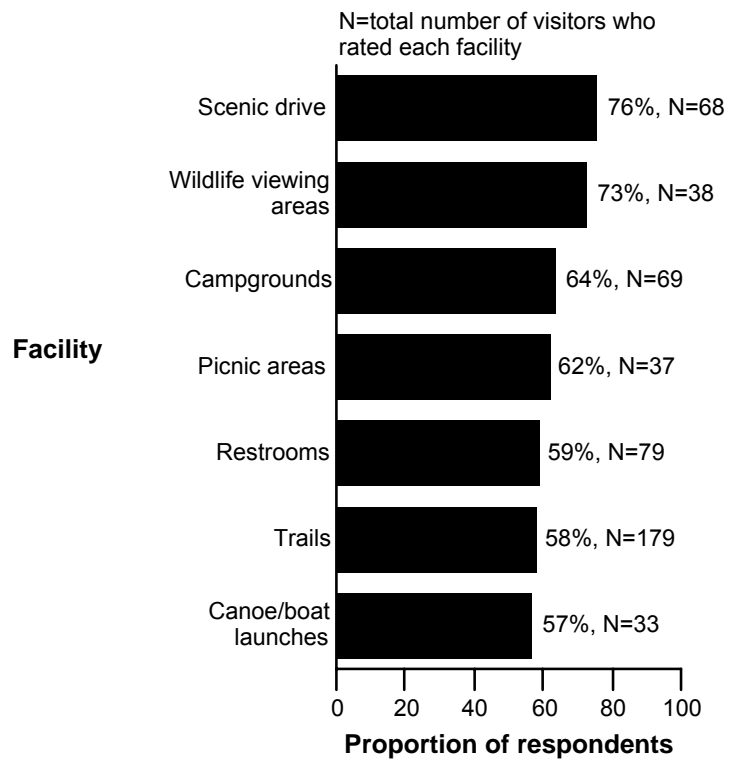


Figure 55: Combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings for visitor facilities

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

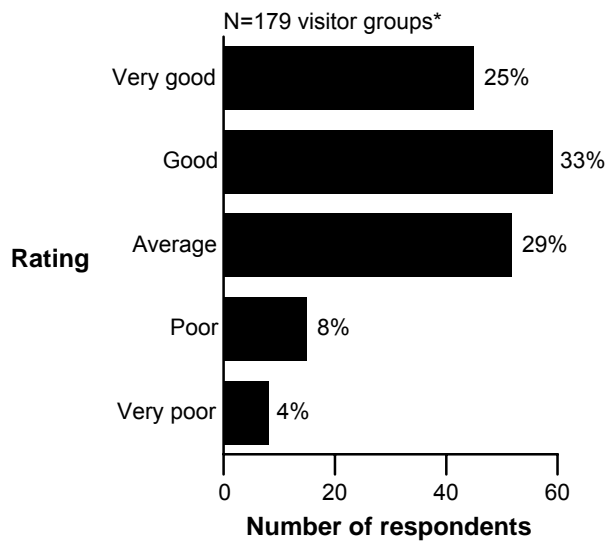


Figure 56: Quality of trails

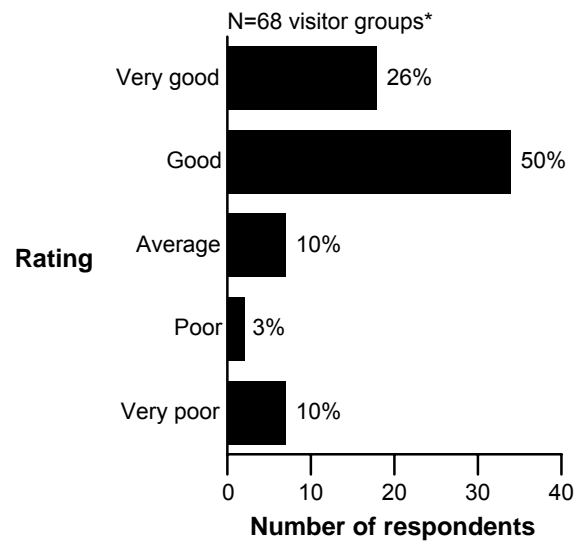


Figure 57: Quality of scenic drive

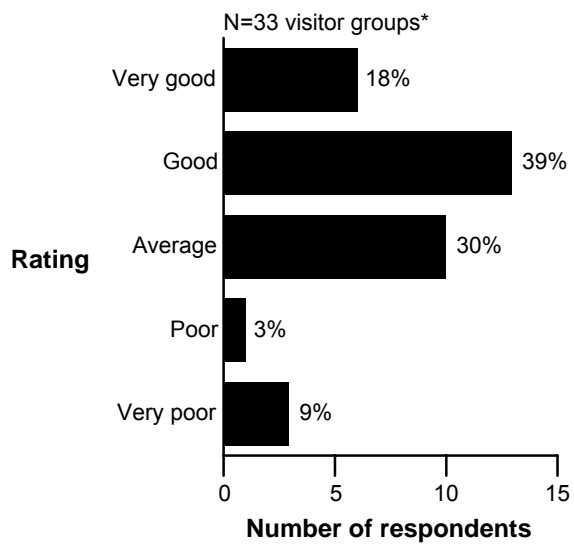


Figure 58: Quality of canoe/boat launches

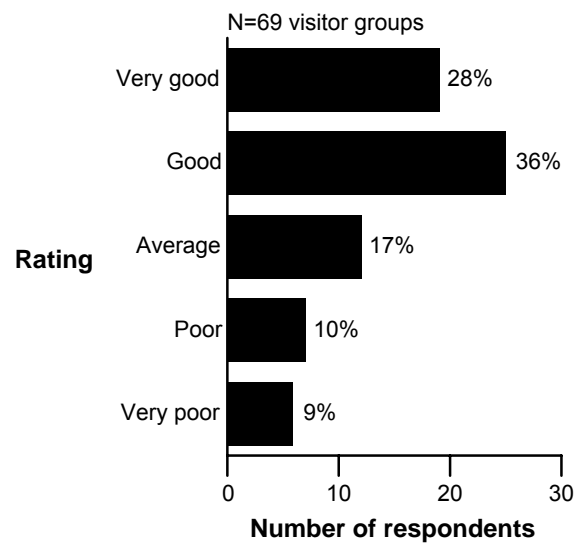


Figure 59: Quality of campgrounds

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

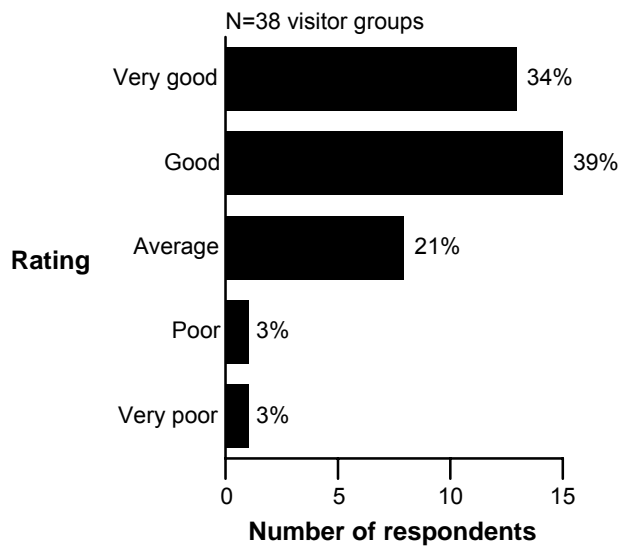


Figure 60: Quality of wildlife viewing areas

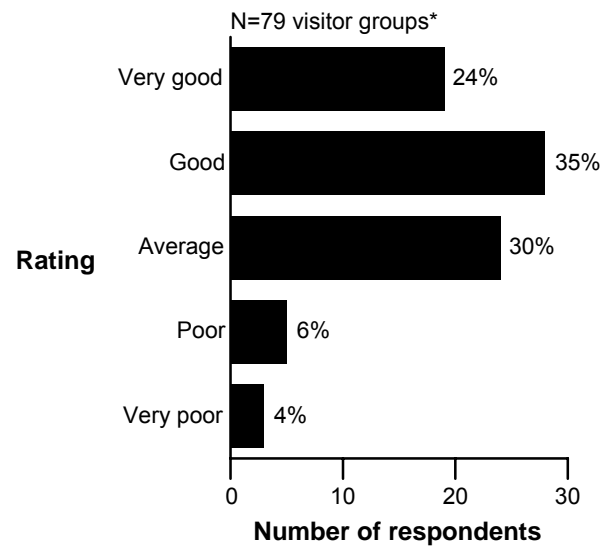


Figure 61: Quality of restrooms

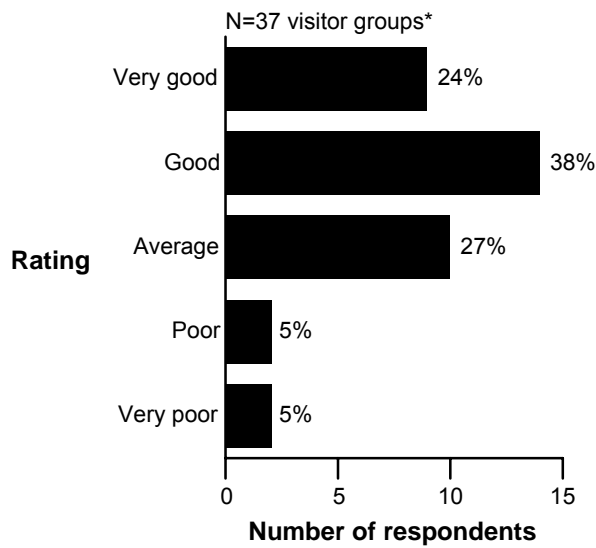


Figure 62: Quality of picnic areas

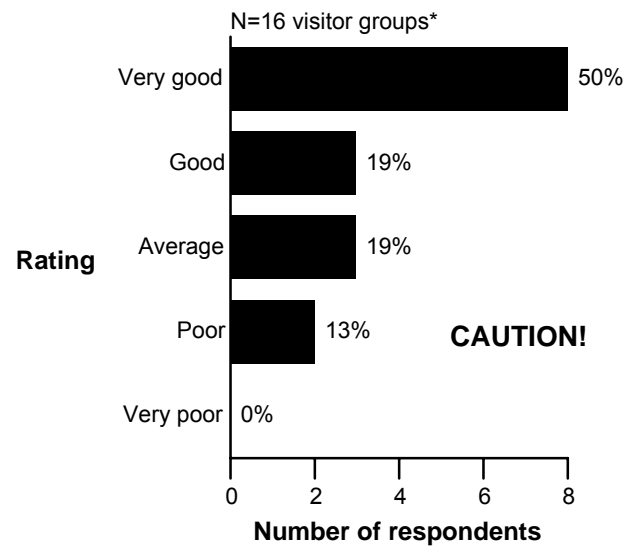


Figure 63: Quality of Kirby Storter boardwalk

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

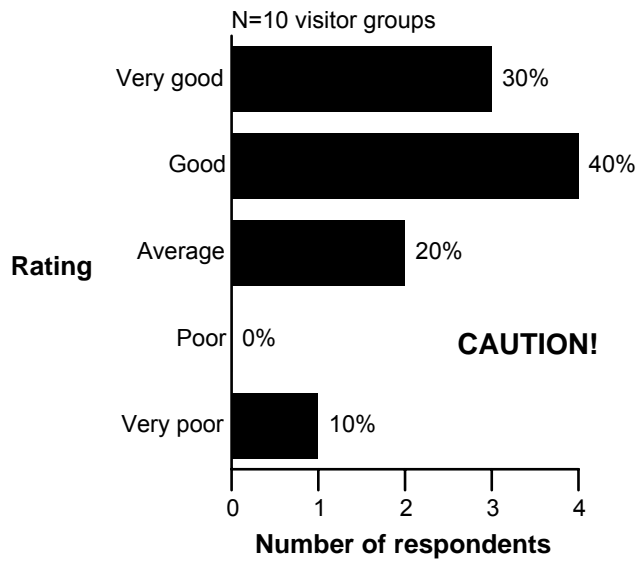


Figure 64: Quality of access for disabled persons

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Mean scores of importance and quality ratings for visitor facilities

- Figures 65 and 66 show the mean scores of importance and quality ratings for all visitor facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- All visitor facilities were rated above average in importance and quality.

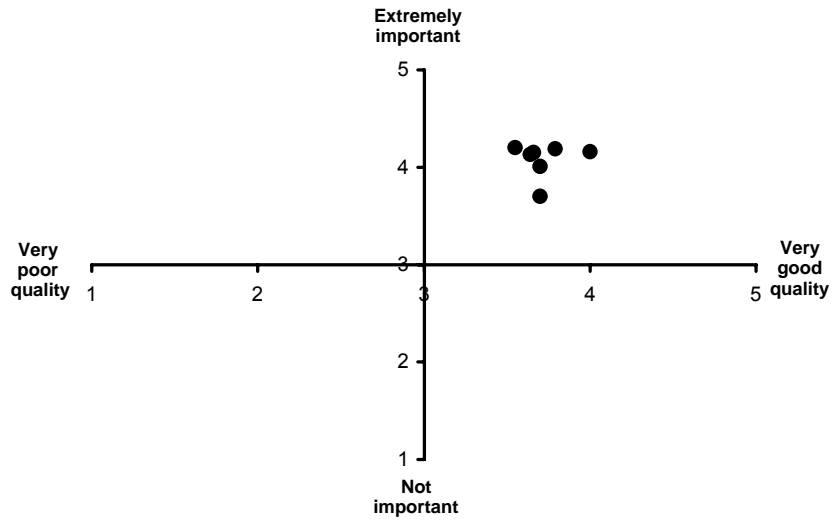


Figure 65: Mean scores of importance and quality ratings for visitor facilities

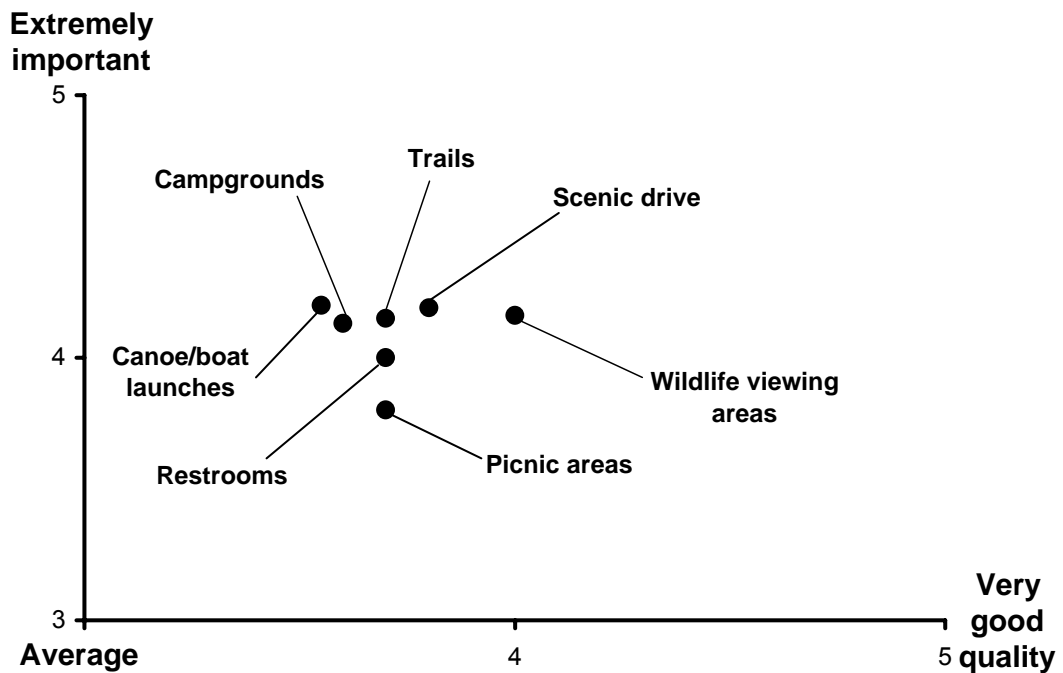


Figure 66: Detail of Figure 65

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Visitor perceptions of crowding at visitor facilities

Question 12d

Finally, for only those facilities that you and your group used, please rate from 1 to 5 how crowded you felt during your use of these facilities.

- 1=Not at all crowded
- 2=Somewhat crowded
- 3=Moderately crowded
- 4=Very crowded
- 5=Extremely crowded

Results

- Visitor responses are shown in Table 14

Table 14: Perception of crowding at visitor facilities*

N=number of visitor groups who rated each facility

Rating (%)

Facility	N	Not at all crowded	Somewhat crowded	Moderately crowded	Very crowded	Extremely crowded
Trails	179	80	7	10	2	1
Scenic drive	70	66	23	10	0	1
Canoe/boat launches	32	53	22	25	0	0
Campgrounds	69	48	22	20	6	4
Wildlife viewing areas	39	54	23	13	8	3
Restrooms	78	69	19	8	4	0
Picnic areas	35	71	9	17	3	0
Kirby Storter boardwalk CAUTION!	16	63	19	0	19	0
Access for disabled persons CAUTION!	11	73	18	0	9	0

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Visitor information services used

Question 13a

Please indicate all of the information services that you and your group used during your most recent visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

Results

- As shown in Figure 67, the most commonly used information services included:

75% Preserve brochure/map
 51% NPS preserve website
 40% Outdoor exhibits

- The least used information services were:

5% Bicycle tour
 5% Canoe tour

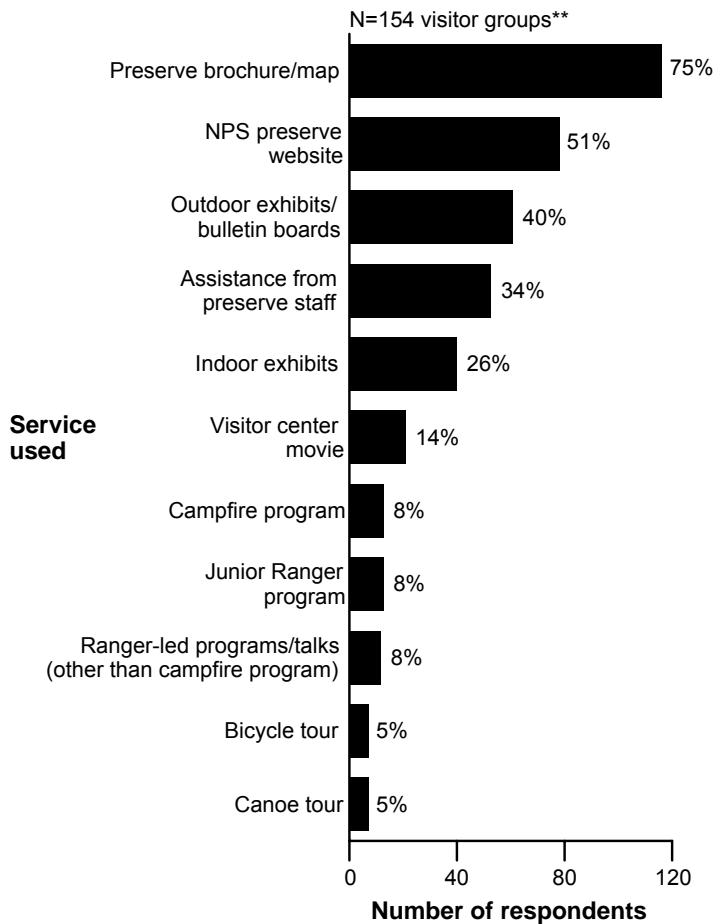


Figure 67: Visitor information services used

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Importance ratings for information services

Question 13b

For the information services that you and your group used, please rate their importance from 1 to 5.

- 1=Not important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Moderately important
- 4=Very important
- 5=Extremely important

Results

- Figure 68 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for information services that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The information services receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:
 - 82% NPS preserve website
 - 82% Assistance from preserve staff
 - 74% Preserve brochure/map
- Figures 69 to 79 show the importance ratings for each information service.
- The information service receiving the highest “not important” rating by 30 or more visitor groups was:
 - 13% Indoor exhibits

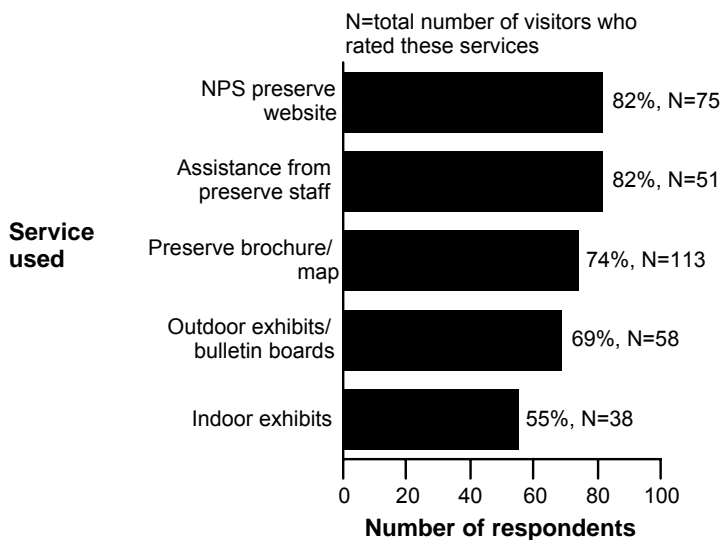


Figure 68: Combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for information services

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

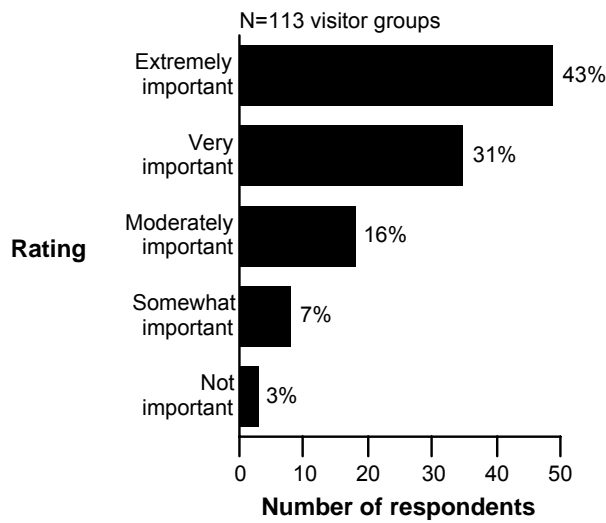


Figure 69: Importance of preserve brochure/map

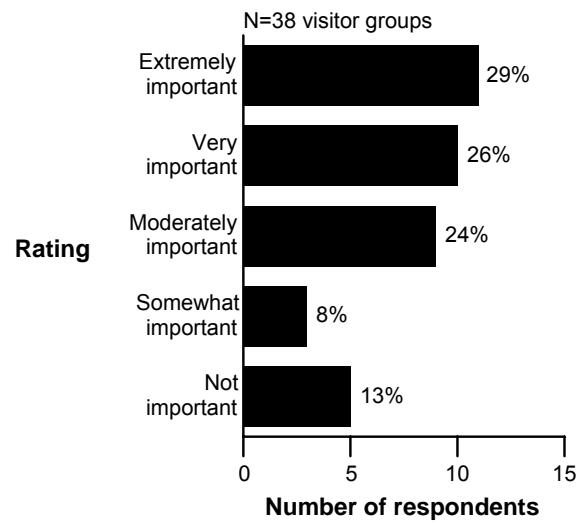


Figure 70: Importance of indoor exhibits

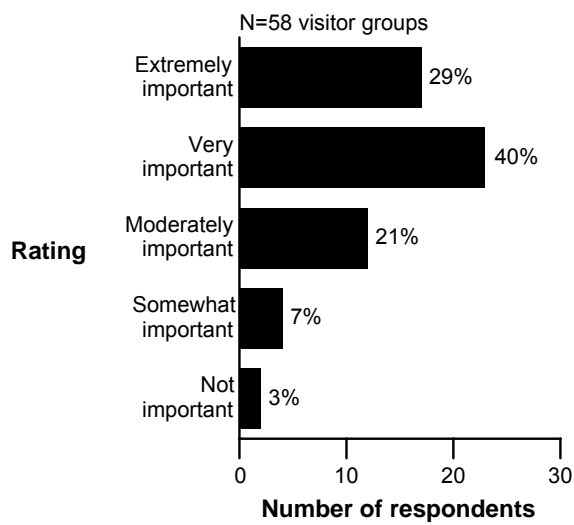


Figure 71: Importance of outdoor exhibits/bulletin boards

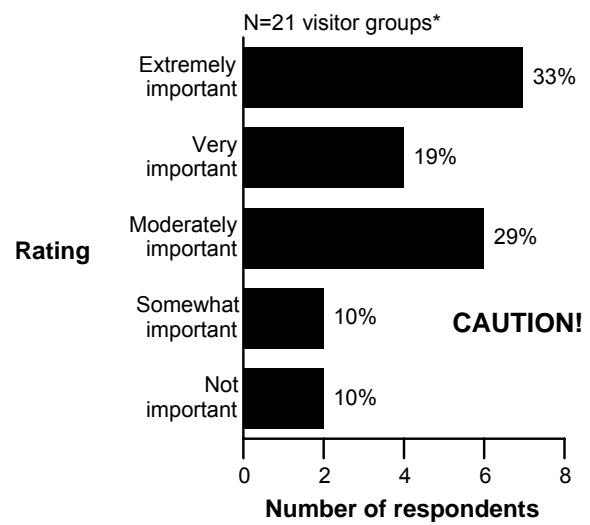


Figure 72: Importance of visitor center movie

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

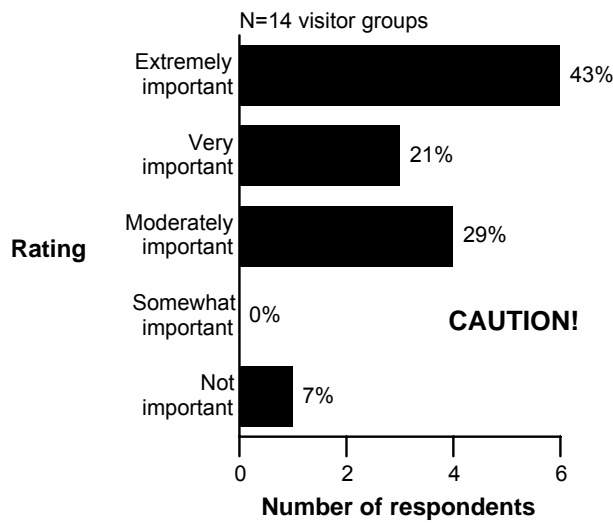


Figure 73: Importance of Junior Ranger program

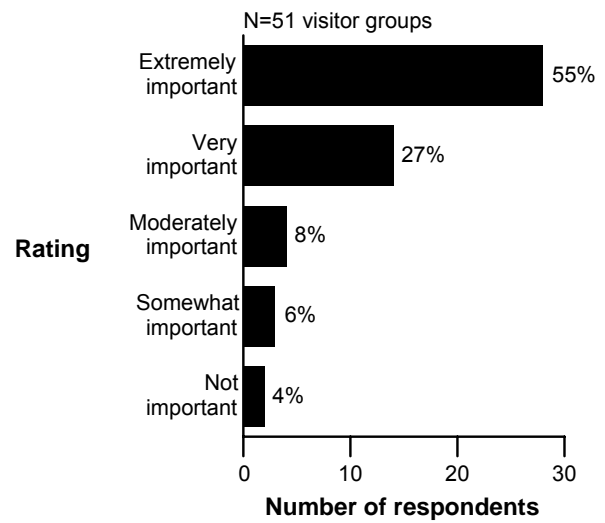


Figure 74: Importance of assistance from preserve staff

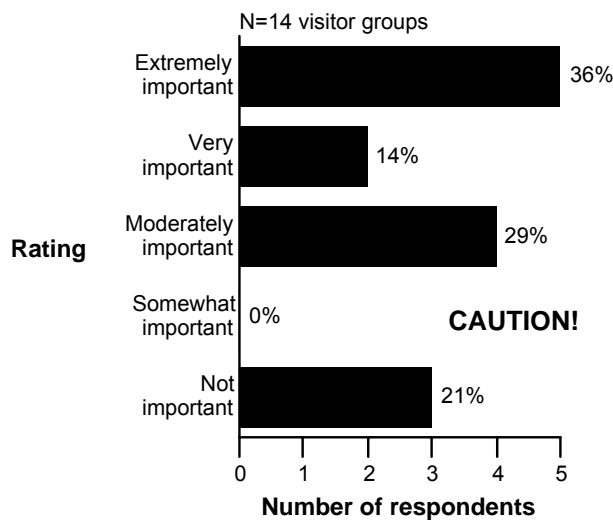


Figure 75: Importance of campfire program

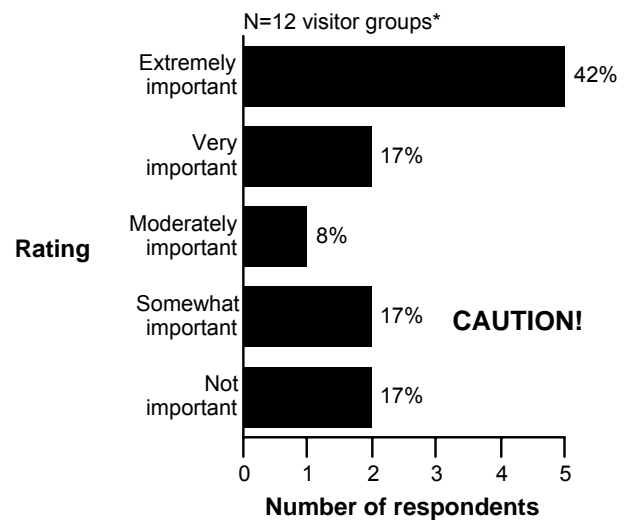


Figure 76: Importance of ranger-led programs/talks (other than campfire program)

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

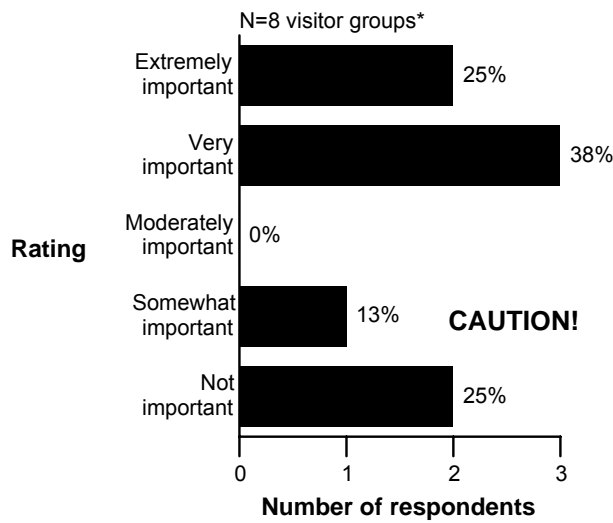


Figure 77: Importance of canoe tour

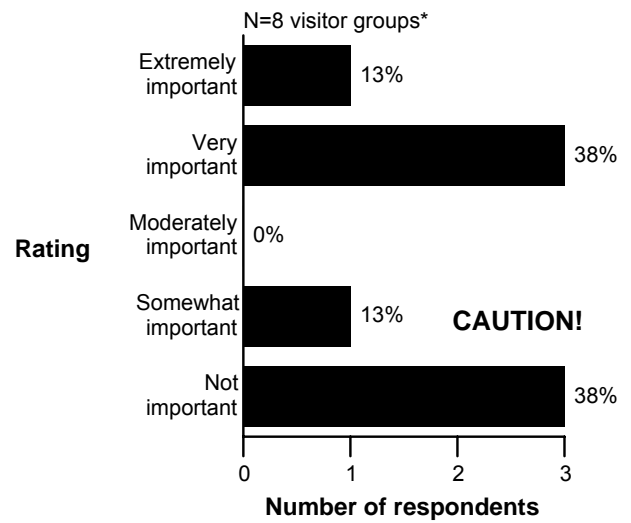


Figure 78: Importance of bicycle tour

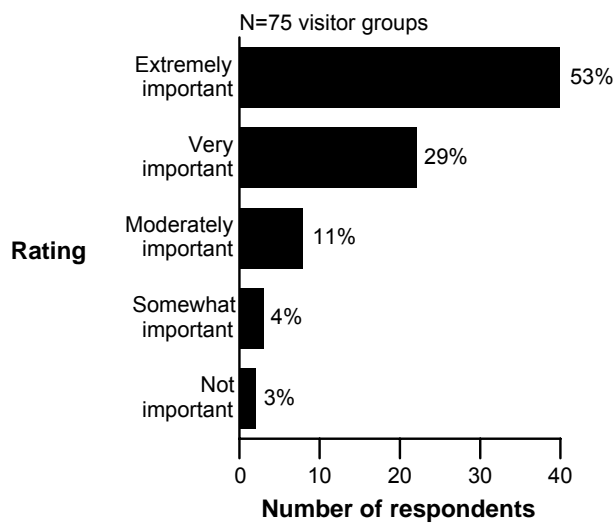


Figure 79: Importance of preserve website: www.nps.gov/bicy used before or during visit

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Quality ratings for information services

Question 13c

Finally, for only those information services that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

- 1=Very poor
- 2=Poor
- 3=Average
- 4=Good
- 5=Very good

Results

- Figure 80 shows the combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings for information services that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The information services that received the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings were:
 - 86% Assistance from preserve staff
 - 77% Indoor exhibits
 - 76% NPS preserve website
- Figures 81 to 91 show the quality ratings for each information service.
- The information services receiving the highest “very poor” quality rating by 30 or more visitor groups were:
 - 4% Preserve brochure/map
 - 4% Assistance from preserve staff
 - 4% NPS preserve website

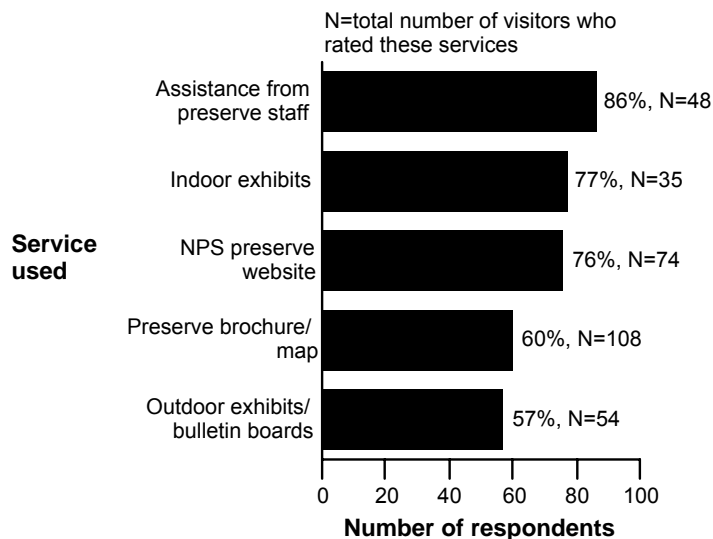


Figure 80: Combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings for information services

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

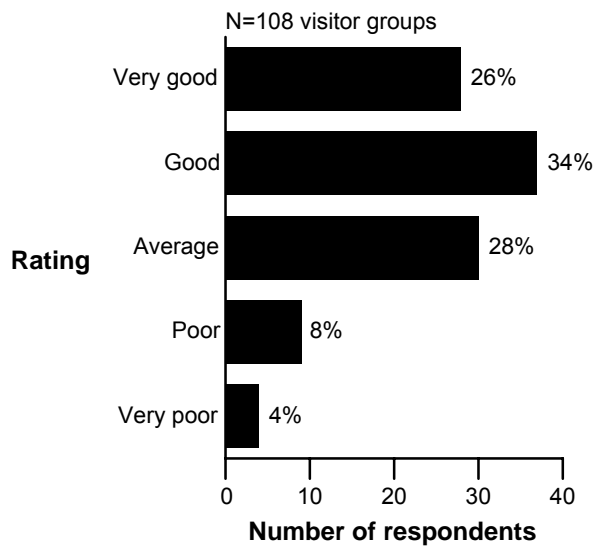


Figure 81: Quality of preserve brochure/map

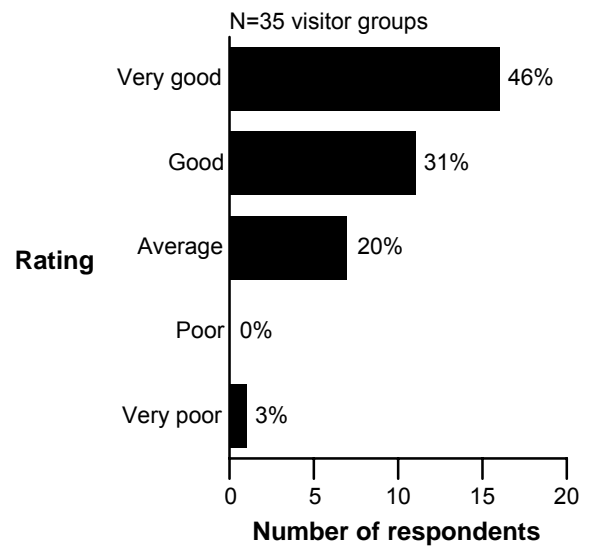


Figure 82: Quality of indoor exhibits

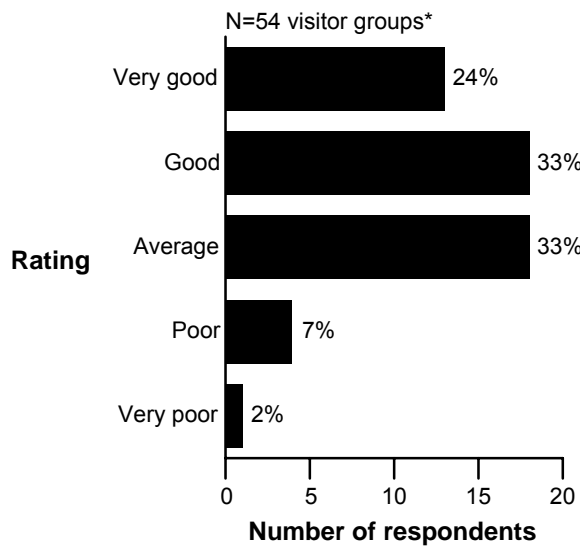


Figure 83: Quality of outdoor exhibits/bulletin boards

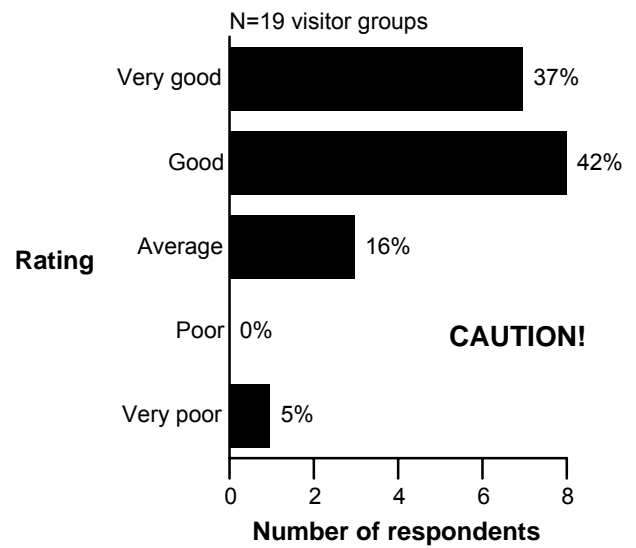


Figure 84: Quality of visitor center movie

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

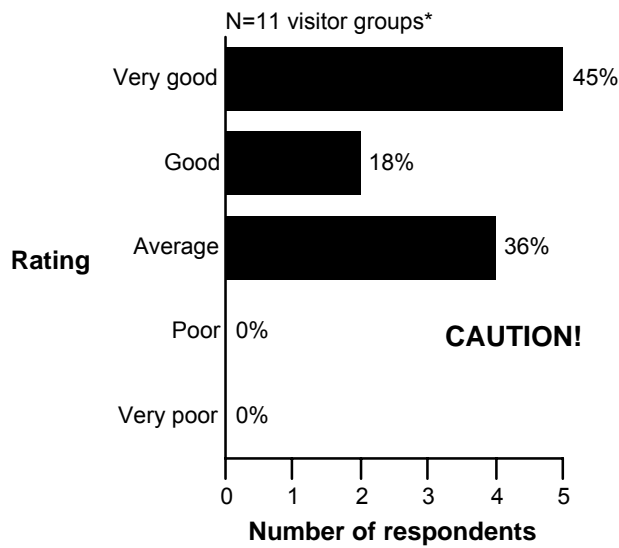


Figure 85: Quality of Junior Ranger program

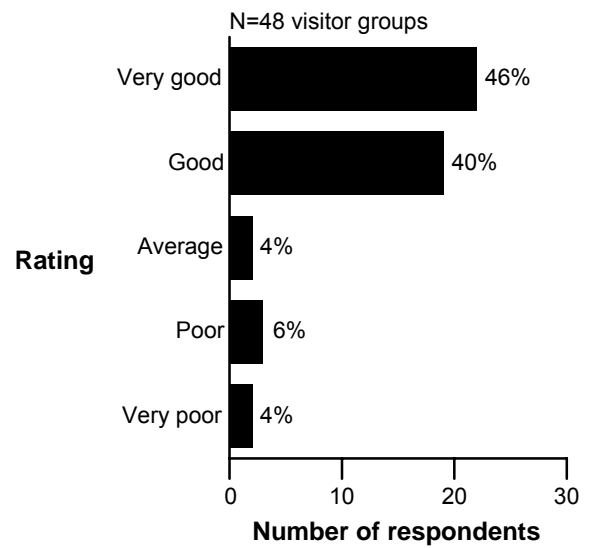


Figure 86: Quality of assistance from preserve staff

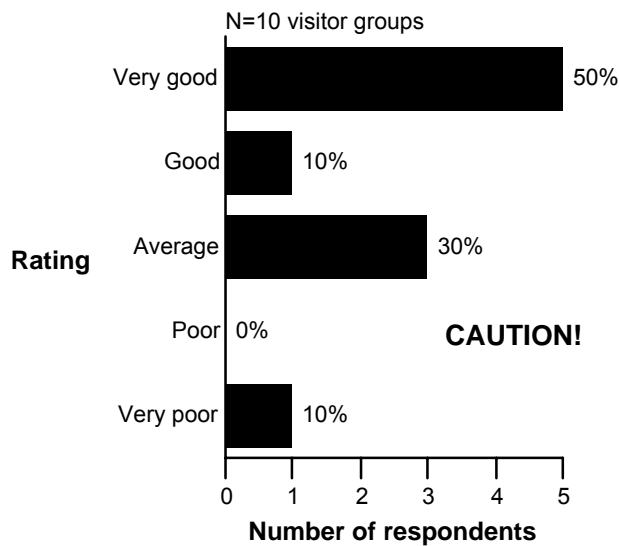


Figure 87: Quality of campfire program

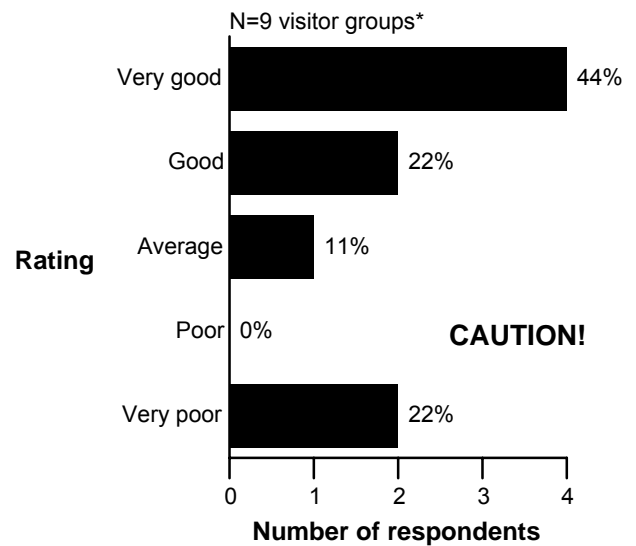


Figure 88: Quality of ranger-led programs/talks (other than campfire program)

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

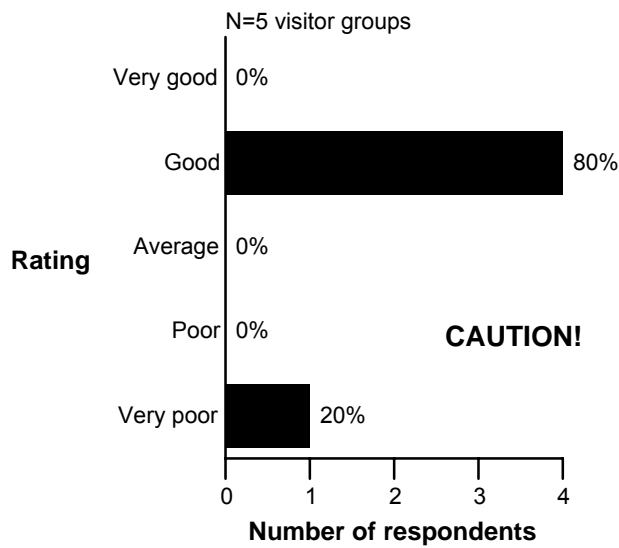


Figure 89: Quality of canoe tour

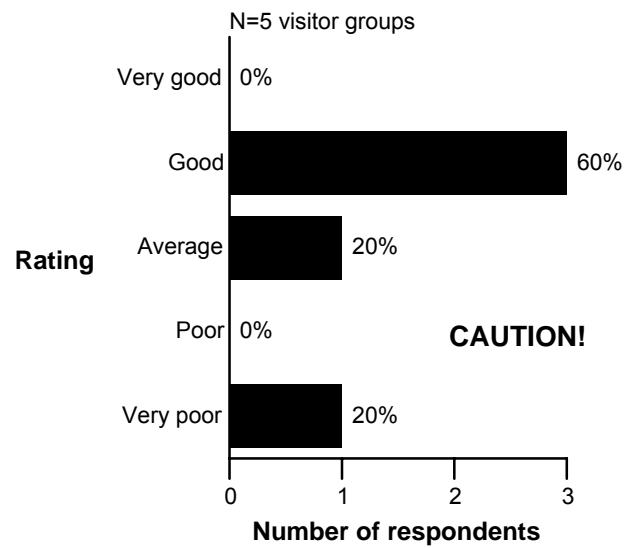


Figure 90: Quality of bicycle tour

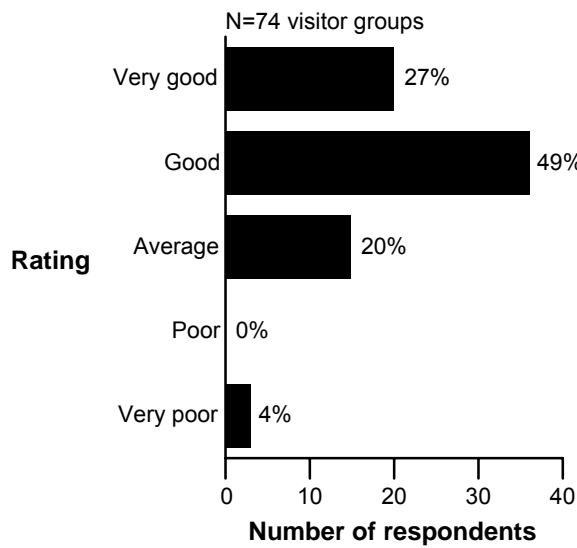


Figure 91: Quality of preserve website: www.nps.gov/bicy used before or during visit

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Mean scores of importance and quality ratings for information services

- Figures 92 and 93 show the mean scores of importance and quality ratings for all information services that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- All information services were rated above average in importance and quality.

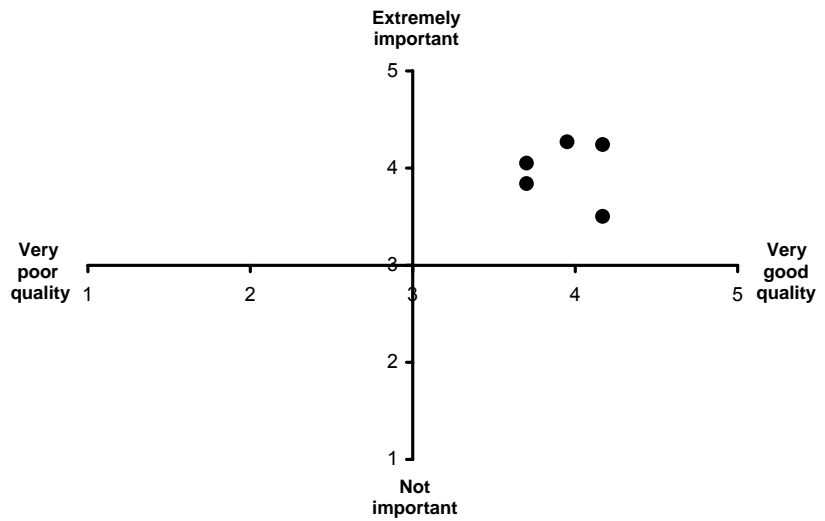


Figure 92: Mean scores of importance and quality ratings for information services

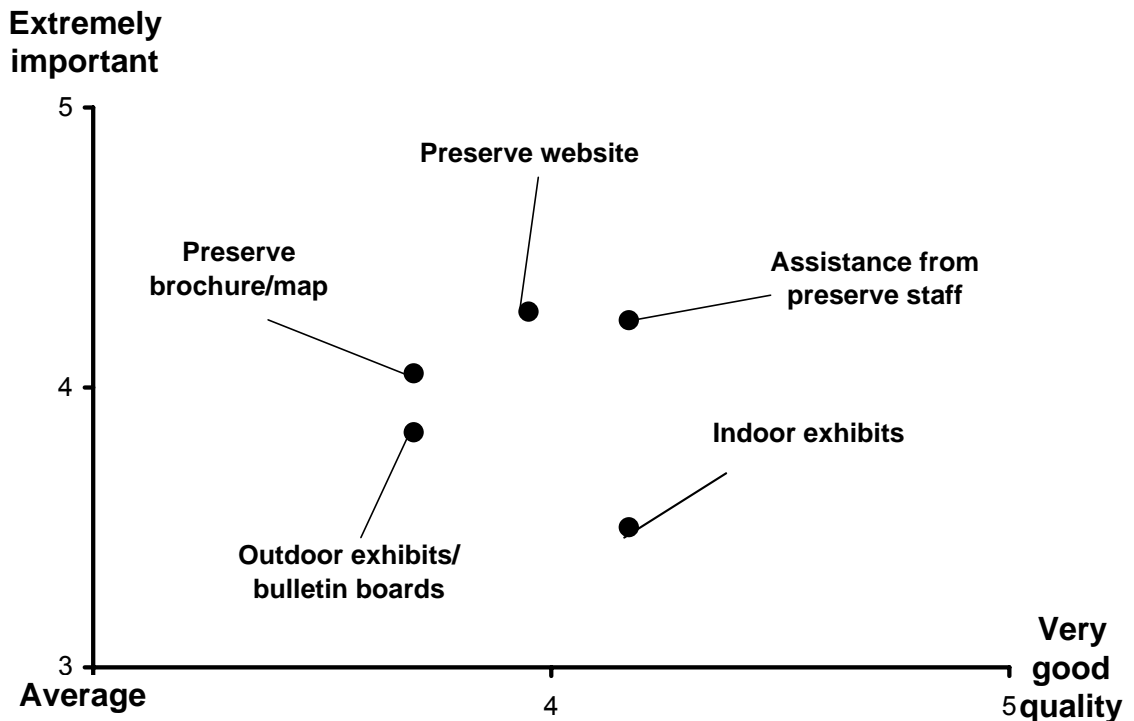


Figure 93: Detail of Figure 92

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Importance of protection of preserve attributes/resources

Question 22

It is the National Park Service’s responsibility to protect Big Cypress National Preserve natural, scenic, and cultural resources while at the same time providing for public enjoyment. How important is the protection of the following attributes/resources in the preserve to you?

Results

- As shown in Figure 94, the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for preserve attributes/resources included:

- 93% Native wildlife
- 91% Clean water
- 88% Recreational opportunities
- 88% Clean air
- 88% Native plants

- The attributes/resources that received the highest “not important” rating were:

- 6% Nature quiet/sounds of nature
- 6% Educational opportunities

- Table 15 shows the importance ratings for attributes/resources as rated by visitor groups.

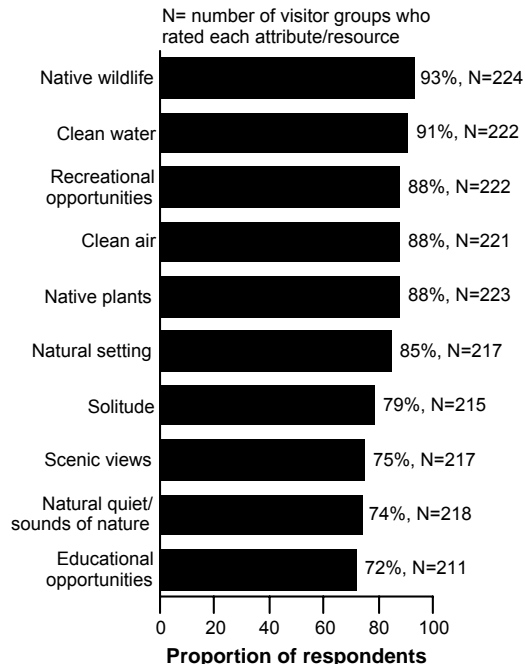


Figure 94: Combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings for attributes/resources

Table 15: Importance of protection of preserve attributes/resources*

N=number of visitor groups who rated each attribute/resource.

Attribute/resource	N	Rating (%)				
		Not important	Somewhat important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Native wildlife	224	2	1	4	25	68
Native plants	223	2	1	9	26	62
Clean water	222	1	1	7	26	65
Recreational opportunities	222	3	2	7	16	72
Clean air	221	1	1	9	24	64
Natural quiet/sounds of nature	218	6	5	15	18	56
Scenic views	217	2	7	16	26	49
Natural setting	217	2	3	11	28	57
Solitude	215	3	6	13	19	60
Educational opportunities	211	6	6	17	26	46

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Expenditures

Total expenditures inside and outside of the preserve

Question 23

For you and your group, please report all expenditures for the items listed below for your most recent visit to Big Cypress National Preserve and the surrounding area (areas south of Lake Okeechobee). Please write "0" if no money was spent in a particular category.

Note: Surrounding area residents should only include expenditures that were directly related to this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

Results:

- 50% of visitor groups spent up to \$200 (see Figure 95).
- 22% spent \$601 or more.
- The average visitor group expenditure was \$689.
- The median expenditure (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was \$200.
- Average total expenditure per person (per capita) was \$236.
- As shown in Figure 96, the largest proportions of total expenditures in and outside the preserve were:

- 25% Groceries and takeout food
- 25% Gas and oil
- 21% All other purchases

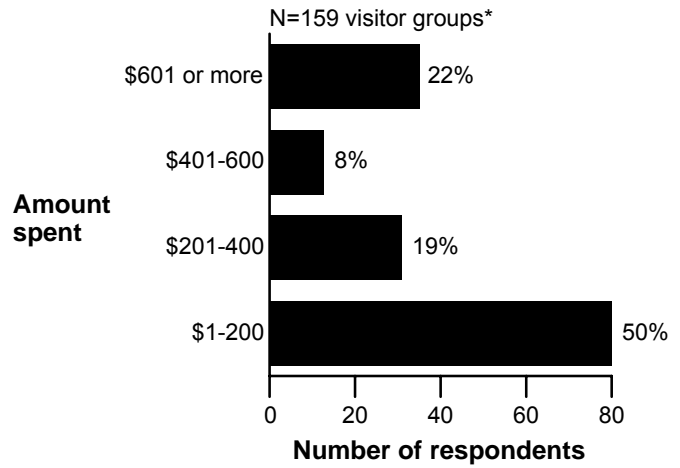


Figure 95: Total expenditures inside and outside of the preserve

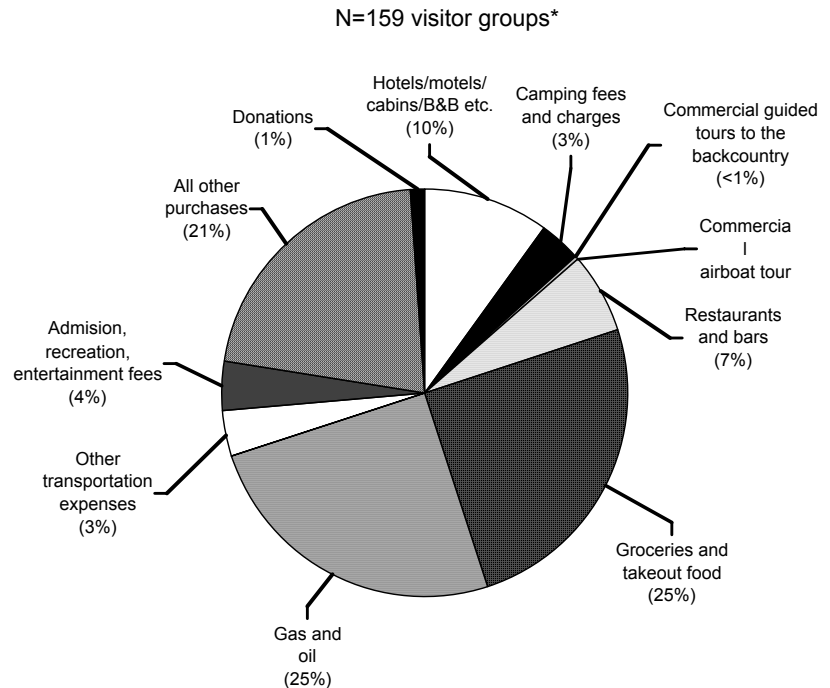


Figure 96: Proportions of total expenditures inside and outside of the preserve

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Number of adults covered by expenditures

Question 23d

How many adults (18 years or older) do these expenses cover?

Results

- 29% of visitor groups had four or more adults covered by expenditures (see Figure 97).
- 27% of groups had two adults covered by expenditures.

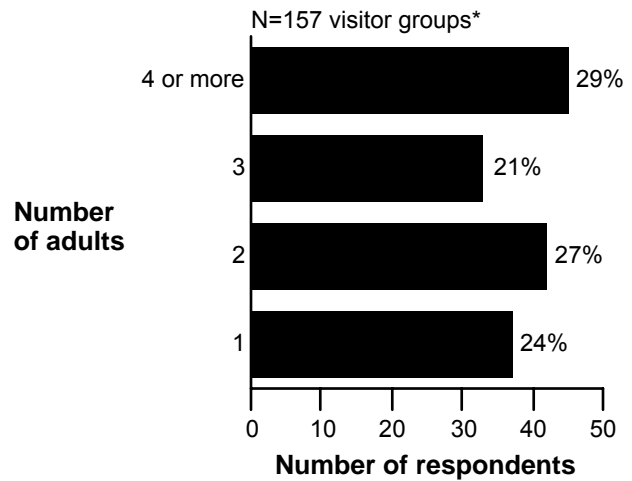


Figure 97: Number of adults covered by expenditures

Number of children covered by expenditures

Question 23d

How many children (under 18 years) do these expenses cover?

Results

- 71% of visitor groups had no children covered by expenditures (see Figure 98).
- 16% of groups had two or more children covered by expenditures.
- 13% of visitor groups had one child covered by expenditures.

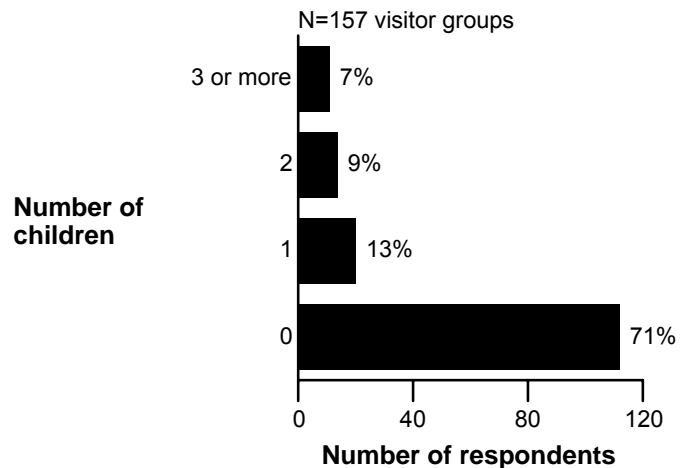


Figure 98: Number of children covered by expenditures

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Expenditures inside the preserve

Question 23a

Please list your group’s total expenditures inside Big Cypress National Preserve.

Note: Surrounding area residents should only include expenditures that were directly related to this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

Results

- 43% of visitor groups spent no money inside the preserve (see Figure 99).
- 24% spent \$51 or more.
- The average visitor group expenditure inside the preserve was \$140.
- The median expenditure (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was \$20.
- Average total expenditure per person (per capita) was \$35.
- As shown in Figure 100, the largest proportion of total expenditures inside the preserve was:

82% All other purchases

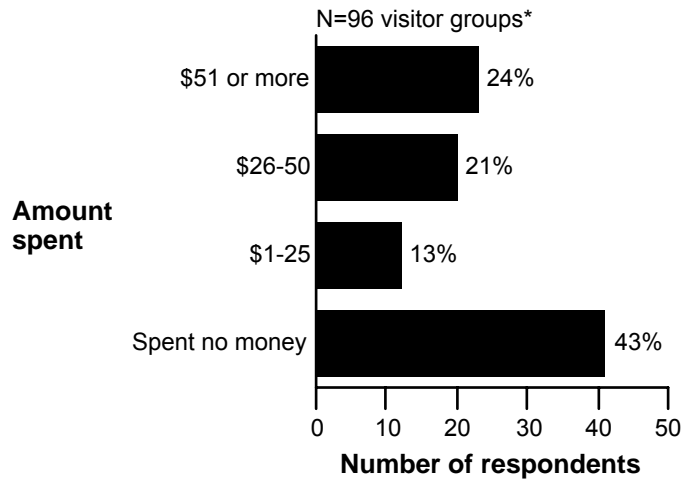


Figure 99: Total expenditures inside the preserve

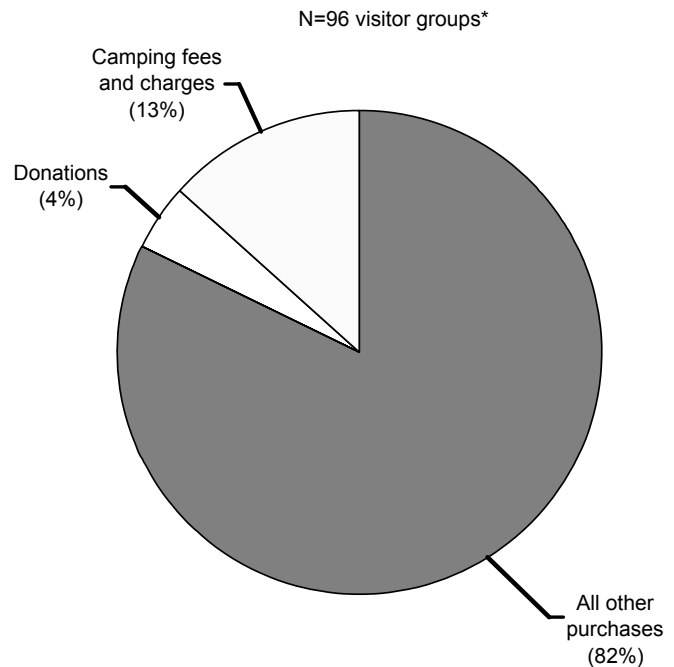


Figure 100: Proportions of total expenditures inside the preserve

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Camping fees and charges

- 71% of visitor groups did not spend any money for camping fees and charges (see Figure 101).
- 27% spent \$21 or more.

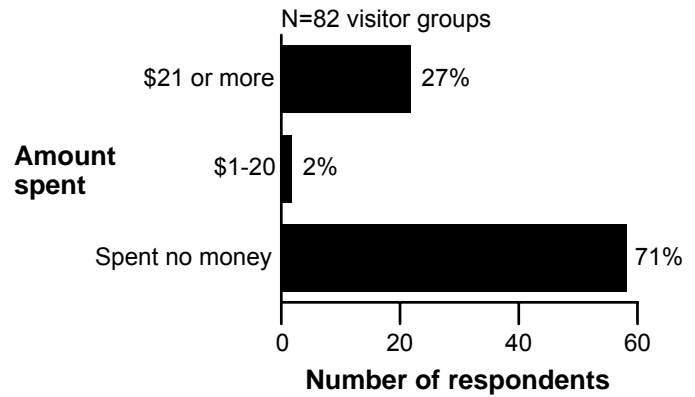


Figure 101: Expenditures for camping fees and charges inside the preserve

All other purchases (souvenirs, film, books, sporting goods, clothing, etc.)

- 62% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 102).
- 30% spent \$21 or more.

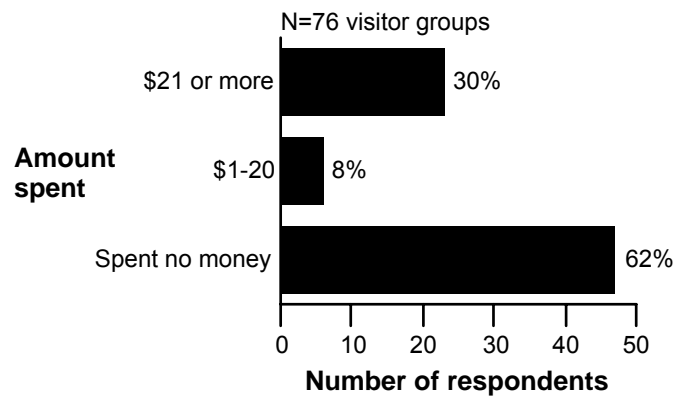


Figure 102: Expenditures for all other purchases inside the preserve

Donations

- 83% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 103).
- 14% spent \$6 or more.

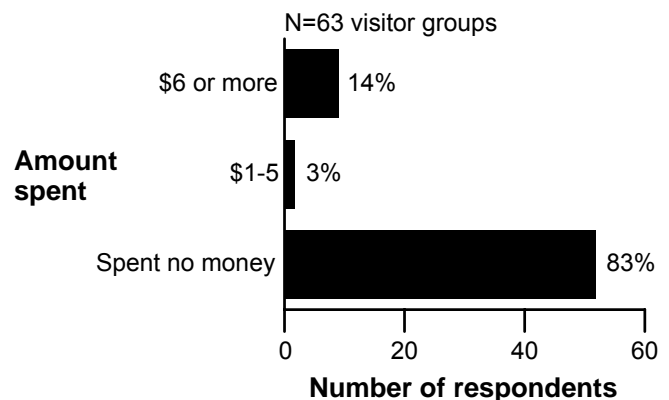


Figure 103: Expenditures for donations inside the preserve

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Expenditures in East Coast (Atlantic Coast) communities

Question 23b

Please list your group’s total expenditures in the surrounding area (areas south of Lake Okeechobee) on the East Coast (Atlantic Coast).

Note: Surrounding area residents should only include expenditures that were directly related to this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

Results

- 46% of visitor groups spent up to \$200 on the East Coast (see Figure 104).
- 21% did not spend any money.
- 18% spent \$401 or more.
- The average visitor group expenditure on the East Coast was \$348.
- The median expenditure (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was \$135.
- Average total expenditure per person (per capita) was \$118.
- As shown in Figure 105, the largest proportions of total expenditures on the East Coast were:

- 38% Gas and oil (auto, RV, boat, etc.)
- 23% Groceries and takeout food
- 12% All other purchases

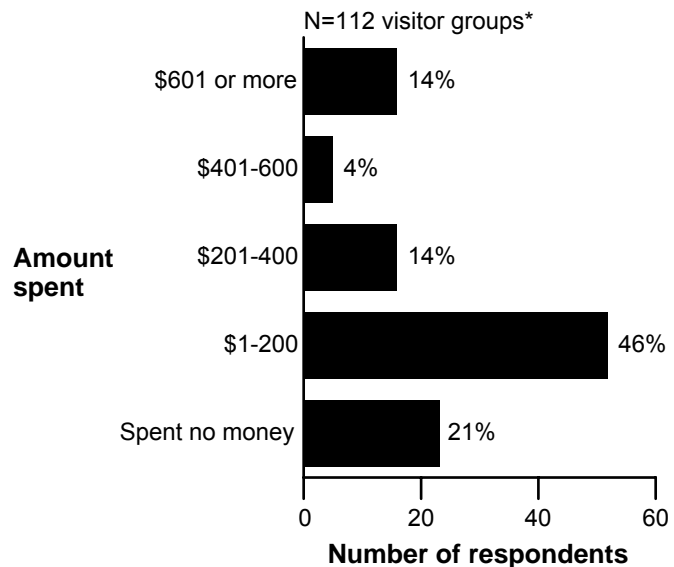


Figure 104: Total expenditures on the East Coast

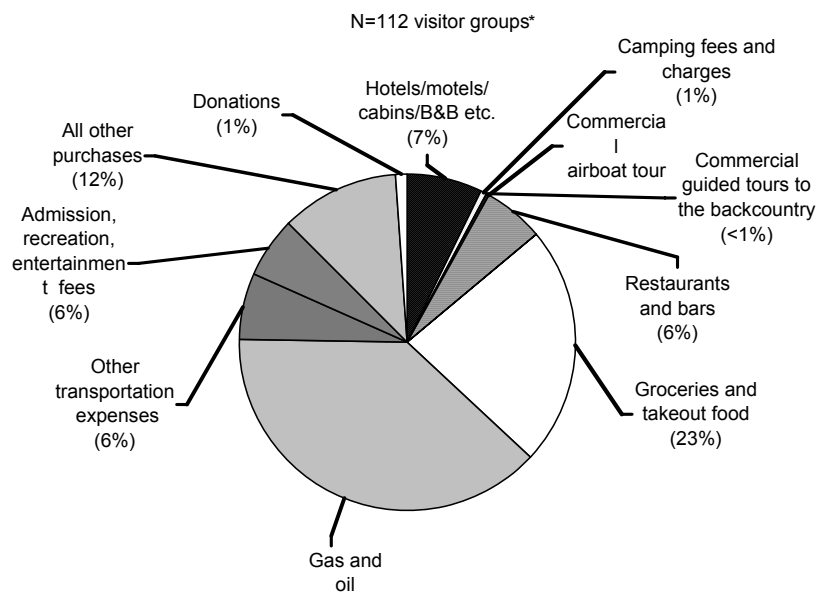


Figure 105: Proportions of total expenditures on the East Coast

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc.

- 91% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 106).
- 4% spent up to \$200.

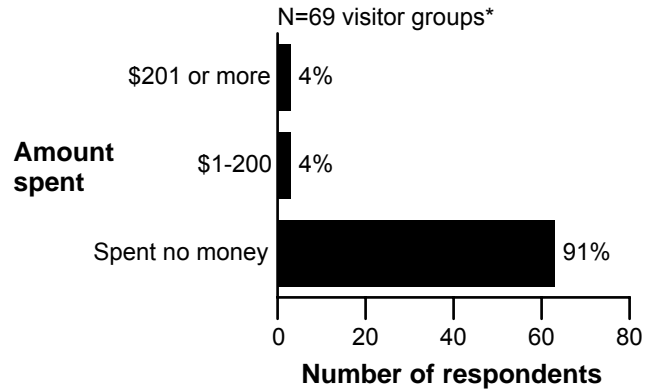


Figure 106: Expenditures for hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc. on the East Coast

Camping fees and charges

- 94% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 107).
- 5% spent up to \$100.

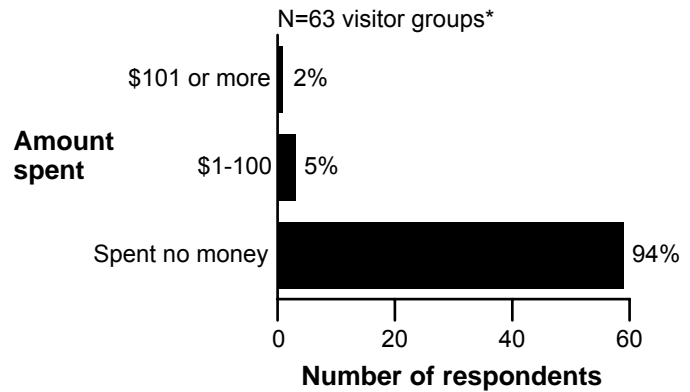


Figure 107: Expenditures for camping fees and charges on the East Coast

Commercial guided tours to the backcountry

- 98% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 108).
- 2% spent up to \$60.

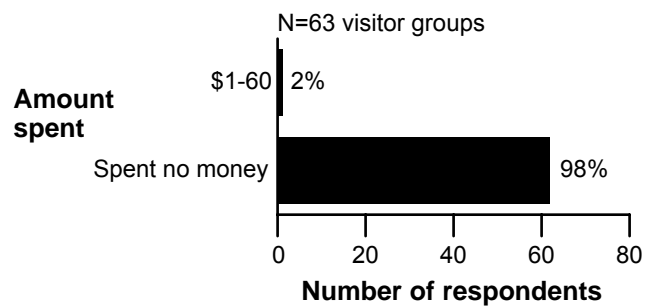


Figure 108: Expenditures for commercial guided tours to the backcountry on the East Coast

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Commercial airboat tour

- No money was spent for commercial airboat tours on the East Coast.

Restaurants and bars

- 77% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 109).
- 14% spent up to \$100.

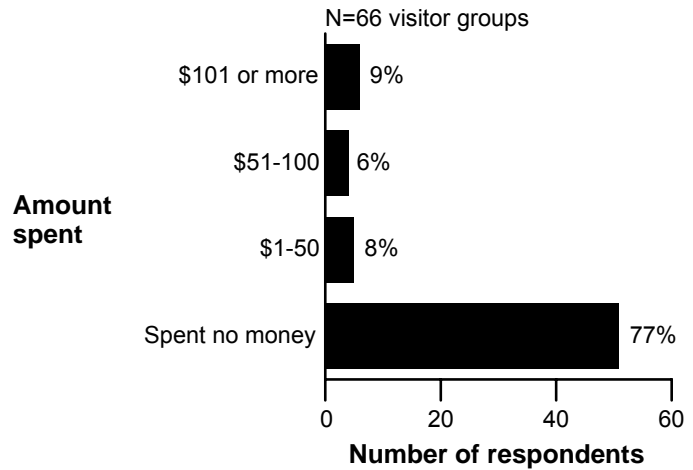


Figure 109: Expenditures for restaurants and bars on the East Coast

Groceries and takeout food

- 42% of visitor groups spent \$51 or more (see Figure 110).
- 29% spent up to \$50.
- 28% did not spend any money.

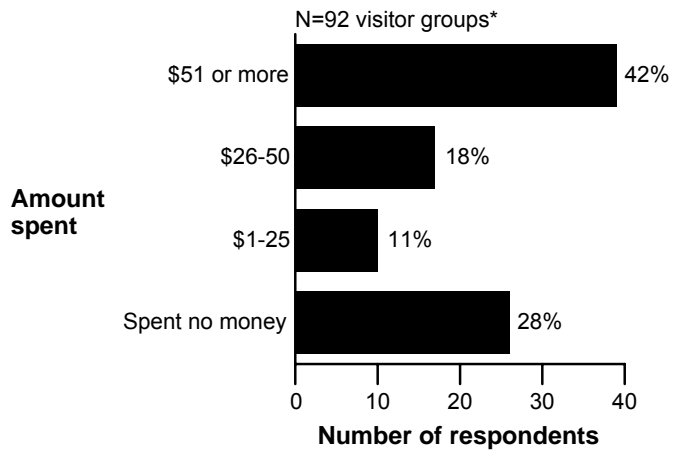


Figure 110: Expenditures for groceries and takeout food on the East Coast

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Gas and oil (auto, RV, boat, etc.)

- 41% of visitor groups spent \$51 to \$100 (see Figure 111).
- 21% did not spend any money.

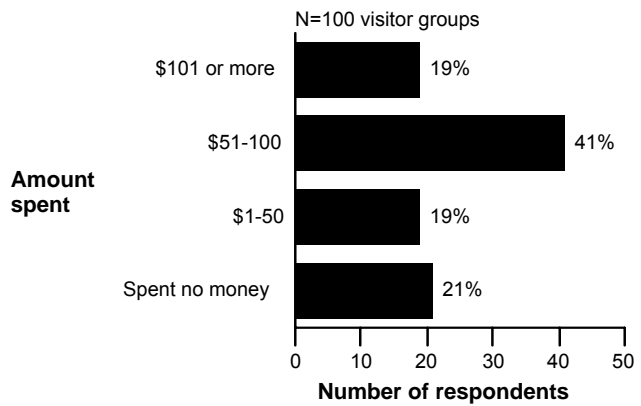


Figure 111: Expenditures for gas and oil on the East Coast

Other transportation expenses (rental cars, taxis, auto repairs, but not airfare)

- 88% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 112).
- 6% spent \$101 or more.

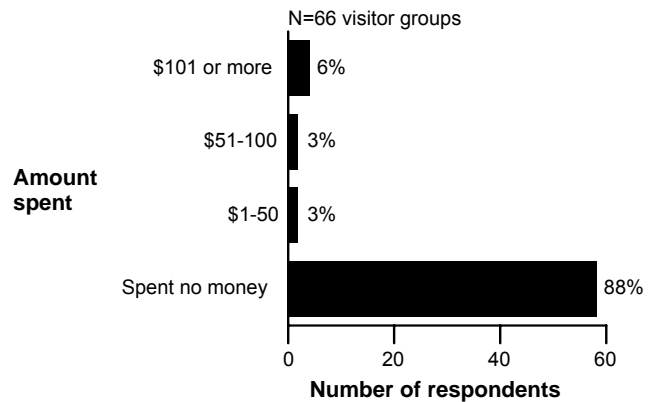


Figure 112: Expenditures for other transportation expenses on the East Coast

Admission, recreation, and entertainment fees

- 69% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 113).
- 19% spent up to \$50.

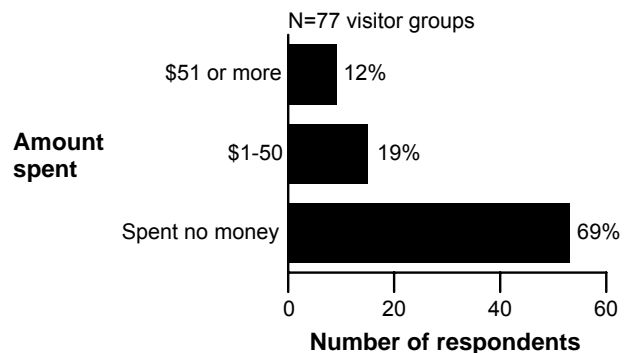


Figure 113: Expenditures for admission, recreation, and entertainment fees on the East Coast

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

All other purchases (souvenirs, film, books, sporting goods, clothing, etc.)

- 68% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 114).
- 21% spent \$51 or more.
- 11% spent up to \$50.

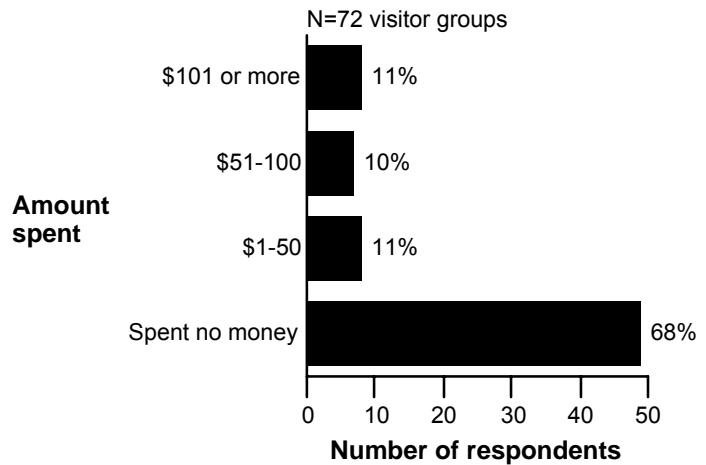


Figure 114: Expenditures for all other purchases on the East Coast

Donations

- 94% of visitor groups did not donate any money (see Figure 115).

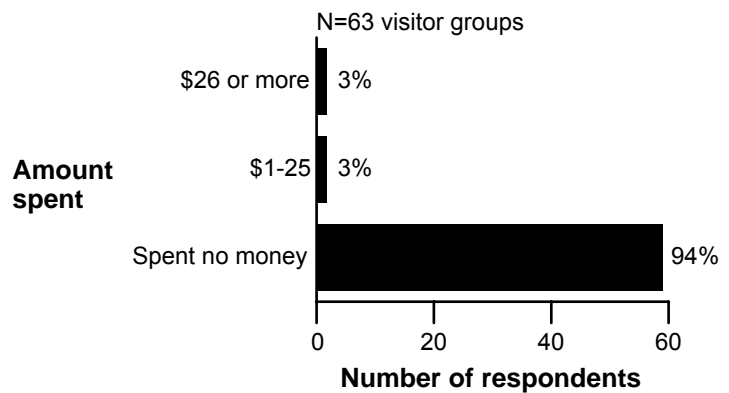


Figure 115: Expenditures for all donations on the East Coast

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Expenditures in West Coast (Gulf Coast) communities

Question 23c

Please list your group's total expenditures in the surrounding area (areas south of Lake Okeechobee) on the West Coast (Gulf coast).

Note: Surrounding area residents should only include expenditures that were directly related to this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

Results

- 34% did not spend any money on the West coast (see Figure 116).
- 24% spent up to \$200.
- 20% spent \$201 to \$400.
- The average visitor group expenditure on the West coast was \$621.
- The median expenditure (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was \$163.
- Average total expenditure per person (per capita) was \$207.
- As shown in Figure 117, the largest proportions of total expenditures on the West coast were:

- 32% Groceries and takeout food.
- 22% Gas and oil
- 14% Hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc.
- 14% All other purchases

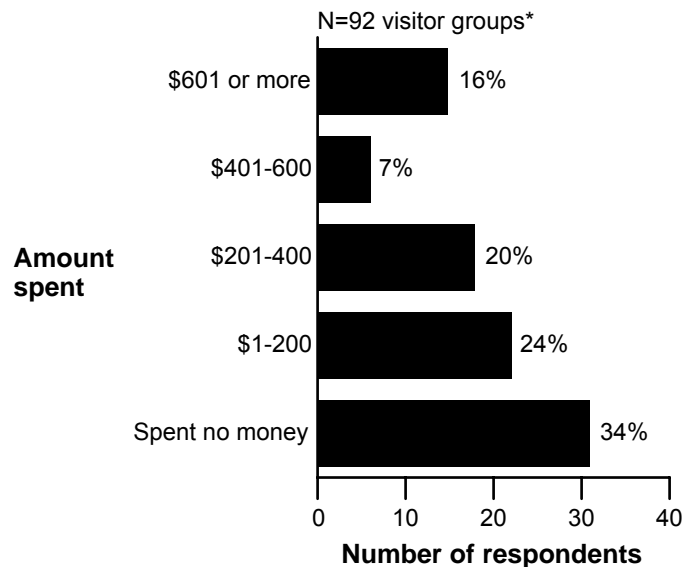


Figure 116: Total expenditures on the West Coast

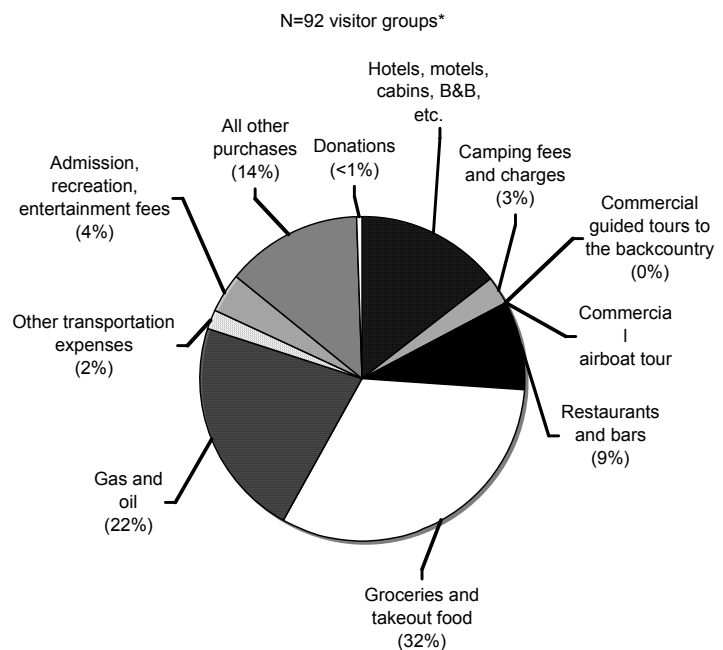


Figure 117: Proportions of total expenditures on the West Coast

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc.

- 88% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 118).
- 10% spent \$201 or more.

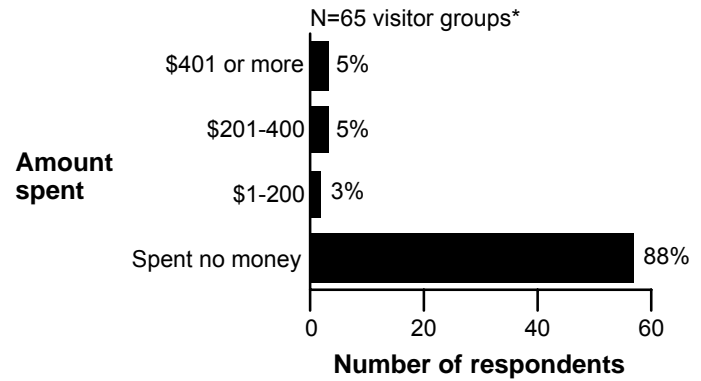


Figure 118: Expenditures for hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc. on the West Coast

Camping fees and charges

- 90% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 119).
- 7% spent up to \$100.

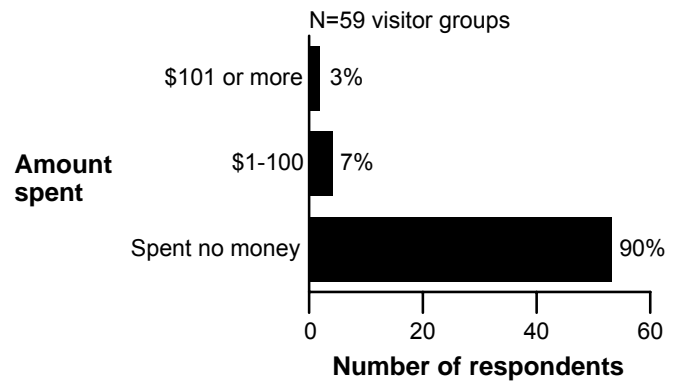


Figure 119: Expenditures for camping fees and charges on the West Coast

Commercial guided tours to the backcountry

- No money was spent for commercial guided tours to the backcountry on the West Coast.

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Commercial airboat tour

- No money was spent for commercial airboat tours on the West Coast.

Restaurants and bars

- 64% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 120).
- 23% spent \$51 or more.

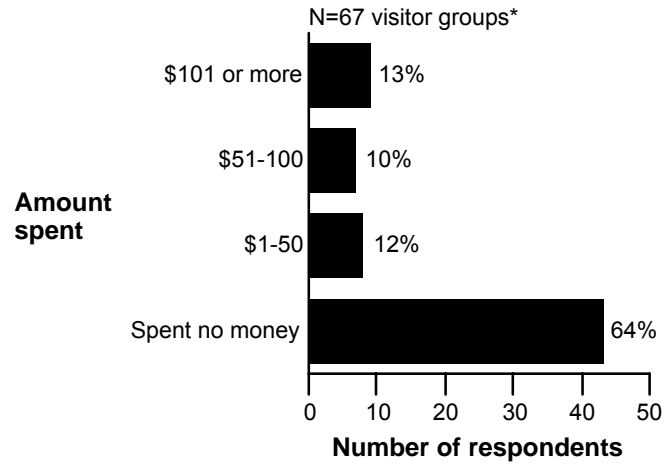


Figure 120: Expenditures for restaurants and bars on the West Coast

Groceries and takeout food

- 40% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 121).
- 30% spent \$101 or more.
- 18% spent up to \$50.

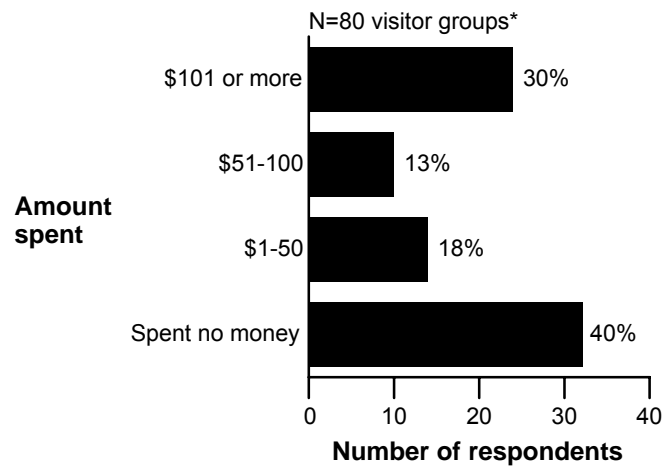


Figure 121: Expenditures for groceries and takeout food on the West Coast

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Gas and oil (auto, RV, boat, etc.)

- 51% spent \$51 or more.
- 34% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 122).

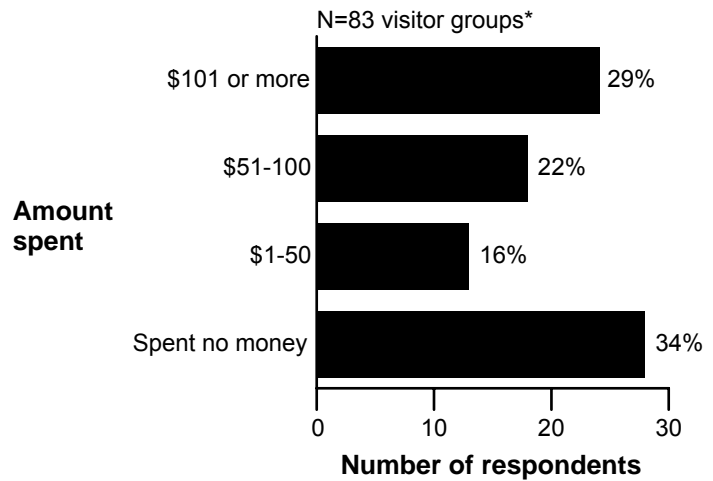


Figure 122: Expenditures for gas and oil on the West Coast

Other transportation expenses (rental cars, taxis, auto repairs, but not airfare)

- 90% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 123).
- 9% spent up to \$200.

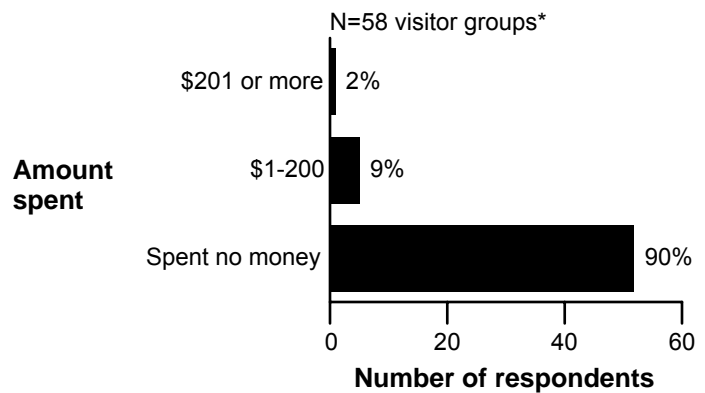


Figure 123: Expenditures for other transportation expenses on the West Coast

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Admission, recreation, and entertainment fees

- 76% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 124).
- 16% spent \$51 or more.

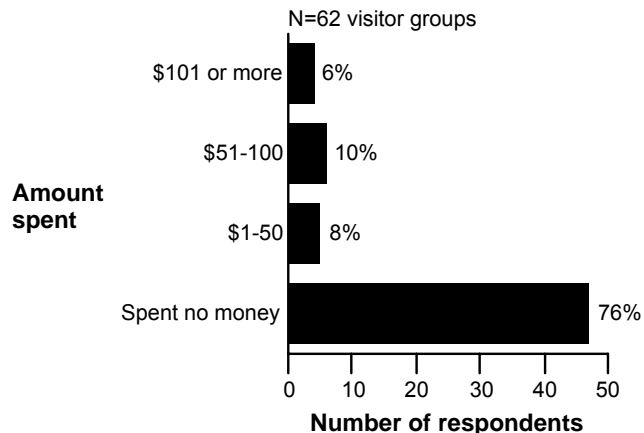


Figure 124: Expenditures for admission, recreation, and entertainment fees on the West Coast

All other purchases (souvenirs, film, books, sporting goods, clothing, etc.)

- 70% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 125).
- 22% spent up to \$100.

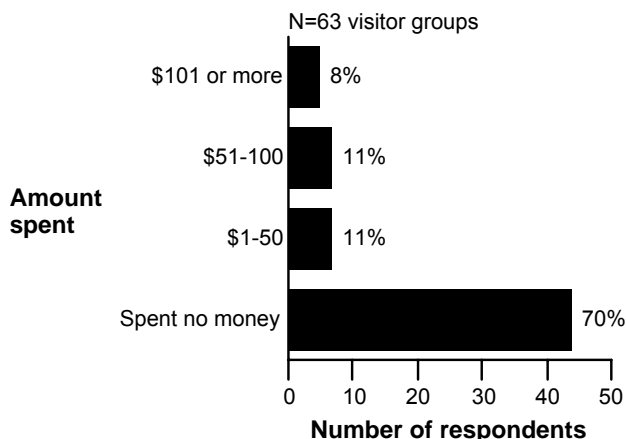


Figure 125: Expenditures for all other purchases on the West Coast

Donations

- 94% of visitor groups did not donate any money (see Figure 126).
- 4% donated \$26 or more.

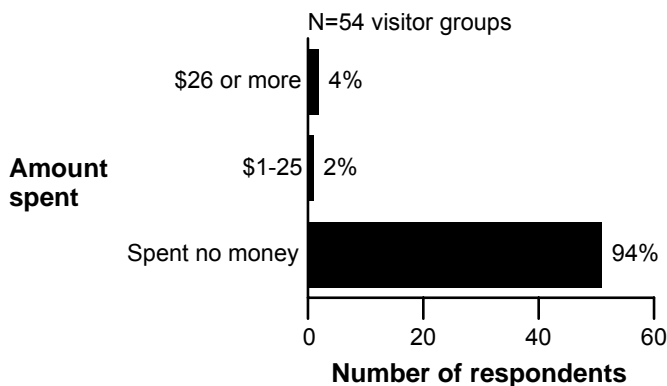


Figure 126: Expenditures for donations on the West Coast

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Preferences for future visit

Future visit to Big Cypress National Preserve Addition

Question 11

149,000 acres of land were authorized as “The Big Cypress Addition Lands” and added to Big Cypress National Preserve in 1988. The General Management Plan for this area is currently in the planning stages.

Question 11a

On a future visit, would you be likely to visit the Big Cypress Addition Lands area of Big Cypress National Preserve?

Results

- 71% of visitor groups were likely to visit the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition on a future visit (see Figure 127).
- 17% were “not sure.”

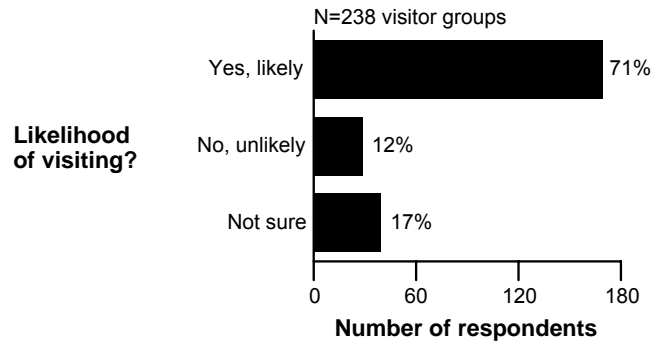


Figure 127: Likelihood of visiting the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition in the future

Question 11b

On a future visit, would you be more likely to visit the Big Cypress Addition Lands area if outfitters/guides were available?

Results

- 67% of visitor groups were “unlikely” to visit Big Cypress National Preserve Addition on a future visit if outfitters/guides were available (see Figure 128).
- 18% were “likely to visit” if outfitters/guides were available.

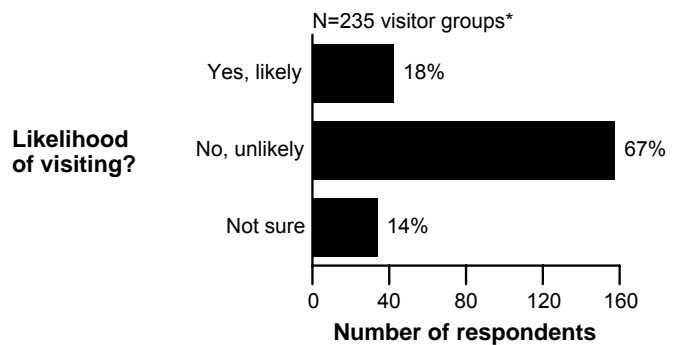


Figure 128: Likelihood of visiting the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition in the future if outfitters/guides were available

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Question 11c

What type of activities would you like to have available there? (open-ended)

Results

- 79% of visitor groups (N=188) responded to this question.
- Table 16 shows a summary of visitor comments.

Table 16: Activities available in Big Cypress National Preserve Addition
N=398 comments;
some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
CAMPING	
Camping	50
Backcountry	4
Primitive camping	2
NATURE VIEWING	
Wildlife viewing	7
Frogging	3
Birdwatching	2
WATER ACTIVITIES	
Fishing	41
Airboating	14
Canoeing	4
Kayaking	2
ACCESS TO FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES	
Roads/trails	10
Access to Addition Lands	4
More access points	3
Vehicle access	2
MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE	
Off road driving	80
ATV use	18
Swamp buggy use	10
Four-wheeling	3
Other comments	2
OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Hunting	100
Other comments	13
Hiking/walking	12
Same activities as in the preserve	6
All	3
Guided activities	3

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Commercial services

Question 25

On a future visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, what commercial services, such as airboat tours, canoe, or kayak rentals, would you and your group like to use, if they were available?

Results

- 28% of visitor groups would be interested in commercial services on a future visit (see Figure 129).
- As shown in Figure 130, the commercial services visitor groups would like to have available on a future visit included:
 - 57% airboat tours
 - 52% canoe rentals
 - 41% kayak rentals
- “Other” commercial services (33%) included:
 - ATV tour
 - Buggy ride
 - ATV rental
 - Helicopter ride
 - ORV tour
 - Access to off road campsites
 - Campsites
 - Guided hunting
 - Horseback rides
 - Long-term ORV parking

Interested in commercial services?

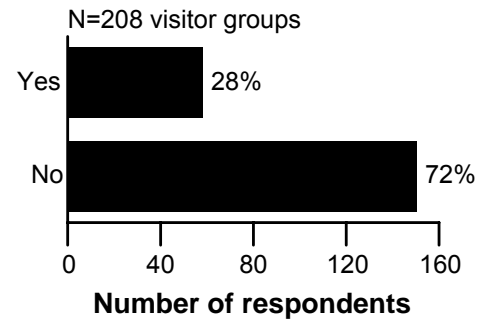


Figure 129: Interest in commercial services on a future visit

Commercial services

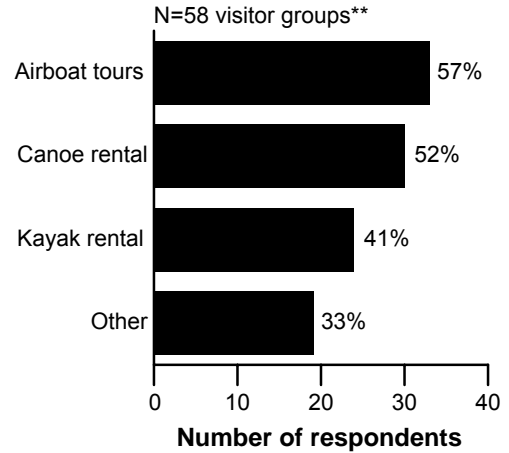


Figure 130: Commercial services available on a future visit

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Interpretive programs/information services

Question 26

On a future visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, what interpretive programs/information services would you and your group like to have available at the preserve?

Results

- 38% of visitor groups would be interested in interpretive programs on a future visit (see Figure 131).

- As shown in Figure 132, the interpretive programs/information services visitor groups would like to have available on a future visit included

62% outdoor exhibits and trailside information panels
44% nature walks available

- “Other” interpretive programs/information services (17%) included:

Backcountry camping with family
Gladesman cultures contribution to BICY
Information on Indians of the area
Information on management and regulations
Services in sign language
Swamp walks

Interested in interpretive programs?

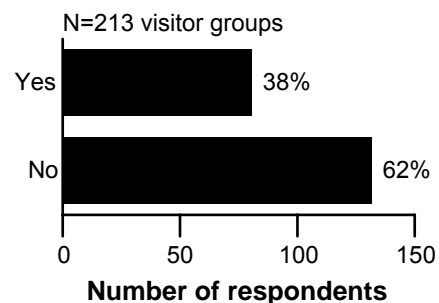


Figure 131: Interest in interpretive programs/information services on a future visit

Interpretive programs/information services

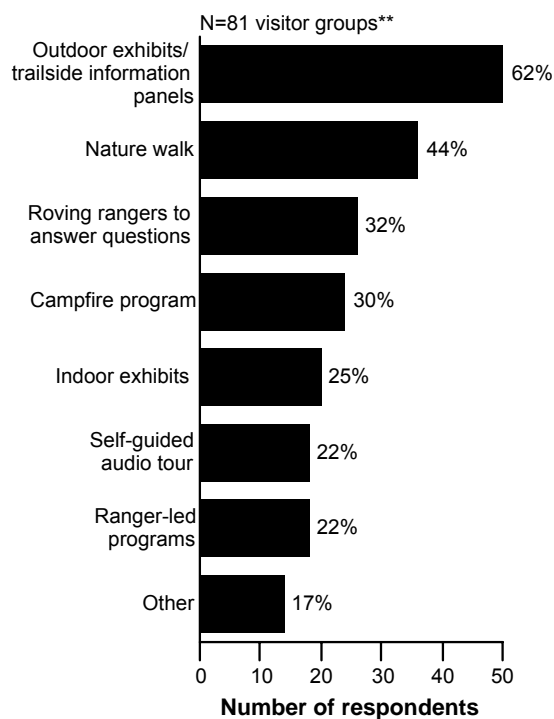


Figure 132: Interpretive programs/information services available on a future visit

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Overall Quality

Question 14

Overall, how would you and your group rate the quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities at Big Cypress National Preserve during your most recent visit?

Results

- 70% of visitor groups rated the overall quality as “very good” or “good” (see Figure 133).
- 4% rated the overall quality as “very poor” or “poor.”

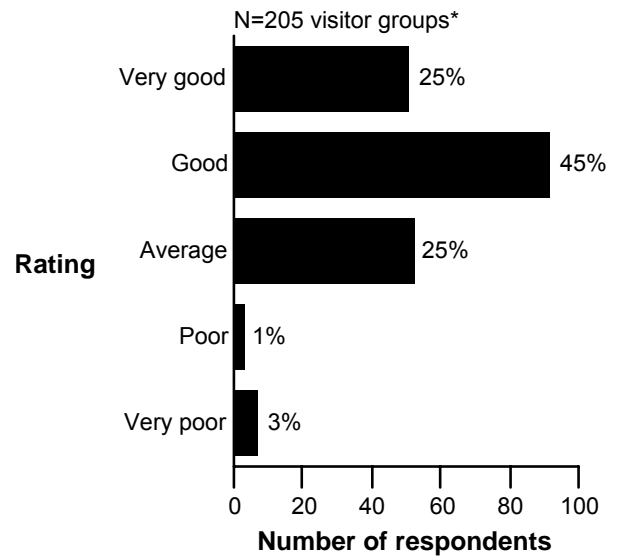


Figure 133: Overall quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities

*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

**total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Visitor Comments

What visitors liked most

Question 15a

What did you and your group like most about your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve?

Results

- 83% of visitor groups (N=198) responded to this question.
- Table 17 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of handwritten comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

Table 17: What visitors liked most

N=294 comments;
some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
Comments	4
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
Availability of information	3
Campfire programs	1
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE	
Trails	12
ORV trails	8
Campsites	4
Bear Island	3
Off-road trails	3
Four-wheel trails	2
Other comments	5
POLICIES/MANAGEMENT	
Easy access	5
ORV access	5
Other comments	8

**Table 17: What visitors liked most
(continued)**

Comment	Number of times mentioned
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
Lack of crowds	13
Hunting	10
Backcountry	8
Wilderness	8
Preserved naturalness	6
Wildlife	6
Fishing	4
Seeing game	2
Other comments	15
GENERAL COMMENTS	
Enjoyed nature/outdoors	20
Enjoyed the peace of the site	16
Solitude	15
Nature/wildlife viewing	13
Camping	11
Getting away	11
Riding ATVs	7
Riding ORVs	7
Beauty of the area	6
Scenery	6
Enjoyed the woods	5
Off-roading	5
Buggy riding	3
Enjoyed the visit	3
Liked the preserve	3
Airboat riding	2
Driving in the area	2
Feeling of freedom	2
Hiking	2
Lack of tourists	2
Photography	2
Relaxation	2
Returning to this place	2
Size of the preserve	2
Other comments	10

What visitors liked least

Question 15b

What did you and your group like least about your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve?

Results

- 70% of visitor groups (N=168) responded to this question.
- Table 18 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of hand-written comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

Table 18: What visitors liked least
N=193 comments;
some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
Harassment by preserve personnel	8
Lack of concessions	2
Other comments	2
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
Lack of detailed map	4
Lack of trail markers	4
Child safety courses	1
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE	
Poor trail system	17
Road condition	5
Roads	3
Gates	2
Trail condition	2
No drinking water	2
Other comments	8
POLICY/MANAGEMENT	
Limited access	13
Regulations	10
Staying on designated trails	7
Limited ATV access	6
Restricted ORV access	6
Limited airboat access	5
Few access points	4
Hunting dogs are forbidden	3
Restrictions on trail use	3
Animal feeding	2
Lack of concessions	2
No access from Rd. 29	2
Speeding	2
Other comments	9

**Table 18: What visitors liked least
(continued)**

Comment	Number of times mentioned
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
Not enough ORV trails	6
Low game populations	3
Vegetation on trails	3
Animal feeding	2
Too many ATVs	2
Crowded places	2
Other comments	7
GENERAL COMMENTS	
Nothing to dislike	14
Bugs/mosquitoes	8
Heat	4
Dry area	2
Limited time	2
Other comments	8

Planning for the future

Question 24

If you were a manager planning for the future of Big Cypress National Preserve, what would you propose?

Results

- 69% of visitor groups (N=165) responded to this question.
- Table 19 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of hand-written comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

Table 19: Planning for the future
N=274 comments;
some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
Reduce the number of law enforcement officers	2
Other comments	2
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
Add more markers to trails	3
Need better signage	2
Other comments	11
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE	
Add more ORV trails	14
Create more trails	11
Improve road condition	5
More camping facilities	5
Open closed area	3
Create more ATV trails	2
Create more hunting areas	2
Create more off road trails	2
Keep the preserve clean	2
More entrance points	2
No more rock roads	2
Safer parking facilities	2
Other comments	16

**Table 19: Planning for the future
(continued)**

Comment	Number of times mentioned
POLICIES/MANAGEMENT	
Allow more access	16
Keep the preserve as it is	7
Allow more ORV use	6
Keep the preserve for recreational use	6
Allow more ORV access	5
Keep the preserve natural	5
Allow more airboats	4
Bring back the old rules and regulations	4
More ATV use	4
Re-examine the ORV weight limit	4
Allow access to sportsmen	3
Allow double riding on ATVs	3
Do not allow commercialization	3
Go back to the traditional use	3
Limit ORV use	3
Limit vehicles to designated trails	3
Open closed area	2
Allow more primitive camping	2
Forbid the use of generators	2
Give more bike access	2
Improve access to Bear Island	2
Improve safety	2
Keep a balance between human activities and preservation	2
Keep out the tree huggers	2
Limit future development	2
Other comments	26
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
Allow more hunting	12
More controlled burning	5
Manage water flow	3
Control exotic species	3
Allow bow hunting	2
Allow more fishing	2
Food availability	2
Game management	2
Other comments	13
GENERAL COMMENTS	
Camping	2
Getting off the trails	2
Other comments	15

Additional comments

Question 29

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve?

Results

- 59% of visitor groups (N=141) responded to this question.
- Table 20 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of handwritten comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

Table 20: Additional comments

N=285 comments;
some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
More rangers present in the backcountry	2
Staff was nice	2
Other comments	6
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
Need more information	2
Other comments	3
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE	
Need more trails	7
Need better ORV trails	5
Improve road conditions	3
Provide open access	4
Improve trail condition	3
More camping areas	3
Create better airboat trails	2
Expand ATV trails	2
Have better maintenance	2
Hope to see more access points at Addition Lands area	2
Need more drinking water	2
Not enough room	2
Remove designated trails	2
Too crowded	2
Other comments	15

**Table 20: Additional comments
(continued)**

Comment	Number of times mentioned
POLICIES/MANAGEMENT	
Increase accessibility	12
Review and adjust the regulations	11
Increase ORV access points	3
Return to the traditional use of the preserve	3
Access to Bear Island is limited	2
Measures to increase revenues	2
Outdated tire regulations	2
Other comments	16
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	
Keep preserving it	12
Need more game	4
Control panther population	2
Need more hunting areas	2
Open Bird Cage area	2
Other comments	13
GENERAL COMMENTS	
Enjoyed visit	26
Beautiful place	13
Thank you	11
Long time visitor	10
Will return in the future	7
I like hunting in the preserve	6
Let us continue using the preserve	6
Keep up the good work	5
Resident of the area	5
Enjoyed being outdoors	4
Had problems completing the questionnaire	4
Enjoyed ORV use	3
Like bringing more visitors	3
Property owners	3
Some visitors were speeding	2
Other comments	20

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: The Questionnaire

Appendix 2: Additional Analysis

The Visitor Services Project (VSP) offers the opportunity to learn more from VSP visitor study data. Additional analysis can be done using the preserve's VSP visitor study data that was collected and entered into the computer. Two-way and three-way cross tabulations can be made of any of the characteristics listed below. Be as specific as possible—you may select a single program/service/facility instead of all that were listed in the questionnaire. Include your name, address and phone number in the request.

- Date of most recent visit
- Awareness of different management of national preserves and national parks
- Obtained additional information?
- Sources of information used prior to visit
- Sources of information preferred for future visits
- Received needed information
- Places visited in area
- Number of hours spent in the preserve
- Number of days spent in the preserve
- Stay overnight away from home?
- Number of nights inside the preserve
- Number of nights on East Coast (Atlantic Coast)
- Number of nights on West Coast (Gulf Coast)
- Type of lodging used inside the preserve
- Type of lodging used on East Coast
- Type of lodging used on West Coast
- Number of preserve entries
- Number of vehicles
- Members arriving by airplane
- Preserve as destination
- Preserve sites visited
- Wildlife management unit used
- Activities participated in
- Frequency of activities
- Visit Addition area in the future
- Visit Addition Lands if outfitters/guides are available
- Facilities used
- Importance of facilities
- Quality of facilities
- Crowdedness of facilities
- Information services used
- Importance of information services
- Quality of information services
- Overall quality
- Commercial guided tour group?
- Educational group
- Other organized group
- Group type
- Group size
- Visitor age
- State of residence
- Country of residence
- Number of visits in past 12 months
- Number of visits in lifetime
- Hispanic/Latino ethnicity
- Visitor race
- Importance of attributes/resources
- Expenditures inside the preserve
- Expenditures on East Coast,
- Expenditures on West Coast
- Number of adults/children covered by expenditures
- Commercial services available on a future visit
- Interpretation programs/information services available on a future visit
- Desire to explore the backcountry
- Ability to access the backcountry
- Vehicle/equipment used to access backcountry
- Use vehicle/equipment primarily in Big Cypress preserve
- Year of purchase
- Purchased in South Florida
- Cost of vehicle/equipment
- Condition of vehicle/equipment

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Appendix 3: Decision Rules for Checking Non-response Bias

There are several methods for checking non-response bias. However, the most common way is to use some demographic indicators to compare between respondents and non-respondents (Dey 1997; Salant and Dillman 1994; Dillman 2000; Dillman, 2007; Stoop 2004). Two variables were used to check non-response bias. Respondents and non-respondents were compared to determine if they were from different mailing groups (permit holders vs. camp owner) or from different geographical areas (by Florida counties and outside of Florida) where they live.

The null hypotheses are:

1. Respondents from different group types (permit holder vs. landowner) are equally represented
2. Respondents from different strata (Florida county mailing addresses) are equally represented.

As shown in Tables 1&2, both p-values are greater than 0.05. Respondents are equally represented in both scenarios (group types and mailing strata). Thus, the non-response bias is judged to be insignificant.

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Appendix 4: Visitor Services Project Publications

Reports 1-6 (pilot studies) are available from the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit. All other VSP reports listed are available from the parks where the studies were conducted or from the UI PSU. All studies were conducted in summer unless otherwise noted.

1982

1. Mapping interpretive services: A pilot study at Grand Teton National Park.

1983

2. Mapping interpretive services: Identifying barriers to adoption and diffusion of the method.
3. Mapping interpretive services: A follow-up study at Yellowstone National Park and Mt Rushmore National Memorial.
4. Mapping visitor populations: A pilot study at Yellowstone National Park.

1985

5. North Cascades National Park Service Complex
6. Crater Lake National Park

1986

7. Gettysburg National Military Park
8. Independence National Historical Park
9. Valley Forge National Historical Park

1987

10. Colonial National Historical Park (summer & fall)
11. Grand Teton National Park
12. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
13. Mesa Verde National Park
14. Shenandoah National Park (summer & fall)
15. Yellowstone National Park
16. Independence National Historical Park: Four Seasons Study

1988

17. Glen Canyon National Recreational Area
18. Denali National Park and Preserve
19. Bryce Canyon National Park
20. Craters of the Moon National Monument

1989

21. Everglades National Park (winter)
22. Statue of Liberty National Monument
23. The White House Tours, President's Park

1989 (continued)

24. Lincoln Home National Historic Site
25. Yellowstone National Park
26. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
27. Muir Woods National Monument

1990

28. Canyonlands National Park (spring)
29. White Sands National Monument
30. National Monuments & Memorials, Washington, D.C.
31. Kenai Fjords National Park
32. Gateway National Recreation Area
33. Petersburg National Battlefield
34. Death Valley National Monument
35. Glacier National Park
36. Scott's Bluff National Monument
37. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

1991

38. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (spring)
39. Joshua Tree National Monument (spring)
40. The White House Tours, President's Park (spring)
41. Natchez Trace Parkway (spring)
42. Stehekin-North Cascades NP/ Lake Chelan NRA
43. City of Rocks National Reserve
44. The White House Tours, President's Park (fall)

1992

45. Big Bend National Park (spring)
46. Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (spring)
47. Glen Echo Park (spring)
48. Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
49. Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
50. Zion National Park
51. New River Gorge National River
52. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, AK
53. Arlington House-The Robert E. Lee Memorial

Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)**1993**

- 54. Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve (spring)
- 55. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (spring)
- 56. Whitman Mission National Historic Site
- 57. Sitka National Historical Park
- 58. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
- 59. Redwood National Park
- 60. Channel Islands National Park
- 61. Pecos National Historical Park
- 62. Canyon de Chelly National Monument
- 63. Bryce Canyon National Park (fall)

1994

- 64. Death Valley National Monument Backcountry (winter)
- 65. San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (spring)
- 66. Anchorage Alaska Public Lands Information Center
- 67. Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts
- 68. Nez Perce National Historical Park
- 69. Edison National Historic Site
- 70. San Juan Island National Historical Park
- 71. Canaveral National Seashore
- 72. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (fall)
- 73. Gettysburg National Military Park (fall)

1995

- 74. Grand Teton National Park (winter)
- 75. Yellowstone National Park (winter)
- 76. Bandelier National Monument
- 77. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
- 78. Adams National Historic Site
- 79. Devils Tower National Monument
- 80. Manassas National Battlefield Park
- 81. Booker T. Washington National Monument
- 82. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
- 83. Dry Tortugas National Park

1996

- 84. Everglades National Park (spring)
- 85. Chiricahua National Monument (spring)
- 86. Fort Bowie National Historic Site (spring)
- 87. Great Falls Park, Virginia (spring)
- 88. Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- 89. Chamizal National Memorial
- 90. Death Valley National Park (fall)
- 91. Prince William Forest Park (fall)
- 92. Great Smoky Mountains National Park (summer & fall)

1997

- 93. Virgin Islands National Park (winter)
- 94. Mojave National Preserve (spring)
- 95. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site (spring)
- 96. Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial
- 97. Grand Teton National Park
- 98. Bryce Canyon National Park
- 99. Voyageurs National Park
- 100. Lowell National Historical Park

1998

- 101. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve (spring)
- 102. Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (spring)
- 103. Cumberland Island National Seashore (spring)
- 104. Iwo Jima/Netherlands Carillon Memorials
- 105. National Monuments & Memorials, Washington, D.C.
- 106. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, AK
- 107. Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
- 108. Acadia National Park

1999

- 109. Big Cypress National Preserve (winter)
- 110. San Juan National Historic Site, Puerto Rico (winter)
- 111. St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
- 112. Rock Creek Park
- 113. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
- 114. Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve
- 115. Kenai Fjords National Park
- 116. Lassen Volcanic National Park
- 117. Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (fall)

Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)**2000**

- 118. Haleakala National Park (spring)
- 119. White House Tour and White House Visitor Center (spring)
- 120. USS Arizona Memorial
- 121. Olympic National Park
- 122. Eisenhower National Historic Site
- 123. Badlands National Park
- 124. Mount Rainier National Park

2001

- 125. Biscayne National Park (spring)
- 126. Colonial National Historical Park (Jamestown)
- 127. Shenandoah National Park
- 128. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
- 129. Crater Lake National Park
- 130. Valley Forge National Historical Park

2002

- 131. Everglades National Park
- 132. Dry Tortugas National Park
- 133. Pinnacles National Monument
- 134. Great Sand Dunes National Monument & Preserve
- 135. Pipestone National Monument
- 136. Outer Banks Group (Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Ft. Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial)
- 137. Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks and Sequoia National Forest
- 138. Catoclin Mountain Park
- 139. Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site
- 140. Stones River National Battlefield

2003

- 141. Gateway National Recreation Area: Floyd Bennett Field (spring)
- 142. Cowpens National Battlefield (spring)
- 143. Grand Canyon National Park – North Rim
- 144. Grand Canyon National Park – South Rim
- 145. C&O Canal National Historical Park
- 146. Capulin Volcano National Monument
- 147. Oregon Caves National Monument
- 148. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

2003 (continued)

- 149. Fort Stanwix National Monument
- 150. Arches National Park
- 151. Mojave National Preserve (fall)

2004

- 152. Joshua Tree National Park (spring)
- 153. New River Gorge National River
- 154. George Washington Birthplace National Monument
- 155. Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve
- 156. Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
- 157. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
- 158. Keweenaw National Historical Park
- 159. Effigy Mounds National Monument
- 160. Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site
- 161. Manzanar National Historic Site
- 162. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

2005

- 163. Congaree National Park
- 164. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
- 165. Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- 166. Chickasaw National Recreation Area
- 167. Timpanogos Cave National Monument
- 168. Yosemite National Park
- 169. Fort Sumter National Monument
- 170. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- 171. Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- 172. Johnstown Flood National Memorial
- 173. Nicodemus National Historic Site

2006

- 174. Kings Mountain National Military Park (spring)
- 175. John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site
- 176. Devils Postpile National Monument
- 177. Mammoth Cave National Park
- 178. Yellowstone National Park
- 179. Monocacy National Battlefield
- 180. Denali National Park & Preserve
- 181. Golden Spike National Historic Site
- 182. Katmai National Park and Preserve
- 183. Zion National Park (spring and fall)

Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)

2007

184.1 Big Cypress National Preserve (spring)

184.2 Big Cypress National Preserve ORV
Permit Holder/Camp Owner (spring)

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the University of Idaho
Park Studies Unit, website: www.psu.uidaho.edu or phone (208) 885-7863.

Visitor Comments Appendix

This section contains complete visitor comments of all open-ended questions and is bound separately from this report due to its size.

