

Executive Summary

- This report describes the results of a visitor study at Grand Teton National Park conducted the week of July 12-18, 1987. Questionnaires were given to 1,500 visitors and 499 were returned, a 33% response rate.
- The report is in two volumes. Volume 1 provides a statistical profile of the people who visited Grand Teton. Volume 2 has their general comments about the park (a summary is included in Volume 1).
- Visitors were most likely to be in family groups of two to four people. Fifty-eight percent of visitors were making their first visit to Grand Teton. Thirty-six percent of U.S. visitors came from the states of California, Idaho, Utah, Colorado and Illinois.
- Most visitors stayed from one to two days, although 30% stayed longer. Visiting the visitor center, viewing roadside exhibits, shopping and hiking for less than two hours were the most common activities.
- The sites that received the greatest amount of visitation were Jenny/String Lakes, Colter Bay and Moose. On arrival day in the park, Jenny/String Lakes and Colter Bay received the highest proportions of first stop visitors.
- Information or interpretation services most used were the park map/brochure, park direction signs, visitor centers and the park newspaper. Almost all services were highly valued. Services receiving the highest usefulness ratings included the museums, the map/brochure and the ranger-led walks.
- Visitors rated overnight lodging, automotive care, medical care and food services as highly important services. All services were considered to be of high quality, though food and air transportation services received the lowest ratings.
- Responses to special questions about Jenny/String Lakes and Colter Bay revealed that short hikes, and picnicking were common activities, with the most common Jenny/String Lakes activity being scenic driving and visiting the Visitor Center being the most common activity of Colter Bay visitors.
- Visitor opinions varied about what they would plan for Grand Teton in the future. Many visitors wanted to prohibit additional commercial development or keep the park in as natural a condition as possible.
- Visitors made many additional comments about their visit..