This report describes the results of a visitor study at Mount Rainier National Park August 18 - 27, 2000. A total of 1,043 questionnaires were distributed to visitors. Visitors returned 790 questionnaires for a 75.7% response rate.

This report profiles Mount Rainier National Park visitors. A separate appendix contains visitors' comments about their visit. This report and the appendix include summaries of those comments.

Over one-half of the visitor groups (56%) were family groups. Forty-two percent of visitor groups were groups of two; another 32% were in groups of three or four. Fifty-seven percent of visitors were aged 26-55 years, while 18% were aged 15 years or younger.

Fifty-one percent of visitors were male. Thirty-two percent of visitors had Bachelor's degrees, 27% had some college and 26% had graduate degrees. Two percent were of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. Most (94%) were of White racial background; 6% were Asian and 5% were of other backgrounds. Most visitors (90%) spoke English as their primary language; 10% spoke 28 other languages. Ninety-two percent of visitors had no disabilities. Five percent of those with disabilities encountered access/service problems in the park.

United States visitors were from Washington (64%), California (6%) and 44 other states, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. Six percent of all visitors were international: 20% percent were from Japan and another 15% were from Germany.

The sources of information most used by visitor groups were previous visits (57%), travel guide/tour book (34%), and friends/relatives (33%).

Most visitors (70%) were visiting Mount Rainier National Park for the first time. Sixty-nine percent spent less than one day at the park. Sixty-six percent of the visitors did not stay overnight in the area within 30 miles of the park. Seventy-nine percent of the visitors came to the area to visit Mount Rainier NP. Most (79%) arrived in the park in a private vehicle.

On this trip, the most commonly visited park sites were Paradise (62%), Longmire (38%) and Sunrise (27%). Visitors' first stops were most often Paradise (23%), Sunshine Point Campground/Picnic Area (15%) and Longmire (12%).

The activities that visitors most often participated in were day hiking (73%), viewing wildflowers (65%), driving to view scenery (63%), photography (56%) and visiting visitor centers (53%).

The most visited nearby sites included Olympic NP (44%), Mount St. Helens NVM (39%), Mount Baker/Snoqualmie NF (36%) and North Cascades NP (32%).

The average visitor group expenditure during this visit was $164. The average per capita expenditure was $69. The median visitor group expenditure (50% of groups spent more; 50% spent less) was $20.

Visitors rated the following park attributes as most important for future preservation of the park: clean air/water (96%), natural quiet/sounds of nature (92%), wildlife (92%) and native plants (90%).

The subject visitors were most interested in learning on a future visit was volcanoes/geology (68%). Their most preferred method of learning for the future was visitor center exhibits (67%).

Most visitor groups (90%) rated the overall quality of visitor services at Mount Rainier National Park as "very good" or "good." Visitors made many additional comments.