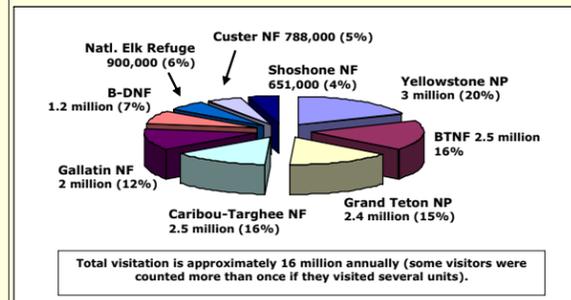


Working Together on Natural Resource Stewardship and Sustainable Recreation: Findings

Sponsored by the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee

The Greater Yellowstone Area is in great demand.



Visitation in the Parks is expected to grow slowly. Visitation to National Forests is expected to grow 10 to 15% in the fastest growing counties.



Snake River Canyon, Bridger-Teton National Forest

Recreation use patterns are changing.

- * Short day-use recreation activities have become more prevalent than multi-day or extended trips
- * Activities are changing. The most rapidly-growing summer activities are: fishing, motor boating, wildlife viewing and photography, sightseeing, visiting historic places, and rafting/floating.
- * Activities projected to have the highest use volume in 2050 include: wildlife viewing, sightseeing, walking, bicycling, and picnicking.



Bison watching in Grand Teton National Park



Extreme mountain biking in the Greater Yellowstone

Population of the Greater Yellowstone is growing.

Skyrocketing population growth has been identified as the single biggest challenge facing the west. In the last 30 years, the Rocky Mountain region has seen a 119% growth rate, compared to the national rate of 39%.



Residential subdivision, Teton County, Idaho

The Greater Yellowstone fills a Recreation Niche.

The Greater Yellowstone area has attributes that make it singular in the nation.

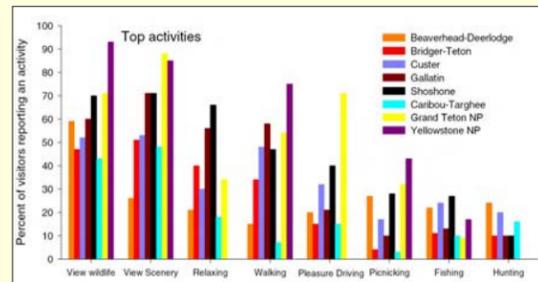
- * An essentially natural area that is remote and wild.
- * Superlative and unique geologic features accessible to the public.
- * Some of the premier wild rivers on the continent.
- * An opportunity to see spectacular mountain scenery.
- * An opportunity to climb some of those scenic mountains.
- * A region of historic, ecological, geological importance.
- * A variety of widely dispersed public and privately managed facilities, and services.
- * A place with clean water and clear air.
- * A place with nearly limitless hunting and fishing.
- * The full composition of native wildlife and fisheries.



Wolf watching in Grand Teton National Park

Running the Gallatin River, Gallatin National Forest

Profile of Greater Yellowstone Area visitors



- * Most visitors to National Forests live in the area or region close to the Forest, and there are many repeat visitors.
- * National Parks draw visitors from all over the country and the world - often just one time.

Opportunities for Federal Agencies

Information about activity participation, motivations for recreation, and what is drawing people to the GYA suggest that agencies can best serve the public by focusing on:

- * Opportunities to incorporate learning into viewing activities.
- * Opportunities to serve the growing interest in volunteerism, allowing citizens to interact with others and make meaningful contributions.
- * Protecting the condition of the natural environment and its wildlife.
- * Opportunities for quiet/recuperative recreation as well as for stimulation and challenge, recognizing that these activities are not always spatially compatible.
- * Promoting the health benefits of active outdoor recreation on public lands.
- * Providing opportunities for family activities.

Challenges in the Near Future for the Greater Yellowstone Area

- * New types of recreation using new technology- Need to pro-actively address them before issues arise.
- * Social conflicts - Need to address conflicting needs between quiet accessible recreation and the growing interest in adrenaline/challenge activities.
- * Infrastructure maintenance and improvements - Need to obtain additional alternative sources of funding in an era of declining federal programs, working with communities to provide quality recreation services.

Community-supported "sustainable" recreation opportunities are the key to the longevity of the Greater Yellowstone.

Wyoming and Hoback Ranges, Bridger-Teton National Forest

