Understanding the Results

Inside this report are graphs that present the combined survey results for the National Park System. The report contains three categories of data—park facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities. Within these categories are graphs for each indicator evaluated by park visitors. For example, the park facilities category includes indicators such as visitor center, exhibits, restrooms, and so forth. In addition, responses for indicators within each category are averaged into a combined graph for the category (e.g., combined park facilities).

Each graph includes the following information:

- the number of parks and visitor responses for the indicator;
- FY03 data (black), and baseline data (gray);
- the percentage of responses which were "very good," "good," "average," "poor," and "very poor;"
- a satisfaction measure that combines the percentage of total responses which were "very good" or "good;" and
- an average evaluation score (mean score) based on the following values: very poor = 1, poor = 2, average = 3, good = 4, very good = 5.

The higher the average evaluation score, the more positive the visitor response.

Overall quality of facilities, services & recreational opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>FY03: 304 parks; 26064 respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FY03: Satisfaction measure: 96%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

FY03 GPRA Reporting Measure for Goal IIa1

Percentage of park visitors satisfied overall with appropriate facilities, services, and recreational opportunities: 96%
National Park System
Park Facilities

Visitor Center
FY03: 304 parks; 25760 respondents
FY03: Satisfaction measure: 93%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Exhibits
FY03: 304 parks; 25892 respondents
FY03: Satisfaction measure: 92%
Average evaluation score: 4.5

Restrooms
FY03: 304 parks; 23693 respondents
FY03: Satisfaction measure: 84%
Average evaluation score: 4.3

Walkways, trails, and roads
FY03: 304 parks; 25617 respondents
FY03: Satisfaction measure: 92%
Average evaluation score: 4.5

Campgrounds and/or picnic areas
FY03: 304 parks; 11177 respondents
FY03: Satisfaction measure: 87%
Average evaluation score: 4.4
Assistance from park employees

FY03: 304 parks; 24199 respondents

- Very good: 79%
- Good: 18%
- Average: 3%
- Poor: 1%
- Very poor: 0%

FY03: Satisfaction measure: 96%
Average evaluation score: 4.7

Park map or brochure

FY03: 304 parks; 22488 respondents

- Very good: 66%
- Good: 27%
- Average: 3%
- Poor: 0%
- Very poor: 0%

FY03: Satisfaction measure: 94%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Ranger programs

FY03: 304 parks; 13070 respondents

- Very good: 70%
- Good: 24%
- Average: 5%
- Poor: 1%
- Very poor: 0%

FY03: Satisfaction measure: 94%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Commercial services in the park

FY03: 304 parks; 12481 respondents

- Very good: 40%
- Good: 35%
- Average: 19%
- Poor: 5%
- Very poor: 2%

FY03: Satisfaction measure: 75%
Average evaluation score: 4.1

Combined visitor services

FY03: 24199 responses (based on 4 indicators)

- Very good: 67%
- Good: 25%
- Average: 7%
- Poor: 2%
- Very poor: 1%

FY03: Satisfaction measure: 91%
Average evaluation score: 4.6
National Park System
Recreational Opportunities

Learning about nature, history, or culture
FY03: 304 parks; 24373 respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
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<th>Poor</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Very good</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY03</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline (FY98-02)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FY03: Satisfaction measure: 94%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Outdoor recreation
FY03: 304 parks; 13176 respondents

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Average</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Very good</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY03</td>
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<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline (FY98-02)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>59%</td>
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</table>

FY03: Satisfaction measure: 90%
Average evaluation score: 4.5

Sightseeing
FY03: 304 parks; 23957 respondents

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<tr>
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<th>Good</th>
<th>Very good</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY03</td>
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<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline (FY98-02)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FY03: Satisfaction measure: 94%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Combined recreational opportunities
FY03: 24373 responses (based on 3 indicators)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
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<th>Poor</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Very good</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>5%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline (FY98-02)</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FY03: Satisfaction measure: 93%
Average evaluation score: 4.6

Research Methods

Survey cards were distributed to a random sample of visitors in 324 units in the system during the periods from February 1- August 31, 2003. At each park, visitors were sampled at selected locations representative of the general visitor population. Returned cards were electronically scanned and the data analyzed. Responses from individual parks in the system were combined into one dataset. Data from parks with less than 30 returned cards, or from park with discrepancies in the data collection methods, were omitted from this report. Frequency distributions were calculated for each indicator and category.

All percentage calculations were rounded to the nearest percent. Therefore, individual percentages in each graph may not add to 100 percent. The response rate was calculated by dividing the total number of returned survey cards by the total number of survey cards distributed. The sample size (“N”) varies from figure to figure, depending on the number of responses.

For most indicators, the survey data are expected to be accurate within ±6% with 95% confidence. This means that if different samples had been drawn, the results would have been similar (±6%) 95 out of 100 times.

The results do not necessarily apply to visitors during other times of the year, to park visitors who did not visit the survey locations, or to park units in the system that did not participate in the survey.

For more information about the VSC contact Jennifer Hoger, VSC Project Coordinator at the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit (208) 885-4806

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