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Region 2

1999 Blackfoot River Creel Census

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
OBJECTIVES:.....	3
METHODS.....	4
RESULTS.....	6
CREEL DATA	6
FLOATER SURVEY	7
NON-FLOATER SURVEY.....	8
MAILBACK SURVEY.....	9
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	10
CREEL DATA	10
FLOATER AND NON-FLOATER SURVEY	11
MAILBACK SURVEY	11
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	12
LITERATURE CITED	13
APPENDIX A: INTERVIEW FORM	
APPENDIX B: MAILBACK SURVEY FORM	
APPENDIX C: BLACKFOOT RIVER FLOATER RESPONSES	
APPENDIX D: BLACKFOOT RIVER NON-FLOATER RESPONSES	

Introduction

In the last decade, fish densities and angling pressure have increased in the Blackfoot River in western Montana (Peters and Workman 1996; Schmetterling and Pierce 1999). Until the 1994 creel census, angling use of the Blackfoot River was not well understood. The creel census was conducted to determine creel information from anglers and determine user conflict information specific to the Blackfoot River drainage; this information is necessary for management decisions (Peters and Workman 1996).

Between 1990 and 1999, fishing regulations have not significantly changed in the mainstem Blackfoot River and tributaries, excluding the Clearwater drainage and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas. In 1990 fishing regulations were changed to limit angler harvest. Westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*) and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) angling was limited to catch and release in order to increase the numbers of spawning sized fish and protect the viability of populations. Also in 1990 a three fish limit of either brown trout or rainbow trout (*O. mykiss*), none over 12", was enacted. In 1998, bull trout received federal protection as a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act; currently there is no fishing for bull trout.

Pressure estimates for the Blackfoot River were conducted as part of a statewide inventory pressure estimates and angler satisfaction ratings (Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks [MFWP] 2000 a, b). The pressure estimates for the Blackfoot River from 1991 to 1995 showed trends of increased use on the Blackfoot River. The section of river from the Clearwater River confluence to Arrastra Creek confluence showed approximately a 300 % increase in angler days over this time period.

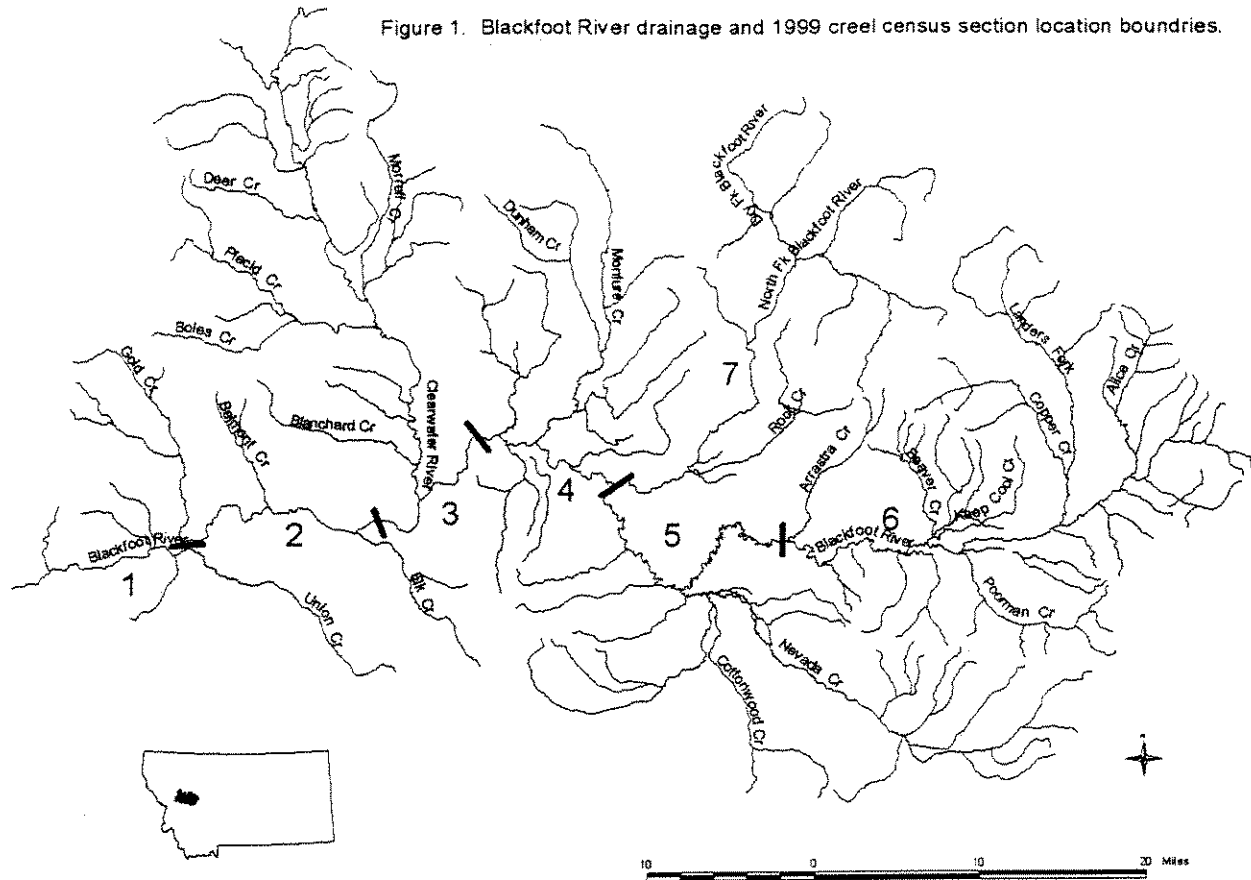
In August of 1999, a second creel census was performed. The 1999 creel census was a cooperative project between the Fisheries and Parks division of MFWP. The creel census was a continued attempt to better understand angler and other recreational use of the Blackfoot River including: fishing pressure, catch, conflict, facility use, evaluation of angler attitudes, and the ability of anglers to identify salmonids found in western Montana. The data collected during a creel census is necessary to develop an effective river management plan for the Blackfoot River.

Objectives:

The objectives of this creel census were:

1. To determine the various aspects of the fisherman's catch, including hours fished, species and number of fish caught, and type of tackle used.
2. To determine the extent and distribution of float fishing, to examine the degree of conflict between those float fishing and those fishing from the bank and/or wading and to survey users of the river for their opinion on continued float fishing activity.
3. Compare data to the 1994 creel census and develop trend analysis for the Blackfoot River drainage.
4. Continue the education of Montana anglers regarding fish identification, proper handling techniques, and best methods of hooking and releasing fish.

Figure 1. Blackfoot River drainage and 1999 creel census section location boundaries.



Methods

We used personal interviews to survey anglers and recreationists throughout the Blackfoot River drainage. Interviews were conducted four days a week, ten hours a day, and were concentrated during periods of highest angling use. During the summer months (August-November) the days when surveys were conducted Friday through Monday. The Blackfoot River Creel Clerks contacted anglers and recreationists, first introduced themselves as a MFWP employee, but not as a game warden; and interviewed them while engaged in recreational activities on the river. The creel clerk also used a raft to access areas that are not easily accessed by vehicle or foot. Interviews were conducted on all sections of the river (Figure 1), with more time dedicated to the areas, days and times of highest use, trying to maximize the number of users interviewed. In addition, the Parks division of MFWP started their survey in June and continued interviewing users through September 1999.

The survey/interview form consisted of an on-site survey (Appendix A) conducted by the creel clerk, and a mail-back survey (Appendix B). Included in this was a stamped and addressed envelope to increase return rates, to be returned by the recreation user after they completed their trip. The on-site questionnaire contained questions regarding type of recreation, number of recreationalist observed on the river, user conflicts, and fishing method, craft and number of fish caught. The mail-back survey contained additional questions regarding aesthetics, conflicts, and

future regulations. There were also questions regarding fish identification, proper release methods and current regulations which were designed to be more informative and educational.

Fishing pressure estimates through instantaneous flights over the drainage were not conducted in 1999. The 1999 pressure estimates are part of the statewide pressure estimates compiled by MFWP (MFWP a).

Results

Eleven hundred fifty river users were contacted on the river in 1999 during the study period from mid-June through early October. Five hundred seventy of the 1,150 individuals contacted on the river indicated they were angling the day of the interview.

Thirty nine percent (n=224) were angling exclusively from a boat. Thirty eight percent (n=216) were exclusively bank/ wade angling. Twenty three percent indicated that they were angling from a boat and wading (Figure 2).

Sixty three percent of anglers were exclusively fly fishing, eleven percent used only hardware, six percent used only bait (n=32), fourteen percent used a combination (Figure 3). This combination may have consisted of baited flies or people fishing for part of the day with hardware and part of the day with flies.

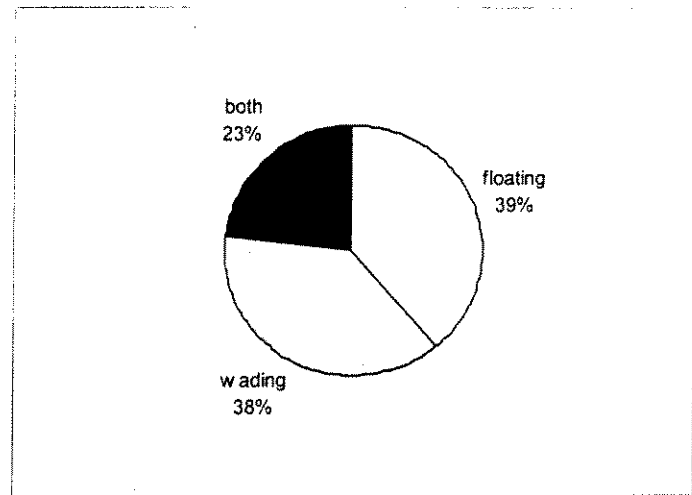


Figure 2. Angling methods on the Blackfoot River in 1999.

Creel data

The surveyed anglers caught two thousand seventy eight fish. Ninety five percent (1,973) of all fish caught were released, only five percent (105) were kept. Sixty six percent of all anglers caught at least one fish. The overall catch rate was 0.79 fish/ hour. Overall, westslope cutthroat trout were the most frequently caught fish (37% of the total catch; Figure 4) and bull trout were the least often caught fish (2%

Six hundred twenty six rainbow trout were caught and 94% (589) were released. Forty three percent of angler reported catching at least one rainbow trout. The average catch rate for rainbow trout was 0.26/ hour.

One hundred fifty four brown trout were caught and most (94%; 144) were released. Twenty percent of all anglers caught at least one brown trout while fishing, the average catch rate was 0.06/ hour.

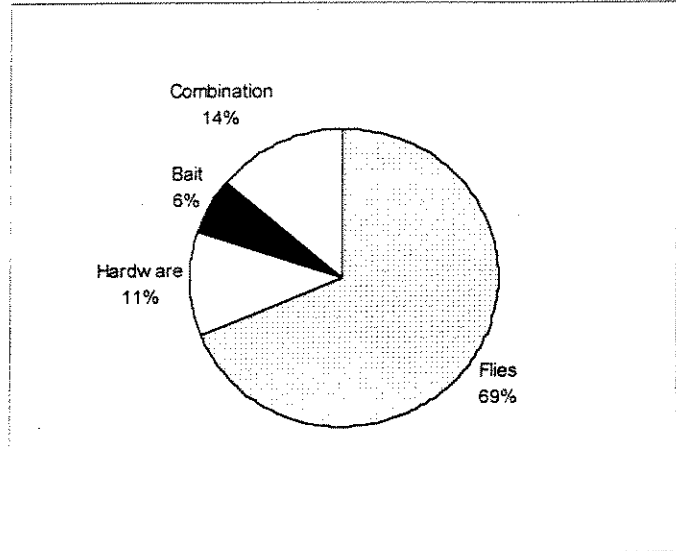


Figure 3. Type of fishing gear used by anglers on the Blackfoot River in 1999.

Westslope cutthroat trout were the most frequently caught species by anglers (742). Of those caught, 99% (737) were released. Forty two percent of all anglers caught at least one westslope cutthroat trout and the average catch rate was 0.26/ hour.

Anglers caught thirty-nine bull trout, and 36 were released (8% kept). Catch rates for bull trout were the lowest of all fish species <0.01/hour.

Anglers caught 445 mountain whitefish, and 92% were released (408). Twenty three percent of all anglers caught at least one mountain whitefish. The average catch rate was 0.15/ hour.

Anglers also caught 50 brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) and kept 12. Twenty-two other fish (e.g., suckers, pikeminnow, and carp [sic]) were reportedly caught by anglers.

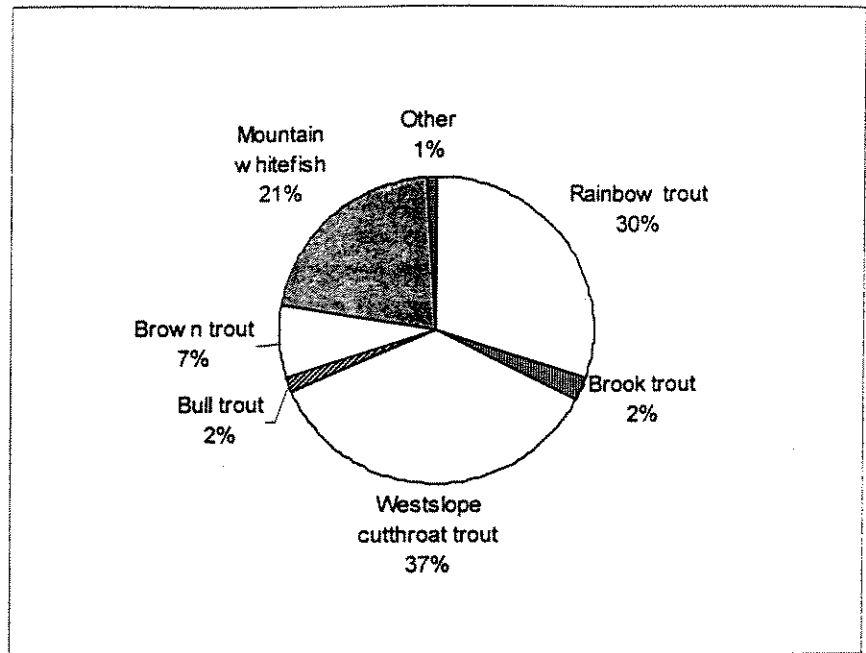


Figure 4. Percent of fish species caught by anglers on the Blackfoot River in 1999 (n=2,078).

Floater survey

A complete listing of the results from each question is in Appendix C.

We surveyed 805 floaters on the Blackfoot River, most of whom were Montana residents (69%) and floated with friends and family (68%). Only 15% reported they hired a commercial outfitter or guide for their trip. The majority (69%) of those interviewed were in groups between 1-5 people and most (72%) used a shuttle service for their trip. Floaters were mostly (65%) males and the average age was 38, of those surveyed over 16.

Most of the floaters (Figure 5) were interviewed from River Junction to Bonner

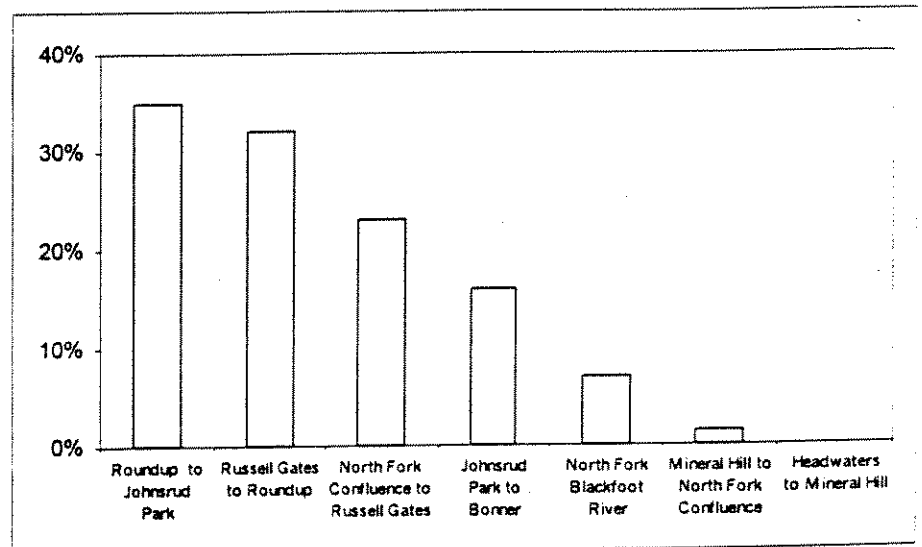


Figure 5. River reaches used by floaters on the Blackfoot River in 1999.

(sections 1-4; Figure 1). Half of all floaters thought river conditions were "just right", and 14% responded that the site was not at all crowded (Figure 6). Only 36% thought that there was any crowding. Most of the floaters (57%) reported seeing between 6 and 20 people on the Blackfoot River, 16% saw fewer than 6 people while 25% saw more than 21. These numbers met people's

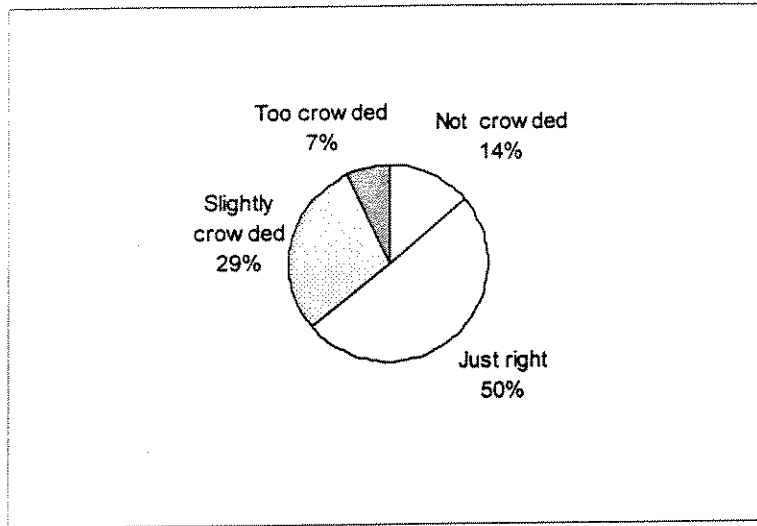


Figure 6. Floater's perception of crowding on the Blackfoot River in 1999.

expectations for the number of people they encountered (Figure 7). Similarly, most floaters (84%) were not disturbed by the number of people nor the behavior of the people they encountered. Only 2% of the floaters interviewed said that both the number and behavior of people they encountered were disturbing.

Non-floater survey

We interviewed 348 non-floaters on the Blackfoot River in 1999, a complete listing of their responses to individual questions is in Appendix D.

Most (79%) non-floaters were with family and friends or alone (14%) with between 1 and 5 people (83%) and only 0.6%

reported being with a commercial fishing outfitter. Most of the non-floaters interviewed were from Montana (70%), 29% were from other states (5.7% of which were from Washington) and 1% were from another country. Similar to floaters, 66% of the non-floaters were males and the average age was 36. The most common reason people were recreating on the Blackfoot River was to fish (38%).

Non-floaters were interviewed primarily (80%) from Russell Gates Fishing Access Site, downstream to Bonner (Figure 8). Most 76% of non-floaters thought these areas were not crowded, 5% thought these sites were too crowded (Figure 9).

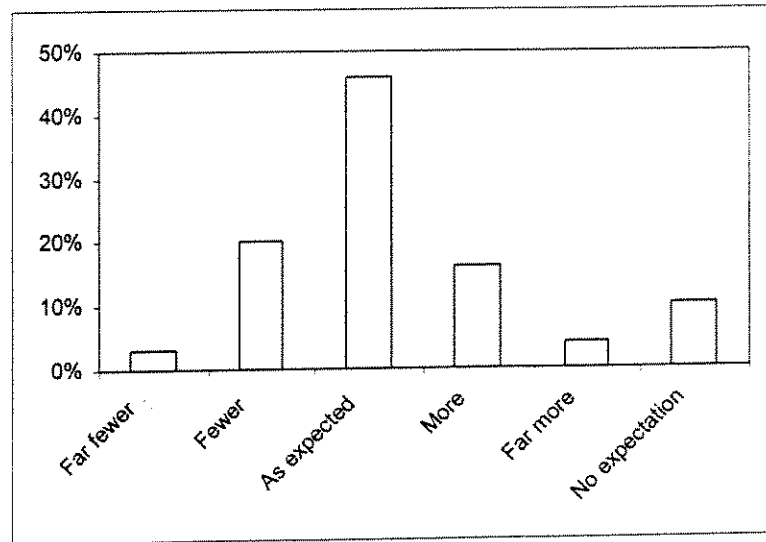


Figure 7. Floaters expectations about the number of people seen on the Blackfoot River in 1999.

Mailback Survey

We received mailback surveys from 328 anglers contacted in 1999. Sixty five percent of anglers used barbless hooks. Sixty three percent of anglers correctly know the angling regulations for bull trout, 37% did not know. Forty seven percent of the anglers who did not know the correct bull trout fishing regulation thought you could fish, 48% had no idea what the regulation was, and 3% thought you could keep one.

Thirty two percent of anglers did not know how to identify a bull trout, 31.1 % correctly knew that no black markings on the dorsal fin meant it was a bull trout. The remaining anglers answered white marks on leading edges of fins (21.3%), Red color slash marks (1.8%), wormy black marks (8.8%) and other (4.6%).

Anglers (n=306) rated fishing on the Blackfoot River as good (26.2%), fair (24.1%), very good (22.6%), excellent (11.0%), poor (9.5%).

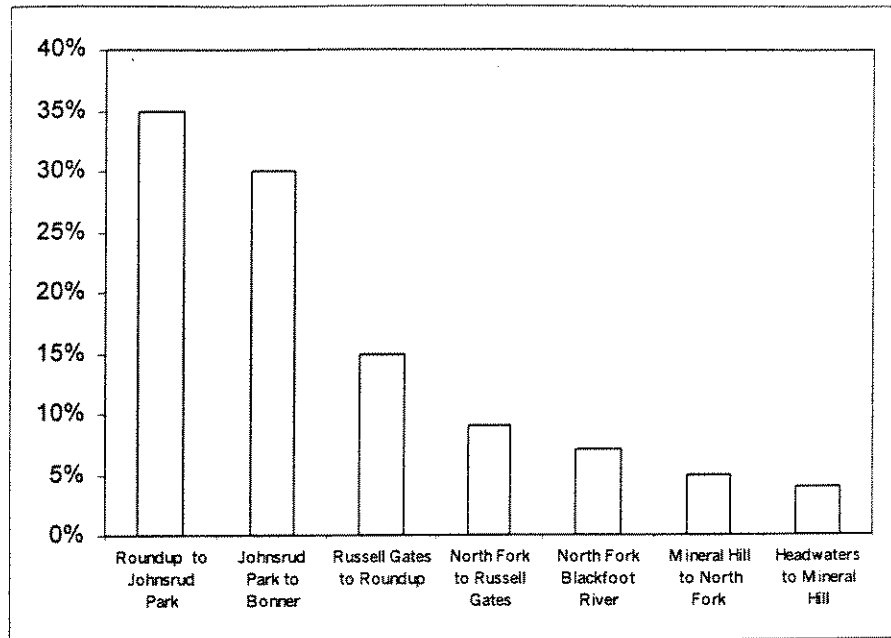


Figure 8. River reaches used by non-floaters on the Blackfoot River in 1999.

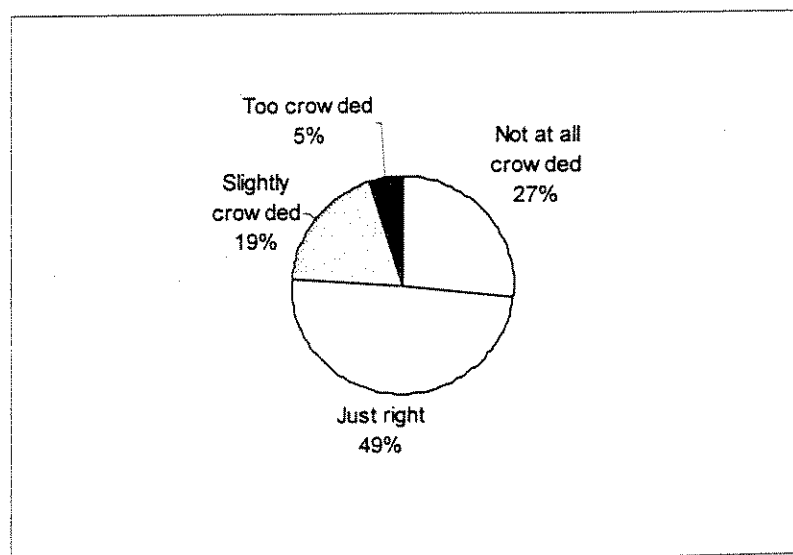


Figure 9. Non-floaters' opinion of crowding on the Blackfoot River in 1999.

Summary and Conclusions

Creel Data

As a result of favorable flow years, fishing regulation changes, and fish habitat restoration, densities of fish are increasing in many sections of the Blackfoot River (Pierce and Schmetterling 1999). The increasing native fish populations are promising, but another concern for river managers is the increased fishing pressure throughout the Blackfoot River drainage. Angler days in the middle section of the Blackfoot River, from the Clearwater River to Arrastra Creek, increased from approximately 2,514 angler days in 1989 to 16,081 angler days in 1999 (MFWP a, b). This section coincides with successful westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout population increases, but both of these species are extremely susceptible to fishing.

Westslope cutthroat trout were caught most frequently in terms of fish per hour and number of fish caught. Catch rates for westslope cutthroat trout are improved since 1994, and make up a larger percentage of the overall catch. However, they are not the most abundant fish species in the mainstem Blackfoot River (Schmetterling and Pierce 1999). Their densities remain low and support a high proportion of this catch and release recreational fishery. Because of the high catchability of these fish found in this study and elsewhere (MacPhee 1966; Berg 1986) continued catch and release may be necessary until greater improvements in their population can be gained.

Currently most anglers on the Blackfoot River practice catch and release fishing (95% of all fish caught, including mountain whitefish) and fly-fishing (69%+ 14% of angler that fished with a combination), and most were using barbless hooks (65.5% of all gear types). Despite that no changes were made in the fishing regulation regarding gear, angling has gone more toward flyfishing and catch and release. In 1994 anglers released 84% of the catch, and in 1999 95% of fish were released. In 1994 (Peters and Workman 1996), 30% of anglers surveyed fished exclusively with bait compared to 6% in 1999 (this study). Furthermore, in 1994, only 42% of anglers exclusively flyfished compared to 69% in this study.

These results indicate that no further changes to gear regulations are necessary and would just exclude anglers and a small contingency. Increases in westslope cutthroat trout densities have been reported in waters with high fishing pressure and barbed hooks (C. Clancy, MFWP, unpublished data). Furthermore, improvement in the river's fishery from population data indicates that fish are being released and densities are increasing despite the increasing pressure.

Catch rates (overall 0.79 fish/hour) were consistent overall with nearby rivers (Peters and Schmetterling 1996) and may have increased in the Blackfoot River since 1994 when the catch rates were 0.70 fish/ hour. The catch rates and harvest of mountain whitefish may be underrepresented in this creel survey. The majority of the mountain whitefish season occurs during the fall, winter and early spring where there is an extended season for them.

Floating is more common now than in 1994 (Peters and Workman 1996). In 1994, bank anglers were more abundant (69%) than floating anglers (31%). In this study, only 38% were exclusively bank angling. The two answers (floating and combination of floating and bank angling) could be combined to reflect that 62% of angler were floating in 1999.

Floater and Non-floater Survey

Floaters observed more people in 1999 than in 1994. Only 16% of floaters encountered fewer than 6 people. In 1994, 65% saw fewer than 6 people. These trends are consistent with angling pressure increases in this same time period (MFWP a), though satisfaction is similar (Peters and Workman 1994).

Some of the questions on the survey may have underestimated or misrepresented some of the user information. For instance, questions regarding who the user was with while recreating on the river caused for many users to choose the answer with family and friends, when in actuality they were on a professionally guided fishing trip with a family member and friends; therefore a underestimation of guided fishing trips occurred. To gather more accurate user recreation activities, this question may want to be separated into two different questions. One question regarding whom accompanied the user on the trip, then a separate question to determine if they were with an outfitter service. Separating questions of this type will result in more accurate information regarding the proportion of professionally guided trips.

By surveying river users on the Blackfoot River, we may have inadvertently biased results toward positive perceptions for certain issues, including river crowding. By interviewing people on the river, they probably do not feel the river is too crowded for their enjoyment. People that think that the Blackfoot River is too crowded would probably not be there. As a result, the answers are as expected in terms of how people perceive river crowding, most did not think it was crowded and most thought the conditions were as they expected. In future interviews, it may be helpful to omit these questions in recognizing the bias. In addition, it may be useful to ask these questions at random to anglers in western Montana or as a part of other creel surveys. For example, when we conduct a Clark Fork River creel survey, one of the questions could be about river crowding on Rock Creek or the Blackfoot River. Despite this potential bias, from this survey, acceptance of the current conditions is common.

Mailback survey

Misidentification of trout is pervasive. Whereas bull trout are often least identifiable to anglers in Montana (Schmetterling and Long 1999, Schmetterling et. al in press) other trout are frequently misidentified. Misidentification of salmonids and unintentional harvest impact management decisions and enforcement activities of MFWP. Similarly only 31% of those responding knew how to correctly identify bull trout.

In addition to anglers not knowing how to identify fish, is the inability of anglers to know and understand the regulations. Thirty seven percent of the mailback respondents did not know the correct regulation for bull trout angling. An angler knowing and understanding regulations is the first assumption of setting regulations (Schill and Kline 1995). Management actions may include having anglers mandatory carry regulations with them. Regulations are worthless if they are not understood and known. However, from this study, most people are practicing catch and release fishing.

Through the mailback questionnaire regarding fish identification and from responses to questions regarding fish species caught, this survey may have displayed the inability of Montana angler's to identify fish species. Results from fish sampling throughout the watershed, indicate that brook trout were located in 39 of 56 tributaries, but are rarely sampled in the mainstem of the Blackfoot River (Pierce and Schmetterling 1999). Anglers interviewed during the 1999 creel

census indicated catching 50 brook trout in the Blackfoot River. Because very few (<10) fish were actually handled by the creel clerks it is difficult to confirm what fish species anglers are catching and reportedly keeping.

Acknowledgements

We thank Mike Lewis (MFWP) for data analysis and summary, Katie Hall for conducting interviews and data entry, and Woody Baxter and Don Peters for logistical support. The Montana Power Company and Bureau of Land Management also provided additional funding.

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Appendix A: Interview Form

ON SITE

What type of group are you with? (Circle one)

- A. Alone
 B. Family and /or Friends
 C. Club or Organization (church, camp, etc.)
 D. Commercial Whitewater/Scenic Outfitter
 E. Commercial Fishing Outfitter
 F. Institution (Univ., military, etc.)

What size is your group? Number of people _____ Number of vehicles _____ Number of watercraft _____

If you are with an outfitter, club, organization or institution please list the name and location.

Name: _____ Business Location (city): _____

Did you use a commercial vehicle shuttle service? (Circle one) A. Yes B. No

If you utilized a shuttle service, please list company's name: _____

What activities are you participating in during your visit to the Blackfoot River? (Circle all activities)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| A. Rafting | F. Float Fishing | K. Horseback Riding | P. Viewing Wildlife |
| B. Kayaking | G. Bird Watching | L. Hiking | Q. Photography/Art |
| C. Canoeing | H. Sun Bathing | M. Nature Study | R. Other _____ |
| D. Tubing | I. Swimming | N. Camping | |
| E. Bank Fishing | J. Rest and Relaxation | O. Picnicking | |

What is the primary activity (from the previous question) that you are participating in during your visit? (Please use the corresponding letter to indicate activity.)

Primary activity: _____

Do you think this site is presently: (check one)

____ Too crowded ____ Slightly crowded ____ Just Right ____ Not at all crowded

How satisfied are you are with various factors relating to your river experience. (Please circle the appropriate number for each item)

How satisfied are you with the following?

	No Opinion	Not at all Satisfied <-----> Satisfied					Extremely Satisfied
Launching Facilities	X	1	2	3	4	5	
Parking	X	1	2	3	4	5	
Bathroom Facilities	X	1	2	3	4	5	
Campground Facilities	X	1	2	3	4	5	
Day Use Facilities	X	1	2	3	4	5	
Regulation/Info Signs	X	1	2	3	4	5	
Litter Control	X	1	2	3	4	5	
Road Conditions	X	1	2	3	4	5	
River Access	X	1	2	3	4	5	
Water Quality	X	1	2	3	4	5	

What section(s) of the river described below are you visiting today? (Check appropriate line or lines)

- ____ Johnsrud Park to Bonner
 ____ Roundup to Johnsrud Park
 ____ Russell Gates to Roundup
 ____ North Fork Confluence to Russell Gates
 ____ Mineral Hill to North Fork Confluence
 ____ Headwaters to Mineral Hill
 ____ North Fork Blackfoot River
 ____ ("I am not sure")

(OVER)

Please skip down to question 14.), if you have not fished today on the Blackfoot River.

10.) Did you fish (*check appropriate line*):

_____ With the use of the boat _____ From the bank or wading _____ Both

11.) Type of lures(s) you used while fishing (*circle appropriate letter*):

A. Flies B. Hardware (spinning lures) C. Bait D. Combination

12.) How long did you fish? (*Round to the nearest half hour*) _____

13.) What are the type and number of fish you kept and released:

Number of RAINBOW TROUT	_____ Kept	_____ Released
Number of BROWN TROUT	_____ Kept	_____ Released
Number of CUTTHROAT TROUT	_____ Kept	_____ Released
Number of BULL TROUT	_____ Kept	_____ Released
Number of BROOK TROUT	_____ Kept	_____ Released
Number of WHITEFISH	_____ Kept	_____ Released
OTHER: _____	_____ Kept	_____ Released

Please skip down to question 17.), if you have not floated the river today.

14.) Aside from your group, how many people did you see while on the river? (*Please circle the best estimate of how many individuals you saw, not how many groups or boats.*)

A.) 0 - 5	D.) 51 - 100	F.) (The number is important to me but I cannot specify a number)
B.) 6 - 20	E.) Over 100	G.) (The number of people makes no difference to me)
C.) 21 - 50		

15.) How does the number of people you've seen today on the river compare to the number you have expected to see? (*Please check one*)

_____ Far more than expected	_____ Fewer than expected
_____ More than expected	_____ Far fewer than expected
_____ About as many as expected	_____ I had no expectation

16.) Which of the following statements most closely represents how you felt about the other groups you saw during your visit? (*Circle one*)

A.) Neither the number of people nor their behavior were disturbing to me.
B.) The number of people was more disturbing to me than their behavior.
C.) The behavior of people was more disturbing to me than the number of people.
D.) Both the number of people and their behaviors were disturbing to me.

17.) Finally, we have a few questions about you. You will not be identified with your answers.

Male _____ Female _____ Age _____ What is your Zip code? _____

18.) We would like your name and address so that we can track the accompanying mail-back survey. Your name and address will not be used for any other purpose. All information you give us will be kept strictly confidential

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

////////////////////////////////////
For Research Technician:

Form I.D. #: _____ (Blkft99) Date: ____ / ____ / ____ Time: _____

Location: _____ Check one: Put-In [] Put-out [] Neither []

Est. # of People: _____ Est. # of Vehicles: _____ Weather: _____
////////////////////////////////////

Appendix B: Mailback Survey Form

Mail Back

(PAGE 1)

1.) People visit river corridors for a number of reasons and experiences. Listed below are some potential reasons why people visit the Blackfoot River and what they might enjoy. There are two parts to this question. Rate each "reason" as to how **important** it is to you and then how **satisfied** you were for that "experience." Please answer the following questions for the trip on which you received this survey.

Reason/Experience	Not Important----->Very Important							No Opinion	Not Satisfied----->Very Satisfied							No Opinion
	0	1	2	3	4	5			0	1	2	3	4	5		
To observe scenic beauty	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To take in some natural surroundings	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To do something with the family	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
For the adventure	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To be with my friends	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To improve my physical health	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To avoid mechanized recreation	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To experience solitude	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To enjoy smells and sounds of nature	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
Sense of personal accomplishment	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To get away from other people	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To meet new people	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To observe wildlife	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To participate in an outdoor activity	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To fish	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To reduce/release built up tension	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X
To experience whitewater floating	0	1	2	3	4	5		X	0	1	2	3	4	5		X

2.) How did you feel about the parking at the access site(s) during the visit you received this survey-questionnaire? (Check one)

___ Not a problem ___ A slight problem ___ Moderate problems ___ A big problem

If you can recall, please list the access site(s) you used. _____

3.) In relation to the total amount of summer outdoor recreation you do, how much of that time do you spend on or along the Blackfoot River?

___ Less than 5% ___ Less than 25% ___ Less than 50% ___ Less than 75% ___ Over 75%

(OVER)

(PAGE TWO)

4.) Are there areas on or along the Blackfoot River that you avoid? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If "YES", Where and Why? _____

5.) Are there areas on or along the Blackfoot River that you readily seek? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If "YES", Where and Why? _____

6.) Please decide how much you agree or disagree with the following statements (circle appropriate number for each statement):

	Strongly Disagree					Strongly Agree	NO Opinion
	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
The amount of floaters on the river should be restricted on weekends							
If overcrowding is occurring at a public access site, there should be limited number of vehicles allowed	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
There should be more developed access sites along the Blackfoot River	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
The existing railroad path that follows the river between Johnsrud Park and Corrick River Bend should be developed into a designated, multi-use (non-motorized) recreational trail	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
I feel safe while camping/visiting/recreating along the Blackfoot River	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
Campground Host/Caretaker stationed at the campgrounds is needed during the summer months.	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
More law enforcement personnel are needed in the river corridor to resolve/deter criminal issues	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
There should be a ban of glass containers along the Blackfoot River	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
No new access sites should be developed, maintain the existing ones	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
At this time I would support limits on commercial (outfitter) floating on the Blackfoot River	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
At this time I would support limits on non-commercial (private) floating on the Blackfoot River	1	2	3	4	5	6	X
The vegetation and soils in the access sites are heavily impacted	1	2	3	4	5	6	X

Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commemoration:

7.) During the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commemoration in 2003-2006, how likely are you to:

	Not at all Likely 1	Somewhat Likely 2	Likely 3	Very Likely 4
Trace portions of Lewis' historical route through the Blackfoot River valley?				
Visit other Montana Lewis & Clark sites?	1	2	3	4

(NEXT PAGE)

(PAGE THREE)

- 8.) For the Lewis & Clark Commemoration, would you favor interpretative signs located throughout the Blackfoot River valley describing what Captain Lewis' expedition observed in the area? (check one)

___ YES ___ NO ___ Undecided

USER FEES:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is considering an annual access fee for individuals who utilize the Blackfoot River for recreation. The annual access fee would be used to pay for operation of the sites and caretaker services (such as keeping the area free of litter, cleaning the restrooms, and maintaining the boat ramps, picnic areas and camping sites).

- 9.) Do you have a Montana fishing license? (Check one) ___ YES ___ NO

- 10.) Would you visit and recreate on the Blackfoot River if there were a charge for an annual access fee? (Check one)

___ YES ___ NO

If you would not visit the Blackfoot River because of an annual access fee, would you go to another outdoor recreation area?

___ YES ___ NO

If YES, where?: _____

- 11.) How strongly do you disagree or agree with the following questions:

	Strongly Disagree <-----				-----> Strongly Agree		No Opinion
Individual users should have to pay to use access sites	1	2	3	4	5		X
Commercial outfitters (fishing and whitewater guide companies) should have to pay to use access sites	1	2	3	4	5		X
Income from fishing licenses should continue to be used to pay for river access sites	1	2	3	4	5		X
Income from state taxes should be used to pay for access sites	1	2	3	4	5		X
A state sales tax on river recreation equipment (rafts, kayaks, paddles, life jackets, etc.) should be used to pay for access sites	1	2	3	4	5		X

Please answer the following questions if you fish on the Blackfoot River:

- 12.) Do you use barbless hooks or pinch down hook barbs on the Blackfoot River? ___ YES ___ NO

- 13.) What is the regulation regarding fishing for bull trout on the Blackfoot River (circle one)

A.) Can keep one fish C.) No intentional fishing for bull trout
B.) Can fish for bull trout but must release them D.) Do not know

- 14.) A bull trout can be identified best by: (circle one)

A.) Wormy black markings on dorsal fin C.) Red color slashes under jaw E.) Do not know
B.) No black markings on dorsal fin D.) White marks on lower fins

- 15.) Overall, how would you rate the fishing experience on your recent trip on the Blackfoot River? (Circle one)

A.) Poor B.) Fair C.) Good D.) Very Good E.) Excellent

(OVER)

(PAGE FOUR)

- 16.) Do you have any additional comments, suggestions, compliments, or complaints on how the Blackfoot River is managed? Please use the space below or send an extra page in a separate envelope.

THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR HELP

Please return your completed questionnaire in the envelope provided to:

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 2 Parks Division
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804-3099**

////////////////////////////////////
For Research Technician:

Form I.D. Number: _____ (Blkft99)
////////////////////////////////////

Appendix C: Blackfoot River Floater Responses

- Type of Group:

68%	Family and/or friends
15%	Commercial Fishing Outfitter
6%	Institution (e.g., University, military, etc.)
5%	Club or Organization (e.g., church, camp, etc.)
4%	Commercial Whitewater/Scenic Outfitter
2%	Alone

Several separate questions were combined here

- Group Size:

63%	1-5 people
21%	6-10
10%	11-20
4%	21-30
2%	More than 30

Mean = 7.2 people; Median = 4.0

- Number of Watercraft in the Group:

54%	1 watercraft
20%	2
15%	3
11%	4 or more

Mean = 2.4 watercraft; Median = 1.0

Note: 41% non-response rate to this question for tubers

- Use of Shuttle Service:

72%	Yes
28%	No

Note: 36% non-response rate to this question

- Residence of Respondents:

69%	Montana
30%	Other U.S. states
1%	International

California = 5%, Oregon = 1.9%, New York = 1.7%, Texas = 1.6%, Colorado = 1.5%

- Gender of Respondents:

65%	Male
35%	Female

- Age of Respondents:

Mean = 38 years; Median = 37
Only respondents 16 years of age or older were included in the study

- Primary Activity Participated in by Respondents During Their Visit to the Blackfoot River:

33%	Rafting
33%	Float fishing
6%	Tubing
5%	Canoeing
5%	Kayaking
5%	Bank fishing
13%	Other

- River Stretch Visited by Respondents the Day They Were Interviewed:

35%	Roundup to Johnsrud Park
32%	Russell Gates to Roundup
23%	North Fork Confluence to Russell Gates
16%	Johnsrud Park to Bonner
7%	North Fork Blackfoot River
1.5%	Mineral Hill to North Fork Confluence
0.1%	Headwaters to Mineral Hill

Percentages add to greater than 100% because many respondents indicated they visited, or planned to visit, more than one river stretch the day of their interview

- Perceptions of Crowding at the Site Where Respondents Were Interviewed:

14%	Site was not at all crowded with respect to number people and/or vehicles
50%	Just right
29%	Slightly crowded
7%	Too crowded

- Number of People Seen by Respondents While Floating the River the Day They Were Interviewed:

16%	0-5 people
57%	6-20
21%	21-50
2%	51-100
2%	More than 100
1%	The number is important, but could not specify a number
1%	The number of people makes no difference

Note: 27% non-response rate to this question

- Extent to Which Expectations Were Met With Respect to the Number of People Seen by Respondents While Floating the River the Day They Were Interviewed:

3%	Far fewer people were seen than expected
20%	Fewer than expected
46%	About as many as expected
16%	More than expected
4%	Far more than expected
10%	No expectation

Note: 25% non-response rate to this question

- How Respondents Felt about the Number of People They Saw While Floating the River the Day They Were Interviewed:

84%	Neither the number of people nor their behavior were disturbing to me
11%	The number of people was more disturbing to me than their behavior
3%	The behavior of people was more disturbing to me than the number of people
2%	Both the number of people and their behavior were disturbing to me

Note: 27% non-response rate to this question

- Satisfaction With Various Factors Associated With the River Experience:

Percent Who Responded

<u>"1" or "2"</u>	<u>Mean Score</u>	<u>Median Score</u>	
6.8%	4.0	4.0	Launching Facilities
6.6%	4.0	4.0	Parking
13.5%	3.7	4.0	Bathroom Facilities
8.7%	3.9	4.0	Campground Facilities
4.2%	4.1	4.0	Day Use Facilities
8.2%	3.9	4.0	Regulation/Info Signs
7.6%	4.0	4.0	Litter Control
13.5%	3.7	4.0	Road Conditions
8.2%	4.1	4.0	River Access
3.1%	4.3	4.0	Water Quality

Responses based on a scale from 1 (not at all satisfied) to 5 (highly satisfied)

Appendix D: Blackfoot River Non-Floater Responses

- Type of Group:

79%	Family and/or friends
14%	Alone
4%	Club or Organization (e.g., church, camp, etc.)
3%	Institution (e.g., church, camp, etc.)
0.6%	Commercial Fishing Outfitter
Several separate questions were combined	

- Group Size:

83%	1-5 people
8%	6-10
9%	11-20
0.3%	More than 20
Mean = 4.2 people; Median = 2.0	

- Residence of Respondents:

70%	Montana
29%	Other U.S. states
1%	International
Washington = 5.7%, Idaho = 2.4%, North Carolina = 2.1%, Minnesota = 1.8%	

- Gender of Respondents:

66%	Male
34%	Female

- Age of Respondents:

Mean = 36 years; Median = 34
Only respondents 16 years of age or older were included in the study

- Primary Activity Participated in by Respondents During Their Visit to the Blackfoot River:

38%	Bank fishing
15%	Rest and relaxation
14%	Camping
6%	Swimming
4%	Sunbathing
4%	Picnicking
4%	Viewing wildlife
15%	Other

- River Stretch Visited by Respondents the Day They Were Interviewed:

35%	Roundup to Johnsrud Park
30%	Johnsrud Park to Bonner
15%	Russell Gates to Roundup

9%	North Fork Confluence to Russell Gates
7%	North Fork Blackfoot River
5%	Mineral Hill to North Fork Confluence
4%	Headwaters to Mineral Hill

Percentages add to greater than 100% because a few respondents indicated they visited, or planned to visit, more than one river stretch the day of their interview

- Perceptions of Crowding at the Site Where Respondents Were Interviewed:

27%	Site was not at all crowded with respect to number people and/or vehicles
49%	Just right
19%	Slightly crowded
5%	Too crowded

- Satisfaction With Various Factors Associated With the River Experience:

Percent Who Responded

<u>"1" or "2"</u>	<u>Mean Score</u>	<u>Median Score</u>	
10.8%	3.8	4.0	Launching Facilities
4.5%	4.2	4.0	Parking
13.2%	3.9	4.0	Bathroom Facilities
5.3%	4.1	4.0	Campground Facilities
5.0%	4.1	4.0	Day Use Facilities
5.1%	4.0	4.0	Regulation/Info Signs
7.3%	3.9	4.0	Litter Control
13.6%	3.7	4.0	Road Conditions
11.1%	4.0	4.0	River Access
1.9%	4.3	4.0	Water Quality

Responses based on a scale from 1 (not at all satisfied) to 5 (highly satisfied)