

Results from the:

Survey of
State Park Visitors
13 State Parks Combined

Water-Based Montana
State Parks Study (2006-07)



November 30, 2007

*Combined survey data from Placid Lake, Salmon Lake, Black Sandy, Cooney Reservoir, Hell Creek, Big Arm, Finley Point, Wayfarers, West Shore, Yellow Bay, Logan, Whitefish Lake, and Tongue River Reservoir State Parks.

(N = 2,872 respondents in total) = 54% response rate to the survey

Percent of respondents by time period:

May 25-28	4.6%
May 29-31	2.3%
June 1-3	3.7%
June 4-7	1.3%
June 8-10	3.5%
June 11-14	2.4%
June 15-17	4.4%
June 18-21	2.9%
June 22-24	4.5%
June 25-28	3.3%
June 29 – July 4	6.8%
July 5	0.5%
July 6-8	3.8%
July 9-12	3.0%
July 13-15	4.4%
July 16-19	3.3%
July 20-22	5.4%
July 23-26	2.5%
July 27-29	4.4%
July 30 – Aug. 2	3.2%
Aug. 3-5	4.1%
Aug. 6-9	2.8%
Aug. 10-12	4.1%
Aug. 13-16	2.4%
Aug. 17-19	3.1%
Aug. 20-23	2.1%
Aug. 24-26	3.5%
Aug. 27-30	2.4%
Aug. 31 – Sept. 3	5.2%

1. What type of group were you with on the trip to **All 13 Parks Combined Data** State Park when you were recently contacted onsite in the park and agreed to participate in this survey? (**check only one**)

- 5.5% Alone
- 90.0% Family and/or friends
- 2.8% Organized group or club
- 1.7% Other

2. Was this your first trip to this park? 66.0% NO 34.0% YES

3. Including yourself, how many **people** were in your group on this trip to the park?

Mean = 5.9 Median = 4.0 (number of people)

4. Did you camp overnight in the park on this trip? (**check only one**)

29.0% NO.....If no, how many **hours** did you spend in the park? Mean = 4.8
Median = 4.0

71.0% YES....If yes, this next question has two parts:

a. How many **nights** did you camp in the park? Mean = 2.9
Median = 2.0

b. How did you camp? (**check all that apply**)

37.7% Tent...how many tents? Mean = 2.0 Median = 1.0

17.9% Auto-camper or pick-up truck camper

40.3% Trailer...fully setup length: Mean=25.0 (ft) & width Mean=8.5 (ft)
Med=25.0 (ft) Med=8.0 (ft)

17.9% Motor home...fully setup length: Mean=28.5 (ft)
Med=28.0 (ft)

4.9% Other & width: Mean=8.8 (ft)
Med=8.0 (ft)

5. Did you or any other members of your group do any boating *at the park* on this trip? (**check only one**)

37.4% NO.....Go to question 7

62.6% YES....If yes, check all that apply and indicate the number of watercraft used:

65.6% Large motorboat (16 ft. or longer).....Number: Mean=1.5 Med=1.0

20.4% Smaller motorboat (less than 16 ft.)... Number: Mean=1.2 Med=1.0

10.6% Personal watercraft (e.g., jet ski)..... Number: Mean=1.7 Med=2.0

11.2% Canoe or kayak..... Number: Mean=1.7 Med=1.0

10.0% Inflatable pontoon or float tube.....Number: Mean=2.0 Med=1.0

3.4% Other

6. When boating at the park on this trip, did you see (or suspect) any people operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs? (**check only one**)

91.9% NO

8.1% YES....If yes, this next question has two parts:

a. How many **boats** did you see (or suspect) were being operated by a person under the influence of alcohol or drugs? **Mean = 2.5 Median = 2.0** (number of boats)

b. At any one time, did you feel your personal safety or the safety of other boaters was threatened because of the actions of these people? (**check only one**)

58.6% NO

41.4% YES

7. What recreational ACTIVITIES did you participate in while *in the park* on this trip? (**check all that apply**)

45.2% Picnicking

71.0% Camping

62.6% Boating

8.7% Personal watercraft (e.g., jet skiing)

44.8% Fishing

42.7% Walking for pleasure or hiking

51.4% Swimming

16.3% Water skiing

27.1% Sunbathing

2.7% Jogging/running

7.2% Biking

24.3% Wildlife viewing

2.0% Interpretive talks

7.6% Other

8. What activity (from question 7 above) was your **PRIMARY** activity on this trip to the park? (**check only one**)

5.3% Picnicking

42.6% Camping

14.7% Boating

2.1% Personal watercraft (e.g., jet skiing)

20.0% Fishing

2.7% Walking for pleasure or hiking

5.2% Swimming

1.6% Water skiing

1.0% Sunbathing

0.0% Jogging/running

0.4% Biking

0.4% Wildlife viewing

0.1% Interpretive talks

3.9% Other

9. In your opinion, how acceptable or unacceptable were the following conditions on this trip to the park? **Circle only ONE number for each condition below** or check the “I don’t know/not applicable” box if you don’t know or if a particular condition does NOT apply to you.

<u>ON THIS TRIP TO THE PARK, how unacceptable or acceptable was:</u>	Very unacceptable	Unacceptable	Neither acceptable or unacceptable	Acceptable	Very acceptable
The quality of service provided by park staff	1.5%	0.5%	2.1%	29.3%	66.5%
The availability of park staff to answer questions and talk with	1.6%	0.9%	5.5%	31.0%	61.0%
The professionalism of park staff	1.5%	0.9%	3.6%	26.9%	67.1%
The friendliness of park staff	1.7%	0.7%	3.5%	21.4%	72.6%
The availability of law enforcement staff in the park	3.4%	4.6%	19.0%	40.5%	32.5%
The professionalism of law enforcement staff in the park	2.0%	2.7%	18.6%	35.6%	41.1%
The feeling of safety and security in the park	1.4%	0.9%	4.3%	38.9%	54.6%
The type of facilities provided at the park	1.3%	1.2%	4.9%	40.1%	52.5%
The quality of facilities provided at the park	1.3%	0.9%	4.1%	39.9%	53.9%
The cleanliness and overall upkeep of park facilities	1.5%	0.5%	2.2%	32.6%	63.2%
The cleanliness and overall upkeep of restrooms	1.3%	1.3%	3.2%	33.0%	61.2%
The cleanliness and overall upkeep of showers	1.8%	0.8%	6.2%	28.3%	63.0%
The condition of picnic tables	1.2%	1.0%	5.9%	48.0%	43.9%
The condition of campfire rings	1.3%	1.2%	5.6%	45.2%	46.8%
Road conditions in the park	2.6%	3.3%	6.0%	41.7%	46.4%

9. continued

<u>ON THIS TRIP TO THE PARK, how unacceptable or acceptable was:</u>	Very unacceptable	Unacceptable	Neither acceptable or unacceptable	Acceptable	Very acceptable
The amount of dust kicked up by vehicles using park roads	3.9%	7.7%	13.5%	45.0%	29.9%
The number of information signs in the park	0.8%	1.1%	6.1%	57.6%	34.3%
The ease of reading (legibility) of information signs in the park	0.8%	0.8%	4.9%	52.3%	41.1%
The quality of information signs in the park	0.8%	1.0%	6.0%	54.0%	38.2%
The amount of information about what there is to see and do in the park	0.8%	2.7%	16.9%	49.7%	29.9%
The amount of information about what types of facilities are available in the park	1.0%	2.2%	14.7%	49.7%	32.5%
The cost of overnight camping fees in the park	2.8%	7.2%	12.0%	49.1%	28.8%
The number of people camping overnight in the park	1.3%	2.5%	11.1%	58.6%	26.6%
The amount of noise coming from gas powered electric generators in the park	3.0%	6.8%	11.5%	51.2%	27.5%
The number of people at day-use areas in the park	1.0%	1.7%	12.1%	58.4%	26.7%
The amount of human-caused impacts to natural resources at the park (e.g., water, soil, vegetation)	0.9%	2.5%	12.1%	60.2%	24.3%
Overall, the number of boaters at the park	1.4%	3.3%	10.4%	60.9%	24.1%
The number of motor boaters (excluding personal watercraft)	1.4%	3.8%	9.9%	60.5%	24.4%
The number of personal watercraft users (e.g., jet skiers)	4.6%	8.3%	14.0%	51.6%	21.4%
The number of non-motorized boaters (e.g., canoers, kayakers, sail boaters, etc.)	0.7%	0.4%	6.6%	55.7%	36.6%

9. continued

<u>ON THIS TRIP TO THE PARK, how unacceptable or acceptable was:</u>	Very unacceptable	Unacceptable	Neither acceptable or unacceptable	Acceptable	Very acceptable
The number of water skiers	1.3%	1.9%	10.7%	59.6%	26.5%
The amount of noise coming from motorized watercraft (excluding personal watercraft)	1.4%	3.4%	10.7%	59.8%	24.6%
The amount of noise coming from personal watercraft (e.g., jet skis)	4.7%	8.3%	12.8%	52.5%	21.7%
The amount of time spent waiting to load or unload watercraft at boat ramp facilities	1.5%	2.9%	9.1%	54.3%	32.1%
The condition of boat ramps	2.2%	3.5%	5.9%	46.1%	42.3%
The condition of boat docks	2.0%	1.6%	5.5%	46.2%	44.8%
The number of people fishing from a boat	0.6%	0.6%	7.0%	58.0%	33.0%
The number of people bank or wade fishing	0.5%	0.3%	7.6%	56.8%	34.7%
<i>Each of the remaining topics below make reference to practices that are definitely unacceptable. However, when responding to these topics, think only in terms of whether or not the NUMBER or AMOUNT is acceptable or unacceptable:</i>					
The number of people operating motorized watercraft (excluding personal watercraft) in an unsafe manner	5.1%	5.7%	12.3%	47.6%	29.4%
The number of people operating personal watercraft (e.g., jet skis) in an unsafe manner	7.9%	11.5%	15.0%	40.1%	25.5%
The number of people violating park rules and regulations	5.6%	8.4%	13.4%	42.9%	29.8%
The number of people being too noisy during park quiet hours (10 pm – 8 am)	5.2%	7.8%	12.0%	40.9%	34.1%
The number of dogs off-leash in the park	7.3%	10.2%	11.2%	40.5%	30.8%
The amount of litter in the park	3.8%	2.5%	6.5%	42.6%	44.6%

10. On a scale from 1 (poor) to 9 (excellent), how would you rate your overall experience on this trip to the park? (**circle the number that best describes your experience**)

0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	1.2%	3.6%	6.3%	23.3%	30.4%	34.2%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(Poor)								(Excellent)

11. Overall, how do you think the quality of your experience at this park has changed over the last **FIVE** years? (**check only one**)

- 1.7% The quality of the experience has become much worse
- 9.2% The quality of the experience has become worse
- 29.8% The quality of the experience has NOT changed in five years
- 42.2% The quality of the experience has become better
- 17.0% The quality of the experience has become much better

12. How important is it to you that this park offer (or improve) the following facilities or services in the future? **Circle only ONE number for each facility/service below.**

<u>Facility/service:</u>	Very unimportant	Unimportant	Neither important or unimportant	Important	Very important
More tent camping sites	11.1%	18.9%	41.6%	20.2%	8.1%
More group camping sites	11.9%	17.7%	38.9%	22.1%	9.5%
More large trailer camping sites	14.4%	17.6%	36.8%	19.8%	11.5%
A reservation system for some (not all) campsites in each campground	16.0%	15.0%	28.3%	26.8%	14.0%
Group picnic shelters (or more group picnic shelters)	10.9%	17.9%	39.0%	24.2%	7.9%
Camping cabins/yurts	24.3%	23.3%	37.8%	10.6%	4.1%
Electrical hookups at some campsites	14.2%	13.2%	25.5%	27.1%	20.1%
Water hookups at some campsites	13.5%	13.7%	27.2%	28.0%	17.7%
Sewer hookups at some campsites	17.3%	17.1%	32.6%	19.9%	13.1%

12. continued

Facility/service:	Very unimportant	Unimportant	Neither important or unimportant	Important	Very important
Paving of roads (or more paved roads)	11.6%	17.7%	32.4%	26.1%	12.2%
Paving of RV pads (or more paved RV pads)	16.8%	21.7%	36.1%	17.3%	8.1%
Shower facilities (or more showers facilities)	9.0%	13.3%	31.1%	33.1%	13.5%
Flush toilets (or more flush toilets)	9.0%	14.9%	34.2%	29.4%	12.5%
Boat ramps (or more boat ramps)	10.4%	14.8%	37.9%	25.4%	11.5%
Boat docks (or more boat docks)	10.1%	14.0%	35.5%	26.7%	13.6%
Boat rentals	25.3%	23.6%	38.3%	10.3%	2.6%
Interpretive talks (or more interpretive talks)	17.6%	20.0%	45.3%	15.1%	1.9%
Playgrounds (or more playgrounds)	15.3%	18.0%	36.8%	24.6%	5.2%
Sporting facilities (e.g., horseshoe pits, volleyball areas, etc.)	14.3%	17.2%	38.0%	25.1%	5.3%
More accessibility for persons with disabilities	9.2%	11.2%	43.7%	27.2%	8.8%
Concessions for ice, firewood, etc. (or more concessions)	15.2%	16.6%	34.8%	25.4%	8.1%

13. In total, about how many **YEARS** have you been visiting this state park?

Mean = 9.3 Median = 5.0 (years)

14. About how many **TRIPS PER YEAR** do you typically take to this park?

Mean = 4.1 Median = 2.0 (trips per year)

15. Excluding this state park, are there any other places where you typically go to recreate? (**check only one**)

17.5% NO

82.5% YES....If yes, where else do you typically go to recreate?

(See individual park reporting)

16. Where do you typically get **MOST** of your information about Montana's state parks? (**check only one**)

5.9% Newspaper

1.0% Magazine

1.0% Television or radio

4.9% Calling a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) office by telephone

32.1% Visiting a Montana state park

3.3% Visiting a FWP office in person

19.2% FWP website (on the Internet)

4.1% Other websites on the Internet

2.0% *Montana Outdoors* magazine

6.2% Tourist information brochures and/or pamphlets

1.6% Tourist information books

0.5% Local chamber of commerce

0.2% Montana Department of Commerce

18.1% Other....(primarily friends/family and word of mouth)

17. What is your age? Mean = 50.5 Median = 50.0 (years)

18. Are you? (**check only one**)

39.5% Female

60.5% Male

19. Are you a current resident of Montana? (**check only one**)

23.9% NO

76.1% YES....If yes, how many **years** have you lived in Montana? Mean = 34.2

Median = 34.0

Additional comments: _____

(See individual park reporting)



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