Research to Support Visitor Management at Acadia National Park: 2004-2009



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Chapter 1 Introduction

As the name suggests, the national park system contains natural and cultural resources of national, and, increasingly, international significance. Units of the national park system contain natural and cultural resources of great importance to the nation and, in many cases, to the international community. Given the significance of this resource base, public demand to see and experience these areas is not surprising. Data on visitation to the national park system dramatically support this premise. Visits to the national park system are approaching 300 million per year.

The increasing popularity of the national park system presents substantial management challenges. Too many visitors may cause unacceptable impacts to fragile natural and cultural resources, and may also cause crowding and other social impacts which degrade the quality of the visitor experience. How many visitors can ultimately be accommodated in a park or related area? How much resource and social impact should be allowed? These and related questions are commonly referred to as carrying capacity or visitor capacity (Manning 2011; Manning 2007; Manning 2009; Whittaker et al. 2011; Stankey and Manning 1986; Shelby and Herberlein 1986; Graefe et al. 1984).

Acadia National Park is a good example of the issues noted above. This unit of the national park system contains significant natural, cultural and recreational resources. The area draws large numbers of visitors, and this can result in significant resource and social impacts. How much and what types of visitor use can ultimately be accommodated in Acadia National Park?

Visitor Experience and Resource Protection: A Carrying Capacity Framework

Several years ago, the National Park Service began developing a carrying capacity framework titled Visitor Experience and Resource Protection (VERP) (National Park Service 1997; Manning 2001). As the name suggests, this planning framework is aimed at maintaining the quality of the visitor experience and protecting natural and cultural resources in the face of increasing visitor use. VERP is built upon the same basic principles and concepts that drive other contemporary carrying capacity and related planning/management frameworks, including Limits of Acceptable Change (Stankey et al. 1985), and Visitor Impact Management (Graefe et al. 1990), and these principles and concepts have been ratified in a recent multi-authored report on visitor capacity (Whittaker et al. 2011).

VERP contains several critical steps that can be supported by research. The first is collecting baseline data on visitor use and associated resource and social impacts. How many and what types of visitor uses are occurring where, and what resource and social impacts are associated with such use? The second step is formulating indicators and standards of quality for natural/cultural resources and the visitor experience. Indicators of quality are measurable, manageable variables that help define the quality of natural/cultural resources and the visitor experience. Standards of quality define the minimum acceptable condition of indicator variables. Research suggests that visitors often have norms or standards about the resource and social conditions acceptable in a park or related area, and that such norms can be useful as a means of formulating indicators and standards of quality (Shelby and Heberlein 1986; Shelby et al. 1992; Manning et al. 1996a; Manning et al. 1996b; Manning 2007). The third step is monitoring of

indicator variables. When monitoring demonstrates that indicator variables are no longer within acceptable standards, carrying capacity has been exceeded, and management action is required. VERP was initially applied to Arches National Park as a test case and a model for other units of the national park system (Hof et al. 1994; Manning et al. 1996b; Manning et al. 1993; Lime et al. 1994; Manning et al. 1995). This application resulted in a carrying capacity management plan that has now been implemented at that park (National Park Service 1995). A second application of VERP resulted in a carrying capacity management plan for the carriage roads at Acadia National Park (Jacobi and Manning 1997; Manning et al. 1998; Jacobi and Manning 1999). Additional applications of VERP have been conducted throughout the national park system.

Study Objectives

The overall purpose of this study was to gather information that will help support application of VERP to Acadia National Park. In particular, study objectives focused on the three elements of the VERP framework that can benefit the most from empirical data: 1) collecting baseline data on visitor use and associated impacts, 2) identifying indicators of standards of quality for the visitor experience, and 3) monitoring indicator variables. The study focuses on the social or experiential component of carrying capacity. Specific study objectives were as follows:

1. Determine baseline conditions of visitor use levels, types and locations. Carrying capacity frameworks, including VERP, should be as informed as possible regarding current visitor use levels and types. Data were gathered on visitor characteristics and visitor use levels, activities, and locations.

2. Identify indicators and standards of quality. As described above, indicators of quality are measurable, manageable variables that help define the quality of the visitor experience. Standards of quality represent the minimum acceptable condition of indicator variables. Data were gathered from visitors to help managers identify indicators and standards of quality for the visitor experience at multiple locations within Acadia National Park. Where appropriate, a visual approach using photographic simulations was used to measure visitor norms for resource and social conditions.

3. Study the relationship between use levels and potential indicators of quality. Better understanding of the relationship between use levels of Acadia National Park and potential indicators of quality can be useful in monitoring and managing visitor use. This objective focused on determining the relationship between the number of visitors at one time to selected areas within Acadia National Park and potential indicators of quality, such as selected measures of crowding and congestion.

Chapter 2 Methods

Visitor surveys were conducted at seventeen locations in the park between 2004 and 2007. In the summer of 2004, surveys were conducted at iconic sites, including Bass Harbor Head Light, Cadillac Mountain, Echo Lake, Jordan Pond, Ocean Drive, Precipice Trail, Sand Beach, Sieur de Monts, Thunder Hole, park trails, and Wildwood Stables. In the summer of 2005, surveys were conducted at low use sites or at iconic sites during off-peak times. These sites included: Acadia Mountain, Cadillac Mountain, Compass Harbor, Hunter's Beach, Little Hunter's Beach, Ocean Drive, Sand Beach, Seawall, Thunder Hole, and Valley Cove. A trails study was conducted in 2007. A final study to determine standards of quality for relevant indicators on the summit of Cadillac Mountain was completed in 2009.

Trained interviewers were stationed at the study locations between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. At each site, a sampling protocol was followed to ensure that an unbiased sample of visitors was selected. At locations with moderate use levels, surveyors asked the first person to complete their visit at the study site to participate in the survey. When the visitor finished the survey, the next visitor to complete their visit was selected, and this process continued throughout the day. At sites with higher use, interviewers either selected every 5th person or 10th person or selected the first person they saw after a specific interval of time. The questionnaires focused primarily on potential indicators of the quality of the visitor experience and standards of quality for crowding-related issues.

Four iconic sites within the park—Cadillac Mountain, Ocean Drive, Sand Beach, and Thunder Hole—were selected to receive modified surveys. A few of the modifications targeted

differences between high and low use areas and times. In 2004, surveys were administered at two points along the Park Loop Road: 1) an area after Otter Creek Road (high use) and 2) an area near Wildwood Stables (low use). In 2005, off-peak time surveys were conducted at Cadillac Mountain, Sand Beach, and Thunder Hole. For these three surveys, visitors were surveyed during times of low use, specifically between 7am and 10am and 4pm and 7pm.

Three additional survey modifications include 1) the use of GPS data along Ocean Drive in 2004, and 2) the use of video simulations and photos with large vehicles (RVs and tour buses) along Ocean Drive and 3) a study of the efficacy of management practices on Cadillac Mountain in 2005. GPS data were collected as input data for a computer simulation model of traffic on the high use portion of Ocean Drive. A comprehensive description of the simulation modeling effort is included later in this chapter. Videos of moving automobile traffic along Ocean Drive were shown to visitors at the Thunder Hole parking lot in 2005. These videos contained the same number and kinds of vehicles as were shown in still photographs in the 2004 Ocean Drive surveys. The management efficacy survey conducted at Cadillac Mountain in 2005 asked visitors to evaluate different management scenarios that were implemented to control visitor use. A component of this study randomly selected visitors who were unobtrusively observed at both trailheads of the short loop by roving pairs of research staff and/or park staff. Observations were only conducted in fair weather during peak use hours, while use levels were sufficient to conceal the observers following at a discreet distance of approximately 50 feet.

The number of completed questionnaires for each study location and response rates are reported in Table 2.1 below. The response rates ranged from a low of 53.7% at Sand Beach in 2004, to 94.8% at Precipice Trail in 2004.

Table 2.1. Number of Completed Questionnaires and Response Rates

Site	Completed Questionnaires	Response Rate
2004		
Bass Harbor Head Light	133	68.4
Cadillac Mountain	125	66.5
Echo Lake	110	69.2
Jordan Pond House	122	71.2
Ocean Drive (high use section)	142	76.3
Ocean Drive (low use section)	118	68.2
Precipice Trail	109	94.8
Sand Beach	122	53.7
Sieur de Monts	125	76.7
Thunder Hole	145	85.3
Trails	249	82.2
Wildwood Stables	109	88.6
2005		
Acadia Mountain	104	84.6
Cadillac Mountain (off-peak times)	101	73.7
Cadillac Mountain (efficacy)	596	71.7
Cadillac Mountain (efficacy)(observations)	1135	--
Compass Harbor	114	88.2
Hunter's Beach	108	85.0
Little Hunter's Beach	105	77.2
Ocean Drive	128	72.4
Ocean Drive (off-peak times)	98	71.5
Sand Beach (off-peak times)	101	65.3
Seawall	160	89.4
Thunder Hole (off-peak times)	99	86.7
2007		
Trails	290	81.4
2009		
Cadillac Mountain	250	75.0

Ocean Drive Simulation Model Methods

Three types of data inputs for the simulation model of Ocean Drive were collected during the peak use season in 2004: 1) headway counts, 2) travel routes, and 3) standards of quality. Headway counts (counts of vehicle usage) were collected by stationing a person at the entrance to Ocean Drive, and having that person record the number of vehicles entering the road for each half-hour period between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Headway counts were collected on five randomly selected days during the months of July and August, 2004.

Travel routes of Ocean Drive vehicle users were collected (on the same five days as the headway counts) by having a sample of park visitors carry a GPS unit in their vehicle. Vehicles entering Ocean Drive were selected at random (based on the first available vehicle), and the drivers were asked to participate in the study by carrying a GPS unit. Commercially available, hand-held Garmin eTrex Legend® GPS units were used. Visitors agreeing to participate were given a GPS unit that was turned on but had the display screen covered. This was done to reduce tampering and to minimize the possibility that a person receiving a GPS unit would alter their travel behavior because they were carrying the unit. GPS units were collected from study participants at the exit of Ocean Drive, returned to the entrance of Ocean Drive, and then passed out again to other vehicle-based visitors using the same selection protocol. The GPS units collected positional data showing where vehicles traveled. A time was recorded with each GPS datum. GPS was chosen over self-reported map diaries for collecting travel routes because it may (1) provide a far more detailed and accurate record of where visitors have gone, (2) result in higher response rates, (3) reduce respondent burden, and (4) lead to less response bias (Hallo, Manning, Valliere, and Budruk, 2005).

Data were downloaded from the GPS units to a computer. The downloaded files (in .gpx format) were converted to text format (.txt) and appended to each other (using freeware programs *GPS Utility* and *miniMerge*, respectively). Next, the latitudes and longitudes were defined for a series of rectangular areas or "harvest regions" corresponding to the road zones and parking lots. A software program was written and used to harvest the travel time data from each route. This was necessary because of the large number of positional data points collected by the GPS. First and last-recorded data points within each of the harvest regions are identified and separated from rest of the data with this program. Travel times were calculated by determining the time difference between the first and last data points.

Resulting travel times were corrected for a selection inaccuracy inherent in using the above method. The first and last data points collected for a region must fall inside the established latitude and longitude boundaries. Therefore, travel time on the road between the harvest region boundary and the first and last recorded points are not accounted for. Correction factors for the travel times (for each travel route and road zone) were calculated by determining the length of the road zone unaccounted for by the first and last data points. Correction factors were then used to adjust travel times used in the simulation model.

A separate sample of vehicle users was randomly selected at the exit of Ocean Drive and asked to participate in a survey. The survey was conducted over 7 randomly selected days in July and August, 2004. The survey was designed to collect data on visitor-based standards of quality for vehicle congestion on the road. Survey respondents were shown a series of photos depicting a range of vehicle use densities on Ocean Drive (Figure 1). Six simulated photos showed 0, 4, 8, 12, 16, and 21 vehicles. These photos were constructed by digitally adding vehicles to a base photo using photo-editing software. The base photo was chosen to represent a

typical section of Ocean Drive, and vehicle use depicted in these photos represents a range of conditions from an "empty road" to a road at its' physical capacity. Vehicles were placed in these photos to evenly distribute them in the foreground and background. This was done so that the spatial depiction of vehicles did not skew respondent evaluations of road congestion (Manning and Freimund, 2004).

All respondents were asked to rate each photo by indicating how acceptable it was based on the number of vehicles shown. Respondents rated photos on a scale of -4 ("very unacceptable") to +4 ("very acceptable"). Survey respondents were also asked to indicate the photo showing the level of use that they (1) would prefer to see, (2) felt that NPS should allow before restricting visitors from using the road, and (3) found so unacceptable that they would no longer use the road. Photos were used in the study because they may better communicate or focus attention on the variables intended for evaluation by respondents, particularly when these variables are difficult or awkward to describe in a narrative format (Manning and Freimund, 2004). (For a review of photo simulation methods for measuring park and carrying capacity related standards see Manning, 2007.)

Data used to validate the model results were collected on 6 randomly selected days during the peak use season of 2005. These data consisted of both headway counts and instantaneous traffic counts. Headway counts were conducted at the same location and using the same techniques as described above for the model input data. Instantaneous counts were conducted by stationing a person at the same location as where the study base photo was taken. The number of vehicles on the road section shown in the base photo was recorded at five minute intervals.

Section One

2004 Survey Results

Chapter 3 Bass Harbor Head Light

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 3.1). Average (mean) age was 46 years old (median = 47).

Table 3.1. Age (N=125)

Q12b. Age		
	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	4	3.2
20-29	21	16.8
30-39	23	18.4
40-49	39	31.2
50-59	27	21.6
60-69	8	6.4
70-79	3	2.4
80-89	0	0.0

Mean= 46, Median= 47

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 3.2). The gender distribution at Bass Harbor Head Light appears reasonably balanced with 54% being male and 46% being female.

Table 3.2. Gender (N=127)

Q12c. Gender		
	Frequency	Percent
Male	68	54.0
Female	58	46.0

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 3.3). The largest percentages of respondents had completed four years of college or a graduate degree, 34.6% and 37.8% respectively.

Table 3.3. Education (N=127)

Q12d. Education	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	1	0.8
High school graduate	12	9.4
Vocational/trade school certificate	5	3.9
Some college	14	11.0
Two-year college degree	3	2.4
Four-year college degree	44	34.6
Graduate degree	48	37.8

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 4 through 6. Most visitors (92.2%) reside in the United States (Table 3.4). Thirty-two states were represented at Bass Harbor Head Light (Table 3.5). The most common states of residency were New York (11.5%) and New Jersey (11.5%). Ten respondents were from other countries (Table 3.6). Those countries include Canada, Scotland, and the United Kingdom.

Table 3.4. Place of Residence (N=129)

Q12a1. Do you live in the United States?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	119	92.2
No	10	7.8

Table 3.5. State of Residence (N=96)

State	Frequency	Percent
New Jersey	11	11.5
New York	11	11.5
Massachusetts	8	8.3
Connecticut	7	7.3
Vermont	5	5.2
Florida	4	4.2
Pennsylvania	4	4.2
Virginia	4	4.2
California	3	3.1
Colorado	3	3.1
Maine	3	3.1
Maryland	3	3.1
MI	3	3.1
MN	3	3.1
OR	3	3.1
Rhoda Island	3	3.1
North Carolina	2	2.1
Ohio	2	2.1
AL	1	1.0
Arizona	1	1.0
Washington, D.C.	1	1.0
Georgia	1	1.0
IL	1	1.0
IN	1	1.0
Kansas	1	1.0
Kentucky	1	1.0
LA	1	1.0
Nebraska	1	1.0
New Hampshire	1	1.0
Oklahoma	1	1.0
Tennessee	1	1.0
Texas	1	1.0

Table 3.6. Country of Residence (N=10)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Canada	7	70.0
Scotland	1	10.0
U.K.	2	20.0

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 3.7). Visitors to Bass Harbor Head Light tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3.1 (median = 2).

Table 3.7. Group Size (N=130)

Q1. How many people are in your personal group today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	10	7.7
2	68	52.3
3	12	9.2
4	28	21.5
5	5	3.8
6	1	0.8
7	2	1.5
10+	4	3.2

Mean= 3.1, Median= 2

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 3.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (97.7%) were comprised of family and friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 3.9). No respondents at Bass Harbor Head Light were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 3.8. Group Type (N=123)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?		
	Frequency	Percent
Family	96	78.0
Friends	15	12.2
Family and Friends	8	6.5
Organized group/club/school/educational group	2	1.6
Other	2	1.6

Table 3.9. Commercial Group (N=127)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	0	0.0
No	127	100.0

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 3.10). Almost half (49.6%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Most repeat visitors had been to the park only a few times, but a few visitors come to the park very often (Table 3.11).

Table 3.10. Previously Visited (N=133)

Q8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	66	49.6
No	67	50.4

Table 3.11. Number of Previous Visits (N=65)

Q8b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?	Frequency	Percent
1	22	33.8
2	9	13.8
3	7	10.8
4	3	4.6
5	2	3.1
6	2	3.1
7	1	1.5
8	1	1.5
9	1	1.5
10+	17	26.1

Mean= 8.3, Median= 3

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 3.12). Half of respondents (50.4%) said that

they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 3.13). Approximately half of respondents (52.9%) said it was because Mount Desert Island is too far from home. No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 3.12. (N=127)

Q7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	64	50.4
No	63	49.6

Table 3.13. (N=68)

Q7b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	36	52.9
Want to visit other places	25	36.8
Something negative about Acadia	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	7	10.3

Visitors were asked how long they stayed at Bass Harbor Head Light (Table 3.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 37.2 minutes (median = 30).

Table 3.14. Length of stay (N=129)

Q5. Approximately how long did you stay at Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
1	1	0.8
10	5	3.9
15	13	10.1
20	14	10.9
25	3	2.3
30	50	38.8
35	1	0.8
40+	42	32.7

Mean=37.1, Median=30

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" Half of visitor (51.2%) to Bass Harbor Head Light paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual, while 25.6% did not pay a fee or use a park pass (Table 3.15).

Table 3.15. Fees Paid (N=125)

Q9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	32	25.6
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	64	51.2
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	18	14.4
Fee included in tour package	1	.8
Don't Know	8	6.4
Other	2	1.6

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 3.15 through 3.17). Most respondents (96.9%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they were administered the survey. A vast majority of respondents (79.8%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and half

(52.5%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 3.15. Island Explorer bus system use (N=128)

Q11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	4	3.1
No	124	96.9

Table 3.16. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=124)

Q11b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	25	20.2
No	99	79.8

Table 3.17. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=123)

Q11c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	34	27.6
No	65	52.8
Don't Know	24	19.5

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 3.17). A vast majority of respondent (98.4%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 3.17. Fishing (N=127)

Q10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	2	1.6
No	125	98.4

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 3.18). Only two visitors responded to this question and reported that they fished either at Echo Lake or were not yet sure where they would fish.

Table 3.18. Fishing Areas (N=2)

Q10b. If yes, where did/will you fish?		
	Frequency	Percent
Echo Lake, Long Pond	1	50
I'm not sure yet/ just arrived yesterday	1	50

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (96.9%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 3.19). The vast majority (90.6%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 3.20).

Table 3.19. Ethnicity (N=98)

Q12e1. Ethnicity		
	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	3	3.1
Not Hispanic or Latino	95	96.9

Table 3.20. Race (N=117)

Q12e2. Race		
	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0.9
Asian	5	4.3
Black or African American	1	0.9
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	106	90.6
Other	4	3.4

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Bass Harbor Head Light. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Bass Harbor Head Light. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 21 and 22. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents was the beauty of Bass Harbor Head Light. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visitor to Bass Harbor Head Light, the most commonly reported item (17.6%) was "weather", closely followed by the feeling that everything was good (15.1%) and too few facilities (13.2%) (Table 3.22).

Table 3.21. Enjoyed most (N=364)

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty	181	49.7
A particular place	41	11.3
Facilities	26	7.1
Recreation activity	20	5.5
Weather	20	5.5
Friendly, helpful rangers / people; hospitality	12	3.3
Miscellaneous	12	3.3
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	10	2.7
Access / accessibility; freedom; easy access	10	2.7
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	10	2.7
Food, restaurants; popovers	8	2.2
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic, secluded	7	1.9
Learning about natural and human history	7	1.9
Everything	0	0.0
Challenge	0	0.0
Warm water for swimming	0	0.0

Table 3.22. Enjoyed least (N=150)

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?	Frequency	Percent
Weather	27	17.8
Miscellaneous	25	16.4
Nothing; everything was good	23	15.1
Too few facilities	20	13.2
Too commercial; too much development	11	7.2
Crowding	8	5.3
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	7	4.7
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	6	3.9
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	5	3.3
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	5	3.3
User conflicts	3	2.0
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	3	2.0
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	3	2.0
Lack of access for disabled	2	1.3
Noise	1	0.7
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	1	0.7
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	0	0.0
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	0	0.0
Cost; fees	0	0.0
Dogs; dog droppings	0	0.0
Visitor impacts	0	0.0
Dogs not allowed; pets not allowed	0	0.0
Tour busses; tours	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: “If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?” Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 3.23. The most commonly occurring responses were the feeling that everything in the park is fine just as it is (32.1%) and a desire for more information and interpretation (19.8%).

Table 3.23. Management changes (N=106)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	34	32.1
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	21	19.8
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	15	14.2
Miscellaneous	14	13.2
More access for handicapped / seniors	8	7.5
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	6	5.7
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	4	3.8
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	1	0.9
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	1	0.9
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	1	0.9
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	1	0.9
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	0	0.0
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0
Control insects	0	0.0
Allow pets	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set of questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Bass Harbor Head Light (Table 3.24). The vast majority of respondents did not think that any of the issues were a "small" or "big" problem.

Table 3.24. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse?	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know	Mean
1. Difficulty finding a parking place (N=126)	81.4	11.6	4.7	2.3	1.21
2. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas) (N=117)	78.0	11.8	2.4	7.9	1.18
3. Too many people in this area of the park (N=125)	74.4	21.7	0.8	3.1	1.24
4. Not enough restrooms (N=117)	77.3	13.3	0.8	8.6	1.16

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Bass Harbor Head Light. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 3.25). Generally, perceived crowding levels were very low. Approximately half of respondents (58.1%) reported that they were "not at all crowded".

Table 3.25. Perceived crowding (N=129)

Q4. How crowded did you feel at Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	47	36.4
2	28	21.7
3	32	24.8
4	14	10.9
5	2	1.6
6	3	2.3
7	3	2.3
8	0	0.0
9 Extremely Crowded	0	0.0

Mean= 2.4, Median= 2

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 3.26). A substantial majority of respondents (59%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. A substantial majority of respondents (61.9%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. A substantial majority of respondents (61.9%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a substantial majority of respondents (61.6%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 3.26. (N=103)

Q6. The following question asks your opinion about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded (N=129)	2.3	20.2	18.6	48.1	10.9	3.45
There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time (N=131)	2.3	17.6	18.3	40.5	21.4	3.61
Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard (N=131)	2.3	15.3	20.6	48.9	13.0	3.55
The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right (N=125)	8.8	52.8	26.4	10.4	1.6	2.67

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar for all of these issues (Tables 27 to 29). A majority of respondents felt that these conditions have not changed much. However, substantial minorities of respondents felt that crowding and congestion conditions have gotten worse, 39.1% and 32.4% respectively.

Table 3.27. Change in crowding (N=69)

Q8c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	27	39.1
I feel less crowded than I used to	3	4.3
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	39	56.5

Table 3.28. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=68)

Q8d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	22	32.4
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	7	10.3
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	39	57.4

Table 3.29. Change in availability of parking space (N=65)

Q8e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	8	12.3
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	4	6.2
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	53	81.5

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 3.30). A large majority (71.2%) of respondents were aware. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 3.31) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 3.32). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 96% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 88.5% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 3.30. Awareness of entrance fee uses (N=125)

Q9b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	89	71.2
No	36	28.8

Table 3.31. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=125)

Q9c. Do you support the use of park service fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	120	96.0
No	5	4.0

Table 3.32. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=122)

Q9d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	108	88.5
No	14	11.5

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees in light of knowing how they are used (Table 3.33). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 3.33. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q9e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park.

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week (N=117)	2.6	79.5	17.9	2.15
$40 Annual Acadia Pass (N=98)	8.2	78.6	13.3	2.05
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week (N=95)	2.1	91.6	6.3	2.04
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life) (N=99)	17.2	81.8	1.0	1.84

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 3.34). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 75.9% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 3.34. Overall satisfaction (N=120)

Q9f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?		
	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	7	5.8
Dissatisfied	1	.8
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	21	17.5
Satisfied	50	41.7
Very satisfied	41	34.2

Chapter 4 Cadillac Mountain

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 4.1). Average (mean) age was 50 years old (median = 51).

Table 4.1. Age (N=108)

Q13b. Age	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	0	0.0
20-29	5	4.6
30-39	16	14.8
40-49	29	26.9
50-59	37	34.3
60-69	15	13.9
70-79	5	4.6
80-89	1	0.9

Mean=50, Median=51

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 4.2). The gender distribution at Cadillac Mountain appears balanced with 50% being male and 50% being female.

Table 4.2. Gender (N=116)

Q13c. What is your gender?	Frequency	Percent
Male	58	50.0
Female	58	50.0

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 4.3). The majority of respondents, 68.3%, had completed a college or graduate degree.

Table 4.3. Education (N=120)

Q13d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?		
	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	2	1.7
High school graduate	16	13.3
Vocational/trade school certificate	2	1.7
Some college	18	15.0
Two-year college degree	7	5.8
Four-year college degree	32	26.7
Graduate degree	43	35.8

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 4.4 through 4.6. Most visitors (98.1%) reside in the United States (Table 4.4). Twenty-four states were represented at Cadillac Mountain (Table 4.5). Only 3 respondents were from other countries: Canada, Gibralter, and the United Kingdom (Table 4.6).

Table 4.4. Place of residence (N=103)

Q13a. Do you live in the United States?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	101	98.1
No	2	1.9

Table 4.5. State of residence (N=91)

State	Frequency	Percent
Pennsylvania	15	15.3
Massachusetts	11	11.2
New York	11	11.2
Maine	10	10.2
Virginia	6	6.1
Connecticut	5	5.1
New Jersey	5	5.1
Illinois	4	4.1
Maryland	4	4.1
Tennessee	4	4.1
New Hampshire	3	3.1
Texas	3	3.1
Vermont	3	3.1
Florida	2	2.0
Michigan	2	2.0
Ohio	2	2.0
California	1	1.0
Colorado	1	1.0
Indiana	1	1.0
Missouri	1	1.0
North Carolina	1	1.0
Rhode Island	1	1.0
South Carolina	1	1.0
Wisconsin	1	1.0

Table 4.6. Country of residence (N=3)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Canada	1	33.3
United Kingdom and Gibraltar	2	66.7

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 4.7). Visitors to Cadillac Mountain tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 4.3 (median = 4).

Table 4.7. Group size (N=123)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today		
	Frequency	Percent
2	3	2.4
3	53	43.1
4	17	13.8
5	25	20.3
6	12	9.8
7	4	3.3
8	3	2.4
9	6	4.8
10+	1	1.0

Mean=4.3, Median=4

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 4.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (93.4%) were comprised of family and friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 4.9). Three respondents at Cadillac Mountain were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 4.8. Group type (N=122)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?		
	Frequency	Percent
Family	93	76.2
Friends	11	9.0
Family and Friends	10	8.2
Organized group/club/school/educational group	6	4.9
Other	2	1.6

Table 4.9. Commercial group (N=123)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	3	2.4
No	120	97.6

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 4.10). Half (50.4%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Repeat visitors to the park visited an average (mean) of 25.3 (median = 3) times before (Table 4.11).

Table 4.10. Previously visited (N=123)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	62	50.4
No	61	49.6

Table 4.11. Number of previous visits (N=59)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?	Frequency	Percent
0	2	3.4
1	19	32.2
2	8	13.6
3	4	6.8
4	3	5.1
5	1	1.7
6	1	1.7
7	1	1.7
9	1	1.7
10	1	1.7
12	3	5.1
14	2	3.4
15	2	3.4
20	3	5.1
24	1	1.7
30	3	5.1
40	2	3.4
50	1	1.7
1000	1	1.7

Mean=25.3, Median=3

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 4.12). Over half of respondents (57.4%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 4.13). Half of respondents (50.0%) said it was because it was too far from home. No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 4.12. (N=122)

Q8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	70	57.4
No	52	42.6

Table 4.13. (N=46)

Q8b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the nest year or two, please explain why not.		
	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	23	50.0
Want to visit other places	18	39.1
Something negative about Acadia	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	5	10.9

Visitors were asked how long they stayed at Cadillac Mountain (Table 4.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 67.7 minutes (median = 60).

Table 4.14. Length of stay (N=119)

Q5. Approximately how long did you stay at Cadillac Mountain today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
5	1	0.8
10	1	0.8
15	4	3.4
20	5	4.2
25	1	0.8
30	29	24.4
40	1	0.8
45	5	4.2
60	40	33.6
90	14	11.8
120	14	11.8
180	1	0.8
240	2	1.7
360	1	0.8

Mean=64.7, Median=60

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" Forty two percent of visitors to Cadillac Mountain paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual (Table 4.15).

Table 4.15. Fees paid (N=118)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	35	29.4
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	50	42.0
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	33	27.7
Don't know	0	0.0
Other	0	0.8

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 4.16 through 4.18). Most of the respondents (95.0%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they completed the survey. A vast majority of respondents (89.3%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and nearly three-quarters (72.7%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 4.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=120)

Q11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	6	5.0
No	114	95.0

Table 4.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=121)

Q11b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	13	10.7
No	108	89.3

Table 4.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=121)

Q11c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	17	14.0
No	88	72.7
Don't Know	16	13.2

Respondents were asked to report whether they or anyone in their group participated in or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 4.19). A vast majority of respondents (98%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 4.19. Fishing (N=102)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your personal group participate in freshwater fishing in this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	2	2.0
No	100	98.0

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 4.20). Only one visitor responded to this question and reported fishing at Echo Lake.

Table 4.20. Fishing areas (N=1)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?	Frequency	Percent
Echo Lake	1	100.0

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (96.8%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 4.21). The vast majority (95.7%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 4.22).

Table 4.21. Ethnicity (N=95)

Q13e1. Ethnicity		
	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	3	3.2
Not Hispanic or Latino	92	96.8

Table 4.22. Race (N=117)

Q13e2. Race		
	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	3	2.6
Black or African American	1	0.9
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	112	95.7
Other	1	0.9

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Cadillac Mountain. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Cadillac Mountain. A variety of responses were given to these questions. Answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 4.23 and 4.24. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents was the beauty of Cadillac Mountain. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visit to Cadillac Mountain, the most commonly reported item (33.5%) was "crowding", followed by miscellaneous comments (17.1%) (Table 4.24).

Table 4.23. Enjoyed most (N=346)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty	166	48.0
Recreation activity	36	10.4
Facilities	25	7.2
A particular place	20	5.8
Weather	19	5.5
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	17	4.9
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	15	4.3
Learning about natural and human history of the area	12	3.5
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	10	2.9
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	8	2.3
Food, restaurants; popovers	6	1.7
Miscellaneous	6	1.7
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic, secluded	5	1.4
Everything	1	0.3

Table 4.24. Enjoyed Least (N=158)

Q3b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?	Frequency	Percent
Crowding	53	33.5
Miscellaneous	27	17.1
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	14	8.9
Nothing; everything was good	13	8.2
Cost; fees	8	5.1
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	8	5.1
User conflicts	8	5.1
Weather	7	4.4
Too few facilities	5	3.2
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	4	2.5
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	3	1.9
Noise	3	1.9
Visitor impacts	2	1.3
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	2	1.3
Too commercial; too much development	1	0.6
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	0	0.0
Tour busses; tours	0	0.0
Dogs; dog droppings	0	0.0
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	0	0.0
Dogs not allowed; pets not allowed	0	0.0
Lack of access for disabled	0	0.0
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	0	0.0
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: "If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?" Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 4.25. The most common responses were the feeling that everything in the park is fine just as it is (30.2%) and a desire for more information and interpretation (18.8%).

Table 4.25. Management changes (N=96)

Q3c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	29	30.2
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	18	18.8
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	12	12.5
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	7	7.3
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	6	6.3
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	6	6.3
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	6	6.3
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	5	5.2
Miscellaneous	4	4.2
More access for handicapped / seniors	2	2.1
Enforce pet regulations	1	1.0
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	0	0.0
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	0	0.0
Control insects	0	0.0
Allow pets	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set of questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Cadillac Mountain (Table 4.26). The majority of respondents did not think that most of the issues were problematic. However, a majority of respondents felt that “too many cars on the summit road”, “too many large vehicles on the summit road”, difficulty finding a parking space”, and “damage to soil and vegetation” were either “small” or “big” problems.

Table 4.26. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Cadillac Mountain?	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know	Mean
1. Too many cars on the summit road (N=121)	45.6	40.8	10.4	3.2	1.6
2. Too many large vehicles (e.g., buses, campers) on the summit road (N=117)	46.3	37.4	11.4	4.9	1.6
3. Difficulty finding a parking place (N=120)	43.5	41.1	12.1	3.2	1.7
4. Too many large vehicles (e.g., buses, campers) in the parking lot (N=118)	51.6	32.3	11.3	4.8	1.6
5. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas) (N=115)	58.5	26.0	8.9	6.5	1.5
6. Too many people walking on the road and parking area (N=120)	73.2	22.0	2.4	2.4	1.3
7. Too many people in this area of the park (N=123)	66.9	24.2	8.1	0.8	1.4
8. Too many people on the paved Cadillac Summit Trail (N=120)	72.0	20.8	3.2	4.0	1.3
9. Too many people in my view (N=124)	71.2	24.0	4.0	0.8	1.3
10. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by people walking off trail (N=112)	23.4	46.0	21.0	9.7	2.0
11. Too much trash (e.g., litter, cigarette butts) in this area of the park (N=124)	70.2	25.8	4.0	0.0	1.3
12. Not enough restrooms (N=115)	52.0	30.4	9.6	8.0	1.5
13. Communication antennas interfere with enjoyment of scenery (N=120)	82.0	13.1	3.3	1.6	1.2
14. Fenced enclosures interfere with enjoyment of scenery (N=122)	87.8	11.4	0.0	0.8	1.1
15. Too much noise (e.g., buses running their engines) (N=123)	72.4	23.6	4.1	0.0	1.3

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Cadillac Mountain. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 4.27). Generally, perceived crowding levels were very low. Over half of respondents (60.2%) reported that they were "not at all crowded" or only slightly crowded.

Table 4.27. Perceived crowding (N=123)

Q4. How crowded did you feel at Cadillac Mountain today?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	24	19.5
2	22	17.9
3	28	22.8
4	14	11.4
5	7	5.7
6	12	9.8
7	10	8.1
8	3	2.4
9 Extremely Crowded	3	2.4

Mean=3.5, Median=3

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 4.28). A substantial majority of respondents did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded (68.8%), substantial majority of respondents did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time (72.4%), disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard (76.3%), and agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right (72.1%).

Table 4.28. (N=103)

Q7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded (N=122)	1.6	16.4	13.1	54.9	13.9	3.6
There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time (N=123)	2.4	13.8	11.4	48.0	24.4	3.8
Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard (N=122)	1.6	9.0	13.1	56.6	19.7	3.8
The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right (N=122)	9.8	62.3	19.7	7.4	0.8	1.4

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar for all of these issues (Tables 4.29 to 4.31). A majority of respondents felt that these conditions have not changed much. However, substantial minorities of respondents (from 25.0% to 42.1%) felt that these conditions have gotten worse.

Table 4.29. Change in crowding (N=59)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	23	39.0
I fell less crowded than I used to	3	5.1
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	33	55.9

Table 4.30. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=57)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	24	42.1
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	0	0.0
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	33	57.9

Table 4.31. Change in availability of parking space (N=56)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	14	25.0
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	6	10.7
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	36	64.3

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 4.32). The majority (68.1%) of respondents were aware. Respondents were then asked if they

supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 4.33) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 4.34). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 94.9% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 84.5% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 4.32. Awareness of entrance fee uses (N=119)

Q10b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	81	68.1
No	38	31.9

Table 4.33. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=117)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	111	94.9
No	6	5.1

Table 4.34. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=116)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operations of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	98	84.5
No	18	15.5

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees in light of knowing how they are used (Table 4.35). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 4.35. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week	4.5	73.0	22.5	2.2
$40 Annual Acadia Pass	12.1	78.0	9.9	2.0
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	6.4	83.0	10.6	2.0
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	21.1	73.7	5.3	1.9
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 4.36). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 78.9% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 4.36. Overall satisfaction (N=109)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	12	11.0
Dissatisfied	3	2.8
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	8	7.3
Satisfied	37	33.9
Very satisfied	49	45.0

Chapter 5 Echo Lake

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 5.1). Average age was 46 years old (median = 44).

Table 5.1. Age (N=108)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	2	1.9
20-29	9	8.3
30-39	15	13.9
40-49	50	46.3
50-59	20	18.5
60-69	8	7.4
70-79	3	2.8
80-89	1	0.9

Mean=45.8, Median=44

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 5.2). An even distribution was found at Echo Lake with 53% being male and 47% being female.

Table 5.2. Gender (N=109)

Q13c. Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	58	53.2
Female	51	46.8

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 5.3). The largest percent of respondents, 43.1%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 5.3. Education (N=109)

Q13d. Education	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	3	2.8
High school graduate	10	9.2
Vocational/trade school certificate	2	1.8
Some college	11	10.1
Two-year college degree	10	9.2
Four-year college degree	26	23.9
Graduate degree	47	43.1

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 5.4 through 5.6. Most visitors (94.4%) reside in the United States (Table 5.4). Twenty states were represented at Echo Lake (Table 5.5). The most common state of residency was New York (18%). Only 6 respondents were from another country (Table 5.6). These countries include Canada, Germany, and Ireland.

Table 5.4. Place of residence (N=107)

Q13a1. Do you live in the United States?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	101	94.4
No	6	5.6

Table 5.5. State of residence (N=66)

State	Frequency	Percent
New York	12	18.2
Maine	11	16.7
Massachusetts	7	10.6
New Jersey	7	10.6
Rhode Island	4	6.1
Florida	4	6.1
Pennsylvania	3	4.5
Connecticut	2	3.0
Michigan	2	3.0
Wisconsin	2	3.0
Illinois	2	3.0
California	2	3.0
New Hampshire	1	1.5
Delaware	1	1.5
Maryland	1	1.5
Virginia	1	1.5
Alabama	1	1.5
Ohio	1	1.5
Utah	1	1.5
Washington	1	1.5

Table 5.6. Country of residence (N=6)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Canada	4	66.7
Germany	1	16.7
Ireland	1	16.7

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 5.7). The average (mean) group size of visitors to Echo Lake was 4.9 (median = 4).

Table 5.7. Group size (N=110)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	4	3.6
2	29	26.4
3	15	13.6
4	26	23.6
5	17	15.5
6	9	8.2
7	1	0.9
8	2	1.8
9	2	1.8
10+	5	4.5

Mean= 4.9, Median=4

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 5.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (96.3%) were comprised of family and friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 5.9). No respondents at Echo Lake were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 5.8. Group type (N=108)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?		
	Frequency	Percent
Family	90	83.3
Friends	8	7.4
Family and Friends	6	5.6
Organized group/club/school/educational group	1	0.9
Other	3	2.8

Table 5.9. Commercial group (N=109)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	0	0.0
No	109	100.0

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 5.10). A majority (62%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Repeat visitors to the park visited an average (mean) of 27.5 (median = 5) times before (Table 5.11).

Table 5.10. Previously visited (N=102)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	63	61.8
No	39	38.2

Table 5.11. Number of previous visits (N=61)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	6	9.8
2	12	19.7
3	9	14.8
4	3	4.9
5	4	6.6
6	1	1.6
8	2	3.3
10	4	6.6
12	2	3.3
15	1	1.6
16	1	1.6
17	2	3.3
18	1	1.6
20	3	4.9
25	2	3.3
30	1	1.6
37	1	1.6
40	1	1.6
50	4	6.6
1000	1	1.6

Mean= 27.5, Median= 5

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 5.12). A majority of respondents (66.3%) said

that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion a Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 5.13). Over half of respondents (52.9%) said it was because Mount Desert Island was too far from home. Only one respondent reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 5.12. (N=134)

Q8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	69	66.3
No	35	33.7

Table 5.13. (N=34)

Q8b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.		
	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	18	52.9
Want to visit other places	10	29.4
Something negative about Acadia National Park	1	2.9
Miscellaneous	5	14.7

Visitors were asked how long they stayed at Echo Lake (Table 5.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 105 minutes (median = 120).

Table 5.14. Length of stay (N=104)

Q6. Approximately how long did you stay at Thunder Hole today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
5	1	1.0
10	5	4.8
15	5	4.8
20	1	1.0
30	13	12.5
40	1	1.0
45	4	3.8
60	14	13.5
90	7	6.7
120	25	24.0
150	4	3.8
180	11	10.6
210	5	4.8
240	5	4.8
300	3	2.9

Mean= 105.3, Median= 120

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" Almost half of visitors (47%) to Echo Lake paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual (Table 5.15).

Table 5.15. Fees paid (N=108)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	34	31.5
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	51	47.2
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	16	14.8
Don't Know	4	3.7
Other	3	2.8

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 5.16 through 5.18). Most of the respondents (96.1%) had not ridden the Island Explorer

bus system on the day they completed the survey. Over eighty percent of respondents (81.5%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit, and more than half of respondents (57.4%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 5.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=113)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	4	3.9
No	99	96.1

Table 5.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=108)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	20	18.5
No	88	81.5

Table 5.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=108)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	28	25.9
No	62	57.4
Don't Know	18	16.7

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 5.19). A vast majority of respondents (93.6%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 5.19. Fishing (N=109)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	7	6.4
No	102	93.6

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 5.20).

Only five visitors responded to this question.

Table 5.20. Fishing areas (N=5)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?		
	Frequency	Percent
Bar Harbor fishing expedition	1	20.0
Eagle Lake	1	20.0
Echo Lake	1	20.0
No idea	1	20.0
Pier in Southwest Harbor	1	20.0

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (94.3%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 5.21). The vast majority (93.9%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 5.22).

Table 5.21. Ethnicity (N=87)

Q13e1. Ethnicity		
	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	5	5.7
Not Hispanic or Latino	82	94.3

Table 5.22. Race (N=98)

Q13e2. Race	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	4	4.1
Black or African American	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	92	93.9
Other	2	2.0

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Echo Lake. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Echo Lake. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 5.23 and 5.24. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents was the beauty of Echo Lake. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visit to Echo Lake, the most commonly reported item (20.0%) was "crowding", followed by "miscellaneous" (10.0%) (Table 5.24).

Table 5.23. Enjoyed most (N=316)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty	100	31.6
Warm water for swimming	81	25.6
Recreation activity	27	8.5
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	22	7.0
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	18	5.7
Facilities	16	5.1
A particular place	13	4.1
Weather	9	2.8
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic, secluded	9	2.8
Access / accessibility; freedom; easy access	8	2.5
Miscellaneous	7	2.2
Food, restaurants; popovers	4	1.3
Friendly, helpful rangers / people; hospitality	2	0.6
Everything	0	0.0
Learning about natural and human history	0	0.0
Challenge	0	0.0

Table 5.24. Enjoyed Least (N=150)

Q3b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Crowding	30	20.0
Miscellaneous	15	10.0
Weather	12	8.0
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	12	8.0
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	12	8.0
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	12	8.0
Nothing; everything was good	11	7.3
User conflicts	9	6.0
Too few facilities	9	6.0
Noise	6	4.0
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	6	4.0
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	5	3.3
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	3	2.0
Dogs not allowed; pets not allowed	3	2.0
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	2	1.3
Cost; fees	1	0.7
Dogs; dog droppings	1	0.7
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	1	0.7
Tour busses; tours	0	0.0
Too commercial; too much development	0	0.0
Visitor impacts	0	0.0
Lack of access for disabled	0	0.0
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: "If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?" Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 5.25. The most commonly occurring responses were the feeling that everything in the park is fine just as it is (27.9%) and requests for more restrooms, parking, water fountains, etc. (22.1%).

Table 5.25. Management changes (N=86)

Q3c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	24	27.9
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	19	22.1
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	10	11.6
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	9	10.5
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	7	8.1
Miscellaneous	5	5.8
Enforce pet regulations	3	3.5
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	2	2.3
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	2	2.3
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	2	2.3
More access for handicapped / seniors	1	1.2
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	1	1.2
Allow pets	1	1.2
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	0	0.0
Control insects	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set a questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Echo Lake (Table 5.26). None of the issues presented were considered a “small” or “big” problem at Echo Lake by a majority of visitors.

Table 5.26. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Echo Lake?	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know (DK)	Mean
1. Difficulty finding a parking place	61.5	24.8	10.1	3.7	1.47
2. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas)	60.2	21.3	4.6	13.9	1.35
3. Too many people in this area of the park	51.9	36.1	7.4	4.6	1.53
4. Not enough restrooms	59.3	22.2	7.4	11.1	1.42

Standards of Quality

Questions were also asked to address standards of quality for the indicator variable of the number of people at one time at Echo Lake. A series of six computer-generated photographs were prepared showing a range of use levels. Study photographs are shown in Appendix A.

For the series of photographs, respondents were asked a battery of evaluative questions. Respondents were first asked to evaluate the acceptability of the six study photographs showing increasing levels of visitor use. Acceptability was measured using a nine-point Likert-type scale ranging from (-4) "Very Unacceptable" to (4) "Very Acceptable". Zero represented the middle of this scale or the point of indifference. The second question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph that showed the use level they would prefer to see. A third question asked visitors to indicate which photograph showed the condition that would be so unacceptable that they would not longer visit Echo Lake. Further, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that, "none of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer visit this area." The fourth question asked visitors to select the photograph representing the highest level of visitor use they thought the National Park Service should allow, or the point at which visitor use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that

none of the photographs show a high enough level of visitor use to restrict use or that use should not be restricted at all. The fifth question referred to existing conditions. Respondents were asked to indicate the photograph that most represented the condition they "typically saw today". Findings from this series of questions are presented below.

The first photograph showed no people at Echo Lake, the second had 68, the third had 136, the fourth had 204, the fifth had 272 and the last had 333 people. Table 5.27 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the photographs, and Figure 1 shows the resulting norm curve. The norm curve is derived by plotting the mean acceptability rating against the corresponding number of people as shown in each of the six photographs. Study findings suggest that increasing numbers of people are found to be increasingly unacceptable, and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range at 233 people at one time.

Table 5.27. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Acceptability)

Q4a. Acceptability of Study Photos

Please rate each photograph by indicating how accepTable 5.you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable.

	Very Unacceptable							Very Acceptable		Mean
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Photo 1 (0)	8.7	0.0	2.9	1.0	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.8	71.2	2.69
Photo 2 (68)	0.0	2.9	0.0	0.0	1.0	6.8	5.8	21.4	62.1	3.22
Photo 3 (36)	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	3.9	11.7	16.5	21.4	44.7	2.85
Photo 4 (204)	1.9	6.7	11.5	9.6	15.4	13.5	9.6	15.6	16.3	0.84
Photo 5 (272)	26.7	21.9	21.9	12.4	3.8	2.9	6.7	1.0	2.9	-1.98
Photo 6 (333)	74.3	12.4	4.8	4.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	-3.43

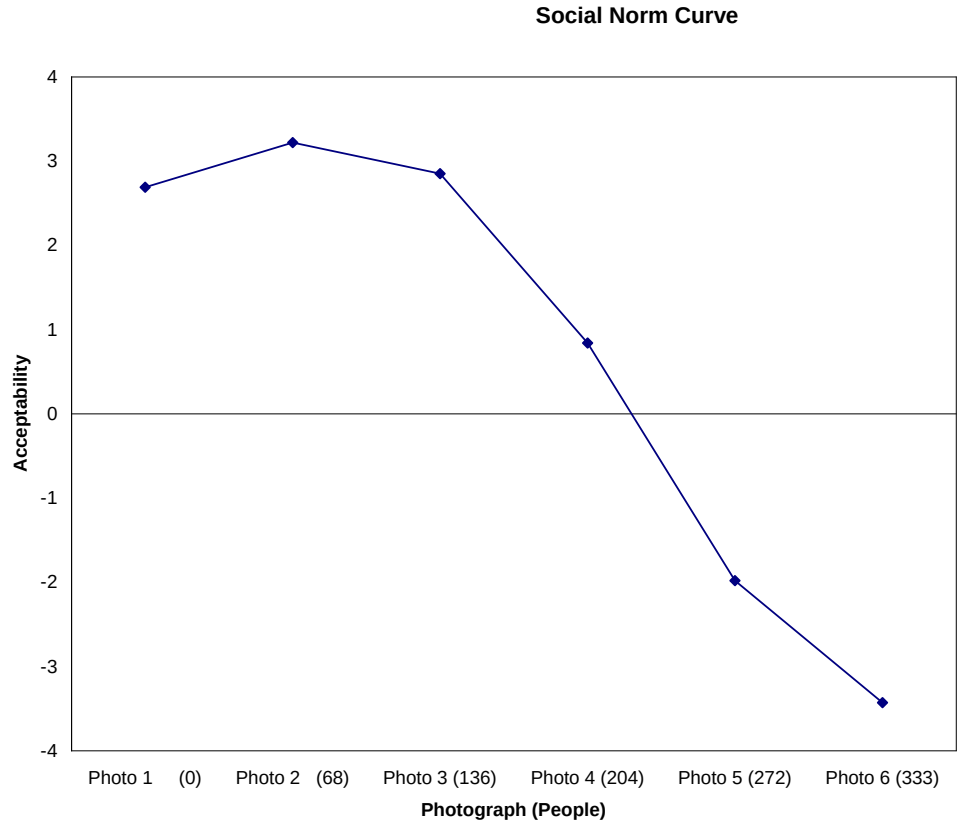


Table 5.28 presents a breakdown of visitor preferences for the number of people at Echo Lake. Respondents prefer to see an average (mean) of approximately 109 people (median = 136) at Echo Lake.

Table 5.28. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Preference)

Q4b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would prefer to see?		
	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	13	12.3
Photo 2 (68)	36	34.0
Photo 3 (136)	35	33.0
Photo 4 (204)	21	19.8
Photo 5 (272)	1	0.9
Photo 6 (333)	0	0.0

Mean= 2.6 (108.8), Median= 3 (136)

The third question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph representing the number of people that would be "so unacceptable that you would longer use this area." As shown in Table 5.29, visitors reported that an average (mean) of 303 people would be so unacceptable that they would no longer visit the area. Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs were so unacceptable that they would no longer visit. Approximately 11% of respondents selected this response.

Table 5.29. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Displacement)

Q4c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	0	0.0
Photo 2 (68)	0	0.0
Photo 3 (136)	0	0.0
Photo 4 (204)	6	5.7
Photo 5 (272)	36	34.3
Photo 6 (333)	52	49.5
None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.	11	10.5

Mean= 5.5 (303), Median=6 (333)

The next question in the series asked respondents to indicate which photograph represented the largest number of people that The National Park Service should allow at Echo Lake, or, "at what point should people be restricted from using this area?" Responses to this question are shown in Table 5.30. Respondents indicated that the National Park Service should allow an average (mean) of 238 people at Echo Lake before use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that "none of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area" or, that "visitor use should not be restricted". About 16% of respondents felt that none of the photographs showed a high enough number of people to restrict visitor use and 1.9% felt that visitor use should not be restricted.

Table 5.30. Respondent ratings of study photographs (management action)

Q4d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	0	0.0
Photo 2 (68)	0	0.0
Photo 3 (136)	8	7.7
Photo 4 (204)	29	27.9
Photo 5 (272)	38	36.5
Photo 6 (333)	10	9.6
Visitor use should not be restricted	2	1.9
None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area.	17	16.3

Mean=4.6 (238), Median=5 (272)

In order to gauge visitor perceptions of existing conditions, visitors were asked which photograph looked most like the number of people they typically saw on the day they were contacted for this study. As shown in Table 5.31, respondents reported that they typically saw an average (mean) of 156 people on the day they were contacted for this study.

Table 5.31. Number of people typically seen

Q4e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	10	9.6
Photo 2 (68)	15	14.4
Photo 3 (136)	24	23.1
Photo 4 (204)	43	41.3
Photo 5 (272)	11	10.6
Photo 6 (333)	1	1.0

Mean=3.3 (156), Median=4 (204)

Table 5.32 summarizes the findings of the previous tables on respondent ratings of study photographs.

Table 5.32. Summary table

Summary table		
	Mean	Median
Acceptability	224	--
Preference	109	136
Displacement	303	333
Management action	238	272
Typically seen	156	204

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Echo Lake. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 5.33). Generally, perceived crowding levels were low. About a quarter (28%) reported that they were "not at all crowded".

Table 5.33. Perceived crowding (N=107)

Q5. How crowded did you feel in the Thunder Hole area today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	30	28.0
2	17	15.9
3	16	15.0
4	9	8.4
5	5	4.7
6	13	12.1
7	10	9.3
8	5	4.7
9 Extremely Crowded	2	1.9

Mean=3.5, Median=3

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 5.34). A substantial majority of respondents (68%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. Opinion was more evenly split on the issue of use limits in the park. A slight majority of respondents

(52.9%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time, while 29.8% of respondents supported use limits. A substantial majority of respondents (61.5%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a substantial majority of respondents (61.4%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 5.34.

Q7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	0.9	17.0	14.2	55.7	12.3	3.61
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	3.8	26.0	17.3	32.7	20.2	3.39
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	4.8	18.3	15.4	44.2	17.3	3.51
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	12.3	49.1	26.4	11.3	0.9	2.40

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar for all of these issues (Tables 5.35 to 5.37). Just under half of respondents (from 44% to 49%) felt that these conditions have not changed much. However, substantial minorities of respondents (from 34% to 39%) felt that these conditions have gotten worse.

Table 5.35. Change in crowding (N=72)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	28	38.9
I feel less crowded than I used to	9	12.5
My feelings of crowding have not changed	35	48.6

Table 5.36. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=69)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	26	37.7
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	13	18.8
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	30	43.5

Table 5.37. Change in availability of parking space (N=68)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	23	33.8
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	14	20.6
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	31	45.6

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 5.38). Approximately 74% of respondents were aware of this. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 5.39) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 5.40). Respondents supported both

uses of entrance fees with 94.5% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 87.9% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 5.38. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=110)

Q10b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system**?**		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	81	73.6
No	29	26.4

Table 5.39. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=109)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	103	94.5
No	6	5.5

Table 5.40. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=107)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	94	87.9
No	13	12.1

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees in light of knowing how they are used (Table 5.41). A majority of respondents (59% to 83%) felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 5.41. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park.	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week	8.9	70.3	20.8	2.12
$40 Annual Acadia Pass	12.6	73.7	13.7	2.01
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	11.7	83.0	5.3	1.94
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	38.9	58.9	2.1	1.63

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 5.42). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 79% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 5.42. Overall satisfaction (N=103)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	7	6.8
Dissatisfied	2	1.9
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	19	18.4
Satisfied	24	23.3
Very satisfied	51	49.5

Chapter 6 Jordan Pond House

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 6.1). Average (mean) age was 49.8 years old (median = 48).

Table 6.1. Age (N=96)

Q13b. Age	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	1	1.0
20-29	7	7.3
30-39	16	16.7
40-49	27	28.1
50-59	28	29.2
60-69	13	13.5
70-79	4	4.2
80-89	0	0

Mean = 49.8, Median = 48

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 6.2). Slightly more females (57%) completed the survey than males (43%).

Table 6.2. Gender (N=100)

Q13c. What is your gender?	Frequency	Percent
Male	43	43.0
Female	57	57.0

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 6.3). The largest percent of respondents, 45.1%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 6.3. Education (N=102)

Q13d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	0	0
High school graduate	6	5.9
Vocational/trade school certificate	2	2.0
Some college	12	11.8
Two-year college degree	6	5.9
Four-year college degree	30	29.4
Graduate degree	46	45.1

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 6.4 through 6.6. Most visitors (97%) reside in the United States (Table 6.4). Twenty-seven states were represented at Jordan Pond House (Table 6.5). The most common state of residency was Massachusetts (17.6%). Three respondents were from other countries (Table 6.6). Those countries include Canada and Israel.

Table 6.4. Place of residence (N=101)

Q13a. Do you live in the United States?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	98	97.0
No	3	3.0

Table 6.5. State of residence (N=106)

State		
State	Frequency	Percent
Massachusetts	13	17.6
Maine	10	13.5
New Jersey	6	8.1
Florida	4	5.4
New Hampshire	4	5.4
Ohio	4	5.4
Pennsylvania	4	5.4
Connecticut	3	4.1
New York	3	4.1
Iowa	2	2.7
Maryland	2	2.7
Rhode Island	2	2.7
Texas	2	2.7
Vermont	2	2.7
Alabama	1	1.4
Arizona	1	1.4
California	1	1.4
Georgia	1	1.4
Kentucky	1	1.4
Michigan	1	1.4
Minnesota	1	1.4
Mississippi	1	1.4
Missouri	1	1.4
North Carolina	1	1.4
Tennessee	1	1.4
Virginia	1	1.4
Wisconsin	1	1.4

Table 6.6. Country of residence (N=3)

Country		
	Frequency	Percent
Canada	2	66.6
Israel	1	33.3

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 6.7). Visitors to Jordan Pond House tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 4 (median = 2).

Table 6.7. Group size (N=108)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

	Frequency	Percent
1	8	7.4
2	50	46.3
3	10	9.3
4	14	13.0
5	10	9.3
6	3	2.8
7	4	3.7
8	4	3.7
9	1	.9
10+	4	3.6

Mean = 4.0, Median = 2

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 6.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (91%) were comprised of family and/or friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 6.9). Three respondents at Jordan Pond House (2.8%) were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 6.8. Group type (N=106)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?

	Frequency	Percent
Family	81	74.3
Friends	8	7.3
Family and friends	10	9.4
Organized group	1	.9
Other	6	5.5

Table 6.9. Commercial group (N=106)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	3	2.8
No	103	97.2

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 6.10). A majority (65.0%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Most repeat visitors had been to the park only a few times, but a few visitors come to the park very often (Table 6.11).

Table 6.10. Previously visited (N=103)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	67	65.0
No	36	35.0

Table 6.11. Number of previous visits (N=64)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
1	12	18.8
2	9	14.1
3	8	12.5
4	6	9.4
5	5	7.8
6	2	3.1
8	2	3.1
10+	20	31.5

Mean = 49.7, Median = 4

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 6.12). A majority of respondents (69.9%) said

that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 6.13). Approximately half of respondents (51.5%) said it was because Mount Desert Island is too far from home. No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 6.12. (N=103)

Q8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	72	69.9
No	31	30.1

Table 6.13. (N=33)

Q8b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	17	51.5
Want to visit other places	14	42.4
Something negative about Acadia National Park	0	0
Miscellaneous	2	6.1

Visitors were asked how long they stayed at Jordan Pond House (Table 6.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 99.4 minutes (median = 90).

Table 6.14. Length of stay (N=86)

Q5. Approximately how long did you stay in the Jordan Pond House area today?

Minutes	Frequency	Percent
4	1	1.0
5	2	2.0
10	2	2.0
12	1	1.0
15	4	4.1
20	5	5.1
30	9	9.2
35	1	1.0
45	1	1.0
60	16	16.3
90+	44	44.8

Mean = 99.4, Median = 90

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" Approximately half of visitors (53.9%) to Jordan Pond House paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual (Table 6.15).

Table 6.15. Fees paid (N=102)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?

	Frequency	Percent
Did not par a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	22	21.6
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	55	53.9
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass	22	21.6
Fee Included in tour package	1	1.0
Don't know	0	0
Other	2	2.0

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 6.16 through 6.18). Most of the respondents (93.1%) had not ridden the Island Explorer

bus system on the day they completed the survey. More than three-quarters of respondents (77.2%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and half of respondents (52.0%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 6.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=102)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	7	6.9
No	95	93.1

Table 6.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=101)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	23	22.8
No	78	77.2

Table 6.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=102)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	33	32.4
No	53	52.0
Don't Know	16	15.7

Respondents were asked to report what activities they participated in while at Jordan Pond House (Table 6.19). The most common activities were eating (23.5%), shopping (23.5%), and hiking (21.6%).

Table 6.19. Activities (N=213)

Q6. Which of the following activities did you participate in today in the Jordan Pond House area?	Frequency	Percent
Eating	50	23.5
Shopping	50	23.5
Hiking	46	21.6
Walking	37	17.4
Biking	24	11.3
Other	5	2.3
Boating	1	0.5

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 6.20). A vast majority of respondents (97%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 6.20. Fishing (N=101)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	3	3.0
No	98	97.0

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 6.21). Only one visitor responded to this question and reported fishing at Echo Lake.

Table 6.21. Fishing areas (N=1)

Q11b. Where did/will you fish?	Frequency	Percent
Echo Lake	1	0.9

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. All respondents identified themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 6.22). The vast majority (96.9%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 6.23).

Table 6.22. Ethnicity (N=84)

Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	0	0.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	84	100.0

Table 6.23. Race (N=97)

Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	0	0.0
Black or African American	1	1.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	94	96.9
Other	2	2.1

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Jordan Pond House. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Jordan Pond House. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 6.24 and 6.25. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents was the beauty of Jordan Pond House (31.6%). When asked what they enjoyed least about their visit to Jordan Pond House, the most commonly reported item (19.5%) was "crowding", closely followed by the lack of parking or difficulty parking (16.9%).

Table 6.24. Enjoyed most (N=301)

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty	95	31.6
Facilities	51	16.9
Recreation activity	36	12.0
Food, restaurants; popovers	35	11.6
A particular place	24	8.0
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	14	4.7
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	10	3.3
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	10	3.3
Weather	8	2.7
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	6	2.0
Miscellaneous	6	2.0
Learning about natural and human history	4	1.3
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic	1	0.3
Warm water for swimming	1	0.3

Table 6.25. Enjoyed Least (N=118)

Q3b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Crowding	23	19.5
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	20	16.9
Nothing; everything was good	16	13.6
Miscellaneous	14	11.9
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	8	6.8
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	7	5.9
Restrooms	6	5.1
Cost; fees	5	4.2
User conflicts	5	4.2
Too few facilities	4	3.4
Weather	3	2.5
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	2	1.7
Noise	2	1.7
Tour buses; tours	1	0.8
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	1	0.8
Lack of access for disabled	1	0.8
Too commercial; too much development	0	0.0
Dogs; dog droppings	0	0.0
Visitor impacts	0	0.0
Dogs not allowed; pets not allowed	0	0.0
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	0	0.0
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	0	0.0
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: "If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?" Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 6.26. The most commonly occurring response was the feeling that everything in the park is fine just as it is (38.6%).

Table 6.26. Management changes (N=88)

Q3c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	34	38.6
Miscellaneous	13	14.8
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	12	13.6
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	12	13.6
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	3	3.4
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	3	3.4
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	3	3.4
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	2	2.3
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	2	2.3
More access for handicapped / seniors	2	2.3
Enforce pet regulations	1	1.1
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	1	1.1
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	0	0.0
Control insects	0	0.0
Allow pets	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set of questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Jordan Pond House (Table 6.27). Approximately half of respondents (52.5%) thought that difficulty finding a parking place was a "small" or "big" problem and 44.3% thought that too many people in this section of the park was a "small" or "big" problem. A similar percentage of visitors (39.1%) indicated that "cars parked illegally" was a "small" or "big" problem.

Table 6.27. Evaluation of issues

How much of a problem do you think the following issues are in the Jordan Pond House area?	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know	Mean Problem
Difficulty finding a parking place (N=94)	38.8	28.2	24.3	8.7	1.84
Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" area) (N=85)	41.9	34.3	4.8	19.0	1.54
Difficulty finding my way around this area (N=103)	75.5	17.9	3.8	2.8	1.26
Too many people in this area of the park (N=101)	50.9	37.7	6.6	4.7	1.53
The type of services at the Jordan Pond House restaurant and gift shop (N=82)	76.2	1.0	1.0	21.9	1.04
The availability of services at the Jordan Pond House restaurant and gift shop (N=84)	72.4	6.7	1.0	20.0	1.11
Waiting time to use the restroom (N=86)	67.6	10.5	3.8	18.1	1.22
Not enough restrooms (N=84)	61.0	14.3	4.8	20.0	1.30
Not enough bicycle parking (N=53)	38.8	11.7	1.0	48.5	1.26

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Jordan Pond House. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 6.28). Generally, perceived crowding levels were low.

Table 6.28. Perceived crowding (N=106)

Q4. How crowded did you feel in the Jordan Pond House area today?	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all crowded	22	20.8
2	27	25.5
3	22	20.8
4	8	7.5
5	5	4.7
6	11	10.4
7	7	6.6
8	2	1.9
9 Extremely crowded	2	1.9

Mean = 3.3, Median = 3

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as

a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 6.29). A substantial majority of respondents (70.6%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. A substantial majority of respondents (77.2%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. A substantial majority of respondents (67.6%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a substantial majority of respondents (61.4%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 6.29. Perceptions of crowding.

Q7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded (N=106)	.9	18.9	9.4	59.4	11.3	3.6
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time (N=105)	0	16.2	6.7	48.6	28.6	3.9
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard (N=105)	0	12.4	20.0	48.6	19.0	3.7
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right (N=106)	12.3	49.1	23.6	12.3	2.8	2.4

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar

for all of these issues (Tables 6.30 to 6.32). A majority of respondents (52.3% to 70.5%) felt that these conditions have not changed much. However, substantial minorities of respondents (from 24.6% to 36.9%) felt that these conditions have gotten worse.

Table 6.30. Change in crowding (N=67)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	24	35.8
I feel less crowded than I used to	3	4.5
My feelings of crowding have not changed	40	59.7

Table 6.31. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=65)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	24	36.9
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	7	10.8
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	34	52.3

Table 6.32. Change in availability of parking space (N=61)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	15	24.6
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	3	4.9
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	43	70.5

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 6.33). The majority (64.8%) of respondents were aware of this. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 6.34) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 6.35). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 97.1% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 83.7% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 6.33. Awareness of entrance fee uses (N=105)

Q10b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	68	64.8
No	37	35.2

Table 6.34. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=104)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	101	97.1
No	3	2.9

Table 6.35. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=104)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	87	83.7
No	17	16.3

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees in light of knowing how they are used (Table 6.36). A majority of respondents (from 72.1% to 84.4%) felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 6.36. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park.

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week (N=83)	8.3	84.4	7.3	2.0
$40 Annual Acadia Pass (N=83)	8.4	84.3	7.2	2.0
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week (N=83)	8.4	81.9	9.6	2.0
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life) (N=86)	27.9	72.1	0	1.7

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 6.37). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value for the fee they paid with 82.8% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 6.37. Overall satisfaction (N=109)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	4	4.0
Dissatisfied	2	2.0
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	11	11.1
Satisfied	32	32.3
Very satisfied	50	50.5

Chapter 7 Ocean Drive (High Use)

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 7.1). Average age was 48.7 years old (median = 49).

Table 7.1. Age (N=115)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	2	1.7
20-29	3	2.6
30-39	13	11.2
40-49	43	37.1
50-59	31	26.7
60-69	18	15.5
70-79	5	4.3
80-89	0	0.0

Mean = 48.7, Median = 49

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 7.2). Slightly more males (56%) completed the survey than females (44%).

Table 7.2. Gender (N=111)

Q13c. Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	62	55.9
Female	49	44.1

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 7.3). The largest percent of respondents, 40.2%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 7.3. Education (N=117)

Q13d. Education

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	0	0.0
High school graduate	15	12.8
Vocational/trade school certificate	2	1.7
Some college	12	10.3
Two-year college degree	7	6.0
Four-year college degree	34	29.1
Graduate degree	47	40.2

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 7.4 through 7.6. Most visitors (95.7%) reside in the United States (Table 7.4). Twenty-seven states were represented at the High Use Section of Ocean Drive (Table 7.5). The most common state of residency was Massachusetts (16.8%). Only five respondents were from another country (Table 7.6). These countries include Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

Table 7.4. Place of residence (N=116)

Q13a1. Do you live in the United States?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	111	95.7
No	5	4.5

Table 7.5. State of residence (N=95)

State	Frequency	Percent
Massachusetts	16	16.8
Pennsylvania	10	10.5
New Jersey	9	9.5
New York	8	8.4
Connecticut	7	7.4
Maine	7	7.4
Florida	6	6.3
New Hampshire	4	4.2
Maryland	3	3.2
Michigan	3	3.2
Missouri	3	3.2
Vermont	3	3.2
Georgia	2	2.1
California	1	1.1
Colorado	1	1.1
Delaware	1	1.1
Illinois	1	1.1
Kentucky	1	1.1
Minnesota	1	1.1
New Mexico	1	1.1
Ohio	1	1.1
Rhode Island	1	1.1
Tennessee	1	1.1
Virginia	1	1.1
Washington	1	1.1
Washington DC	1	1.1
Wisconsin	1	1.1

Table 7.6. Country of residence (N=5)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Germany	3	60
Italy	1	20
United Kingdom	1	20

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 7.7). Visitors to the High Use Section of Ocean Drive tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 2.8 (median = 2).

Table 7.7. Group size (N=122)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	5	4.1
2	66	54.1
3	15	12.3
4	22	18.0
5	12	9.8
6	1	0.8
7	1	0.8

Mean = 2.81, Median = 2

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 7.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (95.1%) were comprised of family and/or friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 7.9). No respondents at the High Use Section of Ocean Drive (1.5%) were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 7.8. Group type (N=120)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?		
	Frequency	Percent
Family	98	81.7
Friends	8	6.7
Family and Friends	8	6.7
Organized group / club / school / educational group	0	0.0
Other	6	5.0

Table 7.9. Commercial group (N=121)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	0	0.0
No	121	100.0

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 7.10). Approximately half (55.7%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Repeat visitors to the park visited an average (mean) of 15.9 (median = 6) times before (Table 7.11).

Table 7.10. Previously visited (N=115)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	64	55.7
No	51	44.3

Table 7.11. Number of previous visits (N=60)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	13	21.7
2	3	5.0
3	5	8.3
4	4	6.7
5	2	3.3
6	6	10.0
8	7	11.7
9	1	1.7
10	8	13.3
12	1	1.7
17	1	1.7
20	1	1.7
25	2	3.3
27	1	1.7
30	1	1.7
100	3	5.0
250	1	1.7

Mean = 15.9, Median = 6

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 7.12). Over half of respondents (63.6%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 7.13). A

majority of respondents (66%) said it was because Mount Desert Island was too far from home. No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 7.12. (N=118)

Q8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	75	63.6
No	43	36.4

Table 7.13. (N=38)

Q8b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.		
	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	25	65.8
Want to visit other places	10	26.3
Something negative about Acadia National Park	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	3	7.9

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 7.14 through 7.16). Most of the respondents (94.1%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they completed the survey. A vast majority of respondents (84.7%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and a majority of respondents (61.9%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 7.14. Island Explorer bus system use (N=118)

Q11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	7	5.9
No	111	94.1

Table 7.15. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=118)

Q11b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	18	15.3
No	100	84.7

Table 7.16. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=118)

Q11c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	26	22.0
No	73	61.9
Don't Know	19	16.1

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 7.17). A vast majority of respondent (98.3%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 7.17. Fishing (N=119)

Q10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	2	1.7
No	117	98.3

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 7.18). Only one visitor responded to this question and reported fishing on ponds.

Table 7.18. Fishing areas (N=1)

Q10b. If yes, where did/will you fish?		
	Frequency	Percent
Ponds	1	100

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (99%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 7.19). The vast majority (95.6%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 7.20).

Table 7.19. Ethnicity (N=101)

Q12e1. Ethnicity		
	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	1	1.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	100	99.0

Table 7.20. Race (N=114)

Q12e2. Race		
	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	1.8
Asian	2	1.8
Black or African American	1	0.9
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	109	95.6
Other	0	0.0

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at the High Use Section of Ocean Drive. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to the High Use Section of Ocean Drive. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 7.21 and 7.22. The most commonly reported item (45.6%) enjoyed by respondents was the beauty of the High Use Section of Ocean Drive. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visit to the High Use Section of Ocean Drive, the most commonly reported item (27.8%) was "crowding", followed by "user conflicts" (12.6%) (Table 7.22).

Table 7.21. Enjoyed most (N=121)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty	167	45.6
A particular place	75	20.5
Recreation activity	43	11.7
Facilities	26	7.1
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	13	3.6
Weather	10	2.7
Friendly, helpful rangers / people; hospitality	9	2.5
Access / accessibility; freedom; easy access	8	2.2
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	6	1.6
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic, secluded	3	0.8
Miscellaneous	3	0.8
Learning about natural and human history	2	0.5
Food, restaurants; popovers	1	0.3
Everything	0	0.0
Challenge	0	0.0
Warm water for swimming	0	0.0

Table 7.22. Enjoyed Least (N=121)

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Crowding	55	27.8
User conflicts	25	12.6
Nothing; everything was good	23	11.6
Weather	23	11.6
Miscellaneous	16	8.1
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	16	8.1
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	7	3.5
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	6	3.0
Too few facilities	5	2.5
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	5	2.5
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	4	2.0
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	3	1.5
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	3	1.5
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	2	1.0
Too commercial; too much development	2	1.0
Noise	1	0.5
Cost; fees	1	0.5
Lack of access for disabled	1	3.5
Dogs; dog droppings	0	0.0
Visitor impacts	0	0.0
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	0	0.0
Dogs not allowed; pets not allowed	0	0.0
Tour busses; tours	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: “If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?” Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 7.23. The most commonly occurring responses were the feeling that everything in the park is fine just as it is (32.5%) and requests to manage congestion (14.7%).

Table 7.23. Management changes (N=64)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	26	13.2
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	64	32.5
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	12	6.1
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	24	12.2
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	10	5.1
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	29	14.7
More access for handicapped / seniors	2	1.0
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	6	3.0
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	4	2.0
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	0	0.0
Control insects	2	1.0
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	8	4.1
Allow pets	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	10	5.1

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set a questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at the High Use Section of Ocean Drive (Table 7.24). A plurality of respondents reported that four issues- too many vehicles on the road, too many large vehicles on the road, difficulty finding a parking space, and damage to soil and vegetation- were either a “small” or “big” problem.

Table 7.24. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are along Ocean Drive?	Not Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know (DK)	Mean
1. Too many cars on the road	32.5	52.5	14.2	0.8	1.9
2. Too many large vehicles (e.g., busses, campers) on the road	44.6	39.7	12.4	3.3	1.6
3. Too many bicycles on the road	86.8	11.6	0.8	0.8	1.2
4. Difficulty finding a parking place	38.0	39.7	21.5	0.8	1.9
5. Too many vehicles (legally) parked in the right lane	58.7	30.6	9.9	0.8	1.6
6. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas)	57.0	24.0	13.2	5.8	2.0
7. Vehicles stopping in the left (travel) lane	62.5	24.2	10.0	3.3	1.7
8. Too many people walking on and around the road	76.0	19.0	4.1	0.8	1.3
9. Too many people in this area of the park	66.1	27.3	5.0	1.7	1.5
10. Too many people at places like Sand Beach and Thunder Hole	49.6	31.9	16.0	2.5	1.8
11. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by visitors walking off trails	37.2	32.2	17.4	13.2	2.7
12. Not enough restrooms	53.7	30.6	10.7	5.0	1.9

Standards of Quality

Questions were also asked to address standards of quality for the indicator variable of the number of vehicles at one time at the High Use Section of Ocean Drive. A series of six computer-generated photographs were prepared showing a range of use levels. Study photographs are shown in Appendix A.

For the series of photographs, respondents were asked a battery of evaluative questions. Respondents were first asked to evaluate the acceptability of the six study photographs showing increasing levels of vehicular use. Acceptability was measured using a nine-point Likert-type

scale ranging from (-4) "Very Unacceptable" to (4) "Very Acceptable". Zero represented the middle of this scale or the point of indifference. The second question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph that showed the use level they would prefer to see. A third question asked visitors to indicate which photograph showed the condition that would be so unacceptable that they would not longer use the High Use Section of Ocean Drive. Further, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that, "none of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer visit this area." The fourth question asked visitors to select the photograph representing the highest level of vehicular use they thought the National Park Service should allow, or the point at which vehicular use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs show a high enough level of visitor use to restrict use or that use should not be restricted at all. The fifth question referred to existing conditions. Respondents were asked to indicate the photograph that most represented the condition they "typically saw today". Findings from this series of questions are presented below.

The first photograph showed no vehicles at the High Use Section of Ocean Drive, the second had 4, the third had 8, the fourth had 12, the fifth had 16 and the last had 21 vehicles. Table 7.25 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the photographs, and Figure 1 shows the resulting norm curve. The norm curve is derived by plotting the mean acceptability rating against the corresponding number of vehicles as shown in each of the six photographs. Study findings suggest that increasing numbers of vehicles are found to be increasingly unacceptable, and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range at 11.3 vehicles at one time.

Table 7.25. Respondent ratings of study photographs (Acceptability)

Q4a. Acceptability of Study Photos. Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable.

	Very Unacceptable							Very Acceptable		Mean
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Photo 1 (0)	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.9	3.4	92.3	3.8
Photo 2 (4)	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	2.6	1.7	6.9	15.5	72.4	3.5
Photo 3 (8)	2.6	0.9	4.3	6.8	6.8	12.8	21.4	28.2	16.2	1.8
Photo 4 (12)	11.3	4.3	14.8	20.0	14.8	13.0	14.8	3.5	3.5	-0.4
Photo 5 (16)	38.5	29.9	16.2	8.5	2.6	1.7	0.9	0.0	1.7	-2.7
Photo 6 (21)	89.7	5.1	2.6	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	-3.7

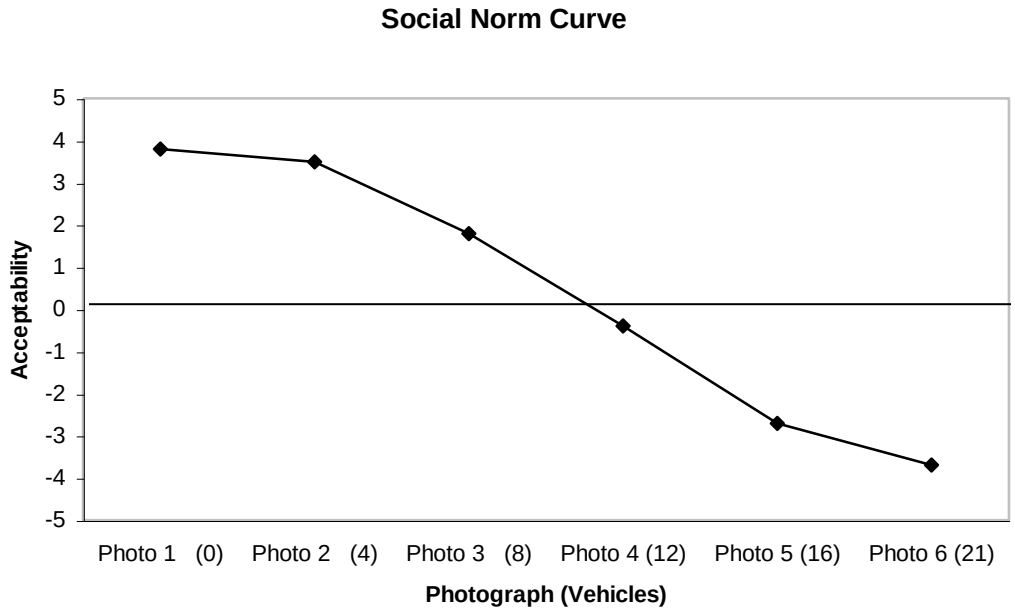


Table 7.26 present a breakdown of visitor preferences for the number of vehicles at the High Use Section of Ocean Drive. Respondents prefer to see an average (mean) of approximately 4.88 vehicles (median = 4) at the High Use Section of Ocean Drive.

Table 7.26. Respondent ratings of study photographs (Preference)

Q4b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would prefer to see?		
	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	20	17.1
Photo 2 (4)	60	51.3
Photo 3 (8)	30	25.6
Photo 4 (12)	6	5.1
Photo 5 (16)	1	0.9
Photo 6 (21)	0	0.0

Mean = 2.2 (4.9), Median = 2 (4)

The third question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph representing the number of vehicles that would be "so unacceptable that you would longer use this area?" As shown in Table 7.27, visitors reported that an average (mean) of 16.04 vehicles would be so unacceptable that they would no longer visit the area. Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs were so unacceptable that they would no longer visit. Approximately 7% of respondents selected this response.

Table 7.27. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Displacement)

Q4c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.		
	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	0	0.0
Photo 2 (4)	1	0.8
Photo 3 (8)	6	5.1
Photo 4 (12)	21	17.8
Photo 5 (16)	45	38.1
Photo 6 (21)	37	31.4
None of the photos are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.	8	6.8

Mean = 5.0 (16.0), Median = 5 (16)

The next question in the series asked respondents to indicate which photograph represented the largest number of vehicles that National Park Service should allow at the High Use Section of Ocean Drive, or, "at what point should people be restricted from using this area?" Responses to

this question are shown in Table 7.28. Respondents indicated that the National Park Service should allow an average (mean) of 12.5 vehicles at the High Use Section of Ocean Drive before use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that "none of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area" or, that "visitor use should not be restricted". About 1.7% of respondents felt that none of the photographs showed a high enough number of people to restrict visitor use and 9.4% felt that visitor use should not be restricted.

Table 7.28. Respondent ratings of study photographs (Management Action)

Q4d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	0	0.0
Photo 2 (4)	4	3.4
Photo 3 (8)	19	16.2
Photo 4 (12)	49	41.9
Photo 5 (16)	23	19.7
Photo 6 (21)	9	7.7
None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area	2	1.7
Visitor use should not be restricted	11	9.4

Mean = 4.13 (12.52), Median = 4 (12)

In order to gauge visitor perceptions of existing conditions, visitors were asked which photograph looked most like the number of vehicles they typically saw on the day they were contacted for this study. As shown in Table 7.29, respondents reported that they typically saw an average (mean) of 7 vehicles on the day they were contacted for this study.

Table 7.29. Number of vehicles typically seen

Q4e. Which photograph looks most like the number of vehicles you typically saw in this area today?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	8	6.6
Photo 2 (4)	50	41.3
Photo 3 (8)	35	28.9
Photo 4 (12)	23	19.0
Photo 5 (16)	5	4.1
Photo 6 (21)	0	0.0

Mean = 2.7 (6.9), Median = 3 (8)

Table 7.30 summarizes the findings of the previous tables on respondent ratings of study photographs.

Table 7.30. Summary Table

Summary Table

	Mean	Median
Acceptability	11.3	
Preference	4.9	4
Displacement	16.0	16
Management action	12.5	12
Typically seen	6.9	8

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at the High Use Section of Ocean Drive. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 7.31). Generally, perceived crowding levels were low. About a fifth (19.0%) reported that they were "not at all crowded".

Table 7.31. Perceived crowding (N=121)

Q5. How crowded did you feel in the Ocean Drive area today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1 (Not at all crowded)	23	19.0
2	22	18.2
3	29	24.0
4	16	13.2
5	5	4.1
6	13	10.7
7	9	7.4
8	4	3.3
9 (Very crowded)	0	0.0

Mean = 3.4, Median = 3

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 7.32). A substantial majority of respondents (73.9%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. Opinion was more evenly split on the issue of use limits in the park. A slight majority of respondents (52.5%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time, while 33.3% of respondents supported use limits. A majority of respondents (63.3%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a majority of respondents (60.5%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 7.32. (N=111)

Q7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	2.5	11.8	11.8	56.3	17.6	3.8
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	5.0	28.3	14.2	29.2	23.3	3.4
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	0.8	17.5	18.3	53.3	10.0	3.5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	10.1	50.4	31.1	7.6	0.8	2.4

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar for all of these issues (Tables 7.33 to 7.35). A majority of respondents (57% to 67%) felt that these conditions have not changed much. However, substantial minorities of respondents (from 20% to 31%) felt that these conditions have gotten worse.

Table 7.33. Change in crowding (N=63)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	19	30.2
I feel less crowded than I used to	5	7.9
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	39	61.9

Table 7.34. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=61)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	19	31.1
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	7	11.5
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	35	57.4

Table 7.35. Change in availability of parking space (N=61)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	12	19.7
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	8	13.1
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	41	67.2

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 7.36). Approximately 80% of respondents were aware of this. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 7.37) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 7.38). Respondents supported both

uses of entrance fees with 99.2% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 88.1% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 7.36. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=119)

Q10b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system**?**		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	94	79.0
No	25	21.0

Table 7.37. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=120)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	119	99.2
No	1	0.8

Table 7.38. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=118)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	104	88.1
No	14	11.9

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees in light of knowing how they are used (Table 7.39). A majority of respondents (from 65% to 81%) felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 7.39. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park.	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week	13.6	80.5	5.9	1.92
$40 Annual Acadia Pass	25.7	73.5	0.9	1.75
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	14.2	76.1	9.7	1.96
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	34.2	64.9	0.9	1.67

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 7.40). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value for the fee they paid with 79% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 7.40. Overall satisfaction (N=118)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	15	12.7
Dissatisfied	3	2.5
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	6	5.1
Satisfied	33	28.0
Very Satisfied	61	51.7

Chapter 8 Ocean Drive (Low Use)

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 8.1). Average age was 50 years old (median = 49).

Table 8.1. Age (N=110)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	0	0.0
20-29	7	6.4
30-39	20	18.2
40-49	31	28.2
50-59	30	27.3
60-69	15	13.6
70-79	7	6.4
80-89	0	0.0

Mean = 50, Median = 49

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 8.2). More males (54%) completed the survey than females (46%).

Table 8.2. Gender (N=113)

Q13c. Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	52	46.0
Female	61	54.0

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 8.3). The largest percent of respondents, 45.0%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 8.3. Education (N=111)

Q13d. Education	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	0	0.0
High school graduate	12	10.8
Vocational/trade school certificate	2	1.8
Some college	13	11.7
Two-year college degree	12	10.8
Four-year college degree	22	19.8
Graduate degree	50	45.0

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 8.4 through 8.6. Most visitors (92.1%) reside in the United States (Table 8.4). Twenty-seven states were represented at the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive (Table 8.5). The most common state of residency was Massachusetts (12.8%). Only 8 respondents were from another country (Table 8.6). These countries include Canada, Finland, Gibraltar and the United Kingdom.

Table 8.4. Place of residence (N=101)

Q13a1. Do you live in the United States?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	93	92.1
No	8	7.9

Table 8.5. State of residence (N=86)

State	Frequency	Percent
Massachusetts	11	12.8
Maine	10	11.6
New York	9	10.5
Pennsylvania	7	8.1
Connecticut	6	7.0
Ohio	6	7.0
Maryland	5	5.8
Michigan	5	5.8
Virginia	4	4.7
Florida	3	3.5
California	2	2.3
New Hampshire	2	2.3
Wisconsin	2	2.3
Arizona	1	1.2
Delaware	1	1.2
Hawaii	1	1.2
Illinois	1	1.2
Indiana	1	1.2
Kentucky	1	1.2
Minnesota	1	1.2
New Jersey	1	1.2
North Carolina	1	1.2
North Dakota	1	1.2
Oklahoma	1	1.2
South Carolina	1	1.2
Texas	1	1.2
Vermont	1	1.2

Table 8.6. Country of residence (N=8)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Canada	5	62.5
United Kingdom and Gibraltar	2	25
Finland	1	12.5

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 8.7). Visitors to the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3.0 (median = 2).

Table 8.7. Group size (N=118)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	8	6.8
2	61	51.7
3	13	11.0
4	19	16.1
5	8	6.8
6	4	3.4
8	1	.8
9	3	2.5
10	1	.8

Mean = 3.0; Median = 2

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 8.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (95.6%) were comprised of family and/or friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 8.9). No respondents at the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 8.8. Group type (N=114)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?		
	Frequency	Percent
Family	90	78.9
Friends	10	8.8
Family and Friends	9	7.9
Other	5	4.4

Table 8.9. Commercial group (N=117)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	0	0
No	117	100.0

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 8.10). Approximately half (51.3%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Repeat visitors to the park visited an average (mean) of 13.1 (median = 5) times before (Table 8.11).

Table 8.10. Previously visited (N=115)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	59	51.3
No	56	48.7

Table 8.11. Number of previous visits (N=54)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	6	11.1
2	9	16.7
3	8	14.8
4	3	5.6
5	4	7.4
6	3	5.6
7	1	1.9
8	2	3.7
10+	18	33.3

Mean = 13.1, Median = 5

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 8.12). Over half of respondents (64.3%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 8.13). Over half of respondents (58.1%) said it was because Mount Desert Island was too far from home. No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 8.12. (N=115)

Q8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	74	64.3
No	41	35.7

Table 8.13. (N=43)

Q8b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	25	58.1
Want to visit other places	14	32.6
Something negative about Acadia	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	4	9.3

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 8.16 through 8.18). Most of the respondents (95.6%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they completed. A vast majority of respondents (89.2%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and half of respondents (59.3%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 8.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=113)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	5	4.4
No	108	95.6

Table 8.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=101)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	12	10.8
No	99	89.2

Table 8.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=113)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	29	25.7
No	67	59.3
Don't Know	17	15.0

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 8.19). All but one respondent (99.1%) said they would not or did not fish.

Table 8.19. Fishing (116)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1	0.9
No	115	99.1

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 8.20). Only one visitor responded to the question and reported fishing on Long Pond and Eagle Lake.

Table 8.20. Fishing areas (N=1)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?		
	Frequency	Percent
Long Pond, Eagle Lake	1	100

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" A plurality of visitors (58.6%) to the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual (Table 8.21).

Table 8.21. Fees paid (N=116)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	3	2.6
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	68	58.6
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass,	44	37.9
Fee included in tour package	0	0.0
Don't Know	0	0.0
Other	1	0.9

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. All respondents identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 8.22). The vast majority (94.7%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 8.23).

Table 8.22. Ethnicity (N=96)

Q13e1. Ethnicity		
	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	0	0.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	96	100.0

Table 8.23. Race (N=113)

Q13e2. Race		
	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0.9
Asian	4	3.5
Black	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	107	94.7
Other	1	0.9

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to the Low

Use Section of Ocean Drive. A variety responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 24 and 25. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents (41.9%) was the beauty of the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visit to the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive, the most commonly reported item (20.7%) was "crowding", followed by "user conflicts" (15.3%) (Table 8.25).

Table 8.24. Enjoyed most (N=296)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty	124	41.9
A particular place	56	18.9
Recreation activity	39	13.2
Facilities	28	9.5
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	12	4.1
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic, secluded	8	2.7
Access / accessibility; freedom; easy access	8	2.7
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	8	2.7
Weather	4	1.4
Friendly, helpful rangers / people; hospitality	3	1.0
Miscellaneous	3	1.0
Food, restaurants; popovers	1	0.3
Learning about natural and human history	1	0.3
Everything	1	0.3
Challenge	0	0.0
Warm water for swimming	0	0.0

Table 8.25. Enjoyed Least (N=111)

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Crowding	23	20.7
User conflicts	17	15.3
Too few facilities	16	14.4
Miscellaneous	13	11.7
Nothing; everything was good	8	7.2
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	8	7.2
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	6	5.4
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	5	4.5
Weather	4	3.6
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	3	2.7
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	2	1.8
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	2	1.8
Noise	1	0.9
Dogs; dog droppings	1	0.9
Visitor impacts	1	0.9
Cost; fees	1	0.9
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	0	0.0
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	0	0.0
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	0	0.0
Dogs not allowed; pets not allowed	0	0.0
Tour busses; tours	0	0.0
Too commercial; too much development	0	0.0
Lack of access for disabled	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: "If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?" Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 8.26. The most commonly occurring responses were "nothing / good job" (27.0%), requests for more facilities, restrooms, restaurants, etc. (20.3%), and requests for more information, education, interpretation, etc. (18.9%).

Table 8.26. Management changes (N=74)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	14	18.9
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	20	27.0
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	1	1.4
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	15	20.3
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	0	0.0
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	7	9.5
More access for handicapped / seniors	0	0.0
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	4	5.4
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	6	8.1
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	1	1.4
Control insects	0	0.0
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	2	2.7
Allow pets	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	4	5.4

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set of questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive (Table 8.27). A large minority of respondents reported that several issues- difficulty finding a parking place, too many large vehicles on the road, damage to soil and vegetation caused by visitors walking off trail, not enough restrooms and too many cars on the road- were either a “small” or “big” problem.

Table 8.27. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are along Ocean Drive?	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know (DK)	Mean
1. Too many cars on the road	55.1	27.1	11.9	5.9	1.54
2. Too many large vehicles (e.g., busses, campers) on the road	57.8	24.1	10.3	7.8	1.49
3. Too many bicycles on the road	72.6	21.4	2.6	3.4	1.27
4. Difficulty finding a parking place	47.0	33.3	15.4	4.3	1.67
5. Use of right lane for (legal) parking	68.4	16.2	8.5	6.8	1.36
6. Too many vehicles (legally) parked in the right lane	65.0	20.5	7.7	6.8	1.39
7. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas)	64.3	20.9	6.1	8.7	1.36
8. Vehicles stopping in the left (travel) lane	69.0	18.1	7.8	5.2	1.35
9. Too many people walking on and around the road	82.9	13.7	1.7	1.7	1.17
10. Too many people in this area of the park	80.2	12.9	2.6	4.3	1.19
11. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by visitors walking off trail	51.3	29.1	6.0	13.7	1.48
12. Not enough restrooms	52.2	33.0	5.2	9.6	1.48

Standards of Quality

Questions were also asked to address standards of quality for the indicator variable of the number of vehicles visible at one time at the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive. A series of six computer-generated photographs were prepared showing a range of use levels. Study photographs are shown in Appendix A.

For the series of photographs, respondents were asked a battery of evaluative questions. Respondents were first asked to evaluate the acceptability of the six study photographs showing increasing levels of visitor use. Acceptability was measured using a nine-point Likert-type scale ranging from (-4) "Very Unacceptable" to (4) "Very Acceptable". Zero represented the middle

of this scale or the point of indifference. The second question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph that showed the use level they would prefer to see. A third question asked visitors to indicate which photograph showed the condition that would be so unacceptable that they would not longer visit the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive. Further, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that, "none of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer visit this area." The fourth question asked visitors to select the photograph representing the highest level of visitor use they thought the National Park Service should allow, or the point at which visitor use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs show a high enough level of visitor use to restrict use or that use should not be restricted at all. The fifth question referred to existing conditions. Respondents were asked to indicate the photograph that most represented the condition they "typically saw today". Findings from this series of questions are presented below.

The first photograph showed no vehicles at the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive, the second had 4, the third had 8, the fourth had 12, the fifth had 16 and the last had 21 vehicles. Table 8.28 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the photographs, and Figure 1 shows the resulting norm curve. The norm curve is derived by plotting the mean acceptability rating against the corresponding number of vehicles as shown in each of the six photographs. Study findings suggest that increasing numbers of vehicles are found to be increasingly unacceptable, and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range at 10.8 vehicles visible at one time.

Table 8.28. Respondent ratings of study photographs (Acceptability)

Q4a. Acceptability of Study Photos. Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of vehicles shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of vehicles is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of vehicles is very acceptable.

	Very Unacceptable							Very Acceptable		Mean
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Photo 1 (0)	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.8	0.9	2.7	3.6	88.3	3.62
Photo 2 (4)	0.9	0.0	0.9	1.8	0.0	4.4	9.7	15.9	66.4	3.30
Photo 3 (8)	4.5	4.5	5.4	8.1	20.7	16.2	18.9	16.2	5.4	0.74
Photo 4 (12)	17.0	17.0	22.3	17.0	7.1	8.9	5.4	5.4	0.0	-1.45
Photo 5 (16)	64.0	24.3	5.4	2.7	1.8	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0	-3.40
Photo 6 (21)	92.0	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.9	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	-3.79

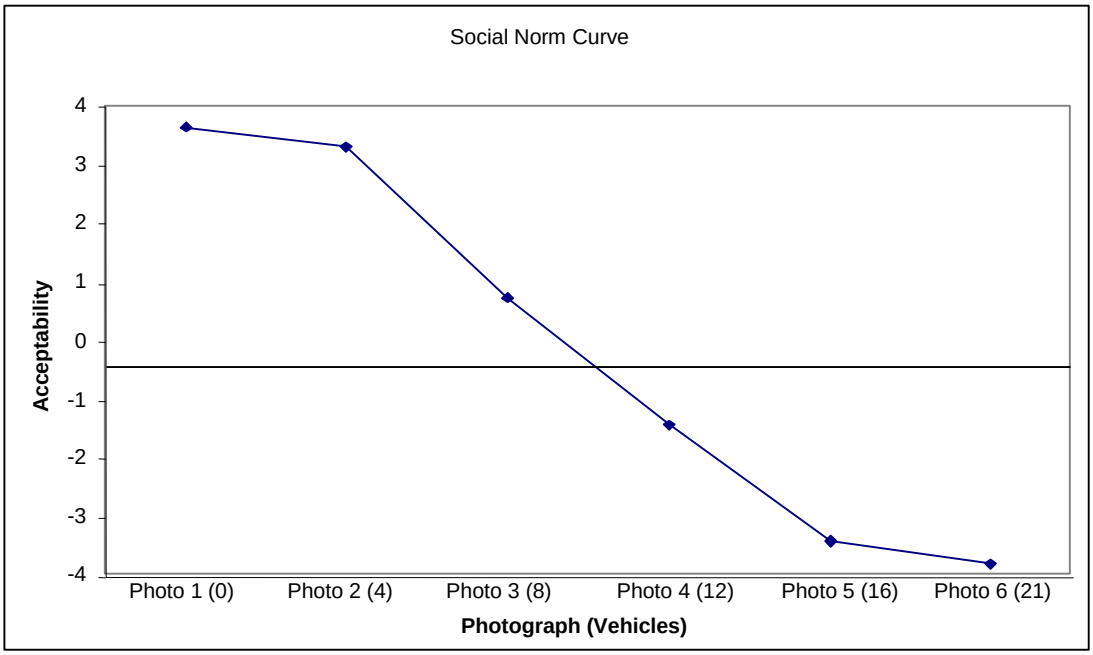


Table 8.29 presents a breakdown of visitor preferences for the number of vehicles at the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive. Respondents prefer to see an average (mean) of approximately 1.95 vehicles (median = 4.8) at the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive.

Table 8.29. Respondent ratings of study photographs (Preference)

Q4b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would prefer to see?		
	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	28	25.2
Photo 2 (4)	63	56.8
Photo 3 (6)	19	17.1
Photo 4 (12)	0	0.0
Photo 5 (16)	0	0.0
Photo 6 (21)	1	.9

Mean = 1.95 (4.8), Median = 2 (4)

The third question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph representing the number of vehicles that would be "so unacceptable that you would longer use this area?" As shown in Table 8.30, visitors reported that an average (mean) of 4.91 vehicles would be so unacceptable that they would no longer visit the area. Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs were so unacceptable that they would no longer visit. Approximately 2.6% of respondents selected this response.

Table 8.30. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Displacement)

Q4c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.		
	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	1	.9
Photo 2 (4)	2	1.8
Photo 3 (8)	6	5.3
Photo 4 (12)	23	20.2
Photo 5 (16)	44	38.6
Photo 6 (21)	35	30.7
None of the photo photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area.	3	2.6

Mean=4.91 (20.6), Median=5 (16)

The next question in the series asked respondents to indicate which photograph represented the largest number of vehicles the National Park Service should allow at the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive, or, "at what point should vehicles be restricted from this area?" Responses to this

question are shown in Table 8.31. Respondents indicated that the National Park Service should allow an average (mean) of 11.2 vehicles at the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive before use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that "none of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict vehicles from this area" or, that "vehicle use should not be restricted". About a third of respondents (31.8%) felt that none of the photographs showed a high enough number of people to restrict visitor use no respondents felt that visitor use should not be restricted.

Table 8.31. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Management Action)

Q4d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should vehicles be restricted from this area? If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	1	0.9
Photo 2 (4)	5	4.5
Photo 3 (8)	32	29.1
Photo 4 (12)	44	40.0
Photo 5 (16)	20	18.2
Photo 6 (21)	2	1.8
None of the photos are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.	42	31.8
Vehicle use should not be restricted.	0	0.0

Mean=3.80 (11.2), Median=4 (12)

In order to gauge visitor perceptions of existing conditions, visitors were asked which photograph looked most like the number of vehicles they typically saw on the day they were contacted for this study. As shown in Table 8.31, respondents reported that they typically saw an average (mean) of 5.2 vehicles on the day they were contacted for this study.

Table 8.32. Number of people typically seen

Q4e. Which photograph looks most like the number of vehicles you typically saw in this area today?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	9	7.8
Photo 2 (4)	70	60.3
Photo 3 (8)	32	27.6
Photo 4 (12)	4	3.4
Photo 5 (16)	1	0.9
Photo 6 (21)	0	0.0

Mean=2.29 (5.2), Median=2 (4)

Table 8.33 summarizes the findings of the previous tables on respondent ratings of study photographs.

Table 8.33. Summary Table

Summary Table

	Mean	Median
Acceptability	9	
Preference	4.8	4
Displacement	20.6	16
Management action	11.2	12
Typically seen	5.2	4

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at the Low Use Section of Ocean Drive. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 8.34). Generally, perceived crowding levels were low. About a third (29.3%) reported that they were "not at all crowded".

Table 8.34. Perceived crowding (N=116)

Q5. How crowded did you feel on this section of the Park Loop Road today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	34	29.3
2	35	30.2
3	21	18.1
4	14	12.1
5	4	3.4
6	4	3.4
7	1	0.9
8	3	2.6
9 Extremely Crowded	0	0.0

Mean=2.57, Median=2

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 8.35). A substantial majority of respondents (81.0%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. Opinion was more divided on the issue of use limits in the park. A plurality of respondents (54.3%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time, while 32.7% of respondents supported use limits. A majority of respondents disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a substantial majority of respondents (67.9%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 8.35.

Q7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1.7	10.3	6.9	65.5	15.5	3.83
There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	3.4	29.3	12.9	38.8	15.5	3.34
Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	0.9	14.7	16.7	53.4	14.7	3.66
The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	12.2	55.7	20.9	9.6	1.7	2.33

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar for all of these issues (Tables 8.36 to 8.38). A substantial majority of respondents (from 60% to 76%) felt that these conditions have not changed much. However, substantial minorities of respondents (from 24% to 28.4%) felt that these conditions have gotten worse.

Table 8.36. Change in crowding (N=58)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	16	27.6
I feel less crowded than I used to	7	12.1
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	35	60.3

Table 8.37. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=58)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	16	27.6
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	6	10.3
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	36	62.1

Table 8.38. Change in availability of parking space (N=58)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	14	24.1
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	0	0.0
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	44	75.9

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 8.39). Approximately 77% of respondents were aware of this. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 8.40) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 8.41). Respondents supported both

uses of entrance fees with 99.1% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 88.6% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 8.39. Awareness of entrance fee uses (N=115)

Q10b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system**?**		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	88	76.5
No	27	23.5

Table 8.40. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=115)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	114	99.1
No	1	.9

Table 8.41. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=104)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	101	88.6
No	13	11.4

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees now in light of knowing how they are used (Table 8.42). A majority of respondents (from 70% to 81%) felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 8.42. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park.	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week	7.3	80.7	11.9	2.05
$40 Annual Acadia Pass	18.0	72.0	10.0	1.92
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	12.1	80.8	7.1	1.95
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	30.1	69.9	0.0	1.70

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 8.43). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 85.2% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 8.43. Overall satisfaction (N=115)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	6	5.2
Dissatisfied	3	2.6
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	8	7.0
Satisfied	32	27.8
Very satisfied	66	57.4

Chapter 9 Precipice Trail

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 9.1). Average (mean) age was 39.5 years old (median = 43).

Table 9.1. Age (N=101)

Q13b. Age	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	5	5.0
20-29	21	20.8
30-39	17	16.8
40-49	38	37.6
50-59	16	15.8
60-69	4	4.0
70-79	0	0.0
80-89	0	0.0

Mean=39.5, Median=43

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 9.2). Slightly more males (54.5%) completed the survey than females (45.5%).

Table 9.2. Gender (N=101)

Q13c. What is your gender?	Frequency	Percent
Male	55	54.5
Female	46	45.5

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 9.3). The largest percent of respondents, 66.3%, had completed a a four-year college degree.

Table 9.3. Education (N=101)

Q13d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Percent
Less then high school	3	3.0
High school graduate	6	5.9
Vocational/trade school certificate	3	3.0
Some college	12	11.9
Two-year college degree	10	9.9
Four-year college degree	67	66.3
Graduate degree	0	0.0

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 9.4 through 9.6. Most visitors (81.7%) reside in the United States (Table 9.4). Twenty-one states were represented at Precipice Trail (Table 9.5). The most common state of residency was Massachusets (18.6%). Nine respondents were from other countries including Germany and Canada (Table 9.6).

Table 9.4. Place of residence (N=104)

Q13a. Do you live in the United States

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	97	81.7
No	7	6.7

Table 9.5. State of residence (N=106)

Q13 State

	Frequency	Percent
Massachusetts	16	18.6
Pennsylvania	11	12.8
New York	8	9.3
Connecticut	7	8.1
Michagan	5	5.8
California	4	4.7
Illinois	4	4.7
Maine	4	4.7
New Hampshire	4	4.7
New Jersey	4	4.7
Virginia	4	4.7
Florida	3	3.5
Ohio	3	3.5
Colorado	2	2.3
Delaware	1	1.2
Iowa	1	1.2
Maryland	1	1.2
South Carolina	1	1.2
Tennessee	1	1.2
Vermont	1	1.2
Wisconsin	1	1.2

Table 9.6. Country of residence (N=9)

Country

	Frequency	Percent
Canada	8	88.9
Germany	1	11.1

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 9.7). Visitors to Precipice Trail tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3.1 (median = 3).

Table 9.7. Group size (N=109)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

	Frequency	Percent
1	7	6.4
2	46	42.2
3	23	21.1
4	16	14.7
5	10	9.2
6	3	2.8
7	1	0.9
8	1	0.9
10+	2	1.8

Mean=3.1; Median=3.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 9.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (90.6%) were comprised of family and/or friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 9.9). One respondent at Precipice Trail was part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 9.8. Group type (N=107)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?

	Frequency	Percent
Family	76	71.0
Friends	10	9.3
Family and Friends	11	10.3
Organized group/club/school/educational group	2	1.9
Other	8	7.5

Table 9.9. Commercial group (N=108)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1	0.9
No	107	99.1

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 9.10). Over half (55.7%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Most repeat visitors had been to the park only a few times, but a few visitors come to the park very often (Table 9.11).

Table 9.10. Previously visited (N=106)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	59	55.7
No	47	44.3

Table 9.11. Number of previous visits (N=55)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
1	10	18.2
2	7	12.7
3	8	14.5
4	2	3.6
5	7	12.7
6	3	5.5
7	3	5.5
9	2	3.6
10	1	1.8
11	1	1.8
12	2	3.6
15	2	3.6
16	1	1.8
20	3	5.5
25	1	1.8
30	1	1.8
40	1	1.8

Mean=7.2; Median=5.0

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 9.12). Over half of respondents (66.4%) said

that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion a Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 9.13). Resondents said that they either wanted to see other places (46.2%) or that Acadia National Park was too far from home (41%). No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 9.12. (N=107)

Q8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in other trips in the next year or two?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	71	66.4
No	36	33.6

Table 9.13. (N=39)

Q8b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the nest year or two, please explain why not.

	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	16	41.0
Want to visit other places	18	46.2
Something negative about Acadia National Park	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	5	12.8

Visitors were asked how long they stayed at Precipice Trail (Table 9.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 127.1 minutes (median = 120).

Table 9.14. Length of stay (N=107)

Q5. Approximately how long did you hike on the Precipice Trail today? (In minutes)	Frequency	Percent
15	2	2.0
20	1	1.0
30	6	5.9
40	2	2.0
45	6	5.9
60	8	7.8
75	1	1.0
90	11	10.8
100	3	2.9
105	2	2.0
120	17	16.7
135	1	1.0
150	11	10.8
160	1	1.0
165	2	2.0
170	1	1.0
175	1	1.0
180	12	11.8
210	3	2.9
240	7	6.9
270	1	1.0
300	1	1.0
315	2	2.0

Mean=127.1; Median=120.0

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" A majority of visitors (63.6%) to Precipice Trail paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual (Table 9.15).

Table 9.15. Fees paid (N=108)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?

	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	19	17.8
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	68	63.6
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	17	15.9
Fee included in tour package	0	0.0
Don't Know	3	2.8
Other	1	0.0

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Tables 9.16 through 9.18). Most of the respondents (94.4%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they completed the survey. A vast majority of respondents (86.8%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and more than half of respondents (61.0%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 9.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=107)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	6	5.6
No	101	94.4

Table 9.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=106)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	14	13.2
No	92	86.8

Table 9.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=105)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	24	22.9
No	64	61.0
Don't Know	17	16.2

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 9.19). A vast majority of respondents (97.2%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 9.19. Fishing (N=107)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing in the visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	3	2.8
No	104	97.2

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 9.20). Two visitors responded to this question and reported that they fished at Long Pond and Southeast Harbor.

Table 9.20. Fishing areas (N=2)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?		
	Frequency	Percent
Long Pond	1	50.0
Southeast Harbor	1	50.0

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (96.1%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 9.21). All but one respondent (99%) identified themselves as "White" (Table 9.22).

Table 9.21. Ethnicity (N=77)

Q13e1. Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	3	3.9
Not Hispanic or Latino	74	96.1

Table 9.22. Race (N=100)

Q13e2. Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	0	0.0
Black or African American	1	1.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	99	99.0
Other	0	0.0

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Precipice Trail. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Precipice Trail. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 9.23 and 9.24. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents (43.0%) was the beauty of Precipice Trail. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visit to Precipice Trail, the most commonly reported item (20.5%) was "miscellaneous", followed by "crowding" (15.8%) and unprepared visitors (11.7%) (Table 9.24).

Table 9.23. Enjoyed most (N=314)

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty	135	43.0
Challenge	86	27.4
Facilities	42	13.4
Recreation activity	32	10.2
Friendly, helpful rangers / people; hospitality	6	1.9
Miscellaneous	5	1.6
Food, restaurants; popovers	3	1.0
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic, secluded	2	0.6
Weather	1	0.3
Access / accessibility; freedom; easy access	1	0.3
Learning about natural and human history	1	0.3
Warm water for swimming	0	0.0
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	0	0.0
Everything	0	0.0
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	0	0.0
A particular place	0	0.0

Table 9.24. Enjoyed Least (N=171)

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Miscellaneous	35	20.5
Crowding	27	15.8
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	20	11.7
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	16	9.4
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	16	9.4
Too few facilities	14	8.2
Weather	11	6.4
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	11	6.4
Nothing; everything was good	9	5.3
User conflicts	5	2.9
Noise	2	1.2
Dogs; dog droppings	2	1.2
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	1	0.6
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	1	0.6
Visitor impacts	1	0.6
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	0	0.0
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	0	0.0
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	0	0.0
Dogs not allowed; pets not allowed	0	0.0
Cost; fees	0	0.0
Tour busses; tours	0	0.0
Too commercial; too much development	0	0.0
Lack of access for disabled	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: “If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?” Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 9.25. The most commonly occurring responses were that trails could be expanded and/or better maintained (35.4%) and the feeling that everything in the park is fine just as it is (18.8%).

Table 9.25. Management changes (N=96)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Valid Percent
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	34	35.4
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	18	18.8
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	17	17.7
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	10	10.4
More access for handicapped / seniors	8	8.3
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	4	4.2
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	2	2.1
Miscellaneous	2	2.1
Enforce pet regulations	1	1.0
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	0	0.0
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	0	0.0
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	0	0.0
Control insects	0	0.0
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	0	0.0
Allow pets	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set a questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Precipice Trail (Table 9.26). While a majority of respondents did not think that most of the issues were a “small” or “big” problem, a majority of respondents (51.4%) did indicate that “having to wait while climbing or descending the trail because of visitor congestion” was a problem.

Table 9.26. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are on the Precipice Trail?

	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know	Mean
1. Difficulty finding a parking place (N=107)	55.1	35.5	9.3	0.0	1.5
2. Too many people in this area of the park (N=108)	55.6	38.9	5.6	0.0	1.5
3. Too many people on the Champlain Mountain summit (N=107)	57.0	20.6	4.7	17.8	1.4
4. Having to wait while climbing or descending the trail because of visitor congestion (N=107)	44.9	43.0	8.4	3.7	1.6
5. Not enough restrooms (N=103)	41.7	24.3	11.7	22.3	1.6

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked how many other hikers they saw on Precipice Trail. The average (mean) number of other hikers that respondents saw was 33.3 (median= 25).

Table 9.27. Hikers encountered (N=104)

Q6. Approximately how many other hikers did you see on this trail today?

	Frequency	Percent
4	1	1.0
5	1	1.0
6	10	9.6
7	1	1.0
8	7	6.7
10+	84	80.8

Mean=33.3; Median=25.0

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Precipice Trail. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 9.28). While perceived crowding levels were relatively low,

with over one-third (39.4%) indicating that they did not feel at all crowded (1 or 2 on the 9-point scale).

Table 9.28. Perceived crowding (N=109)

Q4. How crowed did you feel on the Precipice Trail today?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	18	16.5
2	25	22.9
3	24	22.0
4	14	12.8
5	7	6.4
6	11	10.1
7	8	7.3
8	0	0.0
9 Extremely Crowded	2	1.8

Mean=3.4; Median=3.0

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 9.29). A substantial majority of respondents (63%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. A substantial majority of respondents (72.9%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. A substantial majority of respondents (66.6%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a substantial majority of respondents (65%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 9.29.

Q7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded (N=108)	4.6	16.7	15.7	61.1	1.9	3.4
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time (N=107)	0.9	10.3	15.9	46.7	26.2	3.9
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard (N=108)	1.9	10.2	21.3	50.9	15.7	3.7
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right (N=106)	7.5	57.5	22.6	12.3	0.0	2.4

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar for all of these issues (Tables 9.30 to 9.32). A majority of respondents (63.2% and 73.6%) felt that crowding and availability of parking spaces have not changed much. About half of respondents felt that road congestion had either worsened or had not changed (47.3% and 49.1% respectively).

Table 9.30. Change in crowding (N=57)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded then I used to	19	33.3
I feel less crowed then I used to	2	3.5
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	36	63.2

Table 9.31. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=55)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	26	47.3
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today then before	2	3.6
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changes much	27	49.1

Table 9.32. Change in availability of parking space (N=53)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	13	24.5
It is less hard to find a parking pace today than before	1	1.9
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	39	73.6

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 9.33). The vast majority (76.9%) of respondents were aware of this. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 9.34) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 9.35). Respondents

supported both uses of entrance fees with 95.4% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 81.1% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 9.33. Awareness of entrance fee uses (N=108)

Q10b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	83	76.9
No	25	23.1

Table 9.34. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=108)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilitates and services?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	103	95.4
No	5	4.6

Table 9.35. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=106)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance feed to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	86	81.1
No	20	18.9

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees in light of knowing how they are used (Table 9.36). A majority of respondents (from 61.4% to 85.2%) felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 9.36. Evaluation of entrance fees (N=105)

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
a. $20 per vehicle per week	3.8	79.0	17.1	2.1
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	21.3	73.0	5.6	1.8
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	6.8	85.2	8.0	2.0
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	38.6	61.4	0.0	1.6

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 9.37). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 78.1% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 9.37. Overall satisfaction (N=114)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	8	7.6
Dissatisfied	7	6.7
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	8	7.6
Satisfied	25	23.8
Very satisfied	57	54.3

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 10.1). Average age was 48 years old (median = 47).

Table 10.1. Age (N=111)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Less Than 20	2	1.8
20 – 29	13	11.7
30 – 39	10	9.0
40 – 49	41	36.9
50 – 59	30	27.0
60 – 69	14	12.6
70 -79	1	1.8
80 – 89	0	0

Mean = 48; Median = 47

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 10.2). Slightly more respondents were male (55%) than female (45%).

Table 10.2. Gender (N=111)

Q13c. What is your gender?

	Frequency	Percent
Male	61	55.0
Female	49	45.0

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 10.3). The largest percent of respondents, 38.9%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 10.3. Education (N=113)

Q13d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	1	.9
High school graduate	12	10.6
Vocational / trade school certificate	2	1.8
Some college	12	10.6
Two-year college degree	7	6.2
Four-year college degree	35	31.0
Graduate degree	44	38.9

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 10.4 through 10.6. Most visitors (90.4%) reside in the United States (Table 10.4). Twenty-three states were represented at Sand Beach (Table 10.5). The most common state of residency was Maine (13%). Only 11 respondents were from another country (Table 10.6). These countries include Canada and the United Kingdom.

Table 10.4. Place of residence (N=114)

Q13a1. Do you live in the United States?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	103	90.4
No	11	9.6

Table 10.5. State of residence (N=46)

State

	Frequency	Percent
Maine	6	13.0
Massachusetts	4	8.7
New Hampshire	3	6.5
New York	3	6.5
Ohio	3	6.5
Virginia	3	6.5
Colorado	2	4.3
Connecticut	2	4.3
Florida	2	4.3
Michigan	2	4.3
New Jersey	2	4.3
Pennsylvania	2	4.3
Wisconsin	2	4.3
Arizona	1	2.2
California	1	2.2
Indian	1	2.2
Kansas	1	2.2
Maryland	1	2.2
Minnesota	1	2.2
Montana	1	2.2
Nevada	1	2.2
Rhoda Island	1	2.2
Texas	1	2.2

Table 10.6. Country of residence (N=10)

Q13a2. What country do you live in?

	Frequency	Percent
Canada	8	80.0
United Kingdom	2	20.0

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 10.7).

Visitors to Sand Beach tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3.4 (median = 3).

Table 10.7. Group size (N=121)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

	Frequency	Percent
1	4	3.3
2	53	43.8
3	22	18.2
4	22	18.2
5	7	5.8
6	5	4.1
7	1	.8
8	3	2.5
9	1	.8
10+	3	2.4

Mean = 3.4; Median = 3

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 10.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (97.4%) were comprised of family and/or friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 10.9). Only one respondent at Sand Beach was part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 10.8. Group type (N=119)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?

	Frequency	Percent
Family	95	79.8
Friends	13	10.9
Family and friends	8	6.7
Organized groups	1	.8
Other	2	1.7

Table 10.9. Commercial group (N=120)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1	.8
No	119	99.2

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 10.10). Approximately half (55%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Repeat visitors to the park visited an average (mean) of 36.6 (median = 3) times before (Table 10.11).

Table 10.10. Previously visited (N=111)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	61	55.0
No	50	45.0

Table 10.11. Number of previous visits (N=59)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?	Frequency	Percent
1	11	18.6
2	8	13.6
3	11	18.6
4	3	5.1
5	3	5.1
6	5	8.5
7	1	1.7
8	1	1.7
10	2	3.4
14	1	1.7
15	2	3.4
20	3	5.1
25	1	1.7
30	1	1.7
40	1	1.7
50	1	1.7
70	1	1.7
300	1	1.7
500	1	1.7
1000	1	1.7

Mean = 36.6; Median = 3

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 10.12). Over half of respondents (57.1%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion at Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 10.13). Over half of respondents (59.2%) said it was because Mount Desert Island was too far from home. No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 10.12. (N=112)

Q8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	64	57.1
No	48	42.9

Table 10.13. (N=49)

Q8b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	29	59.2
Want to visit other places	16	32.7
Something negative about Acadia National Park	0	0
Miscellaneous	4	8.1

Visitors were asked how long they stayed at Sand Beach (Table 10.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 81.9 minutes (median = 60).

Table 10.14. Length of stay (N=113)

Q6. Approximately how long did you stay at Sand Beach today?

Minutes	Frequency	Percent
2	2	1.8
10	2	1.8
15	4	3.5
20	7	6.2
30	17	15.0
45	6	5.3
60	33	29.2
90	7	6.2
120	22	19.5
150	2	1.8
180	5	4.4
240	1	.8
300	4	3.5
360	1	.8

Mean = 81.9 minutes; Median = 60 minutes

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" A majority of visitors (67%) to Sand Beach paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual (Table 10.15).

Table 10.15. Fees paid (N=112)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?

	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	5	4.5
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	75	67.0
Pass (national Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass	30	26.8
Don't Know	1	.9
Other	1	.9

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 10.16 through 10.18). Most of the respondents (87.7%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they completed the survey. A vast majority of respondents (82.2%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and over half of respondents (54.1%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 10.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=106)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	13	12.3
No	93	87.7

Table 10.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=107)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	19	17.8
No	88	82.2

Table 10.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=109)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	31	28.4
No	59	54.1
Don't Know	19	17.4

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 10.9). A vast majority of respondents (97.3%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 10.19. Fishing (N=113)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	3	2.7
No	110	97.3

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 10.20). Only one visitor responded to this question and reported finishing on a "boat trip".

Table 10.20. Fishing areas (N=1)

Q11 b. If yes, where did/will you fish?		
	Frequency	Percent
Boat trip	1	1.0

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (97.7%) identified themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 10.21). The vast majority (93.8%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 10.22).

Table 10.21. Ethnicity (N=88)

Q13e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself? Ethnicity:

	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	2	2.3
Not Hispanic or Latino	86	97.7

Table 10.22. Race (N=112)

Q13e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself? Race**:**

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	5	4.5
Black or African American	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	105	93.8
Other	2	1.8.

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Sand Beach. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Sand Beach. A variety responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 10.23 and 10.24. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents (51.9%) was the beauty of Sand Beach. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visit to Sand Beach, the most commonly reported item (25.7%) was "crowding", followed by "lack of parking/difficulty parking" (15.3%) (Table 10.24).

Table 10.23. Enjoyed most (N=316)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty	164	51.9
Recreation activity	30	9.5
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	27	8.5
Facilities	16	5.1
A particular place	14	4.4
Weather	12	3.8
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	11	3.5
Learning about natural and human history of the area	11	3.5
Miscellaneous	8	2.5
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	7	2.2
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	6	1.9
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic, secluded	5	1.6
Challenge	2	0.6
Food, restaurants; popovers	2	0.6
Everything	1	0.3
Warm water for swimming	0	0.0

Table 10.24. Enjoyed Least (N=144)

Q3b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?		
	Frequency	Percent
Crowding	37	25.7
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	22	15.3
Miscellaneous	18	12.5
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	11	7.6
Too few facilities	8	5.6
User conflicts	7	4.9
Weather	6	4.2
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	5	3.5
Dogs not allowed; pets not allowed	5	3.5
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	4	2.8
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	4	2.8
Visitor impacts	3	2.1
Cost; fees	2	1.4
Nothing; everything was good	2	1.4
Restrooms	2	1.4
Noise	2	1.4
Lack of access for disabled	2	1.4
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe	2	1.4
Too commercial; too much development	1	0.7
Lack of information/ education /interpretation/ signs/ directions	1	0.7
Tour busses; tours	0	0.0
Dogs; dog droppings	0	0.0
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: "If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?" Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 10.25. The most commonly occurring responses were a desire for more facilities (30%) and the feeling that everything in the park is fine just as it is (22.9%).

Table 10.25. Management changes (N=70)

Qc. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	21	30.0
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	16	22.9
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	10	14.3
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	7	10.0
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	6	8.6
More access for handicapped / seniors	3	4.3
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	2	2.9
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	2	2.9
Enforce pet regulations	1	1.4
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	1	1.4
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	1	1.4
Control insects	0	0.0
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	0	0.0
Allow pets	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set a questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Sand Beach (Table 10.26). A majority of respondents (58.9% and 51.8%) reported that two issues- difficulty finding a parking place and too many people in this area- were either a “small” or “big” problem.

Table 10.26. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Sand Beach?	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know	Mean
Difficulty finding a parking place	39.3	33.3	25.6	1.7	1.86
Too many people in this area.	44.8	37.1	14.7	3.4	1.69
Too many people on the beach.	58.1	29.9	9.4	2.6	1.50
Not enough restrooms.	53.4	29.3	2.6	14.7	1.40

Standards of Quality

Questions were also asked to address standards of quality for the indicator variable of the number of people at one time at Sand Beach. A series of six computer-generated photographs were prepared showing a range of use levels. Study photographs are shown in Appendix A.

For the series of photographs, respondents were asked a battery of evaluative questions. Respondents were first asked to evaluate the acceptability of the six study photographs showing increasing levels of visitor use. Acceptability was measured using a nine-point Likert-type scale ranging from (-4) "Very Unacceptable" to (4) "Very Acceptable". Zero represented the middle of this scale or the point of indifference. The second question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph that showed the use level they would prefer to see. A third question asked visitors to indicate which photograph showed the condition that would be so unacceptable that they would not longer visit Sand Beach. Further, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that, "none of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer visit this area." The fourth question asked visitors to select the photograph representing the highest level of visitor use they thought the National Park Service should allow, or the point at which visitor

use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs show a high enough level of visitor use to restrict use or that use should not be restricted at all. The fifth question referred to existing conditions. Respondents were asked to indicate the photograph that most represented the condition they "typically saw today". Findings from this series of questions are presented below.

The first photograph showed no people at Sand Beach, the second had 172, the third had 334, the fourth had 526, the fifth had 686 and the last had 860 people. Table 10.27 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the photographs, and Figure 1 shows the resulting norm curve. The norm curve is derived by plotting the mean acceptability rating against the corresponding number of people as shown in each of the six photographs. Study findings suggest that increasing numbers of people are found to be increasingly unacceptable, and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range at 622 people at one time.

Table 10.27. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Acceptability)

Q4a. Acceptability of Study Photographs

	Very Unacceptable						Very Acceptable			Mean
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Photo 1 (0)	5.3	.9	1.8	1.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	3.5	78.8	3.04
Photo 2 (172)	.9	.9	.9	0	1.8	4.5	6.3	18.9	65.8	3.29
Photo 3 (344)	2.7	2.7	3.6	1.8	8.2	6.4	16.4	23.6	34.5	2.20
Photo 4 (516)	7.3	1.8	7.3	11.9	9.2	11.0	14.7	17.4	19.3	1.08
Photo 5 (688)	16.5	18.3	11.9	6.4	10.1	10.1	11.0	9.2	6.4	-.66
Photo 6 (860)	45.9	11.7	6.3	6.3	10.8	6.3	6.3	1.8	4.5	-1.95

Figure 1. Sand Beach Norm Curve

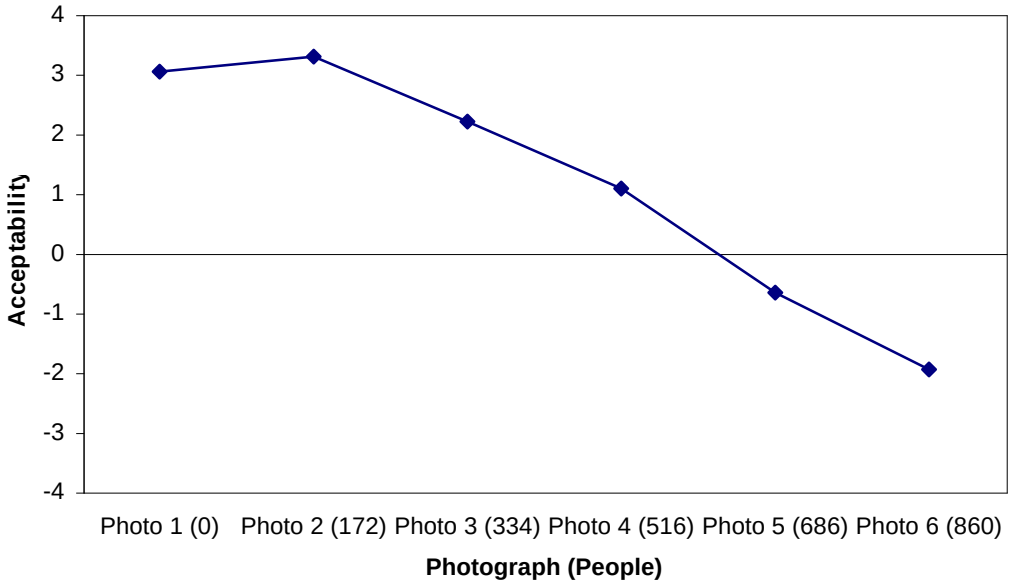


Table 10.28 presents a breakdown of visitor preferences for the number of people at Sand Beach. Respondents prefer to see an average (mean) of approximately 248 people (median = 172) at Sand Beach.

Table 10.28. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Preference) (N=112)

Q4b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would prefer to see?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	19	17.0
Photo 2 (172)	47	42.0
Photo 3 (344)	25	22.3
Photo 4 (516)	17	15.2
Photo 5 (688)	3	2.7
Photo 6 (860)	1	.9

Mean = 2.5 (~248 people); Median = 2 (172 people)

The third question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph representing the number of people that would be "so unacceptable that you would longer use this area?" As shown in Table 10.29, visitors reported that an average (mean) of 724 people would be so unacceptable that they would no longer visit the area. Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs were so unacceptable that they would no longer visit. Approximately 21% of respondents selected this response.

Table 10.29. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Displacement) (N=112)

Q4c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? (If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.)

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	0	0
Photo 2 (172)	0	0
Photo 3 (344)	6	5.4
Photo 4 (516)	15	13.4
Photo 5 (688)	19	17.0
Photo 6 (860)	48	42.9
None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.	24	21.4

Mean = 5.2 (~724 people); Median = 6 (860 people)

The next question in the series asked respondents to indicate which photograph represented the largest number of people the National Park Service should allow at Sand Beach, or, "at what point should people be restricted from using this area?" Responses to this question are shown in Table 10.30. Respondents indicated that the National Park Service should allow an average (mean) of 557 people at Sand Beach before use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that "none of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area" or, that "visitor use should not be restricted". About

8% of respondents felt that none of the photographs showed a high enough number of people to restrict visitor use and 17.3% felt that visitor use should not be restricted.

Table 10.30. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Management Action) (N=104)

Q4d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? (If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.)

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	0	0
Photo 2 (172)	6	5.8
Photo 3 (344)	11	10.6
Photo 4 (516)	34	32.7
Photo 5 (688)	19	18.3
Photo 6 (860)	8	7.7
None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area.	8	7.7
Visitor use should not be restricted.	18	17.3

Mean = 4.2 (~557 people); Median = 4 (516 people)

In order to gauge visitor perceptions of existing conditions, visitors were asked which photograph looked most like the number of people they typically saw on the day they were contacted for this study. As shown in Table 10.31, respondents reported that they typically saw an average (mean) of 277 people on the day they were contacted for this study.

Table 10.31. Number of people typically seen (N=108)

Q4e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	7	6.5
Photo 2 (172)	48	44.4
Photo 3 (344)	31	28.7
Photo 4 (516)	20	18.5
Photo 5 (688)	2	1.9
Photo 6 (860)	0	0

Mean = 2.7 (~277 people); Median = 2 (172 people)

Table 10.32 summarizes the findings of the previous tables on respondent ratings of study photographs.

Table 10.32. Summary Table

Summary Table

	Mean	Median
Acceptability	622	
Preference	248	172
Displacement	724	860
Management action	557	516
Typically seen	277	172

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Sand Beach. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 10.33). Generally, perceived crowding levels were low. About a third (30.7%) reported that they were "not at all crowded".

Table 10.33. Perceived crowding (N=114)

Q5. How crowded did you feel at Sand Beach today?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all crowded	35	30.7
2	34	29.8
3	16	14.0
4	14	12.3
5	4	3.5
6	4	3.5
7	6	5.3
8	1	0.9
9 Extremely crowded	0	0

Mean = 2.6 Median = 2.0

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general

statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 10.34). A substantial majority of respondents (72.1%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. Opinion was more evenly split on the issue of use limits in the park. A slight majority of respondents (51.3%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time, while 36% of respondents supported use limits. A substantial majority of respondents disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a substantial majority of respondents (67.6%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 10.34. (N=111)

Q7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded.	0	14.4	11.7	55.0	17.1	3.71
There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time.	1.8	34.2	12.6	26.1	25.2	3.39
Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard.	0.0	12.6	12.6	54.1	20.7	3.83
The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.	16.7	50.9	20.4	9.3	2.8	2.31

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar for all of these issues (Tables 10.35 to 10.37). A majority or near majority of respondents (49%

to 64%) felt that these conditions have not changed much. However, substantial minorities of respondents (from 34% to 41%) felt that these conditions have gotten worse.

Table 10.35. Change in crowding (N=61)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?		
	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	21	34.4
I feel less crowded than I used to	1	1.6
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	39	63.9

Table 10.36. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=63)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?		
	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles than before	26	41.3
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	6	9.5
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	31	49.2

Table 10.37. Change in availability of parking space (N=60)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?		
	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	23	38.3
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	3	5.0
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	34	56.7

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees.

Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used

to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 10.38). Approximately 80% of respondents were aware of this. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 10.39) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 10.40). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 96.5% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 87.4% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 10.38. Awareness of entrance fee uses (N=113)

Q10b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	91	80.5
No	22	19.5

Table 10.39. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=113)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	109	96.5
No	4	3.5

Table 10.40. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=111)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	97	87.4
No	14	12.6

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees in light of knowing how they are used (Table 10.41). A majority of respondents (65% to 81%) felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 10.41. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week	6.0	81.0	12.9	2.07
$40 Annual Acadia Pass	15.4	77.9	6.7	1.91
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	12.4	80.0	7.6	1.95
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	32.4	64.8	2.9	1.70

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 10.42). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value for the fee they paid with 79% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 10.42. Overall satisfaction (N=114)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	9	7.9
Dissatisfied	1	0.9
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	14	12.3
Satisfied	37	32.5
Very satisfied	53	46.5

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 11.1). Average (mean) age was 47.5 years old (median = 47).

Table 11.1. Age (N=108)

Q13b. Age	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	1	.1
20-29	11	10.2
30-39	19	17.6
40-49	33	30.6
50-59	28	25.9
60-69	12	11.1
70-79	4	3.7
80-89	0	0

Mean = 47.5; Median = 47

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 11.2). An even gender distribution was found at Sieur de Monts with 50.5% being male and 49.5% being female.

Table 11.2. Gender (N=105)

Q13c. What is your gender?	Frequency	Percent
Male	53	50.5
Female	52	49.5

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 11.3). The largest percent of respondents, 43.1%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 11.3. Education (N=109)

Q13d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	1	0.9
High school graduate	8	7.3
Some college	11	10.1
Two-year college degree	7	6.4
Four-year college degree	35	32.1
Graduate degree	47	43.1

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 11.4 through 11.6. Most visitors (83.6%) reside in the United States (Table 11.4). Twenty-one states were represented at Sieur de Monts (Table 11.5). The most common state of residency was Massachusetts (14.1%). Nine respondents were from other countries (Table 11.6). Those countries include Canada, Cayman Islands, Germany, Israel, and the United Kingdom.

Table 11.4. Place of residence (N=105)

Q13a. Do you live in the United States?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	97	83.6
No	8	6.9

Table 11.5. State of residence (N=63)

Q13a2. State	Frequency	Percent
Massachusetts	9	14.1
New York	9	14.1
Pennsylvania	7	10.9
Florida	5	7.8
Maine	5	7.8
Colorado	3	4.7
Connecticut	3	4.7
New Hampshire	3	4.7
Maryland	2	3.1
Michigan	2	3.1
New Jersey	2	3.1
South Carolina	2	3.1
Virginia	2	3.1
Wisconsin	2	3.1
California	1	1.6
Minnesota	1	1.6
North Carolina	1	1.6
Ohio	1	1.6
Oklahoma	1	1.6
Texas	1	1.6
Vermont	1	1.6

Table 11.6. Country of residence (N=9)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Canada	4	44.4
Cayman Islands	1	11.1
Germany	1	11.1
Israel	2	22.2
United Kingdom	1	11.1

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 11.7).

Visitors to Sieur de Monts tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3.3 (median = 2).

Table 11.7. Group size (N=115)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

	Frequency	Percent
1	5	4.3
2	71	61.7
3	8	7.0
4	17	14.8
5	5	4.3
6	2	1.7
7	1	.9
8	2	1.7
10	1	.9
11	1	.9
12	1	.9
45	1	.9

Mean = 3.3; Median = 2.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 11.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (99.1%) were comprised of family and/or friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 11.9). Five respondents at Sieur de Monts (4.5%) were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 11.8. Group type (N=111)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?

	Frequency	Percent
Family	101	91.0
Friends	6	5.4
Family and friends	3	2.7
Organized group/club/school/educational group	1	.9
Other	0	0.0

Table 11.9. Commercial group (N=111)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	5	4.5
No	106	95.5

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 11.10). Approximately half (54.9%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Most repeat visitors had been to the park only a few times, but a few visitors come to the park very often (Table 11.11).

Table 11.10. Previously visited (N=113)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	62	54.9
No	51	45.1

Table 11.11. Number of previous visits (N=57)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
1	21	35.6
2	9	15.3
3	8	13.6
4	4	6.8
5	3	5.1
6	1	1.7
10	4	6.8
12	2	3.4
27	1	1.7
30	1	1.7
50	1	1.7
100	1	1.7
365	1	1.7

Mean = 12.9; Median = 2

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 11.12). Over half of respondents (56.3%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion a Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 11.13). Approximately half of respondents (52.1%) said it was because Mount Desert Island is too far from home. No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 11.12. (N=112)

Q8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	63	56.3
No	49	43.8

Table 11.13. (N=47)

Q8b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	25	52.1
Want to visit other places	18	37.5
Something negative about Acadia National Park	0	0
Miscellaneous	4	8.3

Visitors were asked how long they stayed at Sieur de Monts (Table 11.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 75.7 minutes (median = 60).

Table 11.14. Length of stay (N=105)

5. Approximately how long did you stay at the Sieur de Monts area today?

Minutes	Frequency	Percent
10	1	1.0
15	5	4.8
20	7	6.7
25	2	1.9
30	17	16.2
40	2	1.9
45	14	13.3
60	24	22.9
75	1	1.0
90	4	3.8
120	15	14.3
150	1	1.0
180	6	5.7
240	4	3.8
300	2	1.9

Mean = 75.8; Median = 60

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" A majority of visitors (64.3%) to Sieur de Monts paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual (Table 11.15).

Table 11.15. Fees paid (N=112)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and roup pay to enter the park?

	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	12	10.7
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	72	64.3
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass	22	19.6
Fee included in tour package	3	2.7
Don't Know	1	0.9
Other	2	1.8

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 11.16 through 11.18). Most of the respondents (88.2%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they completed the survey. A vast majority of respondents (86.7%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and half of respondents (54.5%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 11.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=110)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	13	11.8
No	97	88.2

Table 11.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=113)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	15	13.3
No	98	86.7

Table 11.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=112)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	33	29.5
No	61	54.5
Don't Know	18	16.1

Respondents were asked to report what activities they participated in while at Sieur de Monts (Table 11.19). Almost a third of respondents (31.9%) reported visiting the Nature Center and another third (30.9%) reported visiting the Acadia Wild Gardens.

Table 11.19. Activities (N=291)

Q6. Which of the following places did you visit at the Sieur de Monts area today?

	Frequency	Percent
Acadia Wild Gardens	89	30.9
Abbe Museum	47	16.3
Nature Center	92	31.9
Trails	54	18.8
Other	6	2.1

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 11.20). A vast majority of respondents (97.3%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 11.20. Fishing (N=111)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	3	2.7
No	108	97.3

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 11.21). Only one visitor responded to this question and reported fishing at a lake and the ocean.

Table 11.21. Fishing areas (N=1)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

	Frequency	Percent
Lake, Ocean	1	100

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. All respondents identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 11.22). The vast majority (92.5%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 11.23).

Table 11.22. Ethnicity (N=90)

Q13e1. Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	0	0.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	90	100.0

Table 11.23. Race (N=106)

Q13e2. Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	4	3.8
Black or African American	1	.9
White	98	92.5
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
American Indian & White	1	.9
Asian & White	2	1.9

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Sieur de Monts. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Sieur de Monts. A variety responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 11.24 and 11.25. The most commonly reported items enjoyed by respondents was the beauty of Sieur de Monts (26.2%) and the facilities (26.2%). When asked what they enjoyed least about their visitor to Sieur de Monts, the most commonly reported item (21.1%) were the insects, followed by the lack of information and interpretation (13.8%) (Table 11.25).

Table 11.24. Enjoyed most (N=309)

Q3a. What are three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty	81	26.2
Facilities	81	26.2
A particular place	72	23.3
Recreation activity	14	4.5
Learning about natural and human history of the area	14	4.5
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	13	4.2
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	10	3.2
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	9	2.9
Weather	4	1.3
Miscellaneous	4	1.3
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic	3	1.0
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	3	1.0
Food, restaurants; popovers	1	0.3
Everything	0	0.0
Challenge	0	0.0
Warm water for swimming	0	0.0

Table 11.25. Enjoyed Least (N=109)

Q3b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	23	21.1
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	15	13.8
Weather	12	11.0
Crowding	10	9.2
Nothing; everything was good	10	9.2
Miscellaneous	10	9.2
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	9	8.3
Too few facilities	6	5.5
User Conflicts	3	2.8
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	3	2.8
Cost; fees	2	1.8
Tour busses; tours	2	1.8
Visitor impacts	1	0.9
Noise	1	0.9
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	1	0.9
Lack of access for disabled	1	0.9
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	0	0.0
Too commercial; too much development	0	0.0
Dogs; droppings	0	0.0
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	0	0.0
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	0	0.0
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: "If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?" Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 11.26. The most commonly occurring responses were a desire for more information and interpretation (32.5%), followed by the feeling that everything in the park is fine just as it is and the need for more facilities (20.8% each).

Table 11.26. Management changes (N=77)

Q3c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	25	32.5
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	16	20.8
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	16	20.8
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	4	5.2
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	3	3.9
Control insects	3	3.9
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	2	2.6
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	2	2.6
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	1	1.3
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	1	1.3
More access for handicapped / seniors	1	1.3
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	1	1.3
Allow pets	1	1.3
Miscellaneous	1	1.3
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set a questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Sieur de Monts (Table 11.27). The vast majority of respondents did not think that any of the issues were a “small” or “big” problem.

Table 11.27. Evaluation of issues

. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Sieur de Monts?	Not a Problem 1	Small Problem 2	Big Problem 3	Don't Know	Mean
1. Difficulty finding a parking place	66.4	18.6	8.0	7.1	1.37
2. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas)	72.3	10.7	2.7	14.3	1.19
3. Too many people in this area of the park	74.6	16.7	3.5	5.3	1.25
4. Difficulty finding my way around the area	66.7	27.2	0.9	5.3	1.31
5. Not enough restrooms	75.4	17.5	0.0	7.0	1.19

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Sieur de Monts. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 11.28). Generally, perceived crowding levels were low. Over a third of respondents (37.7%) reported that they were "not at all crowded".

Table 11.28. Perceived crowding (N=114)

Q4. How crowded did you feel at the Sieur de Monts area today?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all crowded	43	37.7
2	37	32.5
3	22	19.3
4	6	5.3
5	1	.9
6	3	2.6
7	1	.9
8	1	.9
9 Extremely crowded	0	0.0

Mean= 2.15; Median= 2.0

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 11.29). Approximately half of respondents (51.8%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded, however a substantial minority (31%) agreed that Acadia National Park is too crowded. A substantial majority of respondents (66.1%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. A substantial majority of respondents (66.7%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, approximately half of respondents (53.1%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 11.29. (N=103)

Q7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded.

	Strongly Agree 1	Agree 2	No Opinion 3	Disagree 4	Strongly Disagree 5	Mean
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	3.5	27.5	17.5	43.9	7.9	3.25
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	2.7	15.9	15.0	44.2	22.1	3.67
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	2.6	14.9	15.8	55.3	11.4	3.58
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	5.4	47.7	30.6	15.3	0.9	2.59

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how

selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar for all of these issues (Tables 11.30 to 11.32). Half or more of respondents (50% to 63%) felt that these conditions have not changed much. However, substantial minorities of respondents (from 28.8% to 38.3%) felt that these conditions have gotten worse.

Table 11.30. Change in crowding (N=61)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	22	36.1
I feel less crowded than I used to	3	4.9
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	36	59.0

Table 11.32. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=60)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	23	38.3
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	7	11.7
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	30	50.0

Table 11.33. Change in availability of parking space (N=59)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	17	28.8
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	5	8.5
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	37	62.7

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 11.34). The vast majority (73.9%) of respondents were aware of this. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 11.35) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 11.36). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 97.3% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 88.3% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 11.34. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=111)

Q10b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	82	73.9
No	29	26.1

Table 11.35. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=112)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	109	97.3
No	3	2.7

Table 11.36. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=111)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	98	88.3
No	13	11.7

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fee in light of knowing how they are used (Table 11.37). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 11.37. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park:

	Too Low 1	About Right 2	Too High 3	Mean
a. $20 per vehicle per week	8.7	71.2	20.2	2.12
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	15.6	76.7	7.8	1.92
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	7.9	87.6	4.5	1.97
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	35.9	64.1	0.0	1.64

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 11.38). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value for the fee they paid with 80.6% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 11.38. Overall satisfaction (N=108)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	9	8.3
Dissatisfied	2	1.9
Neither dissatisfied not satisfied	10	9.3
Satisfied	42	38.9
Very satisfied	45	41.7

Chapter 12 Thunder Hole

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 12.1). Average age was 46.5 years old (median = 47).

Table 12.1. Age (N=134)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	3	2.2
20-29	17	12.7
30-39	12	9.0
40-49	43	32.1
50-59	35	26.1
60-69	22	16.4
70-79	1	0.7
80-89	1	0.7

Mean 46.5, Median= 47

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 12.2). More females (57.4%) completed the survey than males (42.6%).

Table 12.2. Gender (N=136)

Q13c. Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	58	42.6
Female	78	57.4

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 12.3). The largest percent of respondents, 40.6%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 12.3. Education (N=138)

Q13d. Education	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	2	1.4
High school graduate	15	10.9
Vocational / trade school certificate	5	3.6
Some college	13	9.4
Two-year college	10	7.2
Four-year college	37	26.8
Graduate degree	56	40.6

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 12.4 through 12.6. Most visitors (95.6%) reside in the United States (Table 12.4). Thirty-two states were represented at Thunder Hole (Table 12.5). The most common state of residency was Maine (14.7%). Only six respondents were from another country (Table 12.6). These countries include Canada, France, and Germany.

Table 12.4. Place of residence (N=135)

Q13a1. Do you live in the United States?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	129	95.6
No	6	4.4

Table 12.5. State of residence (N=46)

State	Frequency	Percent
Maine	17	14.7
Massachusetts	12	10.3
New York	12	10.3
Ohio	10	8.6
Michigan	7	6.0
Virginia	7	6.0
Florida	6	5.2
Pennsylvania	6	5.2
New Hampshire	5	4.3
Connecticut	4	3.4
Maryland	4	3.4
Illinois	2	1.7
Minnesota	2	1.7
New Jersey	2	1.7
Utah	2	1.7
Washington	2	1.7
Arizona	1	0.9
California	1	0.9
Colorado	1	0.9
Delaware	1	0.9
Indiana	1	0.9
Louisiana	1	0.9
Missouri	1	0.9
Nebraska	1	0.9
North Carolina	1	0.9
Rhoda island	1	0.9
South Carolina	1	0.9
Tennessee	1	0.9
Texas	1	0.9
Vermont	1	0.9
West Virginia	1	0.9
Wisconsin	1	0.9

Table 12.6. Country of residence (N=5)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Canada	2	40
France	1	20
Germany	2	40

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 12.7). Visitors to Thunder Hole tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3.4 (median = 3).

Table 12.7. Group size (N=143)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	3	2.1
2	61	42.7
3	18	12.6
4	29	20.3
5	14	9.8
6	11	7.7
7	3	2.1
8	2	1.4
10+	2	1.4

Mean = 3.4; Median = 3

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 12.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (97.2%) were comprised of family and/or friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 12.9). Only 2 respondents at Thunder Hole (1.5%) were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 12.8. Group type (N=141)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?		
	Frequency	Percent
Family	108	76.6
Friends	17	12.1
Family and friends	12	8.5
Organized group / club / school / educational group	1	0.7
Other	3	2.1

Table 12.9. Commercial group (N=137)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	2	1.5
No	135	98.5

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 12.10). A majority (77%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Most repeat visitors had been to the park only a few times, but a few visitors come to the park very often (Table 12.11).

Table 12.10. Previously visited (N=138)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	77	55.8
No	61	44.2

Table 12.11. Number of previous visits (N=77)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	23	29.9
2	16	20.8
3	9	11.7
4	3	3.9
5	3	3.9
6	3	3.9
7	1	1.3
10	2	2.6
12	2	2.6
15	2	2.6
20	5	6.5
25	1	1.3
30	3	3.9
50	2	2.6
100	2	2.6

Mean = 8.82, Median = 2

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 12.12). Over half of respondents (57.7%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion a Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 12.13). Half of respondents (51.7%) said it was because Mount Desert Island was too far from home. No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 12.12. (N=142)

Q8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	82	57.7
No	60	42.3

Table 12.13. (N=57)

Q8b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.		
	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	30	51.7
Want to visit other places	21	36.2
Something negative about Acadia National Park	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	7	12.06

Visitors were asked how long they stayed at Thunder Hole (Table 12.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 28.6 minutes (median = 20).

Table 12.14. Length of stay (N=140)

Q6. Approximately how long did you stay at Thunder Hole today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
1	1	0.7
5	6	4.3
10	18	12.9
12	1	0.7
15	25	17.9
20	21	15.0
25	1	0.7
30	40	28.6
35	1	0.7
40	1	0.7
45	6	4.3
60	15	10.7
90	2	1.4
150	1	0.7
180	1	0.7

Mean = 28.6, Median = 20

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" A majority of visitors (69.5%) to Thunder Hole paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual (Table 12.15).

Table 12.15. Fees paid (N=141)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	3	2.1
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	98	69.5
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	35	24.8
Fee included in tour package	2	1.4
Don't know	2	1.4
Other	1	0.7

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 12.16 through 12.18). Most of the respondents (91.9%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they were administered the survey. A vast majority of respondents (88.1%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and half of respondents (64.7%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 12.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=135)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	11	8.1
No	124	91.9

Table 12.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=135)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	16	11.9
No	119	88.1

Table 12.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=136)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	29	21.3
No	88	64.7
Don't Know	19	14.0

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 12.19). A vast majority of respondents (97.1%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 12.19. Fishing (N=140)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	4	2.9
No	136	97.1

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 12.20). Only two visitors responded to this question and reported that they fished at Southwest Harbor, Cranberry Isles, or Islesford.

Table 12.20. Fishing areas (N=2)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?		
	Frequency	Percent
Cranberry Isles and Islesford	1	50
Southwest Harbor	1	50

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (96.4%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 12.21). The vast majority (96.3%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 12.22).

Table 12.21. Ethnicity (N=110)

Q13e1. Ethnicity		
	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	4	3.6
Not Hispanic or Latino	106	96.4

Table 12.22. Race (N=135)

Q13e2. Race		
	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	1	0.7
Black or African American	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	130	96.3
Other	4	2.7

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Thunder Hole. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Thunder Hole. A variety responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 12.23 and 12.24. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents was the beauty of Thunder Hole. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visit to Thunder Hole, the most commonly reported item (29.5%) was "crowding", followed by "miscellaneous" (19.3%) (Table 12.24).

Table 12.23. Enjoyed most (N=352)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty	204	58.0
Recreation activity	26	7.4
A particular place	24	6.8
Facilities	20	5.7
Weather	19	5.4
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	15	4.3
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	14	4.0
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	9	2.6
Learning about natural and human history of the area	5	1.4
Miscellaneous	5	1.4
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	4	1.1
Food, restaurants; popovers	4	1.1
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic, secluded	2	0.6
Everything	1	0.3
Challenge	0	0.0
Warm water for swimming	0	0.0

Table 12.24. Enjoyed Least (N=204)

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Crowding	61	29.5
Miscellaneous	40	19.3
Nothing; everything was good	17	8.2
Weather	12	5.8
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	9	4.3
User conflicts	9	4.3
Too commercial; too much development	8	3.9
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	8	3.9
Cost; fees	7	3.4
Too few facilities	6	2.9
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	4	1.9
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe	4	1.9
Tour busses; tours	3	1.4
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	3	1.4
Visitor impacts	3	1.4
Lack of access for disabled	3	1.4
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	3	1.4
Restrooms; too few restrooms; not clean restrooms	2	1.0
Dogs; dog droppings	2	1.0
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	1	0.5
Noise	1	0.5
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	1	0.5
Dogs not allowed; pets not allowed	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: “If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?” Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 12.25. The most commonly occurring responses were the feeling that everything in the park is fine just as it is (32.7%) and a desire for more information and interpretation (19.2%).

Table 12.25. Management changes (N=208)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	68	32.7
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	40	19.2
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	24	11.5
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	20	9.6
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	12	5.8
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	10	4.8
Miscellaneous	10	4.8
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	8	3.8
More access for handicapped / seniors	8	3.8
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	6	2.9
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	2	1.0
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	0	0.0
Control insects	0	0.0
Allow pets	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set of questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Thunder Hole (Table 12.26). A majority of respondents reported that four issues- difficulty finding a parking place, too many cars on the road, too many people in this area of the park and the Thunder Hole viewing area being too crowded- were either a “small” or “big” problem.

Table 12.26. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Thunder Hole?	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know (DK)	Mean
1. Too many cars on the road	33.3	50.4	14.9	1.4	1.8
2. Difficulty finding a parking place	46.1	37.6	13.5	2.8	1.7
3. Difficulty crossing the road safely	67.6	31.0	1.4	0.0	1.3
4. Too many people in this area of the park	43.1	42.4	14.6	0.0	1.7
5. Thunder Hole viewing area too crowded	35.2	49.3	15.5	0.0	1.8
6. Not enough restrooms	45.0	27.9	10.0	17.1	1.6

Standards of Quality

Questions were also asked to address standards of quality for the indicator variable of the number of people at one time at Thunder Hole. A series of six computer-generated photographs were prepared showing a range of use levels. Study photographs are shown in Appendix A.

For the series of photographs, respondents were asked a battery of evaluative questions. Respondents were first asked to evaluate the acceptability of the six study photographs showing increasing levels of visitor use. Acceptability was measured using a nine-point Likert-type scale ranging from (-4) "Very Unacceptable" to (4) "Very Acceptable". Zero represented the middle of this scale or the point of indifference. The second question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph that showed the use level they would prefer to see. A third question asked visitors to indicate which photograph showed the condition that would be so unacceptable that they would not longer visit Thunder Hole. Further, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that, "none of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer visit this area." The fourth question asked visitors to select the photograph representing the highest level of visitor use they thought the National Park Service should allow, or the point at which visitor

use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs show a high enough level of visitor use to restrict use or that use should not be restricted at all. The fifth question referred to existing conditions. Respondents were asked to indicate the photograph that most represented the condition they "typically saw today". Findings from this series of questions are presented below.

The first photograph showed no people at Thunder Hole, the second had 9, the third had 18, the fourth had 27, the fifth had 36 and the last had 45 people. Table 12.26 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the photographs, and Figure 1 shows the resulting norm curve. The norm curve is derived by plotting the mean acceptability rating against the corresponding number of people as shown in each of the six photographs. Study findings suggest that increasing numbers of people are found to be increasingly unacceptable, and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range at 30 people at one time.

Table 12.26. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Acceptability)

Q4a. Acceptability of Study Photos

Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable.

	Very Unacceptable							Very Acceptable		Mean
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Photo 1 (0)	5.6	1.4	1.4	0.0	2.8	0.7	0.7	0.0	87.3	3.22
Photo 2 (9)	2.1	1.4	0.7	0.7	1.4	2.1	4.2	13.4	73.9	3.32
Photo 3 (18)	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0	7.7	4.9	18.9	26.6	39.9	2.78
Photo 4 (27)	4.3	3.5	7.1	14.9	12.8	17.7	17.0	14.9	7.8	0.71
Photo 5 (36)	24.8	19.1	15.6	14.9	12.8	6.4	3.5	1.4	1.4	-1.79
Photo 6 (45)	59.2	13.4	6.3	6.3	7.0	1.4	3.5	0.7	2.1	-2.77

Figure 1. Thunder Hole Norm Curve

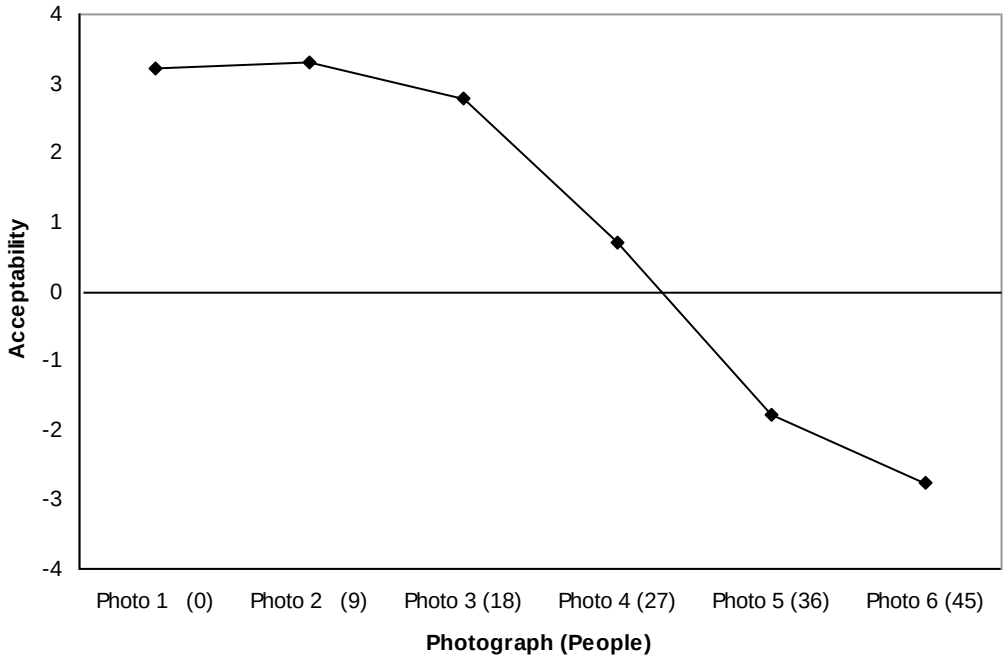


Table 12.27 present a breakdown of visitor preferences for the number of people at Thunder Hole. Respondents prefer to see an average (mean) of approximately 13.6 people (median = 18) at Thunder Hole.

Table 12.27. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Preference) (N=142)

Q4b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would prefer to see?		
	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	21	14.8
Photo 2 (9)	46	32.4
Photo 3 (18)	60	42.3
Photo 4 (27)	13	9.2
Photo 5 (36)	0	0.0
Photo 6 (45)	2	1.4

Mean = 2.51 (13.6), Median = 3 (18)

The third question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph representing the number of people that would be "so unacceptable that you would longer use this area?" As

shown in Table 12.28, visitors reported that an average (mean) of 39.2 people would be so unacceptable that they would no longer visit the area. Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs were so unacceptable that they would no longer visit. Approximately 33% of respondents selected this response.

Table 12.28. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Displacement) (N=141)

Q4c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	1	0.7
Photo 2 (9)	1	0.7
Photo 3 (18)	0	0.0
Photo 4 (27)	8	5.7
Photo 5 (36)	35	24.8
Photo 6 (45)	49	34.8
None of the photos are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.	47	33.3

Mean = 5.36 (39.2), Median = 6 (45)

The next question in the series asked respondents to indicate which photograph represented the largest number of people that the National Park Service should allow at Thunder Hole, or, "at what point should people be restricted from using this area?" Responses to this question are shown in Table 12.29. Respondents indicated that the National Park Service should allow an average (mean) of 30.6 people at Thunder Hole before use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that "none of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area" or, that "visitor use should not be restricted". About 32% of respondents felt that none of the photographs showed a high enough number of people to restrict visitor use and no visitors felt that use should not be restricted.

Table 12.29. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Management Action) (N=132)

Q4d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	0	0.0
Photo 2 (9)	1	0.8
Photo 3 (18)	11	8.3
Photo 4 (27)	43	32.6
Photo 5 (36)	21	15.9
Photo 6 (45)	14	10.6
None of the photos are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.	42	31.8
Visitor use should not be restricted.	0	0.0

Mean = 4.40 (30.6), Median = 4 (27)

In order to gauge visitor perceptions of existing conditions, visitors were asked which photograph looked most like the number of people they typically saw on the day they were contacted for this study. As shown in Table 12.30, respondents reported that they typically saw an average (mean) of 25.2 people on the day they were contacted for this study.

Table 12.30. Number of people typically seen (N=142)

Q4e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	2	1.4
Photo 2 (9)	12	8.5
Photo 3 (18)	33	23.2
Photo 4 (27)	69	48.6
Photo 5 (36)	17	12.0
Photo 6 (45)	9	6.3

Mean = 3.8 (25.2), Median = 4 (27)

Table 12.31 summarizes the findings of the previous tables on respondent ratings of study photographs.

Table 12.31. Summary Table

Summary Table		
	Mean	Median
Acceptability	30	
Preference	13.6	18
Displacement	39.2	45
Management action	30.6	27
Typically seen	25.2	27

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Thunder Hole. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 12.32). Generally, perceived crowding levels were moderate. About a third (36.5%) reported that they were "moderately crowded" and approximately another third (32.2%) reported being "slightly crowded".

Table 12.32. Perceived crowding (N=140)

Q5. How crowded did you feel in the Thunder Hole area today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1 (Not at all crowded)	18	12.9
2	18	12.9
3	25	17.9
4	20	14.3
5	12	8.6
6	20	14.3
7	19	13.6
8	6	4.3
9 (Very crowded)	2	1.4

Mean = 4.2, Median = 4

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 12.33). A substantial majority of respondents (74%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. Opinion was also split on the issue of use limits in the park. A substantial majority of respondents

(64.1%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. A substantial majority of respondents (66.5%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a majority of respondents (59.3%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 12.33. Crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park

Q7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	2.1	14.8	9.2	64.1	9.9	3.65
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	3.5	19.0	13.4	38.7	25.4	3.63
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1.4	18.6	13.6	53.6	12.9	3.58
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	6.4	52.9	29.3	10.7	0.7	2.46

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar for all of these issues (Tables 12.34 to 12.36). Approximately half of respondents (43.1% to 53.8%) felt that these conditions have gotten worse. However, substantial minorities of respondents (from 39.7% to 44.4%) felt that these conditions have not changed much.

Table 12.34. Change in crowding (N=80)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	40	50.0
I feel less crowded than I used to	5	6.3
My feelings of crowding have not changed	35	43.8

Table 12.35. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=78)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	42	53.8
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	5	6.4
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	31	39.7

Table 12.36. Change in availability of parking space (N=72)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	31	43.1
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	9	12.5
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	32	44.4

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 12.37). Approximately 72.5% of respondents were aware of this. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 12.38) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 12.39). Respondents

supported both uses of entrance fees with 97.9% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 88.1% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 12.37. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=142)

Q10b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	103	72.5
No	39	27.5

Table 12.38. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=142)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	139	97.9
No	3	2.1

Table 12.39. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=135)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	119	88.1
No	16	11.9

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees now knowing how they are used (Table 12.40). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees in light of currently about right.

Table 12.40. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park.	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week	3.6	79.3	17.1	2.14
$40 Annual Acadia Pass	15.5	81.4	3.1	1.88
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	10.2	84.4	5.5	1.95
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	25.4	72.3	2.3	1.77

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 12.41). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value for the fee they paid with 76.6% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 12.41. Overall satisfaction (N=141)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	10	7.1
Dissatisfied	8	5.7
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	15	10.6
Satisfied	52	36.9
Very satisfied	56	39.7

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 13.1). Average (mean) age was 52 years old (median = 45).

Table 13.1. Age (N=218)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
under 20	2	0.9
20-29	25	11.5
30-39	43	19.7
40-49	70	32.1
50-59	54	24.8
60-69	17	7.8
70-79	6	2.8
80+	1	0.5

Mean=52, Median=45

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 13.2). More females (52.6%) completed the survey than males (47.4%)

Table 13.2. Gender (N=232)

Q13c. Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	110	47.4
Female	122	52.6

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 13.3). The largest percent of respondents, 43.5%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 13.3. Education (N=239)

Q13d. Education

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	6	2.5
High school graduate	11	4.6
Vocational/trade school certified	3	1.3
Some college	19	7.9
Two-year college degree	11	4.6
Four-year college degree	85	35.6
Graduate degree	104	43.5

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 13.4 through 13.6. Most visitors (92.3%) reside in the United States (Table 13.4). Thirty-two states were represented along trails (Table 13.5). The most common state of residency was Massachusetts (17.8%). Nineteen respondents were from another country (Table 13.6).

Table 13.4. Place of residence (N=247)

Q13a. Do you live in the United States?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	228	92.3
No	19	7.7

Table 13.5. State of residence (N=106)

State

	Frequency	Percent
Massachusetts	34	17.8
New York	23	12.0
Pennsylvania	18	9.4
Maine	15	7.9
New Jersey	14	7.3
Connecticut	12	6.3
Illinois	7	3.7
Maryland	7	3.7
Florida	6	3.1
North Carolina	5	2.6
Ohio	5	2.6
Virginia	5	2.6
Michigan	4	2.1
Texas	4	2.1
Vermont	4	2.1
Colorado	3	1.6
Indiana	3	1.6
New Hampshire	3	1.6
California	2	1.0
Georgia	2	1.0
Kansas	2	1.0
Rhode Island	2	1.0
Wisconsin	2	1.0
Arizona	1	0.5
Arkansas	1	0.5
Delaware	1	0.5
Idaho	1	0.5
Kentucky	1	0.5
Louisiana	1	0.5
Minnesota	1	0.5
South Carolina	1	0.5
Washington	1	0.5

Table 13.6. Country of residence (N=19)

Country

	Frequency	Percent
Canada	9	47.4
Denmark	1	5.3
France	1	5.3
Germany	2	10.5
Luxembourg	1	5.3
Spain	1	5.3
Sweden	1	5.3
United Kingdom and Gibraltar	3	15.8

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 13.7). Trails visitors tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3 (median = 2).

Table 13.7. Group size (N=256)

Q1. How many people are in your personal group today?

	Frequency	Percent
1	18	7.3
2	114	46.3
3	35	14.2
4	45	18.3
5	21	8.5
6	3	1.2
7	3	1.2
8	2	.8
9	2	.8
10+	3	1.2

Mean= 3, Median= 2

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 13.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (94.5%) were comprised of family and/or friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 13.9). No respondents on the trails were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 13.8. Group type (N=238)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group today?

	Frequency	Percent
Family	188	79.0
Friends	21	8.8
Family and Friends	16	6.7
Organized group/club/school/educational group	1	.4
Other	12	5.0

Table 13.9. Commercial group (N=243)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	0	0.0
No	243	100.0

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 13.10). Over half (62.2%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Most repeat visitors had been to the park only a few times, but a few visitors come to the park very often (Table 13.11).

Table 13.10. Previously visited (N=243)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	152	62.6
No	91	37.4

Table 13.11. Number of previous visits (N=139)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
1	20	14.3
2	13	9.3
3	13	9.3
4	13	9.3
5	9	6.4
6	4	2.9
7	2	1.4
8	1	0.7
9	1	0.7
10+	63	45.0

Mean=19, Median=6

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 13.12). The majority of respondents (71.2%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion a Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 13.13). Half of respondents (50%) said it was because they wanted to visit other places. One respondent reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 13.12. (N=243)

Q8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	173	71.2
No	70	28.8

Table 13.13. (N=72)

Q8b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not?

	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	31	43.1
Want to visit other places	36	50.0
Something negative about Acadia	1	1.4
Miscellaneous	4	5.6

Visitors were asked how long they stayed on the trails (Table 13.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 97.7 minutes (median = 90).

Table 13.14. Length of stay (N=249)

Q5. Approximately how long did you hike on these trails today? (Minutes)

	Frequency	Percent
5	1	0.4
20	2	0.8
30	10	4.2
40	3	1.3
44	1	0.4
45	8	3.3
60	40	16.7
75	1	0.4
90	29	12.1
105	2	0.8
120	54	22.6
130	1	0.4
135	3	1.3
150	19	7.9
160	1	0.4
180	38	15.9
190	1	0.4
195	1	0.4
210	6	2.5
225	1	0.4
240	12	5.0
270	1	0.4
300	2	0.8
390	1	0.4
420	1	0.4

Mean=123.3, Median=120

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" Over half of visitors (55.1%) on the trails paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual (Table 13.15).

Table 13.15. Fees paid (N=245)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?

	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use pass to enter the park	54	22.0
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	135	55.1
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	50	20.4
Fee included in tour package	0	0.0
Don't know	2	.8
Other	4	1.6

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 13.16 through 13.18). Most of the respondents (95.0%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they completed the survey. A vast majority of respondents (82.5%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and half of respondents (52.3%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 13.16. Island Explorer bus system use

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	12	5.0
No	227	95.0

Table 13.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	43	17.5
No	203	82.5

Table 13.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	68	28.0
No	127	52.3
Don't Know	48	19.8

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 13.19). A vast majority of respondents (95.9%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 13.19. Fishing (N=245)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	10	4.1
No	235	95.9

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 13.20). Seven visitors responded to this question and reported that they fished at Eagle Lake, Bubble Pond, Echo Pond, Long Pond, Seal Core Pond, Jordan Stream, Somes Pond, or Lower Hadlock.

Table 13.20. Fishing areas (N=7)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

	Frequency	Percent
Bubble Pond	1	14.3
Eagle Lake	2	28.6
Echo Pond	1	14.3
Long Pond	1	14.3
Long Pond, Seal Core Pond, Jordan Stream	1	14.3
Somes pond, Lower Hadlock	1	14.3

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. All of the respondents identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 13.21). The vast majority (95.7%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 13.22).

Table 13.21. Ethnicity (N=203)

Q13e1. Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	0	0.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	203	100.0

Table 13.22. Race (N=230)

Q13e2. Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	1	.4
Black or African American	2	.9
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	220	95.7
Other	7	3.0

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience on the trails. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended

format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit on the trails. A variety responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 13.23 and 13.24. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents was the beauty of the trails. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visit on the trails, the most commonly reported item (15.3%) was the feeling that everything was good, closely followed by the lack of information (12.1%) (Table 13.24).

Table 13.23. Enjoyed most (N=722)

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about hiking these trails?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty	329	45.6
Recreation activity	87	12.0
Facilities	84	11.6
Challenge	48	6.6
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	42	5.8
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	31	4.3
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic, secluded	30	4.2
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	14	1.9
Food, restaurants; popovers	14	1.9
A particular place	13	1.8
Miscellaneous	10	1.4
Weather	8	1.1
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	6	0.8
Learning about natural and human history of the area	5	0.7
Warm water for swimming	1	0.1
Everything	0	0.0

Table 13.24. Enjoyed Least (N=313)

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about hiking these trails?

	Frequency	Percent
Nothing; everything was good	48	15.3
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	38	12.1
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	35	11.2
Weather	32	10.2
Miscellaneous	31	9.9
Crowding	27	8.6
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	19	6.1
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	17	5.4
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe	14	4.5
User conflicts	13	4.2
Dogs; dog droppings	10	3.2
Too few facilities	7	2.2
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	6	1.9
Visitor impacts	5	1.6
Too commercial; too much development	4	1.3
Noise	4	1.3
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	2	0.6
Cost; fees	1	0.3
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	0	0.0
Tour busses; tours	0	0.0
Dogs not allowed; pets not allowed	0	0.0
Lack of access for disabled	0	0.0
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: "If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?" Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 13.25. The most commonly occurring responses were the feeling that everything in the park is fine just as it is (40%) and a desire for more information and interpretation (22.4%).

Table 13.25. Management changes (N=210)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	84	40.0
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	47	22.4
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	34	16.2
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	12	5.7
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	12	5.7
Miscellaneous	6	2.9
More access for handicapped / seniors	5	2.4
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	3	1.4
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	3	1.4
Enforce pet regulations	1	0.5
Control insects	1	0.5
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	1	0.5
Allow pets	1	0.5
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	0	0.0
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set a questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem on the trails (Table 13.26). The majority of respondents did not think that most of the issues were a “small” or “big” problem. However, 57.0% and 52.0% viewed difficulty finding a parking place and damage to soil and vegetation from hikers walking off trail to be a “small” or “big” problem.

Table 13.26. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are on the hiking trails at Acadia National Park?

	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know DK	Mean
1. Difficulty finding a parking place at the trailhead (N=239)	41.0	44.7	12.3	2.0	1.7
2. Too many people on these trails (N=244)	61.2	33.5	4.9	.4	1.5
3. Too many large groups on these trails (N=235)	76.0	15.9	3.7	4.5	1.3
4. Too many people on mountain summits and other destinations (N=233)	66.1	24.1	4.9	4.9	1.4
5. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by hikers walking off trails (N=232)	42.3	40.7	11.4	5.7	1.7
6. Dogs off leash (N=231)	78.0	12.7	3.7	5.7	1.2
7. Lack of trail maintenance (N=246)	83.0	16.2	.4	.4	1.2
8. Lack of information/orientation at trailheads (N=246)	59.7	32.5	7.7	0.0	1.5

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked how many other hikers they saw on the trails (Table 13.27). The average (mean) number of other hikers that respondents saw was 33.3 (median= 25).

Table 13.27. Hikers encountered (N=243)

Q6. Approximately how many other hikers did you see along these trails today?

	Frequency	Percent
0	2	.8
2	2	.8
3	3	1.2
4	5	2.1
5	6	2.5
6	9	3.7
7	6	2.5
8	7	2.9
9	1	.4
10	32	13.2
11	2	.8
12	10	4.1
14	3	1.2
15	20	8.2
16	1	.4
17	1	.4
18	1	.4
20+	132	54.1

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding on the trails. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 13.28). Generally, perceived crowding levels were very low. A majority of respondents (56.9%) reported that they were "not at all crowded" (1 or 2 on the 9-point scale).

Table 13.28. Perceived crowding (N=244)

Q4. How crowded did you feel on these trails today?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	76	31.1
2	63	25.8
3	57	23.4
4	23	9.4
5	6	2.5
6	12	4.9
7	5	2.0
8	2	.8
9 Extremely Crowded	0	0.0

Mean= 2.5, Median=2

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 13.29). A majority of respondents (68.1%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. A substantial majority of respondents (66.4%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. A substantial majority of respondents (65.2%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a substantial majority of respondents (64.6%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 13.29.

Q7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded (N=2480	4.8	25.4	10.9	48.0	10.9	3.4
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time (N=244)	3.7	14.3	15.6	45.5	20.9	3.7
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard (N=247)	0.4	19.0	15.4	49.4	15.8	3.6
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right (N=243)	8.2	56.4	22.2	12.3	0.8	2.4

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space (Tables 13.30 to 13.32). Responses were similar for feelings of crowding and congestion of roads; approximately half of respondents (44.7% and 53.8%) felt that these conditions had gotten worse. A majority of respondents felt that the availability of parking spaces has not changed (58.7%). However, a substantial minority (38%) thought that the availability of parking spaces had gotten worse.

Table 13.30. Change in crowding (N=159)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	71	44.7
I feel less crowded than I used to	12	7.5
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	76	47.8

Table 13.31. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=156)

Q9d. How have you feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	84	53.8
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	9	5.8
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	63	40.4

Table 13.32. Change in availability of parking space (N=150)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	57	38.0
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	5	3.3
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	88	58.7

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 13.33). The vast majority (81.6%) of respondents were aware of this. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services

(Table 13.34) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 13.35). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 97.9% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 91.4% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 13.33. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=244)

Q10b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	199	81.6
No	45	18.4

Table 13.34. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=242)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	237	97.9
No	5	2.1

Table 13.35. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=243)

Q10D. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	222	91.4
No	21	8.6

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees in light of knowing how they are used (Table 13.36). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 13.36. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park.

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
a. $20 per vehicle per week (N=239)	6.7	82.8	10.5	2.0
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass (N=227)	14.5	80.6	4.8	1.9
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week (N=226)	8.8	82.3	8.8	2.0
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life) (N=228)	32.0	67.1	0.9	1.7

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 13.37). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 78.4% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 13.37. Overall satisfaction (N=231)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	17	7.4
Dissatisfied	7	3.0
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	26	11.3
Satisfied	70	30.3
Very satisfied	111	48.1

Chapter 14 Wildewood Stables

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 14.1). Average (mean) age was 47 years old (median = 46).

Table 14.1. Age (N=98)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	0	0.0
20-29	4	4.1
30-39	19	19.4
40-49	46	46.9
50-59	22	22.4
60-69	2	2.0
70-79	4	4.1
80-89	1	1.0

Mean=47, Median=46

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 14.2). More females (58.6%) completed the survey than males (41.4%).

Table 14.2. Gender (N=99)

Q13c. What is your gender?

	Frequency	Percent
Male	41	41.4
Female	58	58.6

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 14.3). The largest percent of respondents, 41.6%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 14.3. Education (N=101)

Q13d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	0	0.0
High school graduate	11	10.9
Vocational/trade school certificate	3	3.0
Some college	6	5.9
Two-year college degree	11	10.9
Four-year college degree	28	27.7
Graduate degree	42	41.6

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 4 through 6. Most visitors (98.9%) reside in the United States (Table 14.4). Twenty-five states were represented at Wildwood Stables (Table 14.5). The most common state of residency was New York (17.9%). Only 1 respondent was from another country, Germany (Table 14.6).

Table 14.4. Place of residence (N=89)

Q13a. Do you live in the United States?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	88	98.9
No	1	1.1

Table 14.5. State of residence (N=106)

State	Frequency	Percent
New York	15	17.9
Pennsylvania	9	10.7
Massachusetts	8	9.5
Maine	6	7.1
Connecticut	5	6.0
New Jersey	5	6.0
Ohio	5	6.0
New Hampshire	4	4.8
Florida	3	3.6
Illinois	3	3.6
Maryland	3	3.6
Virginia	3	3.6
California	2	2.4
Michigan	2	2.4
Arizona	1	1.2
Indiana	1	1.2
Iowa	1	1.2
Kentucky	1	1.2
Minnesota	1	1.2
Missouri	1	1.2
Rhoda Island	1	1.2
Tennessee	1	1.2
Texas	1	1.2
Vermont	1	1.2
Washington	1	1.2

Table 14.6. Country of residence (N=1)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Germany	1	100

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 14.7).

Visitors to Wildwood Stables tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 4.3 (median = 4).

Table 14.7. Group size (N=105)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today

	Frequency	Percent
2	30	28.6
3	11	10.5
4	35	33.3
5	13	12.4
6	6	5.7
7	7	6.7
8	1	1.0
9	1	1.0
10+	1	1.0

Mean=4.3, Median=4.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 14.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (99.1%) were comprised of family and friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 14.9). Four respondents at Wildwood Stables (3.8%) were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 14.8. Group type (N=105)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?

	Frequency	Percent
Family	95	90.5
Friends	4	3.8
Family and friends	5	4.8
Other	1	1.0

Table 14.9. Commercial group (N=105)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	4	3.8
No	101	96.2

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 14.10). Almost half (47.6%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Most repeat visitors had been to the park only a few times, but a few visitors come to the park very often (Table 14.11).

Table 14.10. Previously visited (N=105)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	50	47.6
No	55	52.4

Table 14.11. Number of previous visits (N=49)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
1	18	37.5
2	6	12.5
3	6	12.5
4	2	4.2
5	4	8.3
6	1	2.1
7	1	2.1
10	1	2.1
15	2	4.2
20	3	6.3
24	1	2.1
25	1	2.1
28	1	2.1
46	1	2.1

Mean=6.4, Median=2.0

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 14.12). Over half of respondents (55.2%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return

to the Mount Desert Island portion a Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 14.13). Approximately half of respondents (52.1%) said it was because they wanted to visit other places. No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 14.12. (N=105)

Q8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	58	55.2
No	47	44.8

Table 14.13. (N=48)

Q8b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the nest year or two, please explain why not.

	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	14	29.2
Want to visit other places	25	52.1
Something negative about Acadia	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	9	18.8

Visitors were asked how long (in minutes) they stayed at Wildwood Stables (Table 14.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 97.7 minutes (median = 90).

Table 14.14. Length of stay (N=107)

Q5. Approximately how long did you stay at Wildwood Stables today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
10	1	1.0
15	2	1.9
20	1	1.0
60	14	13.5
75	1	1.0
90	19	18.3
120	40	38.5
150	14	13.5
180	10	9.6
190	1	1.0
210	1	1.0

Mean=97.7, Median=90.0

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" A majority of visitor (66.3%) to Wildwood Stables paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual (Table 14.15).

Table 14.15. Fees paid (N=98)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	10	10.2
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	65	66.3
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	20	20.4
Don't know	2	2.0
Other	1	1.0

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 14.16 through 14.18). Most of the respondents (88.1%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they were administered the survey. A vast majority of

respondents (75.8%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and half of respondents (59.6%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 14.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=101)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	12	11.9
No	89	88.1

Table 14.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=99)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	24	24.2
No	75	75.8

Table 14.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=99)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	24	24.2
No	59	59.6
Don't Know	16	16.2

Respondents were asked to report the what activities they participated in while at Wildwood Stables (Table 14.19). The vast majority of respondents (97.1%) said they went on a carriage ride.

Table 14.19. Activities (N=103)

Q6. In which of the following activities did you participate at the Wildwood Stables area today?	Frequency	Percent
Carriage ride	100	97.1
Trailered and used your own horse and/or carriage	1	1.0
Camped	0	0.0
Other	2	1.9

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 14.20). A vast majority of respondent (98%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 14.20. Fishing (N=102)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your personal group participate in freshwater fishing in this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	2	2.0
No	100	98.0

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 14.21). Only one visitor responded to this question and reported that they fished at Echo Lake.

Table 14.21. Fishing areas (N=1)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?	Frequency	Percent
Echo Lake	1	100

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (98.8%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 14.22). The vast majority (95.9%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 14.23).

Table 14.22. Ethnicity (N=86)

Q13e1. Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	1	1.2
Not Hispanic or Latino	85	98.8

Table 14.23. Race (N=89)

Q13e2. Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	3	3.1
Black or African American	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1	1.0
White	94	95.9

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Wildwood Stables. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Wildwood Stables. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 14.24 and 14.25. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents was the beauty of Wildwood Stables. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visitor to Wildwood Stables, the most commonly reported item (19.8%) was "crowding", closely followed by the feeling that everything was good (16.4%) (Table 14.25).

Table 14.24. Enjoyed most (N=312)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty	100	32.1
Recreation activity	52	16.7
Learning about natural and human history of the area	50	16.0
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	35	11.2
Facilities	29	9.3
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	13	4.2
Food, restaurants; popovers	12	3.8
Weather	8	2.6
A particular place	7	2.2
Miscellaneous	4	1.3
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	1	0.3
Everything	1	0.3
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic	0	0.0
Challenge	0	0.0
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy; easy access	0	0.0
Warm water for swimming	0	0.0

Table 14.25. Enjoyed Least (N=116)

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Crowding	23	19.8
Nothing; everything was good	19	16.4
Too few facilities	19	16.4
Miscellaneous	14	12.1
Weather	13	11.2
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	5	4.3
User conflicts	5	4.3
Cost; fees	4	3.4
Too commercial; too much development	4	3.4
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	3	2.6
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	3	2.6
Restrooms	1	0.9
Tour busses; tours	1	0.9
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	1	0.9
Dogs not allowed; pets not allowed	1	0.9
Dogs; dog droppings	0	0.0
Visitor impacts	0	0.0
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	0	0.0
Noise	0	0.0
Lack of access for disabled	0	0.0
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	0	0.0
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	0	0.0
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: "If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?" Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 14.26. The most commonly occurring responses were a desire for more information and interpretation (25%) and the feeling that everything in the park is fine just as it is (20.8%).

Table 14.26. Management changes (N=72)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

	Frequency	Percent
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	18	25.0
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	15	20.8
Miscellaneous	8	11.1
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	7	9.7
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	7	9.7
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	6	8.3
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	4	5.6
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	3	4.2
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	2	2.8
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	1	1.4
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	1	1.4
More access for handicapped / seniors	0	0.0
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0
Control insects	0	0.0
Allow pets	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set a questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Wildwood Stables (Table 14.27). The vast majority of respondents did not think that any of the issues were a "small" or "big" problem.

Table 14.27. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Wildwood Stables?

	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know	Mean
1. Difficulty finding a parking place	85.8	10.4	1.9	1.9	1.14
2. Too many people in this area of the park	86.9	12.1	0.0	0.9	1.12
3. The type of services at the stables	87.6	5.7	1.0	5.7	1.08
4. The availability of services at the stables	79.2	12.3	1.9	6.6	1.17
5. Not enough restrooms	87.9	11.2	0.9	0.0	1.13

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Wildwood Stables. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 14.28). Generally, perceived crowding levels were very low. Approximately half of respondents (55.7%) reported that they were "not at all crowded".

Table 14.28. Perceived crowding (N=106)

Q4. How crowed did you feel at Wildwood Stables today?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	59	55.7
2	32	20.2
3	11	10.4
4	2	1.9
5	1	0.9
6	1	0.9
7	0	0.0
8	0	0.0
9 Extremely Crowded	0	0.0

Mean= 1.65, Median= 1.00

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 14.29). A substantial majority of respondents (63.1%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. A substantial majority of respondents (71.8%) disagreed with a statement that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. A substantial majority of respondents (64.5%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a substantial majority of respondents (63.1%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 14.29. (N=103)

Q7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1.9	21.1	13.6	53.4	9.7	3.48
There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1.9	14.6	11.7	49.5	22.3	3.76
Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	2.9	19.2	13.5	51.0	13.5	3.53
The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	3.9	59.2	24.3	9.7	2.9	2.49

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar for all of these issues (Tables 14.30 to 14.32). A majority of respondents felt that these conditions have not changed much. However, substantial minorities of respondents (from 34.8% to 45.8%) felt that these conditions have gotten worse.

Table 14.30. Change in crowding (N=51)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	20	39.2
I feel less crowded than I used to	2	3.9
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	29	56.9

Table 14.31. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=48)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	22	45.8
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	1	2.1
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	25	52.1

Table 14.32. Change in availability of parking space (N=46)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	16	34.8
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	1	2.2
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	29	63.0

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 14.33). The vast majority (83.2%) of respondents were aware. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 14.34) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 14.35). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 98% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 86.4% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 14.33. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=101)

Q10b. Were you aware the Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	84	83.2
No	17	16.8

Table 14.34. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=100)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	98	98.0
No	2	2.0

Table 14.35. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=103)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operations of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	89	86.4
No	14	13.6

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees now knowing how they are used (Table 14.36). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 14.36. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week	3.1	88.7	8.2	2.05
$40 Annual Acadia Pass	12.6	80.5	6.9	1.94
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	9.4	87.1	3.5	1.94
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	23.0	75.9	1.1	1.78

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 14.37). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 81.7% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 14.37. Overall satisfaction (N=114)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	7	7.1
Dissatisfied	1	1.0
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	10	10.2
Satisfied	37	37.8
Very satisfied	43	43.9

Section Two

2005 Surveys

Chapter 15 Acadia Mountain

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 15.1). Average (mean) age was 41.5 years old (median = 40.5).

Table 15.1. Age (N=102)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	3	2.9
20 to 29	19	18.6
30 to 39	27	26.5
40 to 49	21	20.6
50 to 59	25	24.5
60 to 69	6	5.9
70 to 79	1	1.0

Mean=41.5, Median=40.5

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 15.2). Slightly more males (55.2%) completed the survey than females (44.8%).

Table 15.2. Gender (N=96)

Q13c. What is your gender?

	Frequency	Percent
Male	53	55.2
Female	43	44.8

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 15.3). The largest percent of respondents, 45.0%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 15.3. Education (N=100)

Q13d. What id the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	1	1.0
High school graduate	5	5.0
Vocational/trade school certificate	1	1.0
Some college	12	12.0
Two-year college degree	3	3.0
Four-year college degree	33	33.0
Graduate degree	45	45.0

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 15.4 through 15.6. Most visitors (97.1%) reside in the United States (Table 15.4). Twenty-two states were represented at Acadia Mountain (Table 15.5). The most common state of residency was Maine (20.0%). Three respondents were from other countries including Germany and Italy (Table 15.6).

Table 15.4. Place of residence (N=104)

Q13a. Do you live in the United States?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	101	97.1
No	3	2.9

Table 15.5. State of residence (N=95)

State	Frequency	Percent
Maine	19	20.0
Massachusetts	14	14.7
New York	12	12.6
Connecticut	11	11.6
New Jersey	8	8.4
Maryland	3	3.2
North Carolina	3	3.2
New Hampshire	3	3.2
Pennsylvania	3	3.2
California	2	2.1
Michigan	2	2.1
Ohio	2	2.1
Texas	2	2.1
Virginia	2	2.1
Wisconsin	2	2.1
Washington DC	1	1.1
Florida	1	1.1
Illinois	1	1.1
Louisiana	1	1.1
Rhode Island	1	1.1
Vermont	1	1.1
Washington	1	1.1

Table 15.6. Country of residence (N=3)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Germany	2	66.7
Italy	1	33.3

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 15.7).

Visitors to Acadia Mountain tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3.1 (median = 2).

Table 15.7. Group size (N=101)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today

	Frequency	Percent
1	9	8.9
2	49	48.5
3	15	14.9
4	15	14.9
5	3	3.0
6	6	5.9
8	1	1.0
10 or more	3	3.0

Mean=3.1, Median=2.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 15.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (82.0%) were comprised of family and friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 15.9). No respondents at Acadia Mountain were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 15.8. Group type (N=100)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?

	Frequency	Percent
Family	76	76.0
Friends	6	6.0
Family and friends	8	8.0
Other	10	10.0

Table 15.9. Commercial group (N=102)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	0	0.0
No	102	100.0

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 15.10). A majority of respondents (77.5%) had been to Acadia National Park before. Over half of the respondents (54.2%) had visited Acadia five times or less and 45.8% of respondents had visited Acadia five times or more (Table 15.11).

Table 15.10. Previously visited (N=102)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	79	77.5
No	23	22.5

Table 15.11. Number of previous visits (N=72)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
1	15	20.8
2	10	13.9
3	6	8.3
4	3	4.2
5	5	6.9
6 to 10	10	13.9
11 to 15	5	6.9
16 to 20	5	6.9
21 to 30	8	11.1
31 to 40	1	1.4
More than 40	4	5.6

Mean=18.3, Median=5.0

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 15.12). A majority of respondents (73.8%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 15.13). Over half of respondents (56.5%) said it was because Acadia National Park was too far from

home. No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 15.12. (N=103)

Q7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes, likely	76	73.8
No, unlikely	23	22.3
Not applicable--I live on Mt. Desert Island	4	3.9

Table 15.13. (N=23)

Q7b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.		
	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	13	56.5
Want to visit other places	5	21.7
Something negative about Acadia	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	5	21.7

Visitors were asked how long (in minutes) they stayed at Acadia Mountain (Table 15.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 163.6 minutes (median = 120).

Table 15.14. Length of stay (N=98)

Q5. Approximately how long did you stay at Acadia Mountain (low use site) today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
15	1	1.0
20	1	1.0
60	4	4.1
90	13	13.3
105	1	1.0
120	22	22.4
150	10	10.2
165	1	1.0
180	22	22.4
210	2	2.0
240	12	12.2
270	2	2.0
300	4	4.1
360	2	2.0
480	1	1.0

Mean=163.6, Median=120.0

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" Thirty-eight percent of respondents did not pay a fee, 36.0% of respondents paid the 7-day entrance fee, and 21.0% of respondents used a park pass (Table 15.15).

Table 15.15. Fees paid (N=100)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	38	38.0
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	36	36.0
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	21	21.0
Fee included in tour package	0	0.0
Don't know	4	4.0
Other	1	1.0

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 15.16 through 15.18). Most of the respondents (95.1%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they were administered the survey. A vast majority of respondents (75.2%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and half of respondents (52.0%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 15.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=102)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	5	4.9
No	97	95.1

Table 15.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=101)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	25	24.8
No	76	75.2

Table 15.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=100)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	31	31.0
No	52	52.0
Don't Know	17	17.0

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 15.19). A vast majority of respondent (99%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 15.19. Fishing (N=101)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your personal group participate in freshwater fishing in this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1	1.0
No	100	99.0

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 15.20).

Only one visitor responded to this question and reported that they fished at Echo Lake.

Table 15.20. Fishing areas (N=1)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?	Frequency	Percent
Echo Lake	1	100.0

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (96.7%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 15.21). The vast majority (98.9%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 15.22).

Table 15.21. Ethnicity (N=92)

Q13e1. Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	3	3.3
Not Hispanic or Latino	89	96.7

Table 15.22. Race (N=95)

Q13e2. Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	1	1.1
Black or African American	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	94	98.9

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Acadia Mountain. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Acadia Mountain. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 15.23 and 15.24. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents was the beauty of Acadia Mountain and their recreational activity. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visitor to Acadia Mountain, the most commonly reported item (25.6%) were miscellaneous comments, followed by the lack of information and education (14.9%) (Table 15.24).

Table 15.23. Enjoyed most (N=293)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty/views/scenery	77	26.3
Recreation activity	62	21.2
Miscellaneous	51	17.4
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	27	9.2
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	17	5.8
A particular place	16	5.5
Weather	10	3.4
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	7	2.4
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic	6	2.0
Challenge	4	1.4
Facilities	4	1.4
Food, restaurants; popovers	4	1.4
Warm water for swimming	4	1.4
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	2	0.7
Learning about natural and human history of the area	2	0.7
Everything	0	0.0

Table 15.24. Enjoyed Least (N=107)

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Miscellaneous	31	25.6
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	18	14.9
Crowding	11	9.1
Noise	9	7.4
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	8	6.6
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	6	5.0
Weather	5	4.1
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	4	3.3
Cost; fees	3	2.5
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	3	2.5
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	2	1.7
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	2	1.7
Dogs; droppings	1	0.8
Lack of access for disabled	1	0.8
Too commercial; too much development	1	0.8
Tour busses; tours	1	0.8
User Conflicts	1	0.8
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	0	0.0
Dogs not allowed, pets not allowed	0	0.0
Nothing; everything was good	0	0.0
Too few facilities	0	0.0
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	0	0.0
Visitor impacts	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: "If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?" Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 15.25. The most commonly occurring responses were a desire for more information and interpretation (30.8%) and the need for more facilities (21.2%).

Table 15.25. Management changes (N=36)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	16	30.8
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	11	21.2
Miscellaneous	8	15.4
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	5	9.6
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	3	5.8
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	3	5.8
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	2	3.8
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	2	3.8
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	1	1.9
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	1	1.9
Allow pets	0	0.0
Control insects	0	0.0
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	0	0.0
More access for handicapped / seniors	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set of questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Acadia Mountain (Table 15.26). The majority of respondents did not think that many of the issues were a "small" or "big" problem except difficulty finding a parking place which over half (58.2%) of respondents thought was a small to big problem. Also, a substantial minority of respondents thought that damage to soils and vegetation caused by hikers walking off trails and lack of information and orientation at the trailhead were small to big problems.

Table 15.26. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Acadia Mountain?

	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Mean
1. Difficulty finding a parking place (N=98)	41.8	55.1	3.1	1.61
2. Too many people on this trail (N=102)	76.5	22.5	1.0	1.25
3. Too many large groups on this trail (N=98)	92.9	7.1	0.0	1.07
4. Too many people on mountain summits and other destinations (N=100)	71.0	27.0	2.0	1.31
5. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by hikers walking off trail (N=97)	53.6	37.1	9.3	1.56
6. Dogs off leash (N=97)	77.3	20.6	2.1	1.25
7. Lack of trail maintenance (N=101)	90.1	9.9	0.0	1.10
8. Lack of information/orientation at trailhead (N=102)	60.8	35.3	3.9	1.43

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Acadia Mountain. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 15.27). Generally, perceived crowding levels were very low. Half of respondents (50.0%) reported that they were "not at all crowded".

Table 15.27. Perceived crowding (N=96)

Q6. How crowed did you feel at Acadia Mountain (low use site) today?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	22	22.9
2	26	27.1
3	22	22.9
4	13	13.5
5	4	4.2
6	5	5.2
7	3	3.1
8	1	1.0
9 Extremely Crowded	0	0.0

Mean= 2.8, Median= 2.0

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 15.28). A majority of respondents (63.3%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. A majority of respondents (63.3%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. Half of respondents (50.0%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard but 30.2% agreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a majority of respondents (60.4%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 15.28. (N=103)

Q6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded (N=98)	5.1	21.4	10.2	50.0	13.3	3.45
There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time (N=98)	4.1	13.3	19.4	34.7	28.6	3.70
Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard (N=96)	5.2	25.0	19.8	42.7	7.3	3.22
The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right (N=96)	7.3	53.1	21.9	17.7	0.0	2.50

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Respondents were asked about their perceptions of the changes in visitor use to Acadia National Park over the past several years (Table 15.29). Half of the respondents (57.2%) thought that the number of visitors to Acadia had increased. Respondents were unsure about the changes in visitation from people off Mt. Desert Island with 49.4% of respondents having no opinion and 48.1% feeling that visitation had increased. A majority of respondents (73.3%) had no opinion about the change in visitation from people on Mt. Desert Island. Over half of the respondents (60.5%) had no opinion about the changes in conflict among different types of visitors.

Table 15.29. Perceptions of changes in visitation.

Q8c. We are interested in your perceptions of changes in visitor use of Acadia National Park over the past several years. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
1. The number of visitors to Acadia has increased. (N=77)	20.8	36.4	26.0	16.9	0.0	2.39
2. The number of visitors to Acadia from off Mt. Desert Island has increased. (N=77)	19.5	28.6	49.4	2.6	0.0	2.35
3. The number of visitors to Acadia from on Mt. Desert Island has increased. (N=75)	4.0	13.3	73.3	9.3	0.0	2.88
4. There is more conflict among different types of visitors to Acadia. (N=76)	2.6	6.6	60.5	25.0	5.3	3.24

Respondents were also asked about changes in their use of Acadia National Park over the past several years (Table 15.30). Over half of respondents (76.7%) said their use of Acadia has changed much over the years and the majority of respondents (61.6%) said that they do not visit Acadia more than they use to. A vast majority of respondents (94.3%) said that they do not use the park less because of changes in use in the park. A majority of the respondents (76.4%) said they did not start using the park more in the off-season because of changes in use in the park. Responses were relatively split concerning changes in use to weekdays, earlier and later times, and different areas in the park to avoid changes in use in the park. Half of respondents (57.7% to 59.4%) said they did not change when or where they visited Acadia but a substantial minority (40.6% to 42.3%) said that they did change when or where they visit Acadia because of changes in use. A majority of respondents (77.9%) said that their use of Acadia has not change and they are still satisfied with their experience in Acadia. A majority of respondents (69.2%) also said that their visits to Acadia had not changed and the experience provided by park has not changed

due to changes in use but a substantial minority (30.8%) thought that the experience provided had changed. Only 4.5% of respondents said that they rarely visit the park because they do not like the changes in use that have occurred.

Table 15.30. Changes in respondents' use of Acadia National Park.

Q8d. We are interested in knowing if your use of Acadia National Park has changed over the past several years. Please respond to each of the following statements.

	Yes	No
1. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years…. (N=73)	76.7	23.3
2. I visit Acadia more now than I used to…. (N=73)	38.4	61.6
3. I visit Acadia less often because of changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=70)	5.7	94.3
4. I visit Acadia more in the off-season to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=72)	23.6	76.4
5. I visit Acadia more on the weekdays rather than the weekends to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=71)	42.3	57.7
6. I visit Acadia during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=69)	40.6	59.4
7. I visit different areas of Acadia to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=69)	40.6	59.4
8. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but I am not as satisfied with my experience in the park because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=68)	22.1	77.9
9. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but the type of experience provided by the park has changed because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=65)	30.8	69.2
10. I rarely visit Acadia anymore because I don't like the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=67)	4.5	95.5

Three issues were specifically addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space (Tables 15.31 to 15.33). A majority of respondents felt that crowding and finding a parking place had not changed but a substantial minority (36% to 40.5%) felt these conditions had gotten worse. A majority of respondents (59.7%) felt that vehicle congestion on park roads had gotten worse.

Table 15.31. Change in crowding (N=75)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	27	36.0
I feel less crowded than I used to	1	1.3
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	47	62.7

Table 15.32. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=75)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	44	58.7
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	3	4.0
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	28	37.3

Table 15.33. Change in availability of parking space (N=74)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	30	40.5
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	2	2.7
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	42	56.8

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 15.34). The vast majority (64.4%) of respondents were aware. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 15.35)

and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 15.36). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 95% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 88.8% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 15.34. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=101)

Q10b. Were you aware the Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	65	64.4
No	36	35.6

Table 15.35. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=101)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	96	95.0
No	5	5.0

Table 15.36. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=98)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operations of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	87	88.8
No	11	11.2

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees now knowing how they are used (Table 15.37). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 15.37. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week (N=92)	10.9	79.3	9.8	1.99
$40 Annual Acadia Pass (N=89)	21.3	75.3	3.4	1.82
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week (N=91)	14.3	74.7	11.0	1.97
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life) (N=93)	36.6	62.4	1.1	1.65
$50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year) (N=93)	20.4	75.3	4.3	1.84

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 15.38). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 77.8% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 15.38. Overall satisfaction (N=90)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	7	7.8
Dissatisfied	0	0.0
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	13	14.4
Satisfied	26	28.9
Very satisfied	44	48.9

Chapter 16 Cadillac Mountain (Off-peak Times)

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 16.1). Average (mean) age was 46 years old (median = 47).

Table 16.1. Age (N=95)

Q12b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	0	0.0
20-29	11	11.6
30-39	15	15.8
40-49	30	31.6
50-59	25	26.3
60-69	10	10.5
70-79	3	3.2
80 and over	1	1.1

Mean = 46.0; Median = 47.0

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 16.2). The gender distribution at Cadillac Mountain is balanced with 50.5% being male and 49.5% being female.

Table 16.2. Gender (N=95)

Q12c. What is your gender?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Male	48	50.5	50.0
Female	47	49.5	50.0

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 16.3). The largest percent of respondents, 41.1%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 16.3. Education (N=95)

Q12d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Less than high school	1	1.1	1.7
High school graduate	7	7.4	13.3
Vocational/trade school certificate	2	2.1	1.7
Some college	12	12.6	15.0
Two-year college degree	6	6.3	5.8
Four-year college degree	28	29.5	26.7
Graduate degree	39	41.1	35.8

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 16.4 through 16.6. Most visitors (95.0%) reside in the United States (Table 16.4). Twenty-four states were represented at Cadillac Mountain (Table 16.5). The most common state of residency was New York (16.5%). Five respondents were from other countries, Canada and Germany (Table 16.6).

Table 16.4. Place of residence (N=101)

Q12a. Do you live in the United States?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	96	95.0	98.1
No	5	5.0	1.9

Table 16.5. State of residence (N=79)

State	Frequency	Percent
New York	13	16.5
Pennsylvania	10	12.7
Maine	9	11.4
Massachusetts	7	8.9
Connecticut	5	6.3
New Jersey	5	6.3
New Hampshire	4	5.1
Virginia	4	5.1
Ohio	4	5.1
Florida	2	2.5
Michigan	2	2.5
California	2	2.5
Rhode Island	1	1.3
Vermont	1	1.3
Maryland	1	1.3
Georgia	1	1.3
Tennessee	1	1.3
Indiana	1	1.3
Wisconsin	1	1.3
Illinois	1	1.3
Missouri	1	1.3
Nebraska	1	1.3
Arizona	1	1.3
Washington	1	1.3

Table 16.6. Country of residence (N=5)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Canada	4	80.0
Germany	1	20.0

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 16.7).

Visitors to Cadillac Mountain tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3.0 (median = 2.0).

Table 16.7. Group size (N=100)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today

	Frequency	Percent
1	6	6.0
2	51	51.0
3	17	17.0
4	11	11.0
5	7	7.0
6	2	2.0
7	1	1.0
8	1	1.0
9	2	2.0
10+	2	2.0

Mean = 3.0; Median = 2.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 16.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (95.8%) were comprised of family and friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 16.9). No respondents at Cadillac Mountain were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 16.8. Group type (N=96)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Family	69	71.9	76.2
Friends	14	14.6	9.0
Family and friends	9	9.4	8.2
Other	4	4.2	1.6

Table 16.9. Commercial group (N=100)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	0	0.0	2.4
No	100	100.0	97.6

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 16.10). About half (49.5%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Most repeat visitors had been to the park only a few times, but a few visitors come to the park very often (Table 16.11).

Table 16.10. Previously visited (N=99)

Q8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	49	49.5	50.4
No	50	50.5	49.6

Table 16.11. Number of previous visits (N=47)

Q8b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
1	9	19.1
2	8	17.0
3	4	8.5
4	3	6.4
5	2	4.3
6	5	10.6
7	3	6.4
8	1	2.1
9	1	2.1
10	4	8.5
12	1	2.1
15	2	4.3
19	1	2.1
20	2	4.3
30	1	2.1

Mean = 5.3; Median = 3.0

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 16.12). Over half of respondents (65.7%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion a Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 16.13). Half of respondents (50.0%) said it was because they wanted to visit other places. Only one respondent reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 16.12. (N=99)

Q7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	65	65.7	57.4
No	34	34.3	42.6

Table 16.13. (N=34)

Q7b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the nest year or two, please explain why not.			
	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Too far from home	17	50.0	50.0
Want to visit other places	7	20.6	39.1
Something negative about Acadia	1	2.9	0.0
Miscellaneous	9	26.5	10.9

Visitors were asked how long (in minutes) they stayed at Cadillac Mountain (Table 16.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 62.0 minutes (median = 60).

Table 16.14. Length of stay (N=96)

Q5. Approximately how long did you stay at Cadillac Mountain today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
1	1	1.0
15	3	3.1
20	5	5.2
25	2	2.1
30	25	26.0
38	1	1.0
40	1	1.0
45	4	4.2
60	33	34.4
65	1	1.0
90	6	6.2
120	8	8.3
120	1	1.0
180	3	3.1
210	1	1.0
330	1	1.0

Mean = 62.0; Median = 60.0

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, “What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?”

A majority of visitor (56.1%) to Cadillac Mountain paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual (Table 16.15).

Table 16.15. Fees paid (N=98)

Q9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	28	28.6	29.4
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	55	56.1	42.0
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	15	15.3	27.7
Don't know	0	0.0	0.0
Other	0	0.0	0.0

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 16.16 through 16.18). Most of the respondents (91.8%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they were administered the survey. A vast majority of respondents (90.8%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and nearly two-thirds of respondents (64.6%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 16.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=97)

Q11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	8	8.2	5.0
No	89	91.8	95.0

Table 16.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=98)

Q11b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	9	9.2	10.7
No	89	90.8	89.3

Table 16.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=96)

Q11c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	22	22.9	14.0
No	62	64.6	72.7
Don't Know	12	12.5	13.2

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Tables 16.19). All respondent (100%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 16.19. Fishing (N=100)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your personal group participate in freshwater fishing in this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	0	0.0	2.0
No	100	100.0	98.0

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (97.7%) identify themselves as “Not Hispanic or Latino” (Table 16.20). The vast majority (95.7%) also identified themselves as “White” (Table 16.21).

Table 16.20. Ethnicity (N=86)

Q12e1. Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Hispanic or Latino	2	2.3	3.2
Not Hispanic or Latino	84	97.7	96.8

Table 16.21. Race (N=93)

Q12e2. Race

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	2.2	0.0
Asian	2	2.2	2.6
Black or African American	89	95.7	95.7
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	0.9
White	0	0.0	0.0

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Cadillac Mountain. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Cadillac Mountain. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 16.22 and 16.23. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents was the beauty of Cadillac Mountain. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visitor to Cadillac Mountain, the most commonly reported items were miscellaneous items (25.5%), "crowding" (15.7%) and the feeling that everything was good (19.0%) (Table 16.23).

Table 16.22. Enjoyed most (N=259)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
A particular place	11	4.3	5.8
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	9	3.5	2.3
Beauty/Scenery/Views	133	51.3	48.0
Challenge	0	0.0	0.0
Everything	0	0.0	0.3
Facilities	1	0.4	7.2
Food, restaurants; popovers	2	0.8	1.7
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	5	1.9	2.9
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic	4	1.5	1.4
Learning about natural and human history of the area	3	1.2	3.5
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	20	7.7	4.3
Miscellaneous	24	9.3	1.7
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	12	4.6	4.9
Recreation activity	22	8.5	10.4
Warm water for swimming	0	0.0	0.0
Weather	13	5.0	5.5

Table 16.23. Enjoyed Least (N=153)

Q3b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	2	1.3	1.3
Cost; fees	8	5.2	5.1
Crowding	24	15.7	33.5
Dogs not allowed, pets not allowed	1	0.7	0.0
Dogs; droppings	1	0.7	0.0
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	1	0.7	1.9
Lack of access for disabled	0	0.0	0.0
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	6	3.9	5.1
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	9	5.9	0.0
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	3	2.0	8.9
Miscellaneous	39	25.5	17.1
Noise	3	2.0	1.9
Nothing; everything was good	29	19.0	8.2
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	2	1.3	0.0
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	0	0.0	0.0
Too commercial; too much development	2	1.3	0.6
Too few facilities	0	0.0	3.2
Tour busses; tours	1	0.7	0.0
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	8	5.2	2.5
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	3	2.0	0.0
User Conflicts	0	0.0	5.1
Visitor impacts	6	3.9	1.3
Weather	5	3.3	4.4

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: “If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?” Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 16.24. A majority of respondents (50.7%) felt that everything in the park is fine and nothing needs to be changed.

Table 16.24. Management changes (N=71)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Allow pets	0	0.0	0.0
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	4	5.6	0.0
Control insects	0	0.0	0.0
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0	1.0
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	0	0.0	6.3
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	0	0.0	0.0
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	0	0.0	6.3
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	8	11.3	7.3
Miscellaneous	3	4.2	4.2
More access for handicapped / seniors	0	0.0	2.1
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	7	9.9	12.5
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	5	7.0	18.8
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	3	4.2	6.3
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	36	50.7	30.2
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	5	7.0	5.2

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set a questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Cadillac Mountain (Table 16.25). A majority of respondents (54.1%) thought that damage to soil and vegetation caused by people walking off trail was a “small” or “big” problem.

Table 16.25. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Cadillac Mountain (off-peak times)?

	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know	Mean	2004 (Peak Times) Mean
1. Too many cars on the summit road	51.0	33.7	6.1	9.2	1.5	1.6
2. Too many large vehicles (e.g., busses, campers) on the summit road	56.6	18.2	10.1	15.2	1.5	1.6
3. Difficulty finding a parking Place	68.4	20.4	4.1	7.1	1.3	1.7
4. Too many large vehicles (e.g., busses, campers) in the parking lot	70.4	12.2	6.1	11.2	1.3	1.6
5. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas)	65.3	19.4	5.1	10.2	1.3	1.5
6. Too many people walking on the road and parking area	78.6	12.2	3.1	6.1	1.2	1.3
7. Too many people in this area of the park	75.5	14.3	6.1	4.1	1.3	1.4
8. Too many people on the paved Cadillac Summit Trail	71.4	15.3	4.1	9.2	1.3	1.3
9. Too many people in my view	74.5	16.3	4.1	5.1	1.3	1.3
10. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by people walking off trail	31.6	26.5	27.6	14.3	2.0	2.0
11. Too much trash (e.g., litter, cigarette butts) in this area of the park	65.0	29.0	4.0	2.0	1.4	1.3
12. Not enough restrooms	55.6	21.2	6.1	17.2	1.4	1.5
13. Communication antennas interfere with enjoyment of scenery	72.0	19.0	3.0	6.0	1.3	1.2
14. Fenced exclosures interfere with enjoyment of scenery	87.9	9.1	1.0	2.0	1.1	1.1
15. Too much noise (e.g., busses running their engines)	70.7	18.2	6.1	5.1	1.3	1.3

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Cadillac Mountain. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 16.26). Generally, perceived crowding levels were very low. Approximately half of respondents (55.5%) reported that they were "not at all crowded".

Table 16.26. Perceived crowding (N=99)

Q4. How crowed did you feel at Cadillac Mountain (off-peak times) today?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	32	32.3
2	23	23.2
3	27	27.3
4	7	7.1
5	4	4.0
6	3	3.0
7	1	1.0
8	1	1.0
9 Extremely Crowded	1	1.0

Mean = 2.5; Median = 2.0

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 16.27). A substantial majority of respondents (68.0%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. A substantial majority of respondents (65.0%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. A substantial majority of respondents (66.0%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a substantial majority of respondents (71.4%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 16.27. (N=98)

Q6. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean	2004 (Peak Times) Mean
I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	3.0	8.0	21.0	61.0	7.0	3.6	3.6
There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	3.0	16.0	16.0	40.0	25.0	3.7	3.8
Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	3.0	13.0	18.0	55.0	11.0	3.6	3.8
The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	9.2	62.2	21.4	5.1	2.0	2.3	1.4

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar for all of these issues (Tables 16.28 to 16.30). A majority of respondents felt that these conditions have not changed much (58.0%). However, substantial minorities of respondents (from 22.9% to 44.0%) felt that these conditions have gotten worse.

Table 16.28. Change in crowding (N=50)

Q8c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	18	36.0	39.0
I feel less crowded than I used to	3	6.0	5.1
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	29	58.0	55.9

Table 16.29. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=50)

Q8d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	22	44.0	42.1
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	4	8.0	0.0
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	24	48.0	57.9

Table 16.30. Change in availability of parking space (N=48)

Q8e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	11	22.9	25.0
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	3	6.3	10.7
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	34	70.8	64.3

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 16.31). The vast majority (78.0%) of respondents were aware. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 16.32) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 16.33). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 95% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 84.5% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 16.31. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=100)

Q9b. Were you aware the Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	78	78.0	68.1
No	22	22.0	31.9

Table 16.32. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=100)

Q9c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	95	95.0	94.9
No	5	5.0	5.1

Table 16.33. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=97)

Q9d. DO you support the use of park entrance fees to support operations of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	82	84.5	84.5
No	15	15.5	15.5

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees now knowing how they are used (Table 16.34). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 16.34. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q9e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park.

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean	2004 (Peak Times) Mean
$20 per vehicle per week	6.3	77.1	16.7	2.1	2.2
$40 Annual Acadia Pass	15.4	75.8	8.8	1.9	2.0
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	13.2	79.1	7.7	2.0	2.0
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	30.2	64.6	5.2	1.8	1.9
$50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year)	11.7	79.8	8.5	2.0	

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 16.35). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 72.9% reporting being either “Satisfied” or “Very satisfied”.

Table 16.35. Overall satisfaction (N=96)

Q9f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied (1)	10	10.4
Dissatisfied (2)	4	4.2
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied (3)	12	12.5
Satisfied (4)	17	17.7
Very satisfied (5)	53	55.2

Mean = 4.0; Median = 5.0

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. Respondents were asked their age (Table 17.1). Average (mean) age was 55 years old (median = 49).

Table 17.1. Age (N=530)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	3	0.6
20-29	45	8.6
30-39	64	12.2
40-49	165	31.0
50-59	148	27.8
60-69	73	13.7
70-79	28	5.3
80-89	4	0.8

Mean=55, Median=49

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 17.2). Slightly more males (51.8%) completed the survey than females (48.2%).

Table 17.2. Gender (N=539)

Q13c. What is your gender?

	Frequency	Percent
Male	279	51.8
Female	260	48.2

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 17.3). The largest percent of respondents, 43.1%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 17.3. Education (N=541)

Q13d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	8	1.5
High school graduate	39	7.2
Vocational/trade school certificate	13	2.4
Some college	74	13.7
Two-year college degree	29	5.4
Four-year college degree	145	26.8
Graduate degree	233	43.1

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 4 through 6. Most visitors (94.8%) reside in the United States (Table 17.4). Forty-two states and protectorates were represented at Cadillac Mountain (Table 17.5). The most common state of residency was New York (17.9%). 25 respondents were from other countries, primarily Albania and Europe (Table 17.6).

Table 17.4. Place of residence (N=487)

Q13a. Do you live in the United States?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	462	94.8
No	25	5.2

Table 17.5. State of residence (N=462)

	Frequency	*Percent*
Massachusetts	58	12.6
New York	50	10.8
Maine	39	8.4
Pennsylvania	39	8.4
Maryland	26	5.6
New Jersey	25	5.4
Connecticut	21	4.5
Florida	19	4.1
New Hampshire	18	3.9
Puerto Rico	18	3.9
Michigan	15	3.2
Virginia	15	3.2
Ohio	11	2.4
Illinois	10	2.2
California	8	1.7
North Carolina	8	1.7
Texas	7	1.5
Delaware	6	1.3
Indiana	6	1.3
Rhode Island	6	1.3
Vermont	6	1.3
Arizona	4	0.9
Kansas	4	0.9
Kentucky	4	0.9
South Carolina	4	0.9
Tennessee	4	0.9
West Virginia	4	0.9
Georgia	3	0.6
Missouri	3	0.6
Colorado	2	0.4
Iowa	2	0.4
Minnesota	2	0.4
New Mexico	2	0.4
Oklahoma	2	0.4
Utah	2	0.4
Virgin Islands	2	0.4
Wisconsin	2	0.4
Hawaii	1	0.2
Louisiana	1	0.2
Mississippi	1	0.2
North Dakota	1	0.2
Washington DC	1	0.2

Table 17.6. Country of residence (N=25)

	Frequency	*Percent*
Albania	12	46.2
Canada	6	23.1
Belgium	1	3.8
Australia	1	3.8
Italy	1	3.8
New Zealand	1	3.8
Peru	1	3.8
Spain	1	3.8
UK	1	3.8

A question asked respondents to report their understanding of whether the summit trail was a loop or not (Table 17.7). Most visitors (79.3%) were aware that the summit trail is a loop trail.

Table 17.7. Loop Trail (N=594)

Q1a. Did you know that the paved trail on the summit of Cadillac Mountain is a loop trail (i.e., it starts at the end of the parking lot and returns there)?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	471	79.3
No	123	20.7

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify if they completed the entire trail (Table 17.8). The majority of visitors (66.0%) completed the loop trail.

Table 17.8. Completion of the trail (N=524)

Q1b. Did you walk the whole paved summit loop trail?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	346	66.0
No	178	34.0

Respondents were then asked to report if they departed from the paved summit loop trail (Table 17.9). Rates of off-trail behavior varied substantially according to the management methods in

place at the summit when the respondent recreated there. A brief description of each set of methods is below.

SUMMARY OF TREATMENTS EVALUATED

1. **Control:** site map signs were posted at each trailhead for the paved summit loop trail. Split-rail wooden exclosures remain in place around patches of vegetation for this and all treatments.

2. **Educational signage – paved trails and rocks:** two educational signs were posted with the site map signs at the trailhead and at two regular intervals along the trail. Sign text read, "Cadillac Mountain is disappearing! Plants grow by the inch but die by the foot. Millions of footsteps from visitors to this popular mountaintop have destroyed plants and eroded soils." The second was an educational appeal that stated, "Please stay on the paved trail or bedrock. Protect sensitive plants and soils." This treatment and the following treatment were devised to test the efficacy of an information/education management approach drawn from the basis of the moral development construct.

3. **Educational signage – paved trails only:** an educational appeal sign was posted near the site map and attention/impact education signs at the trailhead and at two regular intervals along the trail. This sign read, "Please stay on the paved trail. Protect sensitive plants and soils."

4. **Educational signage – paved trails only plus prompter signage:** trailhead signage was per treatment 3 above. Ground-level "reminder" signage constructed of 4x4 wooden blocks with a "no walking" graphic were installed at the 24 most prominent visitor-created trails stemming from the paved trail. This treatment was designed to test the effectiveness of using multiple reminders to visitors in keeping them on the paved trail.

5. Site management ("fencing"): a low symbolic rope fence lined the first 150 feet of the paved trail. Trailhead signage was per treatment 3 above. This treatment was used as one example of highly direct site management means to keeping visitors on the trail.

Table 17.9. Summary of Management Actions by Treatment

Treatment	Paved Trail	Site Map Signs	Wooden Veg. Exclosures	Educational Signs	Appeal to Remain on Trail or Bedrock	Appeal to Remain on Trail	Prompter Signs	Trailside Fencing
Control	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Paved trail and bedrock	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Paved trail only	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Prompter signage	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Fencing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

A substantial majority of visitors (73.7%) reported going off-trail in control conditions. The lowest proportions of visitors went off-trail when exposed to prompter signs or fencing along the trail.

Table 17.10. Percentage of Visitors Going Off-trail (N=590)

Q2a. Did you walk <u>off</u> the paved summit loop trail today?		
Treatment	Frequency	Percent
Control	67	67.7
Trail & bedrock	59	36.9
Trail only	43	39.4
Prompter	17	17.2
Fencing	31	25.2

Visitors who reported going off-trail were asked a follow-up question asking why they left the trail (Table 17.11 and Table 17.12). A majority of visitors left the trail to get a better view

(63.7%) or to take photographs (63.7%). A plurality of visitors expressed that they felt visitors should be allowed to go off-trail (Table 17.12).

Table 17.11. Why Visitors Went Off-Trail. (N=420)

Q2b. Why did you walk off the paved summit loop trail?

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
To get a better view	123	29.3%	63.7%
To take a picture	123	29.3%	63.7%
To pick blueberries	10	2.4%	5.2%
To move past others on the trail	29	6.9%	15.0%
To get away from crowds on the trail	49	11.7%	25.4%
To explore	86	20.5%	44.6%

Table 17.12. Alternative Reasons for Leaving the Paved Trail. (N=194)

Q2d. The following list suggests other kinds of reasons why you might have chosen to walk off the paved summit loop trail. Please indicate if any of these reasons apply to you.

	Reason	Applies to me Frequency (percent)	Doesn't apply to me Frequency (percent)
1.	I needed to walk off the paved summit loop trail (e.g., I had to get around other visitors)	48 (24.6)	147 (75.4)
2.	I didn't know that walking off the paved summit loop trail might damage soils and vegetation	60 (31.3)	132 (68.8)
3.	I didn't know that I was supposed to stay on the paved summit loop trail	90 (46.4)	104 (53.6)
4.	I didn't mean to walk off the paved summit loop trail (i.e., I walked off the paved summit loop trail accidentally)	34 (18.1)	152 (80.9)
5.	I feel visitors should be allowed to walk off the paved summit loop trail	96 (51.3)	89 (47.6)

Visitors who went off-trail were asked what they walked on while off-trail (Table 17.13). An overwhelming majority of visitors (98.7%) reported using bedrock. A substantial minority (34.8%) reported using gravel.

Table 17.13. Surfaces Used Once Off-Trail. (N = 325)

2c. Once you stepped off the paved trail, what surfaces did you walk on?

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
Bare rock	221	68.0%	98.7%
Soil	21	6.5%	9.4%
Gravel	78	24.0%	34.8%
Plants	5	1.5%	2.2%
Total	325	100.0%	145.1%

Visitors who reported that they did not leave the paved trail were asked why they did not do so (Table 17.14, Table 17.15). A majority of visitors (67.7%) indicated that they remained on the paved trail because they thought that visitors are encouraged to remain on the paved trail, and because they felt better about themselves by not doing so (76.8%).

Table 17.14. Why Visitors Remained on the Paved Trail.

Q3a. Why didn't you walk off the paved summit loop trail?

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
Visitors are encouraged to stay on the paved summit loop trail	252	40.0%	67.7%
Visitors are required to stay on the paved summit loop trail	158	25.1%	42.5%
I had no reason to walk off the paved summit loop trail	110	17.5%	29.6%
I had no desire to walk off the paved summit loop trail	84	13.3%	22.6%
Because of my physical ability, I felt it would be unsafe for me	26	4.1%	7.0%

Table 17.15. Other Reasons for Remaining on the Paved Trail.

Q3b. The following list suggests other kinds of reasons why you might have chosen not to walk off the paved summit loop trail. Please indicate if any of these reasons apply to you.

		Applies to me	Doesn't apply to me	N
		Frequency (%)	Frequency (%)	
1.	I was afraid I would be reprimanded or fined	39 (14.8%)	224 (85.2%)	263
2.	I was afraid that other members of my group would think poorly of me	29 (11.4%)	226 (88.6%)	255
3.	I was afraid that other visitors in general would think poorly of me	52 (20.1%)	207 (79.9%)	259
4.	It is not fair for me to walk off the paved summit loop trail when many other visitors don't	139 (49.1%)	144 (50.9%)	283
5.	I feel better about myself by not walking off the paved summit loop trail	255 (76.8%)	77 (23.2%)	332

All visitors were asked if they recalled reading signage at the beginning of the trail (Table 17.16). A majority of visitors (75.1%) indicated that they remembered signage. Relatively few visitors were able to summarize the massage(s) presented at the trailheads, and most visitors indicated that the signs either provided map/route/information/history or indicated that visitors should not depart the trail (Table 17.17).

Table 17.16. Visitor Recall of Trailhead Signs (N = 579).

Q4a. Did you notice any signs at the beginning of the paved summit loop trail on the summit of Cadillac Mountain?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	435	75.1
No	144	24.9

Table 17.17. Visitor summaries of signage messages.

Q4b. Briefly, what were the major messages presented by the signs?

Response	Control	Trail and Bedrock	Trail-Only	Prompter	Fencing
	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)
Map, routes, information, history	23 (23)	14 (12.7)	15 (9.3)	9 (9)	20 (16)
Preserve & protect vegetation & wildlife / don't trample vegetation	0 (0)	7 (6.3)	6 (3.7)	1 (1)	8 (6.4)
Vegetation is fragile; mtn. is disappearing	0 (0)	2 (1.8)	1 (0.6)	2 (2)	3 (2.4)
Miscellaneous	1 (1)	1 (0.9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (8.8)
Do not go off of trail or bedrock	1 (1)	11 (10)	19 (11.8)	29 (29)	13 (10.4)
Prompter signage mentioned	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	22 (22)	0 (0)

Similarly, visitors were asked to report if they recalled seeing signs along the trail (Table 17.18). A majority of visitors (53.2%) recalled seeing signs along the trail and primarily reported that the trailside signs were map/route/information/history-related, or reported that the signs asked visitors to stay on the paved trail and/or bedrock (Table 17.19).

Table 17.18. Visitor Recall of Trailside Signs. (N = 570)

Q5a. Did you notice any signs along the paved summit loop trail?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	303	53.2
No	267	46.8

Table 17.19. Visitor Summaries of Trailside Sign Messages

Q5b. Briefly, what were the major messages presented by the signs?	
Response	Frequency
Map, routes, information, history	75
Stay on the trail/do not leave the trail	53
Preserve & protect vegetation & wildlife / don't trample veg	22
Vegetation is fragile, disappearing, shrinking	10
Don't remember	2
Didn't read signage	1
The mountain is eroding	3
Miscellaneous	10
Do not go off of soil or bedrock	6
The summit is busy/crowded	0
Prompter signage mentioned	17
"Same as above" (i.e., Q4B.)	12
The signs were blank	7

Visitors were asked if they noticed any damage to soils and vegetation as a result of recreational use (Table 17.20). A majority (65.7%) of visitors did not perceive recreational impacts. Those that did notice impacts primarily evaluated them as minor (Table 17.21).

Table 17.20. Visitor Recognition of Recreational Impacts to Soil and Vegetation. (N = 578)

Q6a. Did you notice any damage to soils and/or vegetation on the summit of Cadillac Mountain due to people walking off the paved trails?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	198	34.3
No	380	65.7

Table 17.21. Visitor Evaluation of Recreation Impact Severity. (N = 284)

Q6b. How would you describe the damage you saw at the summit today?		
	Frequency	Percent
Minor	150	52.8
Moderate	112	39.4
Severe	22	7.7

Visitors were asked to report their understanding of guidelines and/or rules in effect at the summit at the time of their visit (Table 17.22). A majority of respondents (62.3%) indicated that visitors were asked to stay on the paved summit loop trail. A small minority of respondents indicated that visitors were not allowed to picnic (12.5%) or pick blueberries (20.0%). Visitors were also asked to evaluate a longer list of policies that could be used to prevent damage at the summit (Table 17.23). Respondents were generally correct in their assessments of policies in place at the time of their visit.

Table 17.22. Visitors' Perceptions of Policies in Effect at the Summit.

Q7. The National Park Service has developed some guidelines and/or rules for visitors on the summit of Cadillac Mountain. Which of the following guidelines/rules apply to this area?

	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
Visitors are asked to stay on the paved summit loop trail	345	25.1%	62.3%
Visitors are asked to stay on the paved summit loop trail or bare rock surfaces	232	16.9%	41.9%
Visitors are required to stay on the paved summit loop trail	152	11.1%	27.4%
Visitors are required to stay on the paved summit loop trail or bare rock surfaces	95	6.9%	17.1%
Visitors are asked to not cross fenced boundaries	198	14.4%	35.7%
Visitors are required to not cross fenced boundaries	170	12.4%	30.7%
Visitors are not allowed to pick blueberries	111	8.1%	20.0%
Visitors are not allowed to picnic	69	5.0%	12.5%

Table 17.23. Visitors' Detailed Perceptions of Policies in Effect at the Summit.

Q8a. If damage to soils and vegetation on the summit of Cadillac Mountain became excessive, the National Park Service could do a number of things to help prevent this damage. For each of the following management practices, please indicate if you experienced this management practice on the summit of Cadillac Mountain today.

	Did you experience this today?		
	Yes Frequency (percent)	No Frequency (percent)	N
Pave the summit loop trail	443 (86.0%)	72 (14.0%)	515
Educational signs about the damage that can be caused by walking on soils and vegetation	371 (73.2%)	136 (26.8%)	507
Signs asking visitors to stay on the paved summit loop trail or bare rock surfaces	364 (72.5%)	138 (27.5%)	502
Signs asking visitors to stay on the paved summit loop trail	348 (73.7%)	124 (26.3%)	472
Require visitors to stay on the paved summit loop trail or bare rock surfaces	186 (41.2%)	266 (58.8%)	452
Require visitors to stay on the paved summit loop trail	182 (43.4%)	237 (56.6%)	419
Require visitors to not cross fenced boundaries	231 (50.7%)	225 (49.3%)	456
Prohibit picking blueberries (to discourage visitors from walking off the paved summit loop trail)	96 (21.7%)	347 (78.3%)	443
Prohibit picnicking (to discourage visitors from walking off the paved summit loop trail)	84 (19.0%)	357 (81.0%)	441
Station rangers on the summit to keep visitors on the paved summit loop trail	87 (19.0%)	371 (81.0%)	458
Fine visitors for walking off the paved summit loop trail	26 (5.7%)	429 (94.3%)	455
Allow walking on the summit only in ranger-led groups	29 (6.5%)	420 (93.5%)	449

Require visitors to travel to the summit in busses on which visitors would be told the importance of staying on the paved summit loop trail	15 (3.3%)	434 (96.7%)	449
Limit the number of visitors to the summit	15 (3.4%)	431 (96.6%)	446
Prohibit all visitors from walking anywhere on the summit (but allow visitors to drive to the summit)	16 (3.6%)	433 (96.4%)	449
Completely prohibit all visitor access to the summit	9 (2.0%)	446 (98.0%)	455

Visitors were also asked to indicate the acceptability of each of the management policies presented above (Table 17.24). More direct policies tended to be evaluated as less acceptable. A substantial majority (80.4%) of visitors indicated that it would be acceptable to be required to stay on the paved trail in order to protect the summit biota.

Table 17.24. Acceptability of Potential Management Policies.

Q8b. If damage to soils and vegetation on the summit of Cadillac Mountain became excessive, the National Park Service could do a number of things to help prevent this damage. For each of the following management practices, please indicate if you did (or would) find this management practice acceptable.

	Did (or would) you find this acceptable?		
	Yes Frequency (percent)	No Frequency (percent)	N
Pave the summit loop trail	401 (87.6%)	57 (12.4%)	458
Educational signs about the damage that can be caused by walking on soils and vegetation	441 (96.5%)	16 (3.5%)	457
Signs asking visitors to stay on the paved summit loop trail or bare rock surfaces	425 (94.2%)	26 (5.8%)	451
Signs asking visitors to stay on the paved summit loop trail	394 (91.2%)	38 (8.8%)	432
Require visitors to stay on the paved summit loop trail or bare rock surfaces	391 (88.7%)	50 (11.3%)	441

Require visitors to stay on the paved summit loop trail	333 (80.4%)	81 (19.6%)	414
Require visitors to not cross fenced boundaries	428 (94.1%)	27 (5.9%)	455
Prohibit picking blueberries (to discourage visitors from walking off the paved summit loop trail)	391 (85.9%)	64 (14.1%)	455
Prohibit picnicking (to discourage visitors from walking off the paved summit loop trail)	329 (74.3%)	114 (25.7%)	443
Station rangers on the summit to keep visitors on the paved summit loop trail	335 (73.6%)	120 (26.4%)	455
Fine visitors for walking off the paved summit loop trail	169 (37.6%)	280 (62.4%)	449
Allow walking on the summit only in ranger-led groups	120 (26.1%)	340 (73.9%)	460
Require visitors to travel to the summit in busses on which visitors would be told the importance of staying on the paved summit loop trail	110 (23.9%)	351 (76.1%)	461
Limit the number of visitors to the summit	99 (21.5%)	361 (78.5%)	460
Prohibit all visitors from walking anywhere on the summit (but allow visitors to drive to the summit)	38 (8.2%)	428 (91.8%)	466
Completely prohibit all visitor access to the summit	26 (5.5%)	445 (94.5%)	471

Visitors were asked to evaluate a series of statements about the summit of Cadillac Mountain and the National Park Service's management approach there (Table 17.25).

Table 17.25. Visitor Opinions about Cadillac Summit Management

Q9. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N
Measures taken by the National Park Service to protect soils and vegetation on the summit of Cadillac Mountain are insufficient	25%	35.3%	35.7%	4%	504

The soils and plants on the summit of Cadillac Mountain should be protected	62.2%	37.3%	0.6%	0%	526
Visitors should be allowed into all areas on the summit of Cadillac Mountain	7.3%	16.3%	49.7%	26.7%	521
Soil erosion on the summit of Cadillac Mountain is not a big problem	5.4%	22.6%	51.8%	20.3%	483
It is permissible to pick blueberries on the summit of Cadillac Mountain	4.7%	17.5%	45.9%	31.9%	486
If I accidentally step on blueberry bushes while I pick berries, it is not a problem	4.1%	4.9%	39.6%	51.3%	507
It is acceptable to walk off paved trails if visitors stay on the bare rock surfaces	15.1%	44.9%	25.7%	14.3%	510
Measures taken by the National Park Service to protect soils and vegetation on the summit of Cadillac Mountain are excessive	4.1%	9.3%	59.3%	27.4%	508
I would like the freedom to walk anywhere on the summit of Cadillac Mountain	5%	13.5%	55.8%	25.7%	518
Plants on the summit are very hardy and not easily damaged	4.3%	5.5%	52.2%	37.7%	505
I am willing to stay on paved trails at the summit of Cadillac Mountain to minimize damage to soils and vegetation	57.2%	33.1%	8.5%	1.2%	516
I support measures taken by the National Park Service to protect soils and vegetation on the summit of Cadillac Mountain	58.5%	37.8%	2.9%	0.8%	513
It is acceptable to walk off the paved trails if visitors stay on the “informal” trails that have been created by other visitors	5.6%	17.7%	45.8%	31%	504
The soils & plants on the summit of Cadillac are fragile	51.7%	42.7%	3.6%	2%	503

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 18.1). Average (mean) age was 47.1 years old (median = 48).

Table 18.1. Age (N=102)

Q13b. Age		
	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	1	1.0
20 to 29	15	14.6
30 to 39	16	15.5
40 to 49	26	25.2
50 to 59	26	25.2
60 to 69	14	13.6
70 to 79	4	3.9

Mean=47.1, Median=48

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 18.2). More females (58.8%) completed the survey than males (41.2%).

Table 18.2. Gender (N=97)

Q13c. What is your gender?		
	Frequency	Percent
Male	40	41.2
Female	57	58.8

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 18.3). The largest percent of respondents, 40.6%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 18.3. Education (N=101)

Q13d. What id the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	1	1.0
High school graduate	3	3.0
Vocational/trade school certificate	1	1.0
Some college	12	11.9
Two-year college degree	8	7.9
Four-year college degree	35	34.7
Graduate degree	41	40.6

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 18.4 through 18.6. Most visitors (97.7%) reside in the United States (Table 18.4). Eighteen states were represented at Compass Harbor (Table 18.5). The most common state of residency was Maine (42.4%). Two respondents were from Canada and Spain (Table 18.6).

Table 18.4. Place of residence (N=87)

Q13a. Do you live in the United States?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	85	97.7
No	2	2.3

Table 18.5. State of residence (N=85)

State	Frequency	Percent
Maine	36	42.4
Massachusetts	12	14.1
Pennsylvania	8	9.4
Connecticut	4	4.7
New Jersey	4	4.7
New York	4	4.7
New Hampshire	3	3.5
Maryland	3	3.5
Virginia	2	2.4
Florida	2	2.4
Rhode island	1	1.2
Vermont	1	1.2
Delaware	1	1.2
North Carolina	1	1.2
Missouri	1	1.2
Indiana	1	1.2
Michigan	1	1.2

Table 18.6. Country of residence (N=2)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Canada	1	50.0
Spain	1	50.0

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 18.7).

Visitors to Compass Harbor tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 2.6 (median = 2).

Table 18.7. Group size (N=110)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today

	Frequency	Percent
1	26	23.6
2	45	40.9
3	17	15.5
4	12	10.9
5	3	2.7
6	3	2.7
8	1	0.9
10 or more	1	0.9

Mean=2.6, Median=2.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 18.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (83.7%) were comprised of family and friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 18.9). One respondent at Compass Harbor was part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 18.8. Group type (N=98)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?

	Frequency	Percent
Family	68	69.4
Friends	8	8.2
Family and Friends	7	7.1
Organized group/club/school/educational group	1	1.0
Other	14	14.3

Table 18.9. Commercial group (N=106)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1	0.9
No	105	99.1

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 18.10). A majority of respondents (96%) had been to Acadia National Park before. Most respondents that visited Acadia before had frequently visited with 20.5% of repeat visitors having visited more than 40 times (Table 18.11).

Table 18.10. Previously visited (N=101)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	97	96.0
No	4	4.0

Table 18.11. Number of previous visits (N=73)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
1	6	8.2
2	3	4.1
3	2	2.7
4	0	0.0
5	2	2.7
6 to 10	11	15.1
11 to 15	11	15.1
16 to 20	11	15.1
21 to 30	9	12.3
31 to 40	3	4.1
More than 40	15	20.5

Mean=55.97, Median=16.0

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 18.12). A majority of respondents (75.2%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 18.13). Half of respondents (50.0%) said it was because Acadia National Park was too far from home.

No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 18.12. (N=109)

Q7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes, likely	82	75.2
No, unlikely	3	2.8
Not applicable--I live on Mt. Desert Island	24	22.0

Table 18.13. (N=4)

Q7b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.		
	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	2	50.0
Want to visit other places	0	0.0
Something negative about Acadia	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	2	50.0

Visitors were asked how long (in minutes) they stayed at Compass Harbor (Table 18.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 69.5 minutes (median = 60).

Table 18.14. Length of stay (N=112)

Q5. Approximately how long did you stay at Compass Harbor (low use site) today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
10	2	1.8
15	4	3.6
20	6	5.4
25	1	.9
30	19	17.0
40	3	2.7
45	8	7.1
60	27	24.1
75	2	1.8
90	15	13.4
120	21	18.8
180	2	1.8
240	1	.9
270	1	.9

Mean=69.5, Median=60.0

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" About 37% of respondents did not pay a fee, 29.7% of respondents paid the 7-day entrance fee, and 29.7% of respondents used a park pass (Table 18.15).

Table 18.15. Fees paid (N=100)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	38	37.6
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	30	29.7
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	30	29.7
Fee included in tour package	0	0.0
Don't know	2	2.0
Other	1	1.0

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 18.16 through 18.18). Most of the respondents (91.3%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they were administered the survey. A majority of respondents (63.5%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and almost half of respondents (45.1%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 18.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=103)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	9	8.7
No	94	91.3

Table 18.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=104)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	38	36.5
No	66	63.5

Table 18.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=102)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	39	38.2
No	46	45.1
Don't Know	17	16.7

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 18.19). A vast majority of respondent (93.3%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 18.19. Fishing (N=104)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your personal group participate in freshwater fishing in this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	7	6.7
No	97	93.3

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 18.20). Five visitors responded to this question and reported that they did/would fish at various locations throughout the park.

Table 18.20. Fishing areas (N=5)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?	Frequency	Percent
Bubble Pond and Upper Hadcock Pond	1	20.0
Bubble Pond, Sergeant Pond	1	20.0
Eagle Lake, Bubble Pond, Echo Lake.	1	20.0
Long Pond	1	20.0
off a pond	1	20.0

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (97.8%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 18.21). The vast majority (98.1%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 18.22).

Table 18.21. Ethnicity (N=92)

Q13e1. Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	2	2.2
Not Hispanic or Latino	90	97.8

Table 18.22. Race (N=105)

Q13e2. Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	2	1.9
Asian	0	0.0
Black or African American	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	103	98.1

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Compass Harbor. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Compass Harbor. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 18.23 and 18.24. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents were miscellaneous comments (37.5%) followed by the beauty of Compass Harbor (21.8%). When asked what they enjoyed least about their visitor to Compass Harbor, the most commonly reported item (22.8%) were miscellaneous comment, followed by insects (18.8%) (Table 18.24).

Table 18.23. Enjoyed most (N=312)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Miscellaneous	117	37.5
Beauty	68	21.8
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	54	17.3
A particular place	21	6.7
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	11	3.5
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	10	3.2
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic	10	3.2
Recreation activity	9	2.9
Learning about natural and human history of the area	4	1.3
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	3	1.0
Weather	3	1.0
Food, restaurants; popovers	1	0.3
Warm water for swimming	1	0.3
Challenge	0	0.0
Everything	0	0.0
Facilities	0	0.0

Table 18.24. Enjoyed Least (N=101)

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Miscellaneous	23	22.8
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	19	18.8
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	11	10.9
Crowding	9	8.9
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	7	6.9
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	6	5.9
Cost; fees	5	5.0
Noise	5	5.0
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	3	3.0
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	2	2.0
Dogs; droppings	2	2.0
Too few facilities	2	2.0
Visitor impacts	2	2.0
Dogs not allowed, pets not allowed	1	1.0
Nothing; everything was good	1	1.0
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	1	1.0
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	1	1.0
Weather	1	1.0
Lack of access for disabled	0	0.0
Too commercial; too much development	0	0.0
Tour busses; tours	0	0.0
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	0	0.0
User Conflicts	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: "If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?" Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 18.25. The most commonly occurring responses were a desire for more information and interpretation (40.7%).

Table 18.25. Management changes (N=59)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	24	40.7
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	10	16.9
Miscellaneous	9	15.3
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	6	10.2
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	3	5.1
Allow pets	2	3.4
Control insects	1	1.7
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	1	1.7
More access for handicapped / seniors	1	1.7
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	1	1.7
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	1	1.7
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	0	0.0
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	0	0.0
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set of questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Compass Harbor (low use site) (Table 18.26). The majority of respondents did not think that any of the issues were a “small” or “big” problem. However, a substantial minority of respondents (44.0%) thought that damage to soils and vegetation caused by hikers walking off trails were small to big problems.

Table 18.26. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Compass Harbor?

	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Mean
9. Difficulty finding a parking place (N=112)	82.7	13.6	3.6	1.2
10. Too many people on this trail (N=113)	86.6	13.4	0.0	1.1
11. Too many large groups on this trail (N=107)	95.3	4.7	0.0	1.0
12. Too many people on mountain summits and other destinations (N=103)	74.3	19.8	5.9	1.3
13. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by hikers walking off trail (N=109)	54.7	33.0	12.3	1.6
14. Dogs off leash (N=108)	75.7	17.8	6.5	1.3
15. Lack of trail maintenance (N=114)	72.8	24.6	2.6	1.3
16. Lack of information/orientation at trailhead (N=113)	55.8	29.2	15.0	1.6

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Compass Harbor (low use site). Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 18.27). Generally, perceived crowding levels were very low. A majority of respondents (87.6%) reported that they were "not at all crowded".

Table 18.27. Perceived crowding (N=105)

Q4. How crowed did you feel at Compass Harbor today?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	69	65.7
2	23	21.9
3	8	7.6
4	3	2.9
5	0	0.0
6	2	1.9
7	0	0.0
8	0	0.0
9 Extremely Crowded	0	0.0

Mean=1.5

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 18.28). Almost half of respondents (47.4%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded, however 39.5% thought that Acadia was to crowded. A substantial majority of respondents (80.0%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. Half of respondents (55.9%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard but 34.9% agreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, half of respondents (56.5%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 18.28.

Q6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded (N=109)	10.1	29.4	12.8	42.2	5.5	3.04
There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time (N=110)	7.3	9.1	13.6	42.7	27.3	3.74
Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard (N=109)	9.2	25.7	9.2	43.1	12.8	3.25
The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right (N=108)	13.0	43.5	28.7	13.9	0.9	2.46

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Respondents were asked about their perceptions of the changes in visitor use to Acadia National Park over the past several years (Table 18.29). A majority of the respondents (72.8%) agreed that the number of visitors to Acadia had increased. A majority of respondents (63.7%) agreed that the number of visitors to Acadia from off Mt. Desert Island has increased with 33.3% of respondents having no opinion and 63.7% feeling that visitation had increased. A majority of respondents (63.7%) agreed that visitation from people on Mt. Desert Island had increased. Almost half of the respondents (49.5%) had no opinion about the changes in conflict among different types of visitors.

Table 18.29. Perceptions of changes in visitation.

Q8c. We are interested in your perceptions of changes in visitor use of Acadia National Park over the past several years. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
1. The number of visitors to Acadia has increased. (N=103)	31.1	41.7	18.4	6.8	1.9	2.07
2. The number of visitors to Acadia from off Mt. Desert Island has increased. (N=102)	28.4	35.3	33.3	2.0	1.0	2.12
3. The number of visitors to Acadia from on Mt. Desert Island has increased. (N=102)	10.8	20.6	62.7	5.9	0.0	2.64
4. There is more conflict among different types of visitors to Acadia. (N=101)	2.0	16.8	49.5	23.8	7.9	3.19

Respondents were also asked about changes in their use of Acadia National Park over the past several years (Table 18.30). Over half of respondents (72.0%) said their use of Acadia has changed much over the years and the majority of respondents (69.2%) said that they do not visit Acadia more than they use to. A vast majority of respondents (92.4%) said that they do not use the park less because of changes in use in the park. A majority of the respondents (66.7%) said they did not start using the park more in the off-season because of changes in use in the park. Responses were relatively split concerning changes in use to weekdays, earlier and later times, and different areas in the park to avoid changes in use in the park. A majority of respondents (61.3% to 74.2%) said they did not change when or where they visited Acadia but a substantial minority (25.8% to 38.7%) said that they did change when or

where they visit Acadia because of changes in use. A majority of respondents (79.6%) said that their use of Acadia has not change and they are still satisfied with their experience in Acadia. A majority of respondents (69.1%) also said that their visits to Acadia had not changed and the experience provided by park has not changed due to changes in use but a substantial minority (30.9%) thought that the experience provided had changed. Only 4.3% of respondents said that they rarely visit the park because they do not like the changes in use that have occurred.

Table 18.30. Changes in respondents' use of Acadia National Park.

Q8d. We are interested in knowing if your use of Acadia National Park has changed over the past several years. Please respond to each of the following statements.	Yes	No
1. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years…. (N=93)	72.0	28.0
2. I visit Acadia more now than I used to…. (N=91)	30.8	69.2
3. I visit Acadia less often because of changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=92)	7.6	92.4
4. I visit Acadia more in the off-season to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park.… (N=93)	33.3	66.7
5. I visit Acadia more on the weekdays rather than the weekends to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=89)	25.8	74.2
6. I visit Acadia during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….(N=93)	38.7	61.3
7. I visit different areas of Acadia to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=91)	37.4	62.6
8. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but I am not as satisfied with my experience in the park because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=93)	20.4	79.6
9. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but the type of experience provided by the park has changed because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=94)	30.9	69.1
10. I rarely visit Acadia anymore because I don't like the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=92)	4.3	95.7

Three issues were specifically addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space (Tables 18.31 to 18.33). Approximately half of respondents felt that all the issues had gotten worse with substantial minorities feeling they had stayed the same.

Table 18.31. Change in crowding (N=100)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	51	51.0
I feel less crowded than I used to	3	3.0
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	46	46.0

Table 18.32. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=99)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	55	55.6
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	8	8.1
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	36	36.4

Table 18.33. Change in availability of parking space (N=97)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	48	49.5
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	5	5.2
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	44	45.4

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used

to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 18.34). The vast majority (86.0%) of respondents were aware. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 18.35) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 18.36). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 94.1% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 90.5% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 18.34. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=107)

Q9a. Were you aware the Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	92	86.0
No	15	14.0

Table 18.35. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=102)

Q9b. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	96	94.1
No	6	5.9

Table 18.36. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=105)

Q9c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operations of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	95	90.5
No	10	9.5

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees (Table 18.37). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 18.37. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week (N=1010	5.0	76.2	18.8	2.14
$40 Annual Acadia Pass (N=102)	11.8	69.6	18.6	2.07
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week (N=100)	8.0	71.0	21.0	2.13
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life) (N=99)	30.3	65.7	4.0	1.74
$50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year) (N=99)	17.2	75.8	7.1	1.90

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 18.38). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 70.5% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 18.38. Overall satisfaction (N=95)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	11	11.6
Dissatisfied	3	3.2
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	14	14.7
Satisfied	19	20.0
Very satisfied	48	50.5

Mean = 3.9; Median = 5.0

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 19.1). Average (mean) age was 47 years old (median = 48).

Table 19.1. Age (N=103)

Q13b. Age		
	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	2	1.9
20 to 29	9	8.7
30 to 39	20	19.4
40 to 49	27	26.2
50 to 59	32	31.1
60 to 69	9	8.7
70 to 79	3	2.9

Mean=47.0, Median=48.0

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 19.2). Slightly more females (56.7%) completed the survey than males (43.3%).

Table 19.2. Gender (N=104)

Q13c. What is your gender?		
	Frequency	Percent
Male	45	43.3
Female	59	56.7

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 19.3). The largest percent of respondents, 47.1%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 19.3. Education (N=102)

Q13d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	1	1.0
High school graduate	1	1.0
Vocational/trade school certificate	3	2.9
Some college	10	9.8
Two-year college degree	6	5.9
Four-year college degree	33	32.4
Graduate degree	48	47.1

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 19.4 through 19.6. Most visitors (98.1%) reside in the United States (Table 19.4). Nineteen states were represented at Hunter's Beach (Table 19.5). The most common state of residency was Maine (19.5%). Two respondents were from other countries including Belgium and Canada (Table 19.6).

Table 19.4. Place of residence (N=108)

Q13a. Do you live in the United States?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	106	98.1
No	2	1.9

Table 19.5. State of residence (N=83)

State	Frequency	Percent
Maine	16	19.5
Massachusetts	13	15.9
Pennsylvania	10	12.2
New Jersey	7	8.5
New York	6	7.3
Virginia	6	7.3
Connecticut	5	6.1
New Hampshire	3	3.7
California	2	2.4
Colorado	2	2.4
Washington DC	2	2.4
Maryland	2	2.4
Texas	2	2.4
Florida	1	1.2
New Mexico	1	1.2
Ohio	1	1.2
Tennessee	1	1.2
Vermont	1	1.2
Wisconsin	1	1.2

Table 19.6. Country of residence (N=2)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Belgium	1	50.0
Canada	1	50.0

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 19.7).

Visitors to Hunter's Beach tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3.34 (median = 3).

Table 19.7. Group size (N=107)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today

	Frequency	Percent
1	15	14.0
2	34	31.8
3	15	14.0
4	24	22.4
5	7	6.5
6	3	2.8
8	4	3.7
10 or more	3	2.8

Mean=3.4, Median=3.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 19.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (91.3%) were comprised of family and/or friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 19.9). No respondents at Hunter's Beach were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 19.8. Group type (N=104)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?

	Frequency	Percent
Family	65	62.5
Friends	18	17.3
Family and friends	12	11.5
Other	9	8.7

Table 19.9. Commercial group (N=107)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	0	0.0
No	107	100.0

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 19.10). A vast majority of respondents (92.3%) had been to Acadia National Park before. Visitors had visited Acadia with the average (mean) number of visits 149.7 (median=12) (Table 19.11).

Table 19.10. Previously visited (N=104)

Q8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	96	92.3
No	8	7.7

Table 19.11. Number of previous visits (N=80)

Q8b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
1	3	3.8
2	10	12.8
3	3	3.8
4	4	5.1
5	3	3.8
6 to 10	14	17.9
11 to 15	10	12.8
16 to 20	12	15.4
21 to 30	6	7.7
31 to 40	1	1.3
More than 40	12	15.4

Mean=149.7, Median=12.0

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 19.12). A majority of respondents (81.7%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 19.13). A majority of respondents (85.7%) said it was because Acadia National Park was too far from

home. No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 19.12. (N=104)

Q7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes, likely	85	81.7
No, unlikely	8	7.7
Not applicable--I live on Mt. Desert Island	11	10.6

Table 19.13. (N=7)

Q7b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	6	85.7
Want to visit other places	1	14.3
Something negative about Acadia	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0	0.0

Visitors were asked how long (in minutes) they stayed at Hunter's Beach (Table 19.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 69.3 minutes (median = 60).

Table 19.14. Length of stay (N=108)

Q5. Approximately how long did you stay at Hunter's Beach (low use site) today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
1	1	0.9
2	2	1.9
5	2	1.9
10	1	0.9
15	3	2.8
20	2	1.9
30	15	13.9
40	2	1.9
45	8	7.4
60	40	37.0
90	6	5.6
120	19	17.6
150	2	1.9
180	4	3.7
240	1	0.9

Mean=69.3, Median=60.0

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" Almost half of respondents (49.5%) did not pay a fee, 22.3% of respondents paid the 7-day entrance fee, and 27.7% of respondents used a park pass (Table 19.15).

Table 19.15. Fees paid (N=103)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	51	49.5
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	23	22.3
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	28	27.2
Fee included in tour package	0	0.0
Don't know	1	1.0
Other	0	0.0

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 19.16 through 19.18). Most of the respondents (95.1%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they were administered the survey. A majority of respondents (77.4%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and over half of respondents (61.3%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 19.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=103)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	5	4.9
No	98	95.1

Table 19.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=106)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	24	22.6
No	82	77.4

Table 19.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=106)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	24	22.6
No	65	61.3
Don't Know	17	16.0

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 19.19). A vast majority of respondent (97.1%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 19.19 Fishing (N=104)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your personal group participate in freshwater fishing in this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	3	2.9
No	101	97.1

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 19.20). Only one visitor responded to this question and reported that they where not sure where they did/would fish.

Table 19.20. Fishing areas (N=1)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?	Frequency	Percent
Not sure	1	100.0

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (99.0%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 19.21). The vast majority (98.1%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 19.22).

Table 19.21. Ethnicity (N=96)

Q13e1. Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	1	1.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	95	99.0

Table 19.22. Race (N=105)

Q13e2. Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	1.0
Asian	0	0.0
Black or African American	1	1.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	103	98.1

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Hunter's Beach. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Hunter's Beach. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 19.23 and 19.24. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents were miscellaneous comments (26.7%), followed by the beauty of Hunter's Beach (23.3%). When asked what they enjoyed least about their visitor to Hunter's Beach, the most commonly reported comment (39.7%) was that everything was good, followed by miscellaneous comments (18.1%) (Table 19.24).

Table 19.23. Enjoyed most (N=232)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Miscellaneous	62	26.7
Beauty/views/scenery	54	23.3
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	47	20.3
Rocks/beach cobble	26	11.2
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic	14	6.0
Recreation activity	11	4.7
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	6	2.6
Weather	6	2.6
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	4	1.7
A particular place	2	0.9
Challenge	0	0.0
Everything	0	0.0
Facilities	0	0.0
Food, restaurants; popovers	0	0.0
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	0	0.0
Learning about natural and human history of the area	0	0.0
Warm water for swimming	0	0.0

Table 19.24. Enjoyed Least (N=116)

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Nothing; everything was good	46	39.7
Miscellaneous	21	18.1
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	12	10.3
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	9	7.8
Crowding	5	4.3
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	5	4.3
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	5	4.3
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	3	2.6
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	3	2.6
Weather	3	2.6
Dogs; droppings	1	0.9
Noise	1	0.9
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	1	0.9
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	1	0.9
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	0	0.0
Cost; fees	0	0.0
Dogs not allowed, pets not allowed	0	0.0
Lack of access for disabled	0	0.0
Too commercial; too much development	0	0.0
Too few facilities	0	0.0
Tour busses; tours	0	0.0
User Conflicts	0	0.0
Visitor impacts	0	0.0
Traffic	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: “If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?” Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 19.25. The most commonly occurring response was that the National Park Service was doing a good job (41.2%).

Table 19.25. Management changes (N=85)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	35	41.2
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	14	16.5
Miscellaneous	11	12.9
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	9	10.6
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	6	7.1
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	5	5.9
Control insects	2	2.4
Allow pets	1	1.2
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	1	1.2
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	1	1.2
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	0	0.0
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	0	0.0
More access for handicapped / seniors	0	0.0
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set of questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Hunter's Beach (Table 19.26). The majority of respondents did not think that any of the issues were a "small" or "big" problem. However, a substantial minority of respondents thought that difficulty finding a parking place and damage to soil and vegetation were small to big problems.

Table 19.26. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Hunter's Beach?

	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Mean
Difficulty finding a parking place. (N=108)	52.8	42.5	4.7	1.5
Too many people in this area of the park. (N=108)	83.3	13.9	2.8	1.2
Damage to soil and vegetation. (N=107)	57.0	35.0	8.0	1.5
Visitors taking beach cobbles (rocks). (N=106)	62.1	28.7	9.2	1.5
Visitors building objects with rocks. (N=107)	79.0	19.0	2.0	1.2
Too much trash or marine debris in this area of the park. (N=106)	79.2	20.8	0.0	1.2
Dogs off leash. (N=107)	85.7	13.3	1.0	1.1
Too much noise in this area of the park. (N=108)	97.2	1.9	0.9	1.0

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Hunter's Beach. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 19.27). Generally, perceived crowding levels were very low. A majority of respondents (77.2%) reported that they were "not at all crowded".

Table 19.27. Perceived crowding (N=105)

Q6. How crowed did you feel at Hunter's Beach (low use site) today?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	45	42.9
2	36	34.3
3	19	18.1
4	2	1.9
5	0	0.0
6	2	1.9
7	1	1.0
8	0	0.0
9 Extremely Crowded	0	0.0

Mean= 1.9, Median= 2.0

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 19.29). A majority of respondents (58.1%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. A substantial majority of respondents (72.0%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. Half of respondents (57.1%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a majority of respondents (60.2%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 19.28.

Q6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded (N=105)	2.9	25.7	13.3	52.4	5.7	3.32
There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time (N=107)	2.8	10.3	15.0	53.3	18.7	3.75
Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard (N=105)	2.9	14.3	25.7	42.9	14.3	3.51
The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right (N=103)	7.8	52.4	27.2	10.7	1.9	2.47

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Respondents were asked about their perceptions of the changes in visitor use to Acadia National Park over the past several years (Table 19.29). Over half of the respondents (65.3%) agreed that the number of visitors to Acadia had increased. Respondents were unsure about the changes in visitation from people off Mt. Desert Island with 42.6% of respondents having no opinion and 38.6% feeling that visitation had increased. A majority of respondents (70.0%) had no opinion about the change is visitation from people on Mt. Desert Island. More than half of the respondents (55.0%) had no opinion about the changes in conflict among different types of visitors.

Table 19.29. Perceptions of changes in visitation.

Q8c. We are interested in your perceptions of changes in visitor use of Acadia National Park over the past several years. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
5. The number of visitors to Acadia has increased. (N=101)	19.8	45.5	28.7	5.0	1.0	2.22
6. The number of visitors to Acadia from off Mt. Desert Island has increased. (N=101)	16.8	38.6	42.6	2.0	0.0	2.30
7. The number of visitors to Acadia from on Mt. Desert Island has increased. (N=100)	8.0	16.0	70.0	6.0	0.0	2.74
8. There is more conflict among different types of visitors to Acadia. (N=100)	2.0	11.0	55.0	28.0	4.0	3.21

Respondents were also asked about changes in their use of Acadia National Park over the past several years (Table 19.30). Over half of respondents (62.9%) said their use of Acadia has changed much over the years and over half of respondents (60.8%) said that they do not visit Acadia more than they use to. A vast majority of respondents (92.6%) said that they do not use the park less because of changes in use in the park. A majority of the respondents (82.1%) said they did not start using the park more in the off-season because of changes in use in the park. Responses were relatively split concerning changes in use to weekdays, earlier and later times, and different areas in the park to avoid changes in use in the park. Most respondents (58.2% to 71.3%) said they did not change when or where they visited Acadia but a substantial minority (28.7% to 41.8%) said that they did change when or where they visit Acadia because of changes in use. A majority of respondents (91.6%) said that

their use of Acadia has not change and they are still satisfied with their experience in Acadia. A majority of respondents (78.5%) also said that their visits to Acadia had not changed and the experience provided by park has not changed due to changes in use but a substantial minority (21.5%) thought that the experience provided had changed. Only 1.1% of respondents said that they rarely visit the park because they do not like the changes in use that have occurred.

Table 19.30. Changes in respondents' use of Acadia National Park.

Q8d. We are interested in knowing if your use of Acadia National Park has changed over the past several years. Please respond to each of the following statements.	Yes	No
11. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years (N=97)	62.9	37.1
12. I visit Acadia more now than I used to (N=97)	39.2	60.8
13. I visit Acadia less often because of changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=95)	7.4	92.6
14. I visit Acadia more in the off-season to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=95)	17.9	82.1
15. I visit Acadia more on the weekdays rather than the weekends to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=94)	35.1	64.9
16. I visit Acadia during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=94)	28.7	71.3
17. I visit different areas of Acadia to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=91)	41.8	58.2
18. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but I am not as satisfied with my experience in the park because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=95)	8.4	91.6
19. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but the type of experience provided by the park has changed because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=93)	21.5	78.5
20. I rarely visit Acadia anymore because I don't like the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=93)	1.1	98.9

Three issues were specifically addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space (Tables 19.31 to 19.33). A majority of respondents felt that crowding and finding a parking place had not changed (59.4% to 62.5% respectively) but a substantial minority felt these conditions had gotten worse. Almost half of respondents (49.5%)

felt that vehicle congestion on park roads had gotten worse and 43.2% thought congestion had not changed.

Table 19.31. Change in crowding (N=96)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	36	37.5
I feel less crowded than I used to	3	3.1
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	57	59.4

Table 19.32. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=95)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	47	49.5
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	7	7.4
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	41	43.2

Table 19.33. Change in availability of parking space (N=96)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	34	35.4
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	2	2.1
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	60	62.5

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table

19.34). The vast majority (81.1%) of respondents were aware. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 19.35) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 19.36). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 95.2% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 88.0% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 19.34. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=108)

Q9a. Were you aware the Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	86	81.1
No	20	18.9

Table 19.35. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=105)

Q9b. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	100	95.2
No	5	4.8

Table 19.36. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=100)

Q9c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operations of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	88	88.0
No	12	12.0

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees (Table 19.37). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 19.37. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week (N=99)	4.0	84.8	11.1	2.07
$40 Annual Acadia Pass (N=97)	12.4	80.4	7.2	1.95
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week (N=95)	8.4	75.8	15.8	2.07
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life) (N=94)	26.6	72.3	1.1	1.74
$50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year) (N=97)	13.4	79.4	7.2	1.94

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 19.38). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 66.3% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 19.38. Overall satisfaction (N=92)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	10	10.9
Dissatisfied	2	2.2
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	19	20.7
Satisfied	22	23.9
Very satisfied	39	42.4

Mean= 3.8, Median= 4.0

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 20.1). Average (mean) age was 46 years old (median = 46).

Table 20.1. Age (N=98)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	1	1.0
20 to 29	4	4.1
30 to 39	24	24.5
40 to 49	28	28.6
50 to 59	28	28.6
60 to 69	11	11.2
70 to 79	2	2.0

Mean=46, Median=46

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 20.2). Slightly more females (51.5%) completed the survey than females (48.5%).

Table 20.2. Gender (N=99)

Q13c. What is your gender?

	Frequency	Percent
Male	48	48.5
Female	51	51.5

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 20.3). The largest percentage of respondents, 37.8%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 20.3. Education (N=98)

Q13d. What id the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	0	0.0
High school graduate	7	7.1
Vocational/trade school certificate	4	4.1
Some college	9	9.2
Two-year college degree	9	9.2
Four-year college degree	32	32.7
Graduate degree	37	37.8

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 20.4 through 20.6. Most visitors (94.2%) reside in the United States (Table 20.4). Twenty-four states were represented at Little Hunter's Beach (Table 20.5). The most common state of residency was New York (16.7%). Six respondents reside in other countries including Germany, Canada, Ireland, and the United Kingdom (Table 20.6).

Table 20.4. Place of residence (N=104)

Q13a. Do you live in the United States?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	98	94.2
No	6	5.8

Table 20.5. State of residence (N=91)

State	Frequency	Percent
New York	15	16.7
Massachusetts	11	12.2
Maine	9	10.0
Connecticut	7	7.8
New Jersey	7	7.8
Pennsylvania	6	6.7
Illinois	5	5.6
Vermont	4	4.4
Maryland	4	4.4
Georgia	3	3.3
Indiana	3	3.3
New Hampshire	2	2.2
Delaware	2	2.2
Florida	2	2.2
Louisiana	2	2.2
Rhode Island	1	1.1
Virginia	1	1.1
South Carolina	1	1.1
Ohio	1	1.1
Michigan	1	1.1
Minnesota	1	1.1
South Dakota	1	1.1
Kansas	1	1.1
Arkansas	1	1.1

Table 20.6. Country of residence (N=6)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Canada	3	50.0
United Kingdom	1	16.7
Germany	1	16.7
Ireland	1	16.7

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 20.7).

Visitors to Little Hunter's Beach tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3.1 (median = 2).

Table 20.7. Group size (N=104)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today

	Frequency	Percent
1	3	2.9
2	51	49.0
3	14	13.5
4	23	22.1
5	5	4.8
6	5	4.8
8	1	1.0
10 or more	2	1.9

Mean=3.1, Median=2.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 20.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (95.0%) were comprised of family and/or friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 20.9). No respondents at Little Hunter's Beach (low use site) were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 20.8. Group type (N=102)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?

	Frequency	Percent
Family	85	83.3
Friends	8	7.8
Family and friends	4	3.9
Organized group/ club/ school/ educational group	1	1.0
Other	4	3.9

Table 20.9. Commercial group (N=103)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	0	0.0
No	103	100.0

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 20.10). A majority of respondents (60.6%) had been to Acadia National Park before. Many respondents had visited a before and 25.4% of respondents had visited Acadia more than ten times (Table 20.11).

Table 20.10. Previously visited (N=104)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	63	60.6
No	41	39.4

Table 20.11. Number of previous visits (N=104)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
1	21	33.3
2	6	9.5
3	7	11.1
4	3	4.8
5	2	3.2
6 to 10	8	12.7
11 to 15	4	6.3
16 to 20	3	4.8
21 to 30	2	3.2
31 to 40	2	3.2
More than 40	5	7.9

Mean=16.7, Median=3.0

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 20.12). A majority of respondents (67.3%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 20.13). Half of respondents (51.5%) said it was because Acadia National Park was too far from home.

One respondent reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 20.12. (N=104)

Q7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes, likely	70	67.3
No, unlikely	34	32.7
Not applicable--I live on Mt. Desert Island	0	0.0

Table 20.13. (N=33)

Q7b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.		
	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	17	51.5
Want to visit other places	11	33.3
Something negative about Acadia	1	3.0
Miscellaneous	4	12.1

Visitors were asked how long (in minutes) they stayed at Little Hunter's Beach (Table 20.14).

The average (mean) length of stay was 39.3% minutes (median = 30).

Table 20.14. Length of stay (N=104)

Q5. Approximately how long did you stay at Little Hunter's Beach (low use site) today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
2	1	1.0
5	3	2.9
10	10	9.6
13	1	1.0
15	12	11.5
20	15	14.4
25	2	1.9
30	25	24.0
35	2	1.9
40	3	2.9
45	4	3.8
60	13	12.5
90	5	4.8
120	6	5.8
180	2	1.9

Mean=39.3, Median=30.0

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" Only 4.6% of respondents did not pay a fee and 77.6% of respondents paid the 7-day entrance fee (Table 20.15).

Table 20.15. Fees paid (N=98)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	4	4.1
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	76	77.6
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	17	17.3
Fee included in tour package	0	0.0
Don't know	0	0.0
Other	1	1.0

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 20.16 through 20.18). Most of the respondents (97.0%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they were administered the survey. A vast majority of respondents (83.3%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and over half of respondents (63.5%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 20.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=101)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	3	3.0
No	98	97.0

Table 20.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=102)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	17	16.7
No	85	83.3

Table 20.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=104)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	18	17.3
No	66	63.5
Don't Know	20	19.2

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 20.19). A vast majority of respondent (97.1%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 20.19. Fishing (N=103)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your personal group participate in freshwater fishing in this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	3	2.9
No	100	97.1

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 20.20). Two visitors responded to this question and reported that they did/would fish at Long Pond or on a bridge.

Table 20.20. Fishing areas (N=2)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?	Frequency	Percent
Long pond	1	1.0
On the bridge	1	1.0

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (97.8%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 20.21). The vast majority (97.0%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 20.22).

Table 20.21. Ethnicity (N=92)

Q13e1. Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	2	2.2
Not Hispanic or Latino	90	97.8

Table 20.22. Race (N=101)

Q13e2. Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	1.0
Asian	2	2.0
Black or African American	98	97.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	0	0.0

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Little Hunter's Beach. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Little Hunter's Beach. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 20.23 and 20.24. The most commonly reported items enjoyed by respondents were miscellaneous comments (28.3%) and the beauty of Little Hunter's Beach (23.6%). When asked what they enjoyed least about their visitor to Little Hunter's Beach, the most common response (33.6%) was that everything was good, followed by miscellaneous comments (25.0%) (Table 20.24).

Table 20.23. Enjoyed most (N=297)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Miscellaneous	84	28.3
Beauty/views/scenery	70	23.6
Rock formations/beach cobble	38	12.8
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	28	9.4
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	17	5.7
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic	16	5.4
Recreation activity	14	4.7
A particular place	10	3.4
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	8	2.7
Weather	6	2.0
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	3	1.0
Food, restaurants; popovers	1	0.3
Learning about natural and human history of the area	1	0.3
Warm water for swimming	1	0.3
Challenge	0	0.0
Everything	0	0.0
Facilities	0	0.0

Table 20.24. Enjoyed Least (N=116)

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Nothing; everything was good	39	33.6
Miscellaneous	29	25.0
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	10	8.6
Crowding	9	7.8
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	7	6.0
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	3	2.6
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	3	2.6
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	2	1.7
Cost; fees	2	1.7
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	2	1.7
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	2	1.7
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	2	1.7
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	2	1.7
Weather	2	1.7
Lack of access for disabled	1	0.9
Noise	1	0.9
Dogs not allowed, pets not allowed	0	0.0
Dogs; droppings	0	0.0
Too commercial; too much development	0	0.0
Too few facilities	0	0.0
Tour busses; tours	0	0.0
User Conflicts	0	0.0
Visitor impacts	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: "If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?" Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 20.25. The most commonly occurring response was that the National Park Service is doing a good job (48.1%).

Table 20.25. Management changes (N=77)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	37	48.1
Miscellaneous	15	19.5
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	9	11.7
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	7	9.1
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	3	3.9
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	3	3.9
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	2	2.6
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	1	1.3
Allow pets	0	0.0
Control insects	0	0.0
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	0	0.0
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	0	0.0
More access for handicapped / seniors	0	0.0
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set of questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Little Hunter's Beach (Table 20.26). The majority of respondents did not think that any of the issues were a "small" or "big" problem. However, a substantial minority of respondents (39.3%) thought that damage to soils and vegetation were small to big problems.

Table 20.26. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Little Hunter's Beach?

	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Mean
Difficulty finding a parking place. (N=104)	74.8	21.4	3.9	1.3
Too many people in this area of the park. (N=104)	81.7	17.3	1.0	1.2
Damage to soil and vegetation. (N=104)	60.6	28.7	10.6	1.5
Visitors taking beach cobbles (rocks). (N=106)	70.1	20.9	9.0	1.4
Visitors building objects with rocks. (N=100)	88.2	10.6	1.2	1.1
Visitors building objects with rocks. (N=103)	79.0	18.0	3.0	1.2
Dogs off leash. (N=102)	86.3	9.5	4.2	1.2
Too much noise in this area of the park. (N=104)	86.3	10.8	2.9	1.2

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Little Hunter's Beach. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 20.27). Generally, perceived crowding levels were very low. A majority of respondents (77.8%) reported that they were "not at all crowded".

Table 20.27. Perceived crowding (N=99)

Q6. How crowed did you feel at Little Hunter's Beach (low use site) today?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	51	51.5
2	26	26.3
3	16	16.2
4	3	3.0
5	2	2.0
6	1	1.0
7	0	0.0
8	0	0.0
9 Extremely Crowded	51	51.5

Mean= 1.8, Median= 1.0

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 20.28). Over half majority of respondents (57.3%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. A substantial majority of respondents (74.7%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. Most respondents (80%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a majority of respondents (61.8%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 20.28.

Q6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded (N=103)	2.9	32.0	7.8	43.7	13.6	3.33
There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time (N=105)	1.9	14.6	8.7	48.5	26.2	3.83
Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard (N=102)	2.9	8.6	8.6	56.2	23.8	3.90
The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right (N=104)	11.8	50.0	24.5	11.8	2.0	2.42

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Respondents were asked about their perceptions of the changes in visitor use to Acadia National Park over the past several years (Table 20.29). Over half of the respondents (65.7%) thought that the number of visitors to Acadia had increased. Respondents were split about the changes in visitation from people off Mt. Desert Island with 43.3% of respondents having no opinion and 55.2% feeling that visitation had increased. A majority of respondents (65.2%) had no opinion about the change is visitation from people on Mt. Desert Island. Over half of the respondents (56.7%) had no opinion about the changes in conflict among different types of visitors.

Table 20.29. Perceptions of changes in visitation.

Q8c. We are interested in your perceptions of changes in visitor use of Acadia National Park over the past several years. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
21. The number of visitors to Acadia has increased. (N=670	19.4	46.3	29.9	4.5	0.0	2.19
22. The number of visitors to Acadia from off Mt. Desert Island has increased. (N=67)	14.9	40.3	43.3	1.5	0.0	2.31
9. The number of visitors to Acadia from on Mt. Desert Island has increased. (N=66)	7.6	24.2	65.2	3.0	0.0	2.64
10. There is more conflict among different types of visitors to Acadia. (N=67)	9.0	13.4	56.7	17.9	3.0	2.93

Respondents were also asked about changes in their use of Acadia National Park over the past several years (Table 20.30). Half of respondents (52.5%) said their use of Acadia has changed much over the years and half of respondents (58.3%) said that they do not visit Acadia more than they use to. A vast majority of respondents (96.4%) said that they do not use the park less because of changes in use in the park. A majority of the respondents (87.7%) said they did not start using the park more in the off-season because of changes in use in the park. Responses were relatively split concerning changes in use to weekdays, earlier and later times, and different areas in the park to avoid changes in use in the park. A majority of respondents (59.6% to 71.2%) said they did not change when or where they visited Acadia but a substantial minority (28.1% to 40.4%) said that they did change when or where they visit Acadia because of changes in use. A majority of respondents (87.5%) said that their use of Acadia has not change and they are still satisfied with their experience in Acadia. A majority of respondents (63.2%) also said

that their visits to Acadia had not changed and the experience provided by park has not changed due to changes in use but a substantial minority (36.8%) thought that the experience provided had changed. No respondents said that they rarely visit the park because they do not like the changes in use that have occurred.

Table 20.30. Changes in respondents' use of Acadia National Park.

Q8d. We are interested in knowing if your use of Acadia National Park has changed over the past several years. Please respond to each of the following statements.	Yes	No
1. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years (N=59)	52.5	47.5
2. I visit Acadia more now than I used to (N=60)	41.7	58.3
3. I visit Acadia less often because of changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=56)	3.6	96.4
4. I visit Acadia more in the off-season to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=57)	12.3	87.7
5. I visit Acadia more on the weekdays rather than the weekends to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=57)	40.4	59.6
6. I visit Acadia during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=57)	28.1	71.9
7. I visit different areas of Acadia to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=57)	29.8	70.2
8. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but I am not as satisfied with my experience in the park because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=56)	12.5	87.5
9. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but the type of experience provided by the park has changed because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=57)	36.8	63.2
10. I rarely visit Acadia anymore because I don't like the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=57)	0.0	100.0

Three issues were specifically addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space (Tables 20.31 to 20.33). A majority of respondents felt that crowding and finding a parking place had not changed but a substantial minority (27.8% to 42.9%) felt these conditions had gotten worse. Half of respondents (50.0%) felt that vehicle congestion on park roads had gotten worse.

Table 20.31. Change in crowding (N=56)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	24	42.9
I feel less crowded than I used to	4	7.1
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	28	50.0

Table 20.32. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=54)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	27	50.0
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	4	7.4
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	23	42.6

Table 20.33. Change in availability of parking space (N=54)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	15	27.8
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	4	7.4
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	35	64.8

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 20.34). A majority (75.8%) of respondents were aware. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 20.35) and

for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 20.36). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 99.0% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 89.1% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 20.34. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=99)

Q10b. Were you aware the Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	75	75.8
No	24	24.2

Table 20.35. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=100)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	99	99.0
No	1	1.0

Table 20.36. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=101)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operations of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	90	89.1
No	11	10.9

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees now knowing how they are used (Table 20.37). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 20.37. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week (N=102)	10.8	76.5	12.7	2.02
$40 Annual Acadia Pass (N=92)	19.6	72.8	7.6	1.88
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week (N=92)	9.8	83.7	6.5	1.97
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life) (N=91)	19.8	79.1	1.1	1.81
$50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year) (N=92)	15.2	81.5	3.3	1.88

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 20.38). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 81.6% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 20.38. Overall satisfaction (N=103)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	9	8.7
Dissatisfied	2	1.9
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	8	7.8
Satisfied	42	40.8
Very satisfied	42	40.8

Mean= 4.0, Median= 4.0

Chapter 21 Ocean Drive

Standards of Quality

Questions were asked to address standards of quality for the indicator variable of the number of vehicles visible at one time on the high-use section of the Ocean Drive loop road. A series of twelve computer-generated photographs were prepared showing a range of use levels and a mixture of vehicle type ratios. That is, some photographs depicted only small vehicles, others depicted small vehicles and RVs, and others included tour buses. Each study photograph was 8 inches by 10 inches. The photographs were arrayed on a single three foot by four foot poster for ease of viewing by study participants. Study photographs are displayed at the end of this chapter in the array used. Photos were arrayed in order of increasing levels of use to reduce respondent burden. The focus of this study was to determine if the presence of large vehicles (RVs and tour buses) on Ocean Drive has a differing effect on respondent evaluations of acceptability of number of vehicles on Ocean Drive. The previous year's data collection focused only on small vehicles (cars and pickup trucks).

Respondents were first asked to evaluate the acceptability of the twelve study photographs showing increasing levels of visitor use. Acceptability was measured using a nine-point Likert-type scale ranging from (-4) "Very Unacceptable" to (4) "Very Acceptable". Zero represented the middle of this scale or the point of indifference.

The first three photographs of use level at Ocean Drive (cars and trucks, RVs added, tour buses added) showed four vehicles, the second set had 8, the third had 12, and the fourth had 16. Table 21.1 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the photographs, and Figure 21.1 shows the

resulting norm curves, according to the types of vehicles shown in each photograph. The norm curve is derived by plotting the mean acceptability rating against the corresponding number of people as shown in each of the six photographs. Study findings suggest that increasing numbers of vehicles are found to be increasingly unacceptable, that the presence of RVs and tour buses are substantially less acceptable once aggregate acceptability has gone from acceptable (less than eight vehicles) to unacceptable (more than eight vehicles), and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range at more than eight vehicles in view at one time. This was determined by conducting a series of paired t-tests on each point on the three norm curves. No differences were found between acceptability ratings of photos with four or eight vehicles. Respondents found photographs with 12 and 16 cars significantly more acceptable than photographs that contained the same number of vehicles, but contained tour buses or RVs. No differences were found between photos that contained RVs and tour buses (12 vehicles - cars vs. RVs, t=7.52, p=.00; cars vs. tour buses, t=7.08, p=.00) (16 vehicles - cars vs. RVs, t=6.68, p=.00; cars vs. tour buses, t=5.31, p=.00).

Table 21.1. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Acceptability) (N = 128)

Q1. We would like to know how many and what types of vehicles you think could use the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road without you feeling too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different numbers and types of vehicles on the road. Please look at the following photographs.

Please rate each photo by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number and type of vehicles shown. A rating of "-4" means the photo is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the photo is very acceptable.

	Very Unacceptable						Very Acceptable			
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	Mean
Photo 1	1.6	1.6	1.6	3.9	0.8	7.0	17.8	21.7	44.2	2.67
Photo 2	1.6	2.3	5.4	4.7	3.9	7.8	14.0	21.7	38.8	2.27
Photo 3	0.8	0.8	1.6	2.3	1.6	3.1	3.9	27.1	58.9	3.17
Photo 4	10.2	8.6	10.9	10.2	10.9	12.5	14.8	13.3	8.6	0.18
Photo 5	7.9	11.9	13.5	10.3	8.7	14.3	16.7	8.7	7.9	0.01
Photo 6	9.3	10.1	10.9	10.1	13.2	13.2	10.1	14.7	8.5	0.12

Photo 7	51.2	12.6	14.2	7.1	7.9	1.6	3.9	0.8	0.8	-2.63
Photo 8	49.2	11.9	15.9	11.1	4.0	2.4	3.2	1.6	0.8	-2.59
Photo 9	21.3	17.3	15.0	13.4	7.9	8.7	8.7	5.5	2.4	-1.28
Photo 10	76.7	7.8	3.9	6.2	1.6	1.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	-3.36
Photo 11	67.4	15.5	7.8	3.9	0.8	1.6	1.6	0.8	0.8	-3.26
Photo 12	49.6	15.5	11.6	9.3	3.1	4.7	1.6	2.3	2.3	-2.53

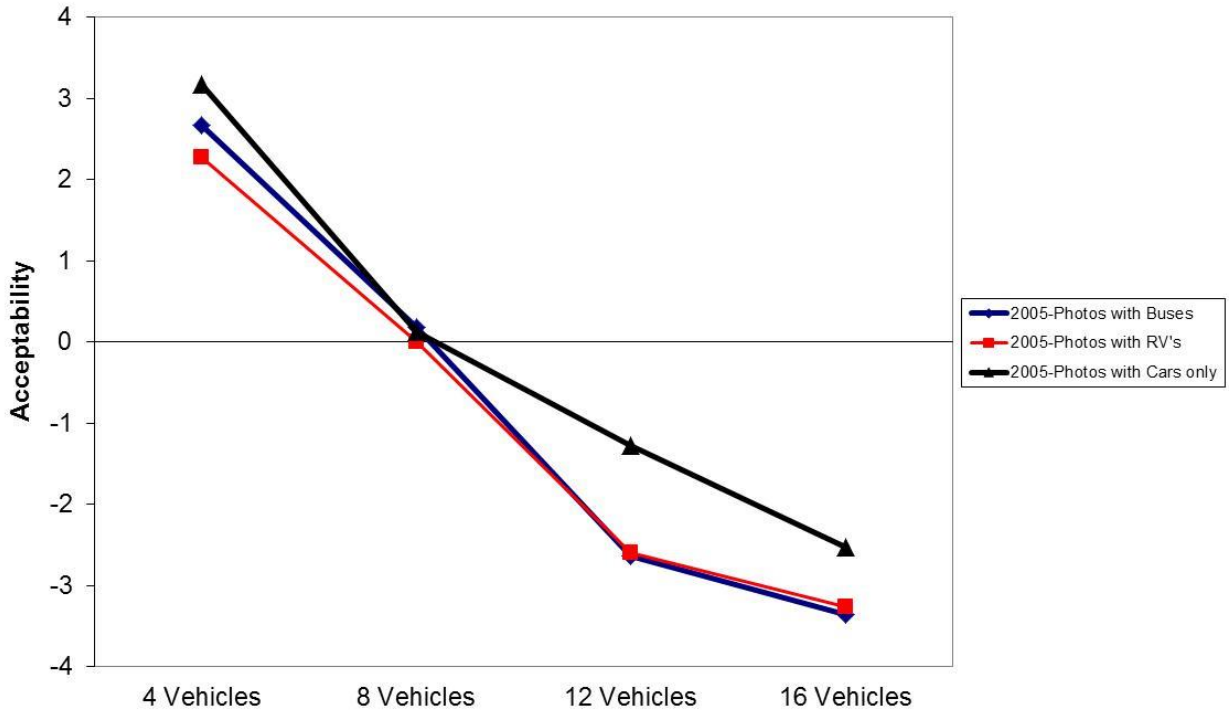


Figure 21.1. Ocean Drive Use Level Norm Curves

Two series of five computer-generated video clips were prepared showing a range of use levels (cars only) with both lanes in motion or the right lane stationary (parked).

Respondents were asked to evaluate the acceptability of the two sets of five study video clips showing increasing levels of visitor use. Acceptability was measured using a nine-point Likert-type scale ranging from (-4) "Very Unacceptable" to (4) "Very Acceptable". Zero represented the middle of this scale or the point of indifference.

The first video clip in each series at Ocean Drive showed four vehicles, the second set had 8, the third had 12, the fourth had 16, and the fifth had 21. Table 21.2 shows the mean acceptability

rating for each of the video clips with all traffic in motion, and Table 21.3 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the video clips with vehicles in the right hand lane parked. Figure 21.2 shows the resulting norm curves for all traffic in motion and for right lane traffic stationary (parked). Figure 21.3 shows a comparison of the video norm curve with all traffic in motion with the norm curve of static photos from 2004. Study findings suggest that increasing numbers of vehicles are found to be increasingly unacceptable and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range at more than eight vehicles in view at one time. No significant differences were found between video clips with all traffic in motion and static photographs. Some differences were found between video clips with all traffic in motion and vehicles parked in the right lane at higher use levels.

Table 21.2. Respondent Ratings of Study Video Clips (All Traffic in Motion) (N = 128)

Q2. Now we would like to show you some short video clips of vehicle traffic on the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road. These video clips show different numbers of vehicles. We would like to know how many vehicles you think could use this road without you feeling too crowded. Please rate each video clip by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of vehicles shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of vehicles is very unacceptable and a rating of "+4" means the number of vehicles is very acceptable.

	Very Unacceptable						Very Acceptable			
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	Mean
Video Clip 1	1.6	0.8	0.0	1.6	4.7	15.5	14.0	28.7	33.3	2.53
Video Clip 2	2.3	1.6	7.8	6.2	8.5	17.1	24.0	20.2	12.4	1.40
Video Clip 3	13.2	17.1	17.1	16.3	9.3	16.3	5.4	0.8	4.7	-1.06
Video Clip 4	33.1	19.7	22.0	10.2	2.4	7.1	0.8	1.6	3.1	-2.20
Video Clip 5	71.1	10.9	8.6	3.1	1.6	0.8	0.0	1.6	2.3	-3.23

Table 21.3. Respondent Ratings of Study Video Clips (Right Lane Parked) (N = 128)

Q3. Next, we would like to show you a few more short video clips of vehicle traffic on the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road. As you probably know, vehicles are allowed to park in the right-hand lane of the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road. These video clips show different numbers of vehicles driving and parked in the right-hand lane. Please rate each video clip by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the vehicles shown. A rating of "-4" means the video clip is very unacceptable and a rating of "+4" means the video clip is very acceptable.

	Very Unacceptable						Very Acceptable			
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	Mean
Video Clip 1	3.2	1.6	0.8	3.2	2.4	7.1	22.2	23.8	35.7	2.44
Video Clip 2	3.1	1.6	3.1	3.9	11.0	15.7	22.0	19.7	19.7	1.70
Video Clip 3	6.2	9.3	13.2	14.0	8.5	22.5	16.3	4.7	5.4	-0.02
Video Clip 4	18.0	18.8	14.8	15.6	8.6	10.2	8.6	1.6	3.9	-1.26
Video Clip 5	50.0	18.8	11.7	5.5	3.1	3.9	2.3	1.6	3.1	-2.59

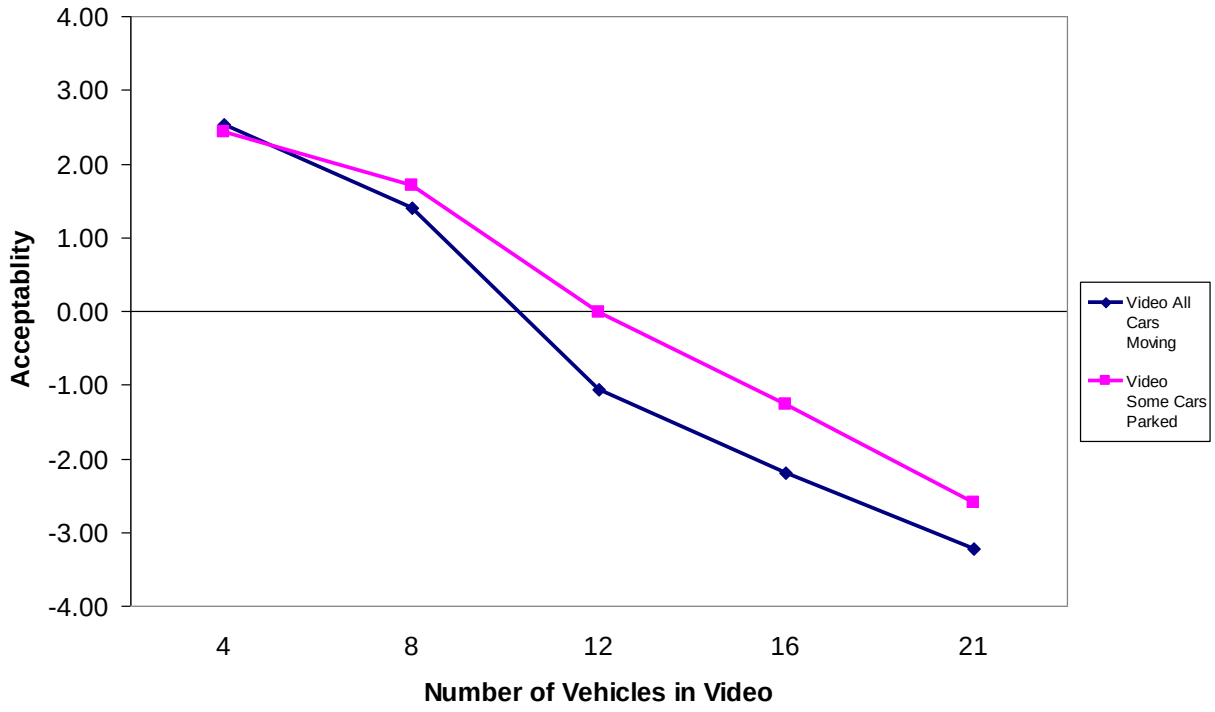


Figure 21.2. Ocean Drive Social Norm Curve for Videos

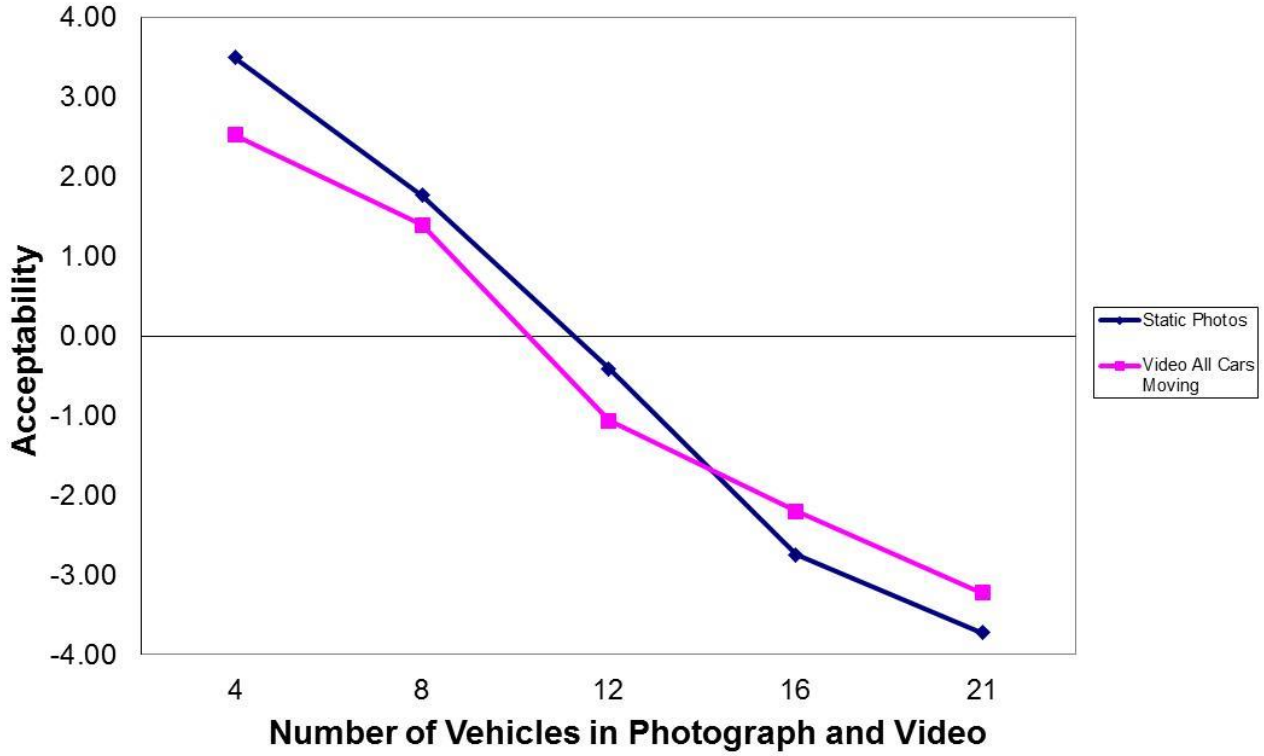


Figure 21.3. Comparison of norm curves from Ocean Drive videos (all vehicles moving) with static photographs from 2004.

The fourth question set asked visitors to report where they had parked along the high use section of Ocean Drive (Table 21.4). Most visitors parked at the Thunder Hole gift shop lot (57.4%) and/or at the Sand Beach lot (44.2%). About a quarter of visitors (24.0%) indicated that they did not park along Ocean Drive. Also, visitors were asked to evaluate a number of statements regarding parking on Ocean Drive itself (Table 21.5). Visitors generally disagreed with statements suggesting that parking is a problem or safety hazard. A majority of visitors (65.0%) supported allowing parking in the right lane (Table 21.6).

Table 21.4. Visitor-Used Parking Locations

Q4a. As you probably know, vehicles are allowed to park in the right-hand lane of the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road. Several parking lots are also provided. Where did you park along the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road today?		
	Frequency	Percent
I parked in the Sand Beach parking lot.	57	44.2
I parked in the Thunder Hole (gift shop) parking lot.	74	57.4
I parked in the Gorham Mountain Trail parking lot.	7	5.4
I parked in one of the three other parking lots between Sand Beach and this survey location.	18	14.0
I parked in the right-hand lane of Ocean Drive to visit Sand Beach.	16	12.4
I parked in the right-hand lane of Ocean Drive to visit Thunder Hole.	4	3.1
I parked in the right-hand lane of Ocean Drive to hike Gorham Mountain Trail.	2	1.6
I parked in the right-hand lane of Ocean Drive to visit other areas along Ocean Drive.	12	9.3
I did not park at all along Ocean Drive.	31	24.0

Table 21.5. Visitor Evaluations of Parking in the Right Lane

Q4b. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
1. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road is a safety hazard for drivers.	8.0	36.0	7.2	37.6	11.2	3.08
2. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road is a safety hazard for pedestrians.	7.9	39.4	11.8	29.9	11.0	2.97
3. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road is a safety hazard for bicyclists.	26.4	44.8	7.2	17.6	4.0	2.28
4. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road is a convenience for visitors.	37.1	43.5	8.9	7.3	3.2	1.96
5. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road contributes to traffic congestion.	18.1	48.8	13.4	16.5	3.1	2.38
6. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road contributed to the my enjoyment of the park.	13.3	29.7	29.7	17.2	10.2	2.81
7. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road interfered with my enjoyment of the park.	2.4	12.0	24.0	40.0	21.6	3.66
8. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road interfered with my ability to enjoy the park scenery.	2.4	13.4	16.5	48.8	18.9	3.69

Table 21.6. Visitor Support for Parking on Ocean Drive

Q4c. Do you support or oppose the policy of allowing vehicles to park in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road?		
	Frequency	Percent
Support	80	65.0
Oppose	22	17.9
Neither support nor oppose/don't know	21	17.1

The fifth set of questions asked visitors to evaluate a list of qualities important to a national park scenic drive experience (Table 21.7). They were also asked to rank the top characteristics (Table 21.8). Accessibility of park sites (81.4% of respondents) and traffic volume (72.1% of respondents) emerged as important aspects, though 8 different features were selected by at least half of respondents (Table 21.7). When asked to rank the top five qualities in importance among their selections, opportunities for leisure driving and adequate signage emerged as important factors, behind scenery (Table 21.8).

Table 21.7. Important Characteristics of Ocean Drive as a Scenic Road

Q5. A "national park scenic road" is often the major roadway that most visitors use to see and experience a national park. Roadways of this type typically have two lanes going in different directions or are one way. These roads generally have relatively low speed limits (25-45 mph), have few if any traffic signals, and may carry relatively large volumes of traffic. An example of a national park scenic road is Ocean Drive at Acadia National Park, which you just drove on today. Place a check in the first column next to the 10 most important features to you as a driver on this type of road.

Feature	Frequency	Percent
Scenery	105	81.4
Access to important park sites and attractions	93	72.1
Traffic volume (amount of traffic on roadway)	86	66.7
Pavement quality	77	59.7
Visibility of signs and/or traffic signals	75	58.1
Speed limit	72	55.8
Rate of traffic flow (smoothness, pace, continuity, etc.)	67	51.9
Opportunities to drive for pleasure	67	51.9
Spacing of moving vehicles (density of traffic)	61	47.3
Trees	59	45.7
Sidewalks	57	44.2
Ability to maneuver vehicle (change lanes, merge into traffic, etc.)	55	42.6
Roadway width (overall roadway width)	51	39.5
Pedestrians or bicyclists	48	37.2
Consistency of speed	34	26.4
Number of lanes on roadway	32	24.8
Aggressive drivers	30	23.3
A divided roadway (with a center median or barrier)	22	17.1
Left-turn only lanes at intersections	21	16.3
Consistency/reliability of travel time to destination	19	14.7
Interaction between vehicles	18	14.0
Overall travel time to destination	17	13.2
Truck and/or bus traffic	15	11.6
Right-turn only lanes at intersections	13	10.1
Two-way center left-turn lane	13	10.1
Other	11	8.5
Signalized intersections (or number of signals)	10	7.8
Frequency of merging traffic	9	7.0
Frequency of unsignalized cross-streets and driveway entrances	7	5.4
Timing of traffic signals (length of red/green for each movement)	6	4.7

Table 21.8. Ranked Features Important to the Scenic Drive Experience

Q5. A "national park scenic road" is often the major roadway that most visitors use to see and experience a national park. Roadways of this type typically have two lanes going in different directions or are one way. These roads generally have relatively low speed limits (25-45 mph), have few if any traffic signals, and may carry relatively large volumes of traffic. An example of a national park scenic road is Ocean Drive at Acadia National Park, which you just drove on today. In the 2nd column, rank the top five features of those you checked that you consider to be the most important on this type of road, with 1 being the most important.

Features	Scores and Ranking Based on Top 5 Only		Scores and Ranking Based on Top 5 and Top 10	
	Total Score	Overall Ranking	Total Score	Overall Ranking
Scenery	266	1	285.5	1
Access to important park sites and attractions	187	2	203.5	2
Opportunities to drive for pleasure	120	3	134.5	3
Visibility of signs and/or traffic signals	105	4	126.5	4
Traffic volume (amount of traffic on roadway)	97	5	122.5	5
Speed limit	89	6	108.5	6
Pavement quality	77	7	101.5	7
Rate of traffic flow (smoothness, pace, continuity, etc.)	73	8	92.5	8
Trees	66	9	85	9
Spacing of moving vehicles (density of traffic)	56	10	76.5	10
Sidewalks	53	11	71	11
Ability to maneuver vehicle (change lanes, merge into traffic, etc.)	49	12	66	12
Roadway width (overall roadway width)	31	13	47.5	13
Pedestrians or bicyclists	28	14	46.5	14
A divided roadway (with a center median or barrier)	27	15	34.5	15
Other	26	16	27.5	18
Consistency of speed	21	17	34	16
Consistency/reliability of travel time to destination	20	18	26	19
Truck and/or bus traffic	20	18	24.5	20
Number of lanes on roadway	16	20	29	17
Overall travel time to destination	11	21	16.5	24
Right-turn only lanes at intersections	11	21	16	25
Left-turn only lanes at intersections	10	23	19.5	21
Interaction between vehicles	10	23	17	23
Two-way center left-turn lane	10	23	15	26
Signalized intersections (or number of signals)	9	26	12.5	27
Frequency of merging traffic	6	27	9.5	28
Aggressive drivers	5	28	19	22
Frequency of unsignalized cross-streets and driveway entrances	5	28	7.5	29
Timing of traffic signals (length of red/green)	2	30	4.5	30

Visitors were then asked to select traffic and roadway conditions that together comprised an ideal experience (Table 21.9). Scenery (N = 72) and the absence of traffic problems (N = 56) were the most-selected conditions. Visitors were also asked to select from the same list conditions that comprised their least ideal experience (Table 21.10). Traffic congestion (N = 95) and excessive traffic speeds (N = 57) were cited by visitors most commonly in this regard.

Table 21.9. Aspects of the Ideal Roadway Experience.

Q6. Using the definition of a "national park scenic road" from question 5, please list up to four traffic and roadway conditions that together comprise your "ideal" national park scenic road.

	Frequency	Percent
Ability to see scenery	72	16.7
Few cars/less traffic volume/less crowding	56	13.0
Ease of traffic flow/maneuverability	38	8.8
Speed limit/slow/controlled	32	7.4
Availability of pullouts/rest areas/information	30	6.9
Miscellaneous	28	6.5
Clear signage	26	6.0
Good quality roads/well maintained	26	6.0
Access to attractions	23	5.3
Bicycle/pedestrian friendly	22	5.1
Parking	19	4.4
One-way	19	4.4
No SUV's/RV's/large vehicles/buses	10	2.3
Wide lanes/road	8	1.9
Divided highway/2 lanes/passing lanes	7	1.6
Safety	7	1.6
Few signs/traffic lights/intersections	3	0.7
Ease of access/use	2	0.5
Bus/train service	2	0.5
Non-commercial/limited development	2	0.5

Table 21.10. Aspects of the Least Ideal Roadway Experience.

Q7. Using the definition of a "national park scenic road" from question 5, please list up to four traffic and roadway conditions that together comprise your (hypothetical) "least favorite" national park scenic road.

	Frequency	Percent
Heavy traffic/congestion/crowds	95	25.0
No speed limit/aggressive drivers/high speeds	57	15.0
Buses/RV's/large vehicles/commercial traffic	38	10.0
Poor road conditions/not well maintained	29	7.6
Miscellaneous	22	5.8
Poor and limited views of scenery	21	5.5
Not enough pulloffs/rest areas	16	4.2
Lack of and unclear signs/maps/directions/information	15	3.9
Lack of parking/bad parking	14	3.7
Traffic lights/signs	12	3.2
One-way narrow roads	11	2.9
Pedestrians and bicycles on road	10	2.6
Two-way divided road	9	2.4
Parking on road in no parking areas	9	2.4
Lack of pedestrian and bicycle access	6	1.6
Limited access to attractions	6	1.6
Poor safety	4	1.1
Pollution/litter/trash	4	1.1
Noise	2	0.5

Visitors were also asked to evaluate statements about large vehicle (e.g., RV and bus) use on Ocean Drive (Table 21.11). For all four statements evaluated, visitors indicated in aggregate that they thought large vehicle use should be limited.

Table 21.11. Visitor Evaluation of Large Vehicle Use on Ocean Drive.

Q8. These questions ask for your opinion about management of large vehicles (tour buses, school busses, recreational vehicles) on the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree (-2)	Disagree (-1)	No Opinion (0)	Agree (1)	Strongly Agree (2)	Mean
a. Large vehicles should not be allowed to use Ocean Drive.	8.3	23.1	12.4	33.9	22.3	0.39
b. The number of large vehicles allowed to use Ocean Drive should be limited.	4.1	9.9	9.1	32.2	44.6	1.03
c. The number of large vehicles allowed to park at one time at Thunder Hole or other locations should be limited.	4.1	8.3	9.9	43.0	34.7	0.96
d. Use of Ocean Drive by large vehicles should not be limited.	34.7	39.7	7.4	11.6	6.6	-0.84

Finally, visitors were asked to evaluate a number of statements about private vehicle use on Ocean Drive (Table 21.12). Visitors indicated that private vehicle use should not be restricted along Ocean Drive, but that parking regulations should be strictly enforced.

Table 21.12. Visitor Evaluation of Private Vehicle Use Policies for Ocean Drive.

Q9. These questions ask for your opinion about management of private vehicles (e.g., cars driven by park visitors) using the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree (-2)	Disagree (-1)	No Opinion (0)	Agree (1)	Strongly Agree (2)	Mean
a. Private vehicles should not be allowed to use Ocean Drive during the peak season (all use should be via Island Explorer busses, commercial tour busses, or other public transit.)	49.6	32.8	7.2	8.0	2.4	-1.19
b. The number of private vehicles allowed to use Ocean Drive during the peak season should be limited.	23.2	26.4	12.0	33.6	4.8	-0.30
c. The number of private vehicles allowed to use Ocean Drive during the peak season should not be limited.	10.5	28.2	15.3	23.4	22.6	0.19
d. Private vehicles should not be allowed to park in the right-hand lane of Ocean Drive during the peak season (but busses and other forms of public transportation could park in the right-hand lane.)	33.9	37.9	9.7	16.1	2.4	-0.85
e. Parking regulations along Ocean Drive should be strictly enforced.	1.6	8.1	7.3	37.9	45.2	1.17

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 22.1). Average age was 43 years old (median = 44).

22.1. Age (N=93)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	1	0.7
20-29	15	9.8
30-39	11	7.2
40-49	38	24.8
50-59	24	15.7
60-69	4	2.6
70-79	0	0.0
80 and over	0	0.0

Mean = 43; Median = 44

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 22.2). The sample contains more females (54.6%) than males (45.4%). These percentages are reversed from the previous year's data during peak hours.

Table 22.2. Gender (N=97)

Q13c. Gender

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Male	44	45.4	55.0
Female	53	54.6	45.0

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 22.3). The largest percent of respondents, 48.5%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 22.3. Education (N=97)

Q13d. Education			
	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Less than high school	1	1.0	0.9
High school graduate	9	9.3	10.6
Vocational / trade school certificate	1	1.0	1.8
Some college	3	3.1	10.6
Two-year college	7	7.2	6.2
Four-year college	29	29.9	31.0
Graduate degree	47	48.5	38.9

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 4 through 6. Most visitors (85.6%) reside in the United States (Table 22.4). Twenty-four states were represented at Sand Beach (Table 22.5). The most common state of residency was Massachusetts (16.9%). Only 13 respondents were from another country (Table 22.6). These countries include Canada, France, Germany, Hungary and the United Kingdom.

Table 22.4. Place of residence (N=90)

Q13a1. Do you live in the United States?			
	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	77	85.6	90.4
No	13	14.4	9.6

Table 22.5. State of residence (N=77)

State	Frequency	Percent
Massachusetts	13	16.9
New York	11	14.3
New Hampshire	7	9.1
Maine	7	9.1
New Jersey	6	7.8
Vermont	4	5.2
Pennsylvania	4	5.2
Ohio	4	5.2
Maryland	3	3.9
North Carolina	2	2.6
Florida	2	2.6
Michigan	2	2.6
Rhode Island	1	1.3
Connecticut	1	1.3
Virginia	1	1.3
Georgia	1	1.3
Tennessee	1	1.3
Indiana	1	1.3
Wisconsin	1	1.3
Kansas	1	1.3
Arkansas	1	1.3
Texas	1	1.3
Utah	1	1.3
Washington	1	1.3

Table 22.6. Country of residence (N=13)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Canada	6	46.2
United Kingdom and Gibraltar (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland)	2	15.4
France	2	15.4
Germany	2	15.4
Hungary	1	7.7

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 22.7).

Visitors to Sand Beach tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3.2 (median = 3).

Table 22.7. Group size (N=99)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	3	3.0
2	44	44.4
3	16	16.2
4	17	17.2
5	11	11.1
6	4	4.0
7	2	2.0
8	2	2.0

Mean = 3.2; Median = 3.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 22.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (98.0%) were comprised of family and friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 22.9). One respondent at Sand Beach (1%) was part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 22.8. Group type (N=99)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?			
	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Family	81	81.8	79.8
Friends	10	10.1	10.9
Family and friends	6	6.1	6.7
Organized group / club / school / educational group	0	0.0	0.0
Other	2	2.0	1.7

Table 22.9. Commercial group (N=99)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?			
	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	1	1.0	0.8
No	98	99.0	99.2

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 22.10). A minority (44.3%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Most repeat visitors had been to the park only a few times, but a few visitors come to the park very often (Table 22.11).

Table 22.10. Previously visited (N=97)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?			
	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	43	44.3	55.0
No	54	55.7	45.0

Table 22.11. Number of previous visits (N=44)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	13	29.5
2	2	4.5
3	7	15.9
4	5	11.4
5	5	11.4
6 to 10	7	15.9
11 to 15	2	4.5
16 to 20	0	0.0
21 to 30	1	2.3
31 to 40	0	0.0
More than 40	2	4.5

Mean = 8.9; Median = 4.0

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 22.12). About three quarters of the respondents (75.5%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 22.13). Nearly two-thirds of respondents (65.4%) said it was because Mount Desert Island was too far from home. Only one respondent (3.8%) reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 22.12. (N=98)

Q8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	74	75.5	57.1
No	24	24.5	42.9

Table 22.13. (N=26)

Q8b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Too far from home	17	65.4	59.2
Want to visit other places	6	23.1	32.7
Something negative about Acadia National Park	1	3.8	0.0
Miscellaneous	2	7.7	8.1

Visitors were asked how long (in minutes) they stayed at Sand Beach (Table 22.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 80.8 minutes (median = 60).

Table 22.14. Length of stay (N=99)

Q6. Approximately how long did you stay at Thunder Hole (off-peak times) today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
5	4	4.0
10	6	5.9
13	1	1.0
15	5	5.0
20	10	9.9
30	15	14.9
45	4	4.0
60	18	17.8
75	1	1.0
90	6	5.9
120	13	12.9
150	1	1.0
180	7	6.9
240	3	3.0
300	3	3.0
360	2	2.0

Mean = 80.8 minutes; Median = 60.0 minutes

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" A majority of visitor (74.7%) to Sand Beach paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual (Table 22.15).

Table 22.15. Fees paid (N=95)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?			
	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	3	3.2	4.5
7-day entrance fee ($20/ vehicle or $5/ individual)	71	74.7	67.0
Pass [National Parks/ Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass]	20	21.1	26.8
Fee included in tour package	0	0.0	0.9
Don't know	1	1.1	0.9

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 22.16 through 22.18). Most of the respondents (93.9%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they were administered the survey. A vast majority of respondents (90.8%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and nearly two-thirds of respondents (63.3%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 22.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=97)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	5	5.1
No	92	93.9

Table 22.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=98)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	9	9.2
No	89	90.8

Table 22.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=98)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	21	21.4
No	62	63.3
Don't Know	15	15.3

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 22.19). A vast majority of respondents (98.0%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 22.19. Fishing (N=98)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	2	2.0
No	96	98.0

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 22.20).

Only one visitor responded to this question and reported that they fished at Hancock area.

Table 22.20. Fishing areas (N=1)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?	Frequency	Percent
Hancock area	1	100.0

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. All respondents (100.0%) identified themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 22.21). The vast majority (96.7%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 22.22).

Table 22.21. Ethnicity (N=73)

Q13e1. Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	0	0.0
Not Hispanic or Latino	73	100.0

Table 22.22. Race (N=91)

Q13e2. Race	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	2	2.2
Black or African American	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	88	96.7
Other	1	1.1

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Sand Beach. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Sand Beach. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 22.23 and 22.24. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents was the beauty, scenery, and views at Sand Beach. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visitor to Sand Beach, the most commonly reported items were crowding and weather (Table 22.24).

Table 22.23. Enjoyed most (N=274)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Miscellaneous	99	36.1
Beauty/scenery/views	72	26.3
Recreation activity	26	9.5
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	24	8.8
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	18	6.6
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic	12	4.4
A particular place	7	2.6
Warm water for swimming	6	2.2
Weather	4	1.5
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	3	1.1
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	1	0.4
Food, restaurants; popovers	1	0.4
Facilities	1	0.4
Challenge	0	0.0
Everything	0	0.0
Learning about natural and human history of the area	0	0.0

Table 22.24. Enjoyed Least (N=110)

Q3b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Miscellaneous	39	29.8
Weather	21	16.0
Crowding	21	16.0
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	10	7.6
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	9	6.9
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	5	3.8
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	5	3.8
Cost; fees	4	3.1
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	4	3.1
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	4	3.1
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	2	1.5
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	2	1.5
Dogs not allowed, pets not allowed	1	0.8
Lack of access for disabled	1	0.8
Nothing; everything was good	1	0.8
Tour busses; tours	1	0.8
Too commercial; too much development	1	0.8
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	0	0.0
Dogs; droppings	0	0.0
Noise	0	0.0
Too few facilities	0	0.0
User Conflicts	0	0.0
Visitor impacts	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: "If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?" Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 22.25. The most commonly occurring responses were the feeling that fees and costs should be reduced and more facilities should be provided.

Table 22.25. Management changes (N=59)

Q3c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
Miscellaneous	16	27.1
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	12	20.3
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	12	20.3
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	7	11.9
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	4	6.8
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	3	5.1
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	2	3.4
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	2	3.4
Allow pets	1	1.7
Control insects	0	0.0
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	0	0.0
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	0	0.0
More access for handicapped / seniors	0	0.0
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set a questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Sand Beach (Table 22.26). None of the issues were considered either a “small” or “big” problem by a majority of respondents.

Table 22.26. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Sand Beach (off-peak times)?

	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know (DK)	Mean
Difficulty finding a parking place.	53.1	26.5	14.3	6.1	1.6
Too many people in this area of the park	57.6	24.2	10.1	8.1	1.5
Too many people on the beach	67.7	18.2	8.1	6.1	1.4
Not enough restrooms	54.7	23.2	5.3	16.8	1.4

Standards of Quality

Questions were also asked to address standards of quality for the indicator variable of the number of people at one time at Sand Beach. A series of six computer-generated photographs were prepared showing a range of use levels. Study photographs are in Appendix A.

For the series of photographs, respondents were asked a battery of evaluative questions. Respondents were first asked to evaluate the acceptability of the six study photographs showing increasing levels of visitor use. Acceptability was measured using a nine-point Likert-type scale ranging from (-4) "Very Unacceptable" to (4) "Very Acceptable". Zero represented the middle of this scale or the point of indifference. The second question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph that showed the use level they would prefer to see. A third question asked visitors to indicate which photograph showed the condition that would be so unacceptable that they would not longer visit Sand Beach. Further, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that, "none of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer visit this area." The forth question asked visitors to select the photograph representing the highest level of visitor use they though the National Park Service should allow, or the point at which visitor use

should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs show a high enough level of visitor use to restrict use or that use should not be restricted at all. The fifth question referred to existing conditions. Respondents were asked to indicate the photograph that most represented the condition they "typically saw today". Findings from this series of questions are presented below.

The first photograph of use level at Sand Beach showed no people, the second had 172, the third had 334, the fourth had 516, the fifth had 686 and the last had 860 people. Table 22.26 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the photographs, and Figure 1 shows the resulting norm curve. The norm curve is derived by plotting the mean acceptability rating against the corresponding number of people as shown in each of the six photographs. Study findings suggest that increasing numbers of people are found to be increasingly unacceptable, and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range at 516 people at one time.

Table 22.26. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Acceptability)

Q4a. Acceptability of Study Photos

Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable.

	Very Unacceptable							Very Acceptable		Mean
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Photo 1	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	88.0	3.5
Photo 2	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	3.1	5.2	26.8	60.8	3.3
Photo 3	7.1	0.0	1.0	2.0	11.2	12.2	24.5	19.4	22.4	1.8
Photo 4	10.6	4.3	13.8	10.6	12.8	22.3	12.8	5.3	7.4	0.0
Photo 5	28.9	23.7	13.4	12.4	10.3	6.2	1.0	3.1	1.0	-2.0
Photo 6	68.0	11.3	4.1	7.2	4.1	0.0	2.1	2.1	1.0	-3.1

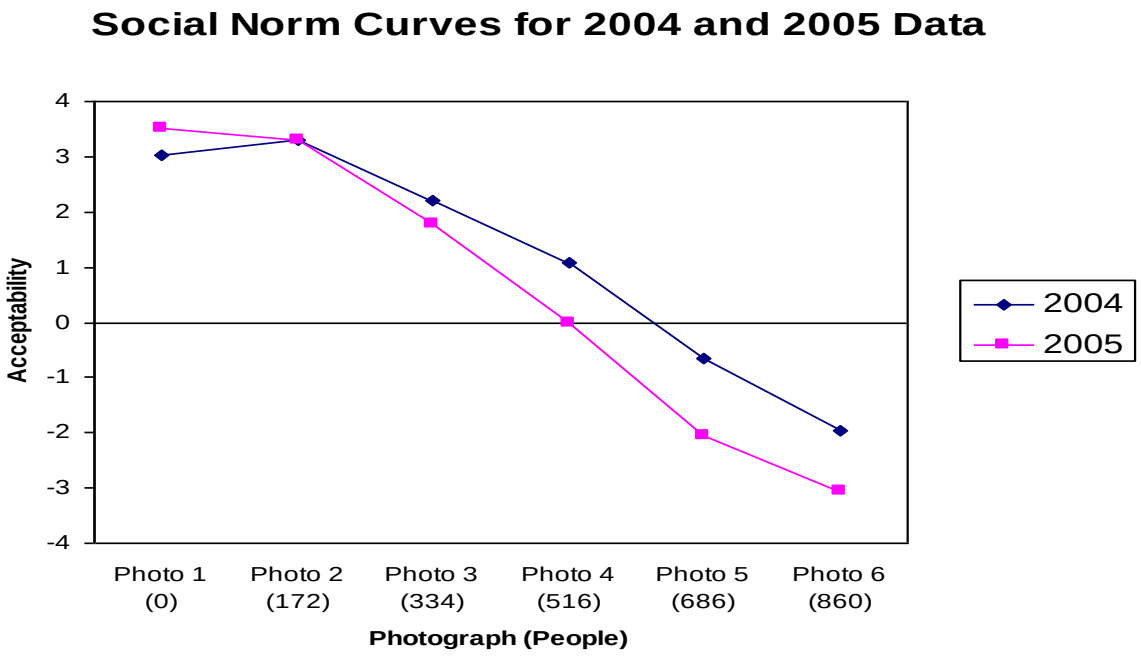


Figure 22.1. Sand Beach 2004 and 2005 Norm Curve

Table 22.27 present a breakdown of visitor preferences for the number of people at Sand Beach. Respondents prefer to see an average (mean) of approximately 205 people (median = 172) at Sand Beach.

Table 22.27. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Preference) (N=96)

Q4b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would prefer to see?		
	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0 People)	24	25.0
Photo 2 (172 People)	41	42.7
Photo 3 (344 People)	23	24.0
Photo 4 (516 People)	6	6.3
Photo 5 (688 People)	1	1.0
Photo 6 (860 People)	1	1.0

Mean = 205 People; Median = 172 People

The third question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph representing the number of people that would be "so unacceptable that you would longer use this area?" As shown in Table 22.28, visitors reported that an average (mean) of 728 people would be so unacceptable that they would no longer visit the area. Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs were so unacceptable that they would no longer visit. Approximately 17% of respondents selected this response.

Table 22.28. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Displacement) (N=98)

Q4c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.		
	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0 People)	0	0.0
Photo 2 (172 People)	1	1.0
Photo 3 (344 People)	4	4.1
Photo 4 (516 People)	10	10.2
Photo 5 (688 People)	26	26.5
Photo 6 (860 People)	40	40.8
None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area	17	17.3

Mean = 728 People; Median = 688 People

The next question in the series asked respondents to indicate which photograph represented the largest number of people that National Park Service should allow at Sand Beach, or, "at what point should people be restricted from using this area?" Responses to this question are shown in

Table 22.29. Respondents indicated that the National Park Service should allow an average (mean) of 561 people at Sand Beach before use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that "none of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area" or, that "visitor use should not be restricted". About 12% of respondents felt that none of the photographs showed a high enough number of people to restrict visitor use and 17% of visitors felt that use should not be restricted.

Table 22.29. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Management Action) (N=132)

Q4d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0 People)	0	0.0
Photo 2 (172 People)	3	3.1
Photo 3 (344 People)	10	10.2
Photo 4 (516 People)	28	28.6
Photo 5 (688 People)	22	22.4
Photo 6 (860 People)	6	6.1
None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area	12	12.2
Visitor use should not be restricted	17	17.3

Mean = 561 People; Median = 516 People

In order to gauge visitor perceptions of existing conditions, visitors were asked which photograph looked most like the number of people they typically saw on the day they were contacted for this study. As shown in Table 22.30, respondents reported that they typically saw an average (mean) of 191 people on the day they were contacted for this study.

Table 22.30. Number of people typically seen (N=126)

Q4e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0 People)	29	29.9
Photo 2 (172 People)	38	39.2
Photo 3 (344 People)	21	21.6
Photo 4 (516 People)	8	8.2
Photo 5 (688 People)	1	1.0
Photo 1 (0 People)	29	29.9

Mean = 191 People; Median = 172 People

Table 22.31 summarizes the findings of the previous tables on respondent ratings of study photographs.

Table 22.31. Summary Table

Summary Table

	Mean	Median
Acceptability	622	--
Preference	248	172
Displacement	724	860
Management action	557	516
Typically seen	191	172

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Sand Beach. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 22.32). Generally, perceived crowding levels were low. The majority of respondents (81.8%) reported feeling not at all to slightly crowded.

Table 22.32. Perceived crowding (N=99)

Q5. How crowded did you feel in the Sand Beach (off-peak times) area today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1 (Not at all crowded)	60	60.6
2	21	21.2
3	9	9.1
4	3	3.0
5	2	2.0
6	3	3.0
7	1	1.0
8	0	0.0
9 (Very crowded)	0	0.0

Mean = 1.8; Median = 1.0

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 22.33). A substantial majority of respondents (77.8%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. A majority of respondents (62.2%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. A substantial majority of respondents (79.6%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a majority of respondents (61.8%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 22.33. Crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park

Q7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
e. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1.0	91	12.1	57.6	20.2	3.87
f. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	2.0	25.5	10.2	35.7	26.5	3.59
g. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1.0	7.1	12.2	51.0	28.6	3.99
h. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	14.4	47.4	23.7	13.4	1.0	2.39

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar for all of these issues (Tables 22.34 to 22.36). In each case, the majority of respondents (from 57.8% to 73.3%) felt that conditions have not changed much.

Table 22.34. Change in crowding (N=45)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	10	22.2
I feel less crowded than I used to	2	4.4
My feelings of crowding have not changed	33	73.3

Table 22.35. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=45)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	16	35.6
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	3	6.7
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	26	57.8

Table 22.36. Change in availability of parking space (N=43)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	15	34.9
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	2	4.7
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	26	60.5

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 22.37). Three-quarters (75.5%) of respondents were aware. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 22.38) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 22.39). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 95.8% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 88.7% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 22.37. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=98)

Q10b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system**?**	Frequency	Percent
Yes	74	75.5
No	24	24.5

Table 22.38. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=96)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	92	95.8
No	4	4.2

Table 22.39. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=97)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	86	88.7
No	11	11.3

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees now knowing how they are used (Table 22.40). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 22.40. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park.	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week	4.3	80.6	15.1	2.11
$40 Annual Acadia Pass	19.8	72.1	8.1	1.88
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	13.8	75.9	10.3	1.97
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	27.1	71.8	1.2	1.74

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 22.41). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 77.6% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 22.41. Overall satisfaction (N=98)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?		
	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	8	8.2
Dissatisfied	4	4.1
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	10	10.2
Satisfied	34	34.7
Very satisfied	42	42.9

Mean = 4.0; Median = 4.0

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 23.1). Average (mean) age was 46.5 years old (median = 47).

Table 23.1. Age (N=152)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	0	0.0
20 to 29	19	12.7
30 to 39	29	19.3
40 to 49	37	24.7
50 to 59	43	28.7
60 to 69	19	12.7
70 to 79	3	2.0

Mean=46.0, Median=47.0

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 23.2). Slightly more males (53.9%) completed the survey than females (46.1%).

Table 23.2. Gender (N=152)

Q13c. What is your gender?

	Frequency	Percent
Male	82	53.9
Female	70	46.1

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 23.3). The largest percent of respondents, 48.7%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 23.3. Education (N=152)

Q13d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	1	.7
High school graduate	7	4.6
Vocational/trade school certificate	4	2.6
Some college	13	8.6
Two-year college degree	5	3.3
Four-year college degree	48	31.6
Graduate degree	74	48.7

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 23.4 through 23.6. Most visitors (91.3%) reside in the United States (Table 23.4). Twenty-four states were represented at Seawall (Table 23.5). The most common state of residency was Massachusetts (13.2%), closely followed by Maine (12.4%). Thirteen respondents were from six other countries (Table 23.6).

Table 23.4. Place of residence (N=137)

Q13a. Do you live in the United States?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	137	91.3
No	13	8.7

Table 23.5. State of residence (N=129)

State	Frequency	Percent
Massachusetts	17	13.2
Maine	16	12.4
Virginia	10	7.8
New York	9	7.0
Pennsylvania	8	6.2
Connecticut	7	5.4
New Jersey	7	5.4
Ohio	7	5.4
New Hampshire	5	3.9
Georgia	5	3.9
Illinois	5	3.9
Florida	4	3.1
Kentucky	4	3.1
California	4	3.1
Delaware	3	2.3
Maryland	3	2.3
Minnesota	3	2.3
Michigan	3	2.3
Washington DC	2	1.6
Wisconsin	2	1.6
Texas	2	1.6
Vermont	1	0.8
Indiana	1	0.8
Colorado	1	0.8

Table 23.6. Country of residence (N=13)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Albania	4	30.8
Canada	3	23.1
Germany	2	15.4
United Kingdom	2	15.4
Italy	1	7.7
Netherlands	1	7.7

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 23.7).

Visitors to Seawall tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 2.9 (median = 2).

Table 23.7. Group size (N=156)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today

	Frequency	Percent
1	12	7.7
2	83	53.2
3	18	11.5
4	19	12.2
5	12	7.7
6	5	3.2
8	1	.6
10 or more	4	2.6

Mean=2.9, Median=2.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 23.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (97.4%) were comprised of family and/or friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 23.9). No respondents at Seawall (low use site) were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 23.8. Group type (N=150)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?

	Frequency	Percent
Family	121	80.7
Friends	15	10.0
Family and friends	10	6.7
Other	4	2.7

Table 23.9. Commercial group (N=155)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	0	0.0
No	155	100.0

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 23.10). Approximately half of respondents (53.8%) had been to Acadia National Park before. Most repeat visitors had only been to Acadia a few times (Table 23.11).

Table 23.10. Previously visited (N=156)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	84	53.8
No	72	46.2

Table 23.11. Number of previous visits (N=89)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
1	19	23.2
2	10	12.2
3	8	9.8
4	5	6.1
5	3	3.7
6 to 10	8	9.8
11 to 15	3	3.7
16 to 20	7	8.5
21 to 30	7	8.5
31 to 40	2	2.4
More than 40	10	12.2

Mean=18.3, Median=5.0

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 23.12). Over half of respondents (59.7%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 23.13). Over half of respondents (57.4%) said it was because Acadia National Park was too far from home.

No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 23.12. (N=154)

Q7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes, likely	92	59.7
No, unlikely	56	36.4
Not applicable--I live on Mt. Desert Island	6	3.9

Table 23.13. (N=61)

Q7b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.		
	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	35	57.4
Want to visit other places	20	32.8
Something negative about Acadia	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	6	9.8

Visitors were asked how long (in minutes) they stayed at Seawall (low use site) (Table 23.14).

The average (mean) length of stay was 71.6 minutes (median = 60).

Table 23.14. Length of stay (N=145)

Q5. Approximately how long did you stay at Seawall (low use site) today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
1	1	0.7
3	1	0.7
5	2	1.4
7	2	1.4
10	7	4.8
15	8	5.5
20	4	2.8
30	27	18.6
40	5	3.4
45	8	5.5
60	33	22.8
70	1	.7
90	12	8.3
120	18	12.4
150	2	1.4
180	9	6.2
240	4	2.8
480	1	.7

Mean=71.16, Median=60.0

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" Approximately 34% of respondents did not pay a fee, 42.6% of respondents paid the 7-day entrance fee, and 20.3% of respondents used a park pass (Table 23.15).

Table 23.15. Fees paid (N=148)

Q9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	50	33.8
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	63	42.6
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	30	20.3
Fee included in tour package	0	0.0
Don't know	3	2.0
Other	2	1.4

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 23.16 through 23.18). Most of the respondents (94.7%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they were administered the survey. A vast majority of respondents (85.6%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and half of respondents (55.3%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 23.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=150)

Q11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	8	5.3
No	142	94.7

Table 23.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=153)

Q11b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	22	14.4
No	131	85.6

Table 23.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=152)

Q11c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	34	22.4
No	84	55.3
Don't Know	34	22.4

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 23.19). A vast majority of respondent (96.1%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 23.19. Fishing (N=153)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your personal group participate in freshwater fishing in this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	6	3.9
No	147	96.1

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 23.20). Four visitors responded to this question and reported that they fished at Echo Lake, Southwest Harbor, and on a lake.

Table 23.20. Fishing areas (N=4)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?	Frequency	Percent
Echo Lake	2	50.0
Lake	1	25.0
Southwest Harbor	1	25.0

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (98.5%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 23.21). The vast majority (95.4%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 23.22).

Table 23.21. Ethnicity (N=133)

Q13e1. Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	2	1.5
Not Hispanic or Latino	131	98.5

Table 23.22. Race (N=151)

Q13e2. Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0.7
Asian	6	4.0
Black or African American	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	144	95.4

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Seawall. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Seawall. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 23.23 and 23.24. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents was the beauty of Seawall. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visitor to Seawall, the most commonly reported item (16.9%) was the weather, followed by crowding (14.5%) (Table 23.24).

Table 23.23. Enjoyed most (N=434)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty/scenery/views	114	26.3
Miscellaneous	58	13.4
A particular place	51	11.8
Recreation activity	48	11.1
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	37	8.5
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	27	6.2
Weather	22	5.1
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	21	4.8
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic	17	3.9
Learning about natural and human history of the area	12	2.8
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	8	1.8
Food, restaurants; popovers	7	1.6
Everything	5	1.2
Facilities	3	0.7
Challenge	2	0.5
Warm water for swimming	2	0.5

Table 23.24. Enjoyed Least (N=172)

Q3b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Weather	29	16.9
Crowding	25	14.5
Nothing; everything was good	20	11.6
Miscellaneous	16	9.3
Too few facilities	13	7.6
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	11	6.4
User Conflicts	9	5.2
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	7	4.1
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	6	3.5
Cost; fees	5	2.9
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	5	2.9
Noise	5	2.9
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	5	2.9
Visitor impacts	5	2.9
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	4	2.3
Dogs; droppings	2	1.2
Too commercial; too much development	2	1.2
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	1	0.6
Dogs not allowed, pets not allowed	1	0.6
Lack of access for disabled	1	0.6
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	0	0.0
Tour busses; tours	0	0.0
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: "If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?" Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 23.25. The most commonly occurring response was that the National Park Service was doing a good job (31.6%).

Table 23.25. Management changes (N=77)

Q3c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	36	31.9
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	21	18.6
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	21	18.6
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	10	8.8
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	6	5.3
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	5	4.4
Miscellaneous	3	2.7
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	3	2.7
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	2	1.8
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	2	1.8
Allow pets	1	0.9
Enforce pet regulations	1	0.9
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	1	0.9
More access for handicapped / seniors	1	0.9
Control insects	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set of questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Seawall (low use site) (Table 23.26). The majority of respondents did not think that any of the issues were a “small” or “big” problem.

Table 23.26. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Seawall?

	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Mean
Difficulty finding a parking place. (N=158)	74.7	19.6	4.4	1.3
Too many people in this area of the park. (N=157)	71.3	23.6	5.1	1.3
Too many people in my view. (N=155)	80.6	17.4	1.9	1.2
Damage to soil and vegetation. (N=156)	61.5	25.0	3.2	1.4
Dogs off leash. (N=158)	70.9	12.7	4.4	1.2
Too much trash or marine debris in the area. (N=157)	82.2	11.5	4.5	1.2
Visitors taking beach cobbles (rocks) (N=156)	64.7	19.9	3.8	1.3
Visitors building objects with rocks. (N=154)	73.4	14.9	1.9	1.2
Visitors feeding wildlife. (N=104)	72.1	10.6	1.9	1.2
Visitors damaging intertidal organisms. (N=103)	63.1	18.4	5.8	1.3
Difficulty crossing road safely. (N=105)	66.7	26.7	4.8	1.4
Too much noise in this area of the park. (N=105)	81.9	16.2	1.9	1.2

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Seawall. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 (“Not at all crowded”) to 9 (“Extremely crowded”) (Table 23.27). Generally, perceived crowding levels were very low. A majority of respondents (72.2%) reported that they were “not at all crowded”.

Table 23.27. Perceived crowding (N=158)

Q4. How crowed did you feel at Seawall (low use site) today?

	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	72	45.6
2	42	26.6
3	23	14.6
4	9	5.7
5	5	3.2
6	3	1.9
7	4	2.5
8	0	0.0
9 Extremely Crowded	0	0.0

Mean= 2.1, Median= 2.0

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 23.28). A majority of respondents (62.2%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded but a substantial minority of respondents (30.1%) agreed that Acadia was too crowded. A majority of respondents (60.5%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. A majority of respondents (63.2%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a majority of respondents (62.3%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 23.28.

Q6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded (N=156)	5.1	25.0	7.7	53.2	9.0	3.4
There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time (N=157)	1.9	20.4	17.2	41.4	19.1	3.5
Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard (N=155)	5.2	14.8	16.8	51.6	11.6	3.5
The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right (N=154)	9.1	53.2	22.1	14.3	1.3	2.5

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Respondents were asked about their perceptions of the changes in visitor use to Acadia National Park over the past several years (Table 23.29). Over half of the respondents (65.3%) agreed that the number of visitors to Acadia had increased. Respondents were unsure about the changes in visitation from people off Mt. Desert Island with 49.5% of respondents having no opinion and 49.5% feeling that visitation had increased. A majority of respondents (73.0%) had no opinion about the change is visitation from people on Mt. Desert Island. Over half of the respondents (68.0%) had no opinion about the changes in conflict among different types of visitors.

Table 23.29. Perceptions of changes in visitation.

Q8c. We are interested in your perceptions of changes in visitor use of Acadia National Park over the past several years. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
The number of visitors to Acadia has increased. (N=101)	17.8	47.5	29.7	5.0	0.0	2.2
The number of visitors to Acadia from off Mt. Desert Island has increased. (N=101)	15.8	33.7	49.5	1.0	0.0	2.4
The number of visitors to Acadia from on Mt. Desert Island has increased. (N=100)	4.0	15.0	73.0	8.0	0.0	2.8
There is more conflict among different types of visitors to Acadia. (N=100)	6.0	8.0	68.0	15.0	3.0	3.0

Respondents were also asked about changes in their use of Acadia National Park over the past several years (Table 23.30). Over half of respondents (62.2%) said their use of Acadia has changed much over the years and the majority of respondents (63.3%) said that they do not visit Acadia more than they use to. A vast majority of respondents (91.0%) said that they do not use the park less because of changes in use in the park. A majority of the respondents (81.8%) said they did not start using the park more in the off-season because of changes in use in the park. Responses were relatively split concerning changes in use to weekdays, earlier and later times, and different areas in the park to avoid changes in use in the park. Over half of respondents (60.8% to 74.7%) said they did not change when or where they visited Acadia but a substantial minority (25.3% to 39.2%) said that they did change when or where they visit Acadia because of changes in use. A majority of respondents (84.8%) said

that their use of Acadia has not change and they are still satisfied with their experience in Acadia. A majority of respondents (76.9%) also said that their visits to Acadia had not changed and the experience provided by park has not changed due to changes in use but a substantial minority (23.1%) thought that the experience provided had changed. Only 1.3% of respondents said that they rarely visit the park because they do not like the changes in use that have occurred.

Table 23.30. Changes in respondents' use of Acadia National Park.

Q8d. We are interested in knowing if your use of Acadia National Park has changed over the past several years. Please respond to each of the following statements.	Yes	No
1. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years…. (N=820	62.2	37.8
2. I visit Acadia more now than I used to…. (N=79)	36.7	63.3
3. I visit Acadia less often because of changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=78)	9.0	91.0
4. I visit Acadia more in the off-season to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park…(N=77)	18.2	81.8
5. I visit Acadia more on the weekdays rather than the weekends to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….(N=79)	31.6	68.4
6. I visit Acadia during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….(N=79)	25.3	74.7
7. I visit different areas of Acadia to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….(N=79)	39.2	60.8
8. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but I am not as satisfied with my experience in the park because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….(N=79)	15.2	84.8
9. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but the type of experience provided by the park has changed because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….(N=78)	23.1	76.9
10. I rarely visit Acadia anymore because I don't like the changes in use that have occurred in the park (N=78)	1.3	98.7

Three issues were specifically addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Responses were similar for all of these issues (Tables 23.31 to 23.33). A majority of respondents felt that crowding and finding a parking place had not

changed but a substantial minority (45.7% to 37.7%) felt these conditions had gotten worse.

Over half of respondents (55.0%) felt that vehicle congestion on park roads had gotten worse.

Table 23.31. Change in crowding (N=81)

Q8e. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	37	45.7
I feel less crowded than I used to	0	0.0
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	44	54.3

Table 23.32. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=80)

Q8f. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	44	55.0
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	2	2.5
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	34	42.5

Table 23.33. Change in availability of parking space (N=77)

Q8g. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	29	37.7
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	1	1.3
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	47	61.0

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 23.34). The majority (77.9%) of respondents were aware. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 23.35) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 23.36). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 93.2% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 87.7% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 23.34. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=148)

Q9b. Were you aware the Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	116	77.9
No	33	22.1

Table 23.35. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=148)

Q9c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	138	93.2
No	10	6.8

Table 23.36. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=146)

Q9d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operations of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	128	87.7
No	18	12.3

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees now knowing how they are used (Table 23.37). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 23.37. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q9e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week (N=142)	4.9	81.7	13.4	2.08
$40 Annual Acadia Pass (N=133)	11.3	79.7	9.0	1.98
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week (N=132)	7.6	84.1	8.3	2.01
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life) (N=134)	32.8	64.9	2.2	1.69
$50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year) (N=134)	17.2	77.6	5.2	1.88

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 23.38). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 74.1% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 23.38. Overall satisfaction (N=139)

Q9f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	13	9.4
Dissatisfied	5	3.6
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	18	12.9
Satisfied	29	20.9
Very satisfied	74	53.2

Mean = 4.1; Median = 5.0

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 24.1). Average age was 45.0 years old (median = 46).

Table 24.1. Age (N=91)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	1	1.1
20-29	12	13.2
30-39	11	12.1
40-49	34	37.4
50-59	25	27.5
60-69	7	7.7
70-79	1	1.1
80-89	0	0.0

Mean = 45.0; Median = 46.0

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 24.2). More females (55.6%) completed the survey than males (44.4%).

Table 24.2. Gender (N=90)

Q13c. Gender

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Male	40	44.4	42.6
Female	50	55.6	57.4

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 24.3). The largest percent of respondents, 37.0%, had completed a four year college degree.

Table 24.3. Education (N=92)

Q13d. Education	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Less than high school	1	1.1	1.4
High school graduate	5	5.4	10.9
Vocational / trade school certificate	2	2.2	3.6
Some college	9	9.8	9.4
Two-year college	10	10.9	7.2
Four-year college	34	37.0	26.8
Graduate degree	31	33.7	40.6

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 24.4 through 24.6. Most visitors (97.7%) reside in the United States (Table 24.4). Twenty states were represented at Thunder Hole (Table 24.5). The most common state of residency was Massachusetts (14.3%). Only 2 respondents were from Canada (Table 24.6).

Table 24.4. Place of residence (N=86)

Q13a1. Do you live in the United States?	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	84	97.7	95.6
No	2	2.3	4.4

Table 24.5. State of residence (N=84)

State	Frequency	Percent
Massachusetts	12	14.3
New York	12	14.3
Pennsylvania	10	11.9
New Jersey	9	10.7
Maine	7	8.3
Maryland	6	7.1
Florida	4	4.8
Missouri	4	4.8
Virginia	3	3.6
Indiana	3	3.6
New Hampshire	3	3.6
Ohio	2	2.4
Michigan	2	2.4
North Carolina	1	1.2
Tennessee	1	1.2
Wisconsin	1	1.2
Nevada	1	1.2
California	1	1.2
Vermont	1	1.2
Connecticut	1	1.2

Table 24.6. Country of residence (N=2)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Canada	2	100.0

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 24.7).

Visitors to Thunder Hole tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3.3 (median = 3).

Table 24.7. Group size (N=99)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	3	3.0
2	41	41.4
3	15	15.2
4	22	22.2
5	6	6.1
6	6	6.1
7	3	3.0
8	3	3.0

Mean= 3.3; Median= 3.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 24.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (95.0%) were comprised of family and friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 24.9). No respondents at Thunder Hole were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 24.8. Group type (N=99)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?			
	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Family	71	71.7	76.6
Friends	15	15.2	12.1
Family and friends	8	8.1	8.5
Organized group / club / school / educational group	0	0.0	0.7
Other	5	5.1	2.1

Table 24.9. Commercial group (N=98)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?			
	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	0	0.0	1.5
No	98	100.0	98.5

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 24.10). A majority (61.1%) of respondents had been to Acadia National Park before. Most repeat visitors had been to the park only a few times, but a few visitors come to the park very often (Table 24.11).

Table 24.10. Previously visited (N=95)

Q9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?			
	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	58	61.1	55.8
No	37	38.9	44.2

Table 24.11. Number of previous visits (N=58)

Q9b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	21	36.2
2	11	19.0
3	6	10.3
4	3	5.2
5	1	1.7
6	1	1.7
7	2	3.4
10	1	1.7
12	4	6.9
15	1	1.7
20	3	5.2
25	1	1.7
30	2	3.4
50	1	1.7

Mean= 6.3; Median= 2.0

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 24.12). Over half of respondents (62.5%) said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion a Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 24.13). A majority of respondents (75.6%) said it was because Mount Desert Island was too far from home or that they wanted to visit other places. No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 24.12. (N=96)

Q8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes, likely	60	62.5	57.7
No, unlikely	36	37.5	42.3

Table 24.13. (N=37)

Q8b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Too far from home	16	43.2	51.7
Want to visit other places	12	32.4	36.2
Something negative about Acadia National Park	0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	9	24.3	12.1

Visitors were asked how long (in minutes) they stayed at Thunder Hole (Table 24.14). The average (mean) length of stay was 28.5 minutes (median = 20).

Table 24.14. Length of stay (N=95)

Q6. Approximately how long did you stay at Thunder Hole (off-peak times) today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
5	7	7.4
10	13	13.7
15	18	18.9
20	14	14.7
25	2	2.1
30	23	24.2
35	1	1.1
45	2	2.1
60	10	10.5
80	1	1.1
90	3	3.2
180	1	1.1

Mean=28.5; Median=20.0

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" A majority of visitor (70.2%) to Thunder Hole paid the 7-day entrance fee of either $20 per vehicle or $5 per individual (Table 24.15).

Table 24.15. Fees paid (N=94)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?			
	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	5	5.3	2.1
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	66	70.2	69.5
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	23	24.5	24.8
Fee included in tour package	0	0.0	1.4
Don't know	0	0.0	1.4
Other	0	0.0	0.7

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system

(Table 24.16 through 24.18). Most of the respondents (96.8%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they were administered the survey. A vast majority of respondents (92.5%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and over half of respondents (56.4%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 24.16. Island Explorer bus system use (N=95)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	3	3.2	8.1
No	92	96.8	91.9

Table 24.17. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=93)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	7	7.5	11.9
No	86	92.5	88.1

Table 24.18. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=94)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	24	25.5	21.3
No	53	56.4	64.7
Don't Know	17	18.1	14.0

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 24.19). A vast majority of respondents (95.8%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 24.19. Fishing (N=96)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	4	4.2	2.9
No	92	95.8	97.1

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 24.20). Only two visitors responded to this question and reported that they fished or would fish at Long Pond.

Table 24.20. Fishing areas (N=2)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

	Frequency	Percent
Long Pond	2	100.0

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (98.7%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 24.21). The vast majority (92.2%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 24.22).

Table 24.21. Ethnicity (N=78)

Q13e1. Ethnicity

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Hispanic or Latino	1	1.3	3.6
Not Hispanic or Latino	77	98.7	96.4

Table 24.22. Race (N=90)

Q13e2. Race	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0	0.0
Asian	7	7.8	0.7
Black or African American	0	0.0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	0.0
White	83	92.2	96.3
Other	0	0.0	3.0

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Thunder Hole. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Thunder Hole. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 24.23 and 24.24. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents other than miscellaneous things was the beauty of Thunder Hole. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visitor to Thunder Hole, the most commonly reported item (41.3%) was “miscellaneous”, followed by “crowding” (22.2%) (Table 24.24).

Table 24.23. Enjoyed most (N=257)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Miscellaneous	104	40.5	1.4
Beauty/scenery/views	65	25.3	58.0
A particular place	21	8.2	6.8
Recreation activity	18	7.0	7.4
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	11	4.3	1.1
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	10	3.9	4.3
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	8	3.1	4.0
Weather	8	3.1	5.4
Warm water for swimming	4	1.6	0.0
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	3	1.2	2.6
Learning about natural and human history of the area	3	1.2	1.4
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic	2	0.8	0.6
Challenge	0	0.0	0.0
Everything	0	0.0	0.3
Facilities	0	0.0	5.7
Food, restaurants; popovers	0	0.0	1.1

Table 24.24. Enjoyed Least (N=126)

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Miscellaneous	52	41.3	19.3
Crowding	28	22.2	29.5
Nothing; everything was good	16	12.7	8.2
Cost; fees	4	3.2	3.4
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	4	3.2	3.9
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	4	3.2	1.0
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	3	2.4	4.3
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	3	2.4	1.9
Weather	3	2.4	5.8
Lack of access for disabled	2	1.6	1.4
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	2	1.6	0.5
Noise	2	1.6	0.5
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	1	0.8	1.4
Tour busses; tours	1	0.8	1.4
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	1	0.8	1.9
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	0	0.0	0.5
Dogs not allowed, pets not allowed	0	0.0	0.0
Dogs; droppings	0	0.0	1.0
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	0	0.0	1.4
Too commercial; too much development	0	0.0	3.9
Too few facilities	0	0.0	2.9
User Conflicts	0	0.0	4.3
Visitor impacts	0	0.0	1.4

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: “If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?” Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 24.25. The most commonly occurring responses were the feeling that everything in the park is fine just as it is (42.0%) and a desire for more information and interpretation (17.4%).

Table 24.25. Management changes (N=69)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	29	42.0	32.7
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	12	17.4	19.2
Miscellaneous	9	13.0	4.8
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	5	7.2	2.9
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	5	7.2	11.5
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	5	7.2	4.8
More access for handicapped / seniors	2	2.9	3.8
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	1	1.4	9.6
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	1	1.4	5.8
Allow pets	0	0.0	0.0
Control insects	0	0.0	0.0
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0	0.0
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	0	0.0	1.0
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	0	0.0	0.0
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	0	0.0	3.8

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set a questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Thunder Hole (Table 24.26). None of the potential problems mentioned were considered problems by a majority of visitor to Thunder Hole during off-peak times.

Table 24.26. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Thunder Hole (off-peak times)?	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Don't Know (DK)	Mean
Too many cars on the road	61.6	29.3	9.1	0.0	1.5
Difficulty finding a parking place	69.4	23.5	4.1	3.1	1.3
Difficulty crossing the road safely	83.5	11.4	3.1	2.1	1.2
Too many people in this area of the park	60.6	31.3	6.1	2.0	1.4
Thunder Hole (off-peak times) viewing area too crowded	56.1	32.7	9.2	2.0	1.5
Not enough restrooms	68.7	13.1	7.1	11.1	1.3

Standards of Quality

Questions were also asked to address standards of quality for the indicator variable of the number of people at one time at Thunder Hole. A series of six computer-generated photographs were prepared showing a range of use levels. Study photographs are in Appendix A.

For the series of photographs, respondents were asked a battery of evaluative questions. Respondents were first asked to evaluate the acceptability of the six study photographs showing increasing levels of visitor use. Acceptability was measured using a nine-point Likert-type scale ranging from (-4) "Very Unacceptable" to (4) "Very Acceptable". Zero represented the middle of this scale or the point of indifference. The second question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph that showed the use level they would prefer to see. A third question asked visitors to indicate which photograph showed the condition that would be so unacceptable that they would not longer visit Thunder Hole. Further, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that, "none of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer visit this area." The forth question asked visitors to select the photograph representing the highest level of

visitor use they though the National Park Service should allow, or the point at which visitor use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs show a high enough level of visitor use to restrict use or that use should not be restricted at all. The fifth question referred to existing conditions. Respondents were asked to indicate the photograph that most represented the condition they "typically saw today". Findings from this series of questions are presented below.

The first photograph of use level at Thunder Hole showed no people, the second had 9, the third had 18, the fourth had 27, the fifth had 36 and the last had 45 people. Table 24.26 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the photographs, and Figure 24.1 shows the resulting norm curve. The norm curve is derived by plotting the mean acceptability rating against the corresponding number of people as shown in each of the six photographs. Study findings suggest that increasing numbers of people are found to be increasingly unacceptable, and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range at 31 people at one time.

Table 24.26. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Acceptability)

Q4a. Acceptability of Study Photos

Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable.

	Very Unacceptable						Very Acceptable			Mean
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Photo 1 (0)	4.1	0.0	1.0	1.0	4.1	2.1	3.1	0.0	84.5	3.27
Photo 2 (9)	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	5.1	7.1	10.2	75.5	3.50
Photo 3 (18)	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	5.3	7.4	14.7	30.5	41.1	2.91
Photo 4 (27)	4.2	2.1	10.4	9.4	11.5	24.0	13.5	10.4	14.6	0.88
Photo 5 (36)	20.4	20.4	17.2	8.6	7.5	9.7	6.5	4.3	5.4	-1.29
Photo 6 (45)	53.2	11.7	7.4	5.3	6.4	4.3	8.5	0.0	3.2	-2.34

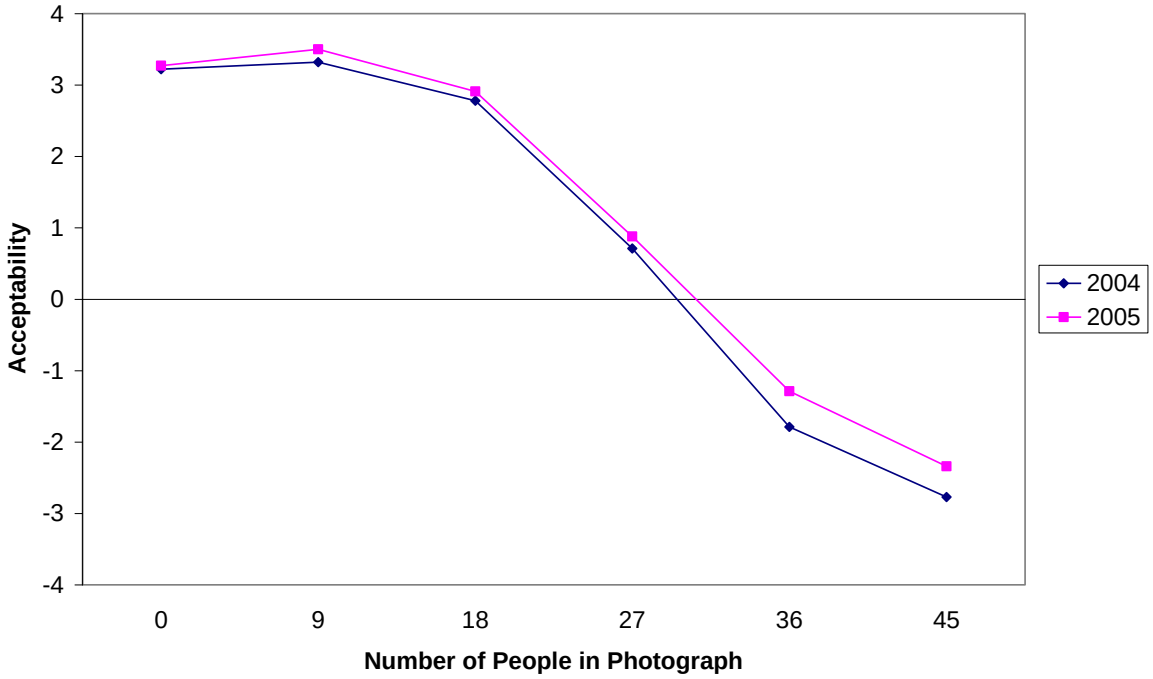


Figure 24.1. Social Norm Curve for Thunder Hole at Off Peak Times (2005) and Peak Times (2004)

Table 24.27 present a breakdown of visitor preferences for the number of people at Thunder Hole. Respondents prefer to see an average (mean) of approximately 13.1 people (median = 9) at Thunder Hole.

Table 24.27. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Preference) (N=98)

Q4b.
Which photograph shows the level of use you would prefer to see?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	23	23.5
Photo 2 (9)	28	28.6
Photo 3 (18)	33	33.7
Photo 4 (27)	10	10.2
Photo 5 (36)	2	2.0
Photo 6 (45)	2	2.0

Mean= 13.1; Median= 9.0

The third question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph representing the number of people that would be "so unacceptable that you would longer use this area?" As shown in Table 24.28, visitors reported that an average (mean) of 40.4 people would be so unacceptable that they would no longer visit the area. Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs were so unacceptable that they would no longer visit. Approximately one-third or 33% of respondents selected this response.

Table 24.28. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Displacement) (N=94)

Q4c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	1	1.1
Photo 2 (9)	0	0.0
Photo 3 (18)	0	0.0
Photo 4 (27)	4	4.3
Photo 5 (36)	19	20.2
Photo 6 (45)	39	41.5
None of the photos are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.	31	33.0

Mean = 40.4 ; Median = 45.0

The next question in the series asked respondents to indicate which photograph represented the largest number of people that National Park Service should allow at Thunder Hole, or, "at what

point should people be restricted from using this area?" Responses to this question are shown in Table 24.29. Respondents indicated that the National Park Service should allow an average (mean) of 29.6 people at Thunder Hole before use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that "none of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area" or, that "visitor use should not be restricted". Just over one-third of respondents (36.6%) felt that none of the photographs showed a high enough number of people to restrict visitor use and no visitors felt that use should not be restricted.

Table 24.29. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Management Action) (N=93)

Q4d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	0	0.0
Photo 2 (9)	0	0.0
Photo 3 (18)	8	8.6
Photo 4 (27)	31	33.3
Photo 5 (36)	15	16.1
Photo 6 (45)	5	5.4
None of the photos are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.	10	10.8
Visitor use should not be restricted.	24	25.8

Mean= 29.6; Median= 27.0

In order to gauge visitor perceptions of existing conditions, visitors were asked which photograph looked most like the number of people they typically saw on the day they were contacted for this study. As shown in Table 24.30, respondents reported that they typically saw an average (mean) of 17.8 people on the day they were contacted for this study.

Table 24.30. Number of people typically seen (N=94)

Q4e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	14	14.9
Photo 2 (9)	18	19.1
Photo 3 (18)	33	35.1
Photo 4 (27)	18	19.1
Photo 5 (36)	7	7.4
Photo 6 (45)	4	4.3

Mean= 17.8; Median= 18.0

Table 24.31 summarizes the findings of the previous tables on respondent ratings of study photographs.

Table 24.31. Summary Table

Summary Table

	2004 (Peak Times)		2005	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Acceptability	30	--	30.6	--
Preference	13.6	18	13.1	9.0
Displacement	39.2	45	40.5	45.0
Management action	30.6	27	29.6	27.0
Typically seen	25.2	27	17.8	18.0

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Thunder Hole. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 24.32). Generally, perceived crowding levels were low. A majority of respondents (58.0%) reported that they were "not at all crowded" (1 or 2 on the crowding scale).

Table 24.32. Perceived crowding (N=93)

Q5. How crowded did you feel in the Thunder Hole (off-peak times) area today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1 (Not at all crowded)	31	33.3
2	23	24.7
3	12	12.9
4	6	6.5
5	4	4.3
6	9	9.7
7	6	6.5
8	1	1.1
9 (Very crowded)	1	1.1

Mean= 2.9; Median= 2.0

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 24.33). A substantial majority of respondents (77.1%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded. Opinion was also split on the issue of use limits in the park. A substantial majority of respondents (64.6%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. A substantial majority of respondents (65.7%) disagreed that road and traffic conditions in the park create a safety hazard. Finally, a majority of respondents (55.3%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right.

Table 24.33. Crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park

Q7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean	2004 (Peak Times) Mean
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	0.0	9.4	13.5	56.3	20.8	3.89	3.65
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	2.1	12.5	20.8	41.7	22.9	3.71	3.63
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	2.1	18.8	13.5	46.9	18.8	3.61	3.58
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	14.9	40.4	30.9	10.6	3.2	2.47	2.46

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Three issues were addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space. Feelings about these three issues are similar (Tables 24.34 through 24.36). Nearly three quarters of respondents (71.2%) indicated that their feelings about crowding have not changed much, while 55.2% indicated that they believed that congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much.

Just over two-thirds of respondents (67.2%) indicated that finding a parking space today is about the same as before.

Table 24.34. Change in crowding (N=59)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	12	20.3	50.0
I feel less crowded than I used to	5	8.5	6.3
My feelings of crowding have not changed	42	71.2	43.8

Table 24.35. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=58)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	22	37.9	53.8
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	4	6.9	6.4
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	32	55.2	39.7

Table 24.36. Change in availability of parking space (N=58)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	13	22.4	43.1
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	6	10.3	12.5
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	39	67.2	44.4

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 24.37). Approximately 69.8% of respondents were aware. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 24.38) and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 24.39). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 92.7% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 80.2% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 24.37. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=96)

Q10b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	67	69.8	72.5
No	29	30.2	27.5

Table 24.38. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=96)

Q10c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?

	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	89	92.7	97.9
No	7	7.3	2.1

Table 24.39. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=96)

Q10d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system?			
	Frequency	Percent	2004 (Peak Times) Percent
Yes	77	80.2	88.1
No	19	19.8	11.9

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees now knowing how they are used (Table 24.40). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 24.40. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park.					
	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean	2004 (Peak Times) Mean
$20 per vehicle per week	0.0	79.8	20.2	2.20	2.14
$40 Annual Acadia Pass	21.4	72.6	6.0	1.85	1.88
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	10.7	81.0	8.3	1.98	1.95
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	16.5	82.4	1.2	1.85	1.77
$50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year)	13.3	75.9	10.8	1.98	

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 24.41). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 74.0% reporting being either “Satisfied” or “Very satisfied”.

Table 24.41. Overall satisfaction (N=96)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?		
	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	13	13.5
Dissatisfied	4	4.2
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	8	8.3
Satisfied	29	30.2
Very satisfied	42	43.8

Mean = 3.9; Median = 4.0

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 25.1). Average (mean) age was 47 years old (median = 45).

Table 25.1. Age (N=45)

Q13b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	0	0.0
20 to 29	5	11.1
30 to 39	8	17.8
40 to 49	13	28.9
50 to 59	13	28.9
60 to 69	5	11.1
70 to 79	0	0.0

Mean=47.0, Median=45.0

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 25.2). Slightly more females (51.1%) completed the survey than males (48.9%).

Table 25.2. Gender (N=45)

Q13c. What is your gender?

	Frequency	Percent
Male	22	48.9
Female	23	51.1

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 25.3). The largest percent of respondents, 52.2%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 25.3. Education (N=46)

Q13d. What id the highest level of formal education you have completed?

	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	0	0.0
High school graduate	0	0.0
Vocational/trade school certificate	1	2.2
Some college	1	2.2
Two-year college degree	3	6.5
Four-year college degree	17	37.0
Graduate degree	24	52.2

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 25.4 through 25.5. All visitors reside in the United States (Table 25.4). Fourteen states were represented at Valley Cove (Table 25.5). The most common state of residency was New York (23.8%).

Table 25.4. Place of residence (N=50)

Q13a. Do you live in the United States?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	50	100.0
No	0	0.0

Table 25.5. State of residence (N=42)

State

	Frequency	Percent
New York	10	23.8
Massachusetts	8	19.0
Maine	8	19.0
New Hampshire	2	4.8
Pennsylvania	2	4.8
Maryland	2	4.8
Virginia	2	4.8
Texas	2	4.8
Connecticut	1	2.4
North Carolina	1	2.4
Georgia	1	2.4
Florida	1	2.4
Ohio	1	2.4
Kansas	1	2.4

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 25.6). Visitors to Valley Cove tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 3.07 (median = 2).

Table 25.6. Group size (N=50)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today

	Frequency	Percent
1	6	12.0
2	20	40.0
3	8	16.0
4	9	18.0
5	5	10.0
6	1	2.0
8	1	2.0
9	0	0.0
10 or more	0	0.0

Mean=3.1, Median=2.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 25.7). The vast majority of visitor groups (96.1%) were comprised of family and friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 25.8). No respondents at Valley Cove were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 25.7. Group type (N=49)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?

	Frequency	Percent
Family	43	87.8
Friends	2	4.1
Family and friends	2	4.1
Other	2	4.1

Table 25.8. Commercial group (N=49)

Q2b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	0	0.0
No	49	100.0

Visitors were asked whether this visit was their first to Acadia National Park (Table 25.9). A majority of respondents (87.0%) had been to Acadia National Park before. Most repeat visitors have frequently visited Acadia National Park (Table 25.10).

Table 25.9. Previously visited (N=46)

Q8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	40	87.0
No	6	13.0

Table 25.10. Number of previous visits (N=35)

Q8b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
1	5	14.3
2	2	5.7
3	3	8.6
4	2	5.7
5	0	0.0
6 to 10	5	14.3
11 to 15	5	14.3
16 to 20	2	5.7
21 to 30	3	8.6
31 to 40	4	11.4
More than 40	4	11.4

Mean=18.3, Median=12.0

Visitors were asked whether they expected to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park in the next two years (Table 25.11). A majority of respondents (78.7%)

said that they planned to return. A follow-up question asked respondents who did not expect to return to the Mount Desert Island portion of Acadia National Park to specify why (Table 25.12). All of respondents said it was because they had other places they wanted to visit. No respondents reported that they would not return to the park because of something negative about Acadia National Park.

Table 25.11. (N=47)

Q7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes, likely	37	78.7
No, unlikely	6	12.8
Not applicable—I live on Mt. Desert Island	4	8.5

Table 25.12. (N=4)

Q7b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.		
	Frequency	Percent
Too far from home	0	0.0
Want to visit other places	4	100.0
Something negative about Acadia	0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0	0.0

Visitors were asked how long (in minutes) they stayed at Valley Cove (low use site) (Table 25.13). The average (mean) length of stay was 121.5 minutes (median = 90).

Table 25.13. Length of stay (N=50)

Q5. Approximately how long did you stay at Valley Cove (low use site) today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
30	5	10.0
40	1	2.0
45	5	10.0
60	9	18.0
90	10	20.0
120	6	12.0
180	7	14.0
240	3	6.0
260	1	2.0
300	1	2.0
480	2	4.0

Mean=121.5, Median=90.0

One question addressed payment of fees. Entrance fees are required for Acadia National Park. Visitors were asked, "What kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?" Twenty-eight percent of respondents did not pay a fee, 44.4% of respondents paid the 7-day entrance fee, and 22.2% of respondents used a park pass (Table 25.14).

Table 25.14. Fees paid (N=45)

Q10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park?		
	Frequency	Percent
Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park	13	28.9
7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)	20	44.4
Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)	10	22.2
Fee included in tour package	0	0.0
Don't know	1	2.2
Other	1	2.2

Visitors were asked to respond to questions regarding use of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 25.15 through 25.17). Most of the respondents (95.7%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus system on the day they were administered the survey. A majority of respondents

(67.4%) had not ridden the Island Explorer bus on any other day during their visit and almost half of respondents (46.7%) said they would not ride the Island Explorer bus during their visit to Acadia National Park.

Table 25.15. Island Explorer bus system use (N=46)

Q12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	2	4.3
No	44	95.7

Table 25.16. Past Island Explorer bus system use (N=46)

Q12b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	15	32.6
No	31	67.4

Table 25.17. Future Island Explorer bus system use (N=45)

Q12c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park?

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	17	37.8
No	21	46.7
Don't Know	7	15.6

Respondents were asked to report if they or anyone in their group did or would participate in freshwater fishing (Table 25.18). A vast majority of respondent (97.8%) said that they would not or did not fish.

Table 25.18. Fishing (N=45)

Q11a. Did/will you or any member of your personal group participate in freshwater fishing in this visit to Acadia National Park?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	1	2.2
No	44	97.8

Respondents were given the opportunity to specify where they did or would fish (Table 25.19). Only one visitor responded to this question and reported that they fished at Frenchman's Hull Pond.

Table 25.19. Fishing areas (N=1)

Q11b. If yes, where did/will you fish?	Frequency	Percent
Frenchman's Hull Pond	1	100.0

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (97.4%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 25.20). The vast majority (97.7%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 25.21).

Table 25.20. Ethnicity (N=39)

Q13e1. Ethnicity	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	1	2.6
Not Hispanic or Latino	38	97.4

Table 25.21. Race (N=44)

Q13e2. Race

	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0.0
Asian	0	0.0
Black or African American	0	0.0
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0.0
White	43	97.7
Other	1	3.3

Indicators of Quality

A series of questions was used to determine potential indicators of quality of the recreation experience at Valley Cove. An initial set of questions asked respondents to report in an open-ended format what they enjoyed most and least about their visit to Valley Cove. A variety of responses were given to these questions, and answers were grouped into similar categories and are presented in Tables 25.22 and 25.23. The most commonly reported item enjoyed by respondents was the beauty of Valley Cove. When asked what they enjoyed least about their visitor to Valley Cove, the most commonly reported item (22.4%) were miscellaneous comment, followed by the lack of information and education (20.4%) (Table 25.23).

Table 25.22. Enjoyed most (N=138)

Q3a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Beauty/views/scenery	43	31.2
Miscellaneous	23	16.7
Recreation activity	21	15.2
Maintenance; clean; trail maintenance	15	10.9
A particular place	11	8.0
Quiet; peacefulness, relaxed, tranquility; serenity	7	5.1
Access/accessibility; freedom; easy access	6	4.3
Lack of crowding; solitude; little traffic	6	4.3
Weather	3	2.2
Food, restaurants; popovers	1	0.7
Friendly, helpful rangers/people; hospitality	1	0.7
Warm water for swimming	1	0.7
Challenge	0	0.0
Everything	0	0.0
Facilities	0	0.0
Learning about natural and human history of the area	0	0.0

Table 25.23. Enjoyed Least (N=49)

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

	Frequency	Percent
Miscellaneous	11	22.4
Lack of information/education/interpretation/signs/direction	10	20.4
Lack of maintenance; poorly maintained	8	16.3
Lack of parking; difficulty parking	5	10.2
Crowding	3	6.1
Insects; bugs; mosquitoes	3	6.1
Noise	3	6.1
Restrooms; too few restrooms; restrooms not clean	2	4.1
Cost; fees	1	2.0
Dogs; droppings	1	2.0
Weather	1	2.0
Traffic	1	2.0
Cold water (too cold for swimming)	0	0.0
Dogs not allowed, pets not allowed	0	0.0
Lack of access for disabled	0	0.0
Nothing; everything was good	0	0.0
Slippery rocks; difficult footing	0	0.0
Too commercial; too much development	0	0.0
Too few facilities	0	0.0
Tour busses; tours	0	0.0
Trash; litter; cigarette butts	0	0.0
Unprepared visitors; too difficult; unsafe; scary	0	0.0
User Conflicts	0	0.0
Visitor impacts	0	0.0

Additionally, visitors were given the opportunity to report open-ended responses to the following question: “If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?” Again, a variety of responses to the question were recorded. Responses were grouped into similar categories and are shown in Table 25.24. The most commonly occurring responses were a need for better maintenance (41.7%) and desire for more information and interpretation (25.0%).

Table 25.24. Management changes (N=12)

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?	Frequency	Percent
Better maintenance, cleanliness / add trails, vistas / maintain trails	15	41.7
More information / education / interpretation / signs / rangers / maps	9	25.0
More facilities: restrooms, parking, water fountains, showers, picnic areas, restaurants, vending machines, etc.	5	13.9
Nothing / good job / perfect / not much	4	11.1
Miscellaneous	3	8.3
Allow pets	0	0.0
Control insects	0	0.0
Enforce pet regulations	0	0.0
Expand bus system / encourage bus use	0	0.0
Hot water, showers at campgrounds	0	0.0
Keep it natural / wild, protect the park	0	0.0
Manage congestion / limit use / limit RVs	0	0.0
More access for handicapped / seniors	0	0.0
More law enforcement (speeding cars), more rangers	0	0.0
Reduce costs / fees, low cost / fees	0	0.0

Visitor perceptions of impacts caused by recreation are a key component of developing potential indicators of quality. Therefore, a set of questions asked respondents the extent to which they felt that certain issues were a problem at Valley Cove (Table 25.25). The majority of respondents did not think that any of the issues were a “small” or “big” problem. However, a substantial minority of respondents thought that difficulty finding a parking place, damage to soils and vegetation caused by hikers walking off trails, and lack of maintenance were small to big problems.

Table 25.25. Evaluation of issues

Q3d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Valley Cove?	Not a Problem (1)	Small Problem (2)	Big Problem (3)	Mean
Difficulty finding a parking place (N=50)	59.2	36.7	4.1	1.5
Too many people on this trail (N=50)	82.0	16.0	2.0	1.2
Too many large groups on this trail (N=50)	95.8	4.2	0.0	1.0
Too many people on mountain summits and other destinations (N=49)	85.1	14.9	0.0	1.1
Damage to soil and vegetation caused by hikers walking off trail (N=50)	55.1	36.7	8.2	1.5
Dogs off leash (N=50)	71.7	21.7	6.5	1.4
Lack of trail maintenance (N=50)	54.0	36.0	10.0	1.6
Lack of information/orientation at trailhead (N=50)	64.0	34.0	2.0	1.4

Standards of Quality

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at Valley Cove. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 25.26). Generally, perceived crowding levels were very low. Over half of respondents (68.0%) reported that they were "not at all crowded".

Table 25.26. Perceived crowding (N=50)

Q4. How crowed did you feel at Valley Cove (low use site) today?	Frequency	Percent
1 Not at all Crowded	21	42.0
2	13	26.0
3	10	20.0
4	4	8.0
5	1	2.0
6	1	2.0
7	0	0.0
8	0	0.0
9 Extremely Crowded	0	0.0

Mean= 2.1, Median= 2.0

Visitors were also asked to respond to crowding-related questions about Acadia National Park as

a whole. Respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with general statements about crowding-related issues at Acadia National Park (Table 25.27). Half of respondents (53.2%) did not think that Acadia National Park is too crowded but 38.3% had no opinion. A substantial majority of respondents (70.2%) did not agree that there should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time. Responses were divided regarding road and traffic conditions being a safety hazard, 30.4% of respondents agreed that they were a safety hazard and 44.7% of respondents had no opinion. Finally, half of respondents (51.1%) agreed that the number of people using Acadia National Park is about right, but 27.6% disagreed.

Table 25.27.

Q6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded (N=47)	0.0	36.2	17.0	38.3	8.5	3.2
There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time (N=47)	2.1	17.0	10.6	38.3	31.9	3.8
Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard (N=47)	0.0	25.5	14.9	44.7	14.9	3.5
The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right (N=47)	6.4	44.7	21.3	25.5	2.1	2.7

In order to gauge the extent to which conditions in Acadia National Park have changed over time, respondents who reported having visited the park in the past were asked to judge how selected conditions in the park have changed. Respondents were asked about their perceptions of the changes in visitor use to Acadia National Park over the past several years (Table 25.28). Half of the respondents (59.5%) thought that the number of visitors to Acadia had increased. Respondents were unsure about the changes in visitation from people off Mt. Desert Island with 39% of respondents having no opinion and 53.7% feeling that visitation had increased. A majority of respondents (68.3%) had no opinion about the change is visitation from people on Mt. Desert Island. Over half of the respondents (58.5%) had no opinion about the changes in conflict among different types of visitors.

Table 25.28. Perceptions of changes in visitation.

Q8c. We are interested in your perceptions of changes in visitor use of Acadia National Park over the past several years. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly Agree (1)	Agree (2)	No Opinion (3)	Disagree (4)	Strongly Disagree (5)	Mean
The number of visitors to Acadia has increased. (N=42)	21.4	38.1	28.6	9.5	2.4	2.3
The number of visitors to Acadia from off Mt. Desert Island has increased. (N=41)	22.0	31.7	39.0	4.9	2.4	2.3
The number of visitors to Acadia from on Mt. Desert Island has increased. (N=41)	9.8	19.5	68.3	0.0	2.4	2.7
There is more conflict among different types of visitors to Acadia. (N=41)	7.3	7.3	58.5	19.5	7.3	3.1

Respondents were also asked about changes in their use of Acadia National Park over the past several years (Table 25.29). Over half of respondents (60.0%) said their use of Acadia has

changed much over the years and the majority of respondents (61.5%) said that they do not visit Acadia more than they use to. A vast majority of respondents (97.4%) said that they do not use the park less because of changes in use in the park. A majority of the respondents (86.8%) said they did not start using the park more in the off-season because of changes in use in the park. Responses were relatively split concerning changes in use to weekdays, earlier and later times, and different areas in the park to avoid changes in use in the park. Half of respondents (51.4% to 67.6%) said they did not change when or where they visited Acadia but a substantial minority (32.4% to 48.6%) said that they did change when or where they visit Acadia because of changes in use. A majority of respondents (83.8%) said that their use of Acadia has not change and they are still satisfied with their experience in Acadia. A majority of respondents (81.1%) also said that their visits to Acadia had not changed and the experience provided by park has not changed due to changes in use. No respondents said that they rarely visit the park because they do not like the changes in use that have occurred.

Table 25.29. Changes in respondents' use of Acadia National Park.

Q8d. We are interested in knowing if your use of Acadia National Park has changed over the past several years. Please respond to each of the following statements.	Yes	No
1. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years…. (N=40)	60.0	40.0
2. I visit Acadia more now than I used to…. (N=39)	38.5	61.5
3. I visit Acadia less often because of changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=39)	2.6	97.4
4. I visit Acadia more in the off-season to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=38)	13.2	86.8
5. I visit Acadia more on the weekdays rather than the weekends to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=37)	32.4	67.6
6. I visit Acadia during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=36)	33.3	66.7
7. I visit different areas of Acadia to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=37)	48.6	51.4
8. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but I am not as satisfied with my experience in the park because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=37)	16.2	83.8
9. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but the type of experience provided by the park has changed because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=37)	18.9	81.1
10. I rarely visit Acadia anymore because I don't like the changes in use that have occurred in the park…. (N=37)	0.0	100.0

Three issues were specifically addressed: crowding, congestion of vehicles on park roads, and availability of parking space (Tables 25.30 to 25.32). Responses were split concerning crowding with 40.5% of respondents feeling more crowded and 59.5% feeling about the same level of crowding. Respondents were split concerning road congestion with 48.6% of respondents feeling road congestion has gotten worse and 48.6% feeling it had stayed the same. Responses were split concerning finding a parking place with 56.8% of respondents feeling the ability to find a parking space was the same and 43.2% thought it was easier.

Table 25.30. Change in crowding (N=37)

Q9c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
I feel more crowded than I used to	15	40.5
I feel less crowded than I used to	0	0.0
My feelings of crowding have not changed much	22	59.5

Table 25.31. Change in congestion of vehicles on park roads (N=37)

Q9d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before	18	48.6
Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before	1	2.7
Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much	18	48.6

Table 25.32. Change in availability of parking space (N=37)

Q9e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years?	Frequency	Percent
It is much harder to find a parking space today than before	16	43.2
It is less hard to find a parking space today than before	0	0
Finding a parking space today is about the same as before	21	56.8

Attitudes Toward Management

Visitors were asked a series of questions to measure their attitudes about park entrance fees. Respondents were first asked if they were aware that funds derived from entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services and operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 25.33). The vast majority (84.4%) of respondents were aware. Respondents were then asked if they supported the use of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (Table 25.34)

and for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (Table 25.35). Respondents supported both uses of entrance fees with 93.3% supporting use for upgrading visitor facilities and services and 88.9% supporting use for operation of the Island Explorer bus system.

Table 25.33. Aware of entrance fee uses (N=50)

Q9a. Were you aware the Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	38	84.4
No	7	15.6

Table 25.34. Support of entrance fees for upgrading visitor facilities and services (N=45)

Q9b. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	42	93.3
No	3	6.7

Table 25.35. Support of entrance fees for operation of the Island Explorer bus system (N=45)

Q9c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operations of the Island Explorer bus system?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	40	88.9
No	5	11.1

Respondents were then asked to evaluate the current entrance fees now knowing how they are used (Table 25.36). A majority of respondents felt that all entrance fees are currently about right.

Table 25.36. Evaluation of entrance fees

Q10e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low (1)	About Right (2)	Too High (3)	Mean
$20 per vehicle per week (N=45)	8.9	82.2	8.9	2.0
$40 Annual Acadia Pass (N=43)	11.6	76.7	11.6	2.0
$5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week (N=41)	9.8	80.5	9.8	2.0
$10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life) (N=43)	25.6	74.4	0.0	1.74
$50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year) (N=43)	11.6	79.1	9.3	1.98

A final question asked respondents to rate their level of satisfaction with the value for the fee they paid on their trip (Table 25.37). Overall, visitors were quite satisfied with the value of the fee they paid with 78.9% reporting being either "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied".

Table 25.37. Overall satisfaction (N=38)

Q10f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip?

	Frequency	Percent
Very dissatisfied	4	10.5
Dissatisfied	0	0.0
Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied	4	10.5
Satisfied	7	18.4
Very satisfied	23	60.5

Mean= 4.2, Median= 5.0

Section Three

2007 Survey Results

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. Respondents were asked to indicate their age (Table 26.1). Average age was 44.4 years old (median = 46).

Table 26.1. Age (N=269)

Q 6b. Age group	Frequency	Percent
0 – 12 years	0	0.0
13 – 17 years	1	0.4
18 – 34 years	67	24.9
35 – 54 years	138	51.3
55 – 64 years	45	16.7
65 years and over	18	6.7

Mean = 44.4; Median = 46.0

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 26.2). Slightly more males (51.5%) completed the survey than females (48.5%).

Table 26.2. Gender (N=270)

Q 6c. Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	139	51.5
Female	131	48.5

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 26.3). The largest percent of respondents, 47.8%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 26.3. Education (N=276)

Q6d. Education level	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	2	0.7
High school graduate	10	3.6
Vocational/trade school certificate	2	0.7
Some college	19	6.9
Two-year college degree	10	3.6
Four-year college degree	101	36.6
Graduate degree	132	47.8

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 26.4 through 26.6. Most visitors (91.4%) reside in the United States (Table 26.4). Thirty-two states and the District of Columbia were represented at Acadia trails (Table 26.5). The most common state of residency was Maine (20.2%). Only 21 respondents were from another country (Table 26.6). Fifteen of these individuals came from Canada.

Table 26.4. Place of residence (N=269)

Q 6a. Do you live in the United States?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	246	91.4
No	23	8.6

Table 26.5. State of residence (N=247)

Q 6a1. State	Frequency	Percent
Maine	50	20.2
New York	42	16.9
Massachusetts	35	14.1
Pennsylvania	17	6.9
Connecticut	10	4.0
Florida	9	3.6
Maryland	8	3.2
New Jersey	8	3.2
Virginia	8	3.6
New Hampshire	7	2.8
California	5	2.0
Michigan	4	1.6
Missouri	4	1.6
North Carolina	4	1.6
Ohio	4	1.6
Rhode Island	4	1.6
Colorado	3	1.2
Illinois	3	1.2
Delaware	2	0.8
Georgia	2	0.8
Louisiana	2	0.8
South Carolina	2	0.8
Tennessee	2	0.8
Texas	2	0.8
Vermont	2	0.8
Alabama	1	0.4
Arizona	1	0.4
Washington DC	1	0.4
Kansas	1	0.4
Minnesota	1	0.4
Montana	1	0.4
Washington	1	0.4
Wisconsin	1	0.4

Table 26.6. Country of residence (N=21)

Q 6a2. Country	Frequency	Percent
Canada	15	71.4
Belgium	1	4.8
Denmark	1	4.8
Great Britain	1	4.8
Italy	1	4.8
Netherlands	1	4.8
Switzerland	1	4.8

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 26.7). Visitors to Acadia trails tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 2.8 (median = 2).

Table 26.7. Group size (N=288)

Q 1. Number of people in group	Frequency	Percent
1	40	13.9
2	143	49.7
3	30	10.4
4	40	13.9
5	20	6.9
6	8	2.8
7	3	1.0
8	1	0.3
9	1	0.3
12	1	0.3
21	1	0.3

Mean = 2.8, Median = 2.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 26.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (92.4%) were comprised of family and/or friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 26.9). Only five respondents (1.7%) were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 26.8. Group type (N=275)

Q 2a. Group composition	Frequency	Percent
Family	197	71.6
Friends	37	13.5
Family and friends	20	7.3
Organized group/club/school/educational group	0	0.0
Other	21	7.6

Table 26.9. Commercial group (N=286)

Q 2b. Is group part of tour?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	5	1.7
No	281	98.3

Visitors were asked how long they spent hiking trails at Acadia on the day of the survey (Table 26.10). The average (mean) length of stay was 2 hours, 4 minutes (median = 2 hours).

Table 26.10. Length of stay (N=269)

Q 5f. Time	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1 hour	27	10.0
1 hour to less than 2 hours	107	39.8
2 hours to 3 hours	94	34.9
More than 3 hours to 4 hours	23	8.6
More than 4 hours	18	0.4

Mean = 124 minutes; Median = 120 minutes

Standards of Quality

A series of survey items addressed standards of quality for two indicator variables: 1) impacts to soil and vegetation on trails and 2) the number of people on trails.

To address the first variable, five computer-generated photographs were prepared showing a range of trail impact levels. Study photographs are in Appendix C. For the series of photographs, respondents were asked a battery of evaluative questions. Respondents were first asked to evaluate the acceptability of the five study photographs showing increasing levels of trail impacts. Acceptability was measured using a nine-point Likert-type scale ranging from (-4) "Very Unacceptable" to (4) "Very Acceptable." Zero represented the middle of this scale or the point of indifference. The second question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph that showed the use level they would prefer to see. A third question asked visitors to indicate which photograph showed the condition that would be so unacceptable that they would

not longer hike the trail that they hiked that day. Further, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that "none of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer hike on the trails I hiked today." The fourth question asked visitors to select the photograph representing the highest level of trail impact they though the National Park Service should allow, or the point at which visitor use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs show a high enough level of visitor use to restrict use or that use should not be restricted at all. The fifth question referred to existing conditions. Respondents were asked to indicate the photograph that most represented the condition they "typically saw today". Findings from this series of questions are presented below.

The first photograph showed no impact, the second showed exposed roots and rocks, the third showed exposed roots and rocks and social trails, the fourth a widened trail with roots and rocks, and the fifth an even wider trail with roots and rocks. Table 26.11 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the photographs, and Figure 26.1 shows the resulting social norm curve. The social norm curve is derived by plotting the mean acceptability rating against the corresponding photograph numbers. Study findings suggest that increasing trail impacts are found to be increasingly unacceptable, and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range between photographs 2 and 3.

Table 26.11. Respondent Ratings of Trail Impact Study Photographs (Acceptability)

Q 3a. Impact level	Very Unacceptable							Very Acceptable		N	Mean
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4		
Photo 1	0.0	0.3	1.4	0.3	3.8	5.2	15.0	24.7	49.1	287	3.0
Photo 2	3.1	4.9	9.1	11.8	10.5	13.6	16.0	23.7	7.3	287	0.9
Photo 3	11.5	17.1	23.0	13.9	8.4	6.3	10.8	5.9	3.1	287	-1.0
Photo 4	32.2	22.7	16.4	9.1	5.2	3.8	5.6	3.8	1.0	286	-2.1
Photo 5	67.9	8.7	8.0	4.2	2.4	1.7	3.8	1.7	1.4	287	-3.0

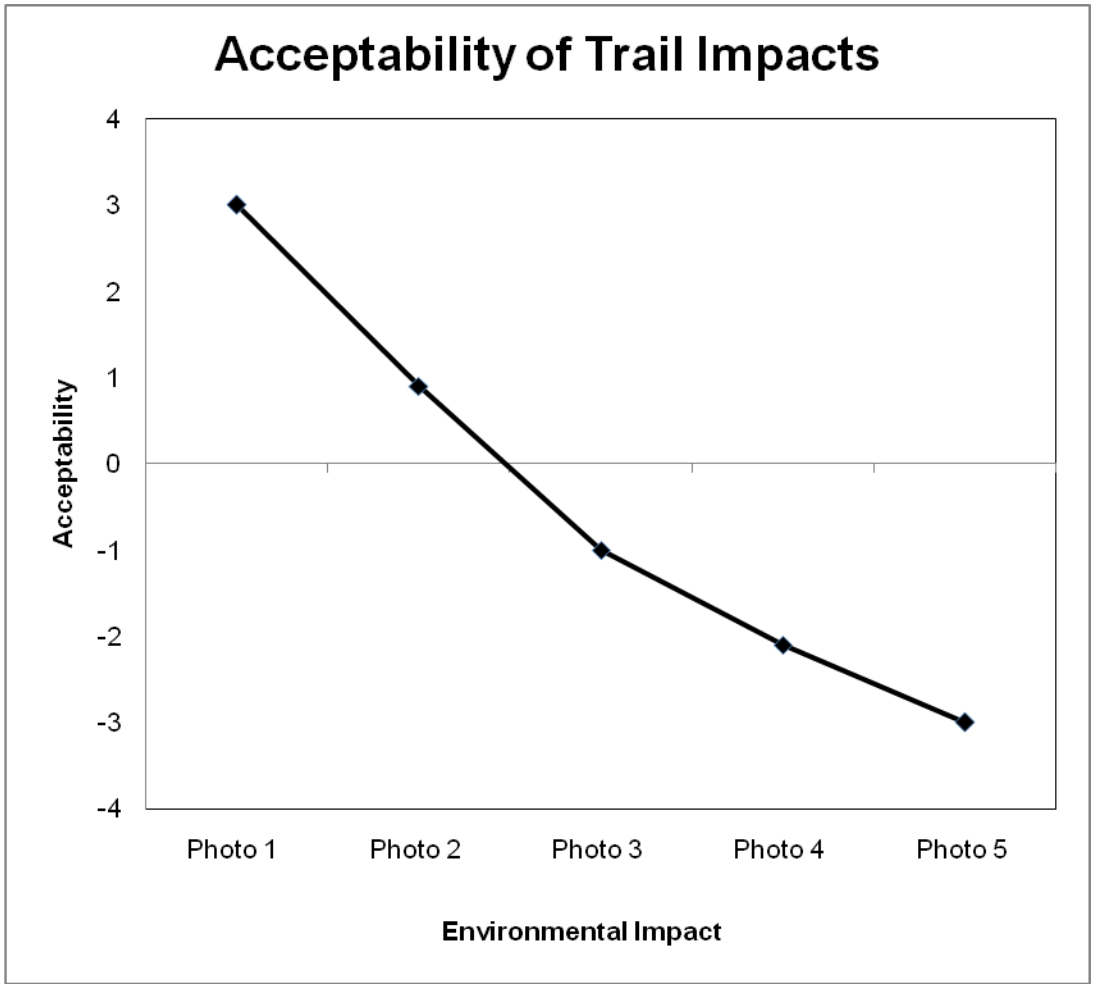


Figure 26.1. Social norm curve for acceptability of trail impacts

Table 26.12 presents a breakdown of visitor preferences for trail impacts at Acadia. Respondents prefer to see very few impacts to trails, with a mean photo preference of 1.2

Table 26.12. Respondent Ratings of Trail Impact Study Photographs (Preference)

Q 3b. Impact level	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1	233	84.4
Photo 2	31	11.2
Photo 3	8	2.9
Photo 4	3	1.1
Photo 5	1	0.4

Mean photo number = 1.2

The third question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph representing the trail impact that would be "so unacceptable that you would longer hike on the trails you hiked today?" As shown in Table 26.13, visitors reported that trail impacts corresponding to an average photograph number of 4.3 would be so unacceptable that they would no longer visit the area. Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs were so unacceptable that they would no longer visit. Approximately 45% of respondents selected this response.

Table 26.13. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Displacement)

Q 3c. Impact level	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1	1	0.3
Photo 2	5	1.8
Photo 3	19	6.9
Photo 4	46	16.7
Photo 5	79	28.7
None of the photographs showed a level of environmental impact high enough to keep me from hiking on the trails	125	45.4

Mean photo number = 4.3

The next question in the series asked respondents to indicate which photograph represented the highest impact level that the National Park Service should allow at Acadia, or, "at what point should people be restricted from using these trails?" Responses to this question are shown in Table 26.14. Respondents indicated that the National Park Service should allow trail impacts corresponding to an average (mean) photo number of 2.8 before use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that "none of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict people from hiking on these trails" or, that "the number of people hiking on these trails should not be restricted". About 17% of respondents felt

that none of the photographs showed a high enough number of people to restrict visitor use and 5% felt that visitor use should not be restricted.

Table 26.14. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Management Action)

Q 3d. Impact level	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1	31	10.6
Photo 2	66	22.6
Photo 3	74	25.3
Photo 4	39	13.3
Photo 5	17	5.8
None of the photographs showed a level of environmental impact high enough to restrict people from hiking on trails	51	17.5
Number of people hiking on trails should not be restricted	14	4.8

Mean photo number = 2.8

In order to gauge visitor perceptions of existing conditions, visitors were asked which photograph looked most like the amount of environmental impact they saw on the day they were contacted for this study. As shown in Table 26.15, respondents reported that they saw trail impacts corresponding to a mean photo number of 1.7 on the day they were contacted for this study.

Table 26.15. Level of trail impacts typically seen

Q 3e. Impact level	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1	118	43.5
Photo 2	127	46.9
Photo 3	20	7.4
Photo 4	4	1.5
Photo 5	2	0.7

Mean photo number = 1.7

Table 26.16 summarizes the findings of the previous tables on respondent ratings of study photographs.

Table 26.16. Summary Table

	N	Mean photo number
Impact level respondents find acceptable to see	--	2.5
Impact level respondents find preferable to see	276	1.2
Impact level that would lead to respondents' displacement	150	4.3
Highest impact level that respondents feel the NPS should allow	227	2.8
Impact level that respondents typically saw	271	1.7

To address the second variable, 12 encounter scenarios were presented to survey respondents. These included: 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, and more than 100 other hikers. Respondents were asked a battery of evaluative questions related to the encounter levels. Respondents were first asked to evaluate the acceptability of each encounter scenario. Acceptability was measured using a nine-point Likert-type scale ranging from (-4) "Very Unacceptable" to (4) "Very Acceptable". Zero represented the middle of this scale or the point of indifference. The second question in the series asked respondents to indicate the number of other hikers per day that they would prefer to see. A third question asked visitors to indicate the maximum number of hikers per day that they could see before they would no longer hike the trail that they hiked that day. Further, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that they would "continue to hike these trails regardless of the number of other hikers seen." The fourth question asked visitors to indicate the maximum number of hikers seen per day that they thought the National Park Service should allow, or the point at which visitor use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that the number of hikers on trails should not be restricted. The fifth question referred to existing conditions. Respondents were asked to indicate the approximate number of hikers that they saw that day. Findings from this series of questions are presented below.

Table 26.17 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the encounter scenarios, and Figure 26.2 shows the resulting social norm curve. The social norm curve is derived by plotting the mean acceptability rating against the corresponding number of encounters. Study findings suggest that increasing encounter levels are found to be increasingly unacceptable, and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range at 37.5 hikers.

Table 26.17. Respondent Ratings of Hiker Encounters (Acceptability)

Q 5a. Use level	Very unacceptable							Very acceptable		
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	Mean
No other hikers	3.8	1.1	1.1	0.0	5.3	1.5	3.4	4.2	79.5	3.2
10 other hikers	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.4	2.6	5.5	7.4	18.4	63.2	3.2
20 other hikers	4.1	0.7	3.0	3.7	6.0	9.0	22.0	21.6	29.9	2.1
30 other hikers	6.9	3.8	4.6	8.8	12.3	19.5	14.6	16.5	13.0	0.9
40 other hikers	16.7	6.8	10.6	9.1	16.7	14.0	13.3	6.1	6.8	-0.3
50 other hikers	26.8	10.5	8.6	12.8	16.0	9.3	7.0	3.5	5.4	-1.1
60 other hikers	36.2	11.2	15.4	11.9	11.2	3.8	3.8	3.8	2.7	-1.9
70 other hikers	47.9	13.4	13.8	8.4	5.7	3.8	3.4	1.1	2.3	-2.4
80 other hikers	60.0	13.8	10.4	3.5	4.6	2.7	2.3	1.2	1.5	-2.9
90 other hikers	70.0	11.9	5.4	2.7	5.0	1.2	1.5	0.8	1.5	-3.4
100 other hikers	78.5	8.4	2.7	3.1	3.1	1.9	0.4	0.4	1.5	-3.5
More than 100 other hikers	85.6	3.4	3.8	0.8	3.4	1.1	0.0	0.4	1.5	-3.7

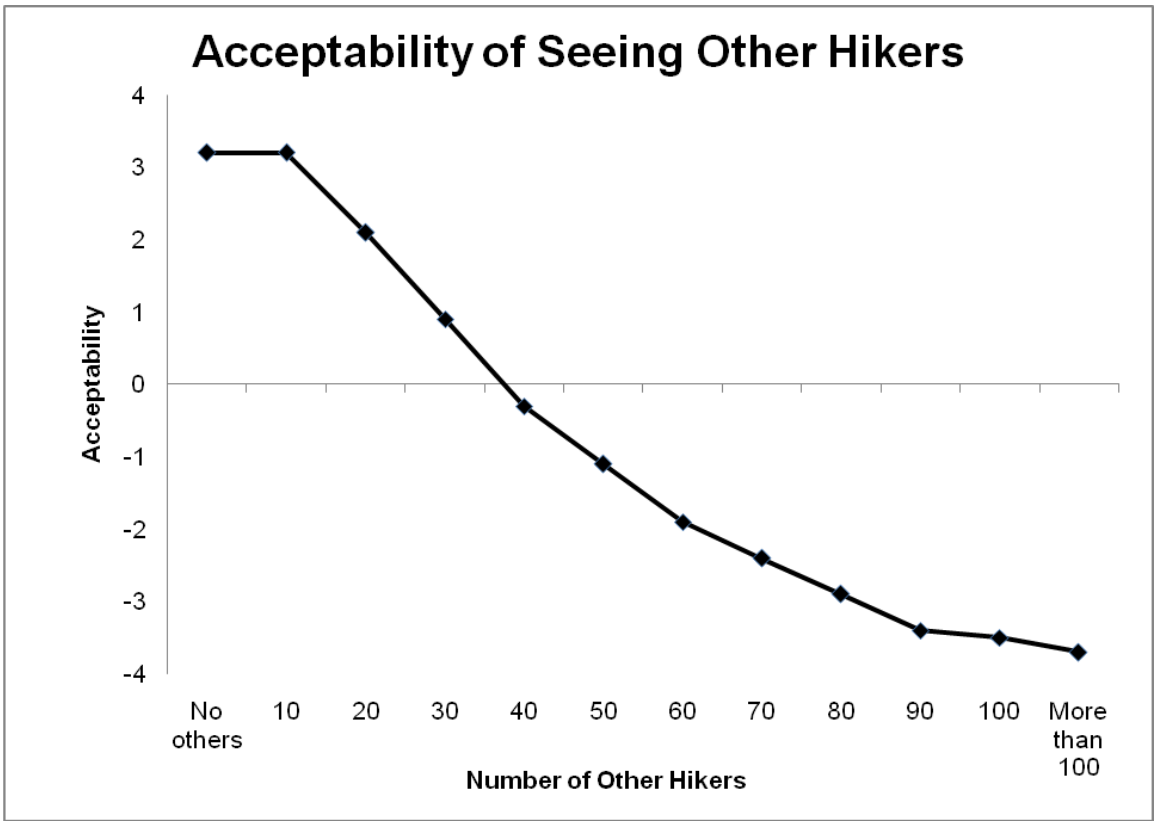


Figure 26.2. Norm curve for the acceptability of seeing other hikers

Table 26.18 presents a breakdown of visitor preferences for trail impacts at Acadia. Respondents prefer to encounter an average of 15.4 other hikers a day on Acadia trails.

Table 26.18. Respondent Ratings of Hiker Encounters (Preference)

Q 5b. Use level	Frequency	Percent
No other hikers	43	16.4
1 - 10 other hikers	87	33.2
11 - 20 other hikers	77	29.4
21 - 30 other hikers	32	12.2
31 - 40 other hikers	8	3.1
41 - 50 other hikers	13	5.0
51 - 60 other hikers	2	0.8
61 - 70 other hikers	0	0.0
71 - 80 other hikers	0	0.0
81 - 90 other hikers	0	0.0
91 - 100 other hikers	0	0.0
More than 100 other hikers	0	0.0

Mean = 15.4; Median = 12.0

The third question in the series asked respondents to indicate the number of hikers they could see per day before they would "no longer hike on the trails you hiked today?" As shown in Table 26.19, visitors reported that an average (mean) of 54.2 encounters per day would be so unacceptable that they would no longer visit the area. Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate that they would continue hiking trails regardless of the number of other hikers seen. Approximately one quarter of respondents selected this response.

Table 26.19. Respondent Ratings of Hiker Encounters (Displacement)

Q 5c. Use level	Frequency	Percent
No other hikers	0	0.0
1 - 10 other hikers	3	1.1
11 - 20 other hikers	29	10.3
21 - 30 other hikers	41	14.6
31 - 40 other hikers	30	10.7
41 - 50 other hikers	50	17.8
51 - 60 other hikers	12	4.3
61 - 70 other hikers	12	4.3
71 - 80 other hikers	7	2.5
81 - 90 other hikers	0	0.0
91 - 100 other hikers	16	5.7
More than 100 other hikers	8	2.8
Would continue to hike trails regardless of the number of other hikers seen	73	26.0

Mean = 54.2; median = 44.0

The next question in the series asked respondents to indicate the maximum number of hikers seen per day that the National Park Service should allow at Acadia, or, "at what point should people be restricted from using these trails?" Responses to this question are shown in Table 26.20. Respondents indicated that the National Park Service should allow an average (mean) of 84.5 hikers per day before use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that "the number of people hiking on these trails should not be restricted." About 57.5% of respondents felt that visitor use should not be restricted.

Table 26.20. Respondent Ratings of Hiker Encounters (Management Action)

Q 5d. Use level	Frequency	Percent
No other hikers	3	1.1
1 - 10 other hikers	1	0.4
11 - 20 other hikers	7	2.7
21 - 30 other hikers	14	5.4
31 - 40 other hikers	9	3.4
41 - 50 other hikers	28	10.7
51 - 60 other hikers	5	1.9
61 - 70 other hikers	2	0.8
71 - 80 other hikers	6	2.3
81 - 90 other hikers	1	0.4
91 - 100 other hikers	21	8.0
More than 100 other hikers	14	5.4
number of hikers on trails should not be restricted	150	57.5

Mean = 84.5; median = 50.0

In order to gauge visitor perceptions of existing conditions, visitors were asked to indicate the approximate number of other hikers that they saw on the day they were contacted for this study. As shown in Table 26.21, respondents reported that they saw an average (mean) of 18.8 hikers.

Table 26.21. Number of people typically seen

Q 5e. Use level	Frequency	Percent
No other hikers	1	0.4
1 - 10 other hikers	100	37.0
11 - 20 other hikers	98	36.3
21 - 30 other hikers	44	16.3
31 - 40 other hikers	15	5.6
41 - 50 other hikers	6	2.2
51 - 60 other hikers	1	0.4
61 - 70 other hikers	1	0.4
71 - 80 other hikers	1	0.4
81 - 90 other hikers	0	0.0
91 - 100 other hikers	0	0.0
More than 100 other hikers	3	1.1

Mean = 18.8; median = 15.0

Table 26.22 summarizes the findings of the previous tables on respondent ratings of hiker encounters.

Table 26.22. Summary Table

	Mean	Median
Use level respondents find acceptable to se	37.5	--
Use level respondents find preferable to see	15.4	12.0
Use level that would lead to respondents' displacement	54.2	44.0
Highest use level that respondents feel the NPS should allow	84.5	50.0
Use level that respondents typically saw	18.8	15.0

Visitors were also asked about perceived crowding at Acadia trails. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 26.23). Generally, perceived crowding levels were low. Over half (54.2%) reported that they were "not at all crowded."

Table 26.23. Perceived crowding (N=273)

Crowding level	Frequency	Percent
1 (Not at all crowded)	148	54.2
2	70	25.6
3	20	7.3
4	15	5.5
5	5	1.8
6	10	3.7
7	2	0.7
8	0	0.0
9 (Extremely crowded)	3	1.1

Mean = 2.0; Median = 1.0

Attitudes Toward Management

Respondents were asked to evaluate the acceptability of various management practices that can be used to encourage people to stay on trails. Survey respondents were presented with eight management options designed to encourage visitors to stay on trails. These included: 1) no management, 2) occasional rock borders along trails, 3) continuious rock borders along trails, 4) a "stay on trail" sign, 5) stone paving, 6) wooden planking, 7) placing brush before a social trail, and 8) placing brush and a "stay on trail" sign before a social trail. Respondents were asked to

evaluate the acceptability of each management option. Acceptability was measured using a nine-point Likert-type scale ranging from (-4) "Very Unacceptable" to (4) "Very Acceptable." Zero represented the middle of this scale or the point of indifference.

Table 26.24 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the management options. Study findings suggest that "no management" was the most acceptable approach, followed by "occasional rock borders," and a "stay on trail" sign. "Continuous rock borders" and "stone paving" were the least acceptable options; however, none of the management options received a negative mean acceptability rating.

Table 26.24. Respondent Ratings of Management Options (Acceptability)

Q 4. Management item	Very unacceptable							Very acceptable		Mean
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Photo 1 - No management	1.4	0.7	2.1	0.7	7.1	3.6	6.0	14.9	63.3	3.0
Photo 2 - Occasional rock borders	0.0	0.4	0.7	3.2	4.6	6.4	16.3	25.2	43.3	2.8
Photo 3 - Continuous rock borders	7.1	3.9	10.4	8.6	11.1	11.1	13.2	11.4	23.2	0.9
Photo 4 - Stay on trail sign	1.4	0.7	2.1	2.8	7.1	7.1	15.6	21.6	41.5	2.5
Photo 5 - Stone paving	8.2	7.9	6.5	8.6	14.3	11.8	12.9	12.2	17.6	0.7
Photo 6 - Wooden planking	7.5	4.7	5.7	4.7	6.8	12.2	13.3	22.2	22.9	1.4
Photo 7- Brushed social trail	3.2	2.5	2.9	2.9	9.3	9.3	12.9	26.2	30.8	2.1
Photo 8 - Brushed and signed social trail	3.9	1.8	3.6	2.5	6.4	9.6	18.9	22.1	31.1	2.1

Section Four

2009 Survey Results

Use and Users

Several questions addressed visitor characteristics such as age, gender, education, and place of residence. The first question asked the age of respondents (Table 27.1). Average age was 47 years old (median = 47).

Table 27.1. Age (N=229)

Q9b. Age

	Frequency	Percent
Under 20	10	4.4
20 to 29	29	12.7
30 to 39	29	12.7
40 to 49	52	22.7
50 to 59	63	27.5
60 to 69	40	17.5
70 and over	6	2.6

Mean 47.0, Median= 47.0

Respondents were also asked to report their gender (Table 27.2). More males (53.5%) at the summit of Cadillac Mountain than females (46.5%) responded to the survey.

Table 27.2. Gender (N=228)

Q9c. Gender

	Frequency	Percent
Male	122	53.5
Female	106	46.5

Additionally, respondents were asked to report the number of years of school they have completed (Table 27.3). The largest percent of respondents, 41.5%, had completed a graduate degree.

Table 27.3. Education (N=229)

Q9d. Education		
	Frequency	Percent
Less than high school	5	2.2
High school graduate	16	7.0
Vocational/trade school certificate	6	2.6
Some college	21	9.2
Two-year college degree	11	4.8
Four-year college degree	75	32.8
Graduate degree	95	41.5

Responses to questions addressing visitors' residence are presented in Tables 27.4 through 27.6. Most visitors (90.1%) reside in the United States (Table 27.4). Thirty-two states were represented at the summit of Cadillac Mountain (Table 27.5). The most common state of residency was Massachusetts (16.8%). Twenty-two respondents were from another country (Table 27.6). These countries include Canada, Germany, Great Britain, India, Ireland, Norway and Viet Nam.

Table 27.4. Place of residence (N=233)

Q9a1. Do you live in the United States?		
	Frequency	Percent
Yes	210	90.1
No	23	9.9

Table 27.5. State of residence (N=197)

State		
State	Frequency	Percent
Massachusetts	33	16.8
Maine	31	15.7
Florida	15	7.6
Pennsylvania	13	6.6
New Hampshire	11	5.6
Connecticut	11	5.6
Vermont	8	4.1
New York	8	4.1
Maryland	8	4.1

Virginia	8	4.1
Michigan	6	3.0
California	6	3.0
North Carolina	5	2.5
New Jersey	4	2.0
Georgia	4	2.0
South Carolina	3	1.5
Wisconsin	3	1.5
Kentucky	2	1.0
Ohio	2	1.0
Illinois	2	1.0
Colorado	2	1.0
Washington	2	1.0
West Virginia	1	0.5
Alabama	1	0.5
Mississippi	1	0.5
Indiana	1	0.5
Minnesota	1	0.5
South Dakota	1	0.5
Arkansas	1	0.5
Texas	1	0.5
Wyoming	1	0.5
Nevada	1	0.5

Table 27.6. Country of residence (N=22)

Country	Frequency	Percent
Canada	11	50.0
Germany	4	18.2
Great Britain	3	13.6
India	1	4.5
Ireland	1	4.5
Norway	1	4.5
Viet Nam	1	4.5

A question asked respondents to report the number of people in their group (Table 27.7). Visitors to the summit of Cadillac Mountain tended to come in small groups with an average (mean) group size of 4 (median = 3).

Table 27.7. Group size (N=246)

Q1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1	9	3.7
2	103	41.9
3	31	12.6
4	40	16.3
5	19	7.7
6	10	4.1
7	9	3.7
8	10	4.1
9	2	.8
10+	13	5.2

Mean = 4.0; Median = 3.0

A follow-up question asked respondents to specify group type: family, friends, family and friends, organized group, or other (Table 27.8). The vast majority of visitor groups (85.5%) were comprised of family and/or friends. Respondents were also asked if their group was part of a commercial tour in the park (Table 27.9). Only 12 respondents at the summit of Cadillac Mountain (4.8%) were part of a commercial tour in the park.

Table 27.8. Group type (N=247)

Q2a. How would you describe your personal group?		
	Frequency	Percent
Alone	28	11.3
Friends	33	13.4
Family	159	64.4
Family and friends	19	7.7
Other	8	3.2

Table 27.9. Commercial group (N=12)

Q2b. Were you and your personal group with the following type of groups?		
	Frequency	Percent
Guided tour group	4	1.7
School/educational group	2	0.9
Other organized group	6	2.5

Visitors were asked how long they stayed at the summit of Cadillac Mountain (Table 27.10). The average (mean) length of stay was 45.4 minutes (median = 40).

Table 27.10. Length of stay (N=228)

Q8. Approximately how long did you stay on Cadillac Mountain today?		
Minutes	Frequency	Percent
Less than 10 minutes	5	2.2
10 to 19 minute	14	6.1
20 to 29 minutes	22	9.6
30 to 39 minutes	64	28.1
40 to 59 minutes	47	20.6
1 to 2 hours	74	32.5
More than 2 hours	2	0.9

Mean = 45, Median = 40

Respondents were asked to identify their ethnicity and race. The vast majority of respondents (98.2%) identify themselves as "Not Hispanic or Latino" (Table 27.11). The vast majority (93.8%) also identified themselves as "White" (Table 27.12).

Table 27.11. Ethnicity (N=223)

Q9e1. Ethnicity		
	Frequency	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	4	1.8
Not Hispanic or Latino	219	98.2

Table 27.12. Race (N=225)

Q9e2. Race		
	Frequency	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	1.3
Asian	9	4.0
Black or African American	1	0.4
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1	0.4
White	211	93.8

Standards of Quality

Questions were asked to address standards of quality for indicator variables on the summit of Cadillac Mountain. Indicator variables included the amount of resource impact on the summit, the type of management practices used to reduce resource impact, the number of people walking off the designated trail, and the number of people walking on the designated trail. A series of computer-generated photographs were prepared showing a range of use levels, resource impacts and management practices. Study photographs are in Appendix D.

For each series of photographs, respondents were asked a battery of evaluative questions. Respondents were first asked to evaluate the acceptability of the study photographs showing increasing levels of visitor use. Acceptability was measured using a nine-point Likert-type scale ranging from (-4) "Very Unacceptable" to (4) "Very Acceptable". Zero represented the middle of this scale or the point of indifference. The second question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph that showed the use level they would prefer to see. A third question asked visitors to indicate which photograph showed the condition that would be so unacceptable that they would no longer visit the summit of Cadillac Mountain. Further, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that, "none of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer visit this area." The forth question asked visitors to select the photograph representing the highest level of visitor use they though the National Park Service should allow, or the point at which visitor use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs show a high enough level of visitor use to restrict use or that use should not be restricted at all. The fifth question referred to existing conditions.

Respondents were asked to indicate the photograph that most represented the condition they "typically saw today". Findings from these series of questions are presented below.

The first series of photographs depict various levels of resource impact on the summit of Cadillac Mountain. The first photograph showed very low levels of impact, while the fifth photograph showed a very high level of resource impact. Table 27.13 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the photographs, and Figure 27.1 shows the resulting norm curve. The norm curve is derived by plotting the mean acceptability rating against the corresponding level of resource impact as shown in each of the five photographs. Study findings suggest that increasing impacts are found to be increasingly unacceptable, and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range between the levels of impact shown in photographs 2 and 3.

Table 27.13. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Acceptability)

Q3a. Acceptability of Study Photos

Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the amount of resource impact shown. A rating of "-4" means the amount of impact is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the amount of impact is very acceptable.

	Very Unacceptable							Very Acceptable		Mean
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Photo 1	1.6	0.4	0.8	1.2	1.2	2.0	4.5	15.9	72.4	3.37
Photo 2	5.7	4.1	4.5	9.0	6.1	10.7	23.4	24.2	12.3	1.26
Photo 3	19.8	7.4	14.4	15.2	12.3	7.0	10.7	7.4	5.8	-0.72
Photo 4	31.0	22.0	16.7	5.3	5.3	6.1	4.5	3.3	5.7	-1.81
Photo 5	65.6	9.0	3.7	4.1	5.7	2.0	2.5	2.9	4.5	-2.67

Average acceptability of zero = Photo 2.6



Figure 27.1. Social norm curve for resource impact.

Table 27.14 present a breakdown of visitor preferences for the amount of impact at the summit of Cadillac Mountain. Respondents prefer to see an average (mean) level of impact just above photograph 1 at the summit of Cadillac Mountain.

Table 27.14. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Preference) (N=236)

Q3b.
Which photograph shows the level of resource impact you would prefer to see?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1	179	75.8
Photo 2	37	15.7
Photo 3	11	4.7
Photo 4	4	1.7
Photo 5	5	2.1

Mean = 1.4, Median = 1

The third question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph representing the number of people that would be "so unacceptable that you would longer use this area?" As

shown in Table 27.15, visitors reported that an average level of resource impacts just above photograph 4 would be so unacceptable that they would no longer visit the area. Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs were so unacceptable that they would no longer visit. A majority of respondents (53%) selected this response.

Table 27.15. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Displacement) (N=234)

Q3c. Which photograph shows the level resource impact that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1	3	1.3
Photo 2	4	1.7
Photo 3	11	4.7
Photo 4	25	10.7
Photo 5	67	28.6
None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer visit the summit of Cadillac Mountain.	124	53.0

Mean = 4.4, Median = 5

The next question in the series asked respondents to indicate which photograph represented the level of resource impact that National Park Service should allow at the summit of Cadillac Mountain, or, "at what point should people be restricted from using this area?" Responses to this question are shown in Table 27.16. Respondents indicated that the National Park Service should begin restricting use at the summit of Cadillac Mountain when the level of resource impact was between photographs 2 and 3. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that "none of the photographs show a high enough resource impact to restrict visitors from using this area" or, that "visitor use should not be restricted". About one in ten respondents (9.7%) felt that none of the photographs showed a high enough resource impact to restrict visitor use and 9.2% of respondents felt that use should not be restricted.

Table 27.16. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Management Action) (N=238)

Q3d. Which photograph shows the highest level resource impact that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1	28	11.8
Photo 2	74	31.1
Photo 3	49	20.6
Photo 4	25	10.5
Photo 5	17	7.1
None of the photographs show a high enough level of environmental impact to restrict people from visiting the summit of Cadillac Mountain.	23	9.7
The number of people visiting the summit of Cadillac Mountain should not be restricted.	22	9.2

Mean =2.6, Median = 2.0

In order to gauge visitor perceptions of existing conditions, visitors were asked which photograph looked most like the amount of environmental impact they typically saw on the day they were contacted for this study. As shown in Table 27.17, respondents reported that they typically saw an average (mean) level of environmental impact similar to photograph 2 or 3 on the day they were contacted for this study.

Table 27.17. Number of people typically seen (N=215)

Q3e. Which photograph looks most like the amount of environmental impact you typically saw in this area today?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1	14	6.5
Photo 2	97	45.1
Photo 3	72	33.5
Photo 4	26	12.1
Photo 5	6	2.8

Mean = 2.6, Median = 2.0

Table 27.18 summarizes the findings of the previous tables on respondent ratings of study photographs.

Table 27.18. Summary Table

Summary Table

	Mean	Median
Acceptability	2.6	
Preference	1.4	1
Displacement	4.4	5
Management action	2.6	3
Typically seen	2.6	2

The second series of photographs depicted various management actions designed to encourage visitors to stay on the trails on the summit of Cadillac Mountain. The first photograph showed the trail only, the second showed the trail with signs asking visitors to stay on the trail, the third showed the trail with rock borders, and the fourth photograph showed a fence along the trail margins. Table 27.19 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the photographs, and Figure 27.2 shows this information graphically by plotting the mean acceptability rating against the corresponding management action as shown in each of the five photographs. On average, all management actions shown were acceptable (on average) to visitors, however, the trail depicted with rock borders was the most acceptable management action, while a fence was the least acceptable of management action depicted.

Table 27.19. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Acceptability)

Q4. Acceptability of Study Photos

Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the amount of resource impact shown. A rating of "-4" means the management action is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the management action is very acceptable.

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable	Mean
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Photo 1 (Trail only)	12.6	4.2	1.7	3.8	5.0	5.4	6.7	13.0	47.7	1.79
Photo 2 (Signs)	5.4	2.1	7.1	5.4	7.1	8.3	14.2	20.0	30.4	1.71
Photo 3 (Rock border)	1.7	1.3	2.5	2.9	4.6	5.4	19.7	25.5	36.4	2.49
Photo 4 (Fence)	13.7	7.5	5.4	5.0	7.5	10.8	13.7	14.5	22.0	0.77

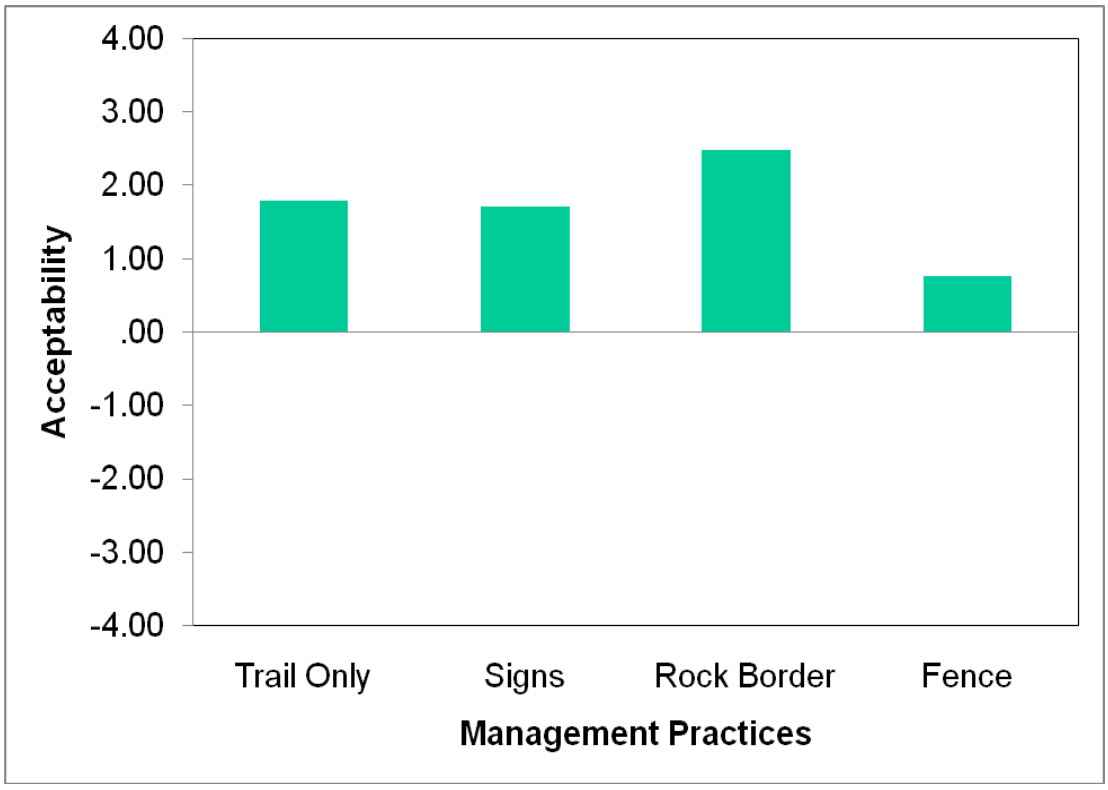


Figure 27.2. Average acceptability ratings for management practices.

The third set of photographs used for the study depicted varying numbers of people off-trail on the summit of Cadillac Mountain. The first photograph showed no people, the second had 14, the

third had 28, the fourth had 42, the fifth had 56 and the sixth had 70 people. Table 27.20 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the photographs, and Figure 27.3 shows the resulting norm curve. Study findings suggest that increasing numbers of people are found to be increasingly unacceptable, and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range at 40 people at one time.

Table 27.20. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Acceptability)

Q5a. Acceptability of Study Photos

Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable.

	Very Unacceptable							Very Acceptable		Mean
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Photo 1 (0)	6.9	1.7	2.2	2.2	5.2	2.6	3.0	5.6	70.7	2.69
Photo 2 (14)	1.7	0.9	0.9	1.7	1.7	5.6	10.3	26.2	51.1	2.96
Photo 3 (28)	2.2	1.8	4.0	6.6	15.5	14.2	26.1	17.7	11.9	1.38
Photo 4 (42)	9.2	8.8	16.2	9.2	15.8	14.0	16.2	4.4	6.1	-.21
Photo 5 (56)	40.8	17.2	17.2	8.6	4.7	4.3	2.6	2.1	2.6	-2.31
Photo 6 (70)	67.9	9.8	7.3	5.1	3.0	1.7	1.7	1.3	2.1	-3.03

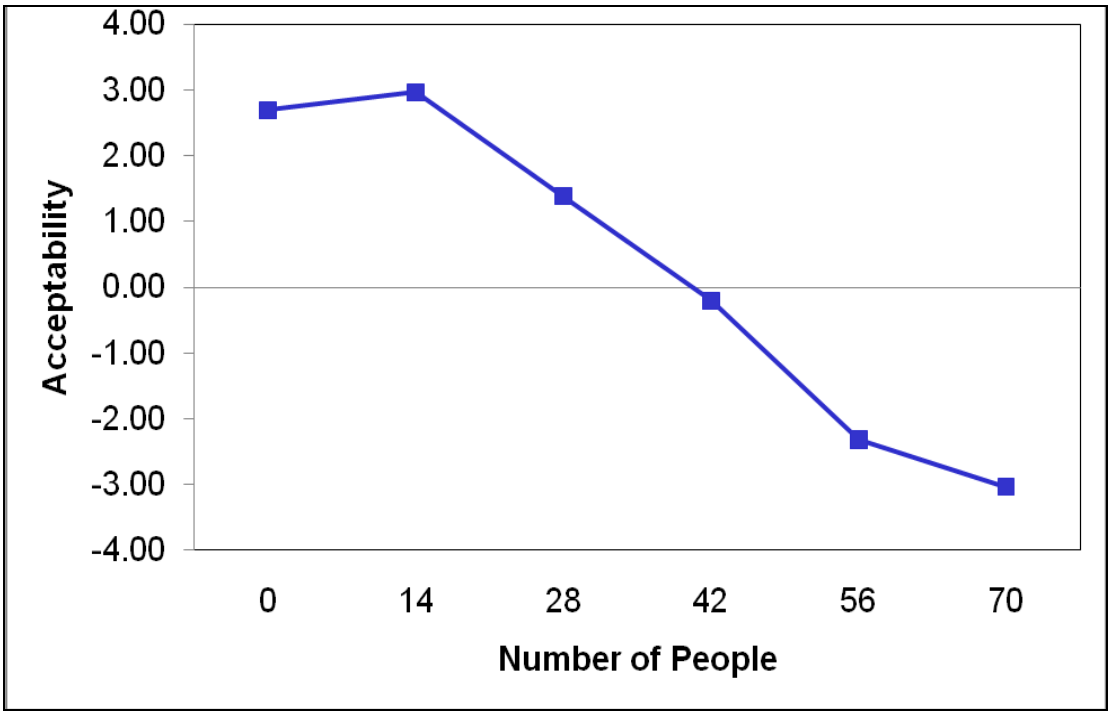


Figure 27.3. Social norm curve for number of people off-trail on the summit of Cadillac Mountain.

Table 27.21 present a breakdown of visitor preferences for the number of people off-trail on the summit of Cadillac Mountain. Respondents prefer to see an average (mean) of approximately 19 people (median = 14) off-trail on Cadillac Mountain.

Table 27.21. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Preference) (N=228)

Q5b.
Which photograph shows the level of use you would prefer to see?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	50	21.9
Photo 2 (14)	93	40.8
Photo 3 (28)	62	27.2
Photo 4 (42)	12	5.3
Photo 5 (56)	5	2.2
Photo 6 (70)	6	2.6

Mean = 18.6, Median = 14.0

Respondents were then asked to indicate the photograph representing the number of people that would be "so unacceptable that you would longer use this area?" As shown in Table 27.22,

visitors reported that an average (mean) of 57 people would be so unacceptable that they would no longer visit the area. Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs were so unacceptable that they would no longer visit. Approximately 16% of respondents selected this response.

Table 27.22. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Displacement) (N=238)

Q5c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	1	0.4
Photo 2 (14)	4	1.7
Photo 3 (28)	14	5.9
Photo 4 (42)	27	11.3
Photo 5 (56)	66	27.7
Photo 6 (70)	87	36.6
None of the photos are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.	39	16.4

Mean =57.1, Median = 56.0

The next question in the series asked respondents to indicate which photograph represented the largest number of people that National Park Service should allow off-trail on the summit of Cadillac Mountain or, "at what point should people be restricted from using this area?" Responses to this question are shown in Table 27.23. Respondents indicated that the National Park Service should allow an average (mean) of 42 people off-trail on the summit of Cadillac Mountain before use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that "none of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area" or, that "visitor use should not be restricted". About 4% of respondents felt that none of the photographs showed a high enough number of people to restrict visitor use and 13.5% felt that visitor use should not be restricted.

Table 27.23. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Management Action) (N=237)

Q5d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	0	0.0
Photo 2 (14)	14	5.9
Photo 3 (28)	59	24.9
Photo 4 (42)	66	27.8
Photo 5 (56)	32	13.5
Photo 6 (70)	24	10.1
None of the photos are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.	10	4.2
Visitor use should not be restricted.	32	13.5

Mean =41.5, Median = 42.0

In order to gauge visitor perceptions of existing conditions, visitors were asked which photograph looked most like the number of people they typically saw off-trail on the summit of Cadillac Mountain on the day they were contacted for this study. As shown in Table 27.24, respondents reported that they typically saw an average (mean) of 34 people on the day they were contacted for this study.

Table 27.24. Number of people typically seen (N=231)

Q5e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	0	0.0
Photo 2 (14)	30	13.0
Photo 3 (28)	105	45.5
Photo 4 (42)	63	27.3
Photo 5 (56)	29	12.6
Photo 6 (70)	4	1.7

Mean =34.2, Median = 28

Table 27.25 summarizes the findings of the previous tables on respondent ratings of study photographs.

Table 27.25. Summary Table

Summary Table

	Mean	Median
Acceptability	40.1	--
Preference	18.6	14
Displacement	57.1	56
Management action	41.5	42
Typically seen	34.2	28

The final set of photographs used for the study depicted varying numbers of people on the summit trail on Cadillac Mountain. The first photograph showed no people, the second had 9, the third had 18, the fourth had 27, the fifth had 36 and the sixth had 45 people. Table 27.26 shows the mean acceptability rating for each of the photographs, and Figure 27.4 shows the resulting norm curve. Study findings suggest that increasing numbers of people are found to be increasingly unacceptable, and that the mean acceptability rating falls out of the acceptable range and into the unacceptable range at 29 people at one time.

Table 27.26. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Acceptability)

Q6a. Acceptability of Study Photos

Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable.

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable	Mean
	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4	
Photo 1 (0)	8.6	2.2	0.9	1.7	3.9	0.9	3.0	4.3	74.6	2.74
Photo 2 (9)	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.6	0.9	0.9	10.5	21.4	59.4	3.08
Photo 3 (18)	0.9	0.4	2.6	1.7	7.0	10.0	21.7	27.8	27.8	2.37
Photo 4 (27)	6.6	4.4	9.7	14.1	15.0	14.5	15.0	10.6	10.1	0.44
Photo 5 (36)	23.3	23.7	16.8	9.9	6.0	6.9	5.2	3.0	5.2	-1.61
Photo 6 (45)	59.1	10.0	6.5	5.2	5.2	4.8	1.7	2.2	5.2	-2.49

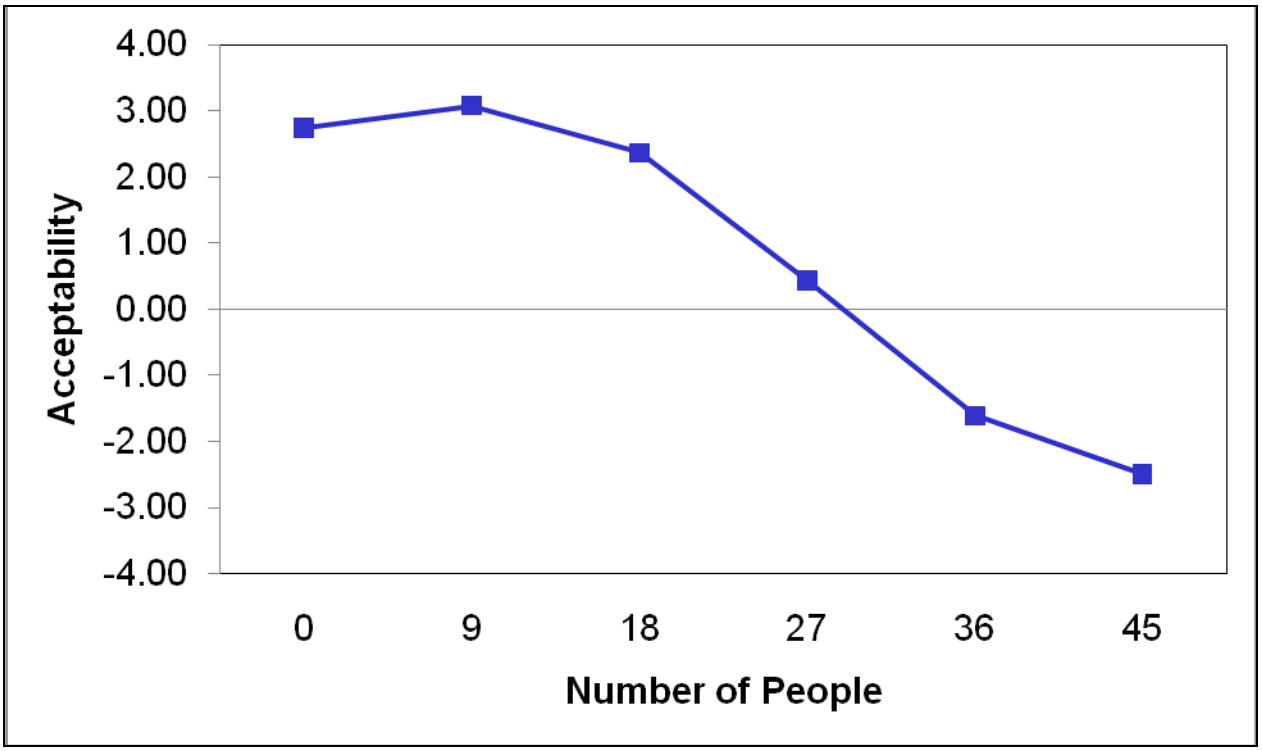


Figure 27.4. Social norm curve for the number of people on the trail.

Table 27.27 present a breakdown of visitor preferences for the number of people on the summit trail on Cadillac Mountain. Respondents prefer to see an average (mean) of approximately 13 people (median = 9) on the trail.

Table 27.27. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Preference) (N=232)

Q6b.
Which photograph shows the level of use you would prefer to see?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	33	14.2
Photo 2 (9)	98	42.2
Photo 3 (18)	70	30.2
Photo 4 (27)	23	9.9
Photo 5 (36)	5	2.2
Photo 6 (45)	3	1.3

Mean =13.3, Median = 9.0

A third question in the series asked respondents to indicate the photograph representing the number of people that would be "so unacceptable that you would longer use this area?" As shown in Table 27.28, visitors reported that an average (mean) of 37.4 people would be so unacceptable that they would no longer visit the area. Respondents were also given the opportunity to indicate that none of the photographs were so unacceptable that they would no longer visit. Approximately 22% of respondents selected this response.

Table 27.28. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Displacement) (N=232)

Q6c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	1	0.4
Photo 2 (9)	1	0.4
Photo 3 (18)	6	2.6
Photo 4 (27)	33	14.2
Photo 5 (36)	61	26.3
Photo 6 (45)	80	34.5
None of the photos are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.	50	21.6

Mean =37.4, Median = 36.0

The next question in the series asked respondents to indicate which photograph represented the largest number of people that National Park Service should allow on the Cadillac Mountain summit loop trail, or, "at what point should people be restricted from using this area?" Responses to this question are shown in Table 27.29. Respondents indicated that the National Park Service should allow an average (mean) of 28 people at Sand Beach before use should be restricted. Additionally, respondents were given the opportunity to indicate that "none of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area" or, that "visitor use should not be restricted". About 5% of respondents felt that none of the photographs

showed a high enough number of people to restrict visitor use and 17% felt that visitor use should not be restricted.

Table 27.29. Respondent Ratings of Study Photographs (Management Action) (N=229)

Q6d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	0	0.0
Photo 2 (9)	8	3.5
Photo 3 (18)	37	16.2
Photo 4 (27)	80	34.9
Photo 5 (36)	44	19.2
Photo 6 (45)	9	3.9
None of the photos are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.	12	5.2
Visitor use should not be restricted.	39	17.0

Mean =27.5, Median = 27.0

In order to gauge visitor perceptions of existing conditions, visitors were asked which photograph looked most like the number of people they typically saw on the day they were contacted for this study. As shown in Table 27.30, respondents reported that they typically saw an average (mean) of 21 people on the day they were contacted for this study.

Table 27.30. Number of people typically seen

Q6e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

	Frequency	Percent
Photo 1 (0)	0	0.0
Photo 2 (9)	27	13.9
Photo 3 (18)	85	43.8
Photo 4 (27)	65	33.5
Photo 5 (36)	16	8.2
Photo 6 (45)	1	0.5

Mean =21.4, Median = 18.0

Table 27.31 summarizes the findings of the previous tables on respondent ratings of study photographs.

Table 27.31. Summary Table

Summary Table		
	Mean	Median
Acceptability	28.9	--
Preference	13.3	9
Displacement	37.4	36
Management action	27.5	27
Typically seen	21.4	18

Visitors were asked about perceived crowding at the summit of Cadillac Mountain. Respondents were asked to report how crowded they felt using a response scale that ranged from 1 ("Not at all crowded") to 9 ("Extremely crowded") (Table 27.32). Generally, perceived crowding levels were moderate. Nearly half of respondents (45.3%) reported that they were "moderately crowded" and just over one-quarter (28.9%) reported being "slightly crowded".

Table 27.32. Perceived crowding (N=225)

Q7. How crowded did you feel in the Thunder Hole (off-peak times) area today?		
	Frequency	Percent
1 (Not at all crowded)	8	3.6
2	27	12.0
3	33	14.7
4	32	14.2
5	21	9.3
6	47	20.9
7	34	15.1
8	19	8.4
9 (Very crowded)	4	1.8

Mean = 4.9, Median = 5

Section Five

Computer Simulation

A simulation model of Ocean Drive was built using *Extend*, a commercially available, general purpose simulation software package produced by *Imagine That, Inc*. *Extend* provides users with a library of standard components (blocks) that may be linked and modified to fit most simulation needs. *Extend* has been used to simulate recreation use in several parks and on other public lands (Hallo, Manning and Valliere, 2005; Lawson, Itami, Gimblett, and Manning, 2006; Lawson, Kiely, and Manning, 2003; Manning, Wang, Valliere, Lawson, and Newman, 2002; Wang and Manning, 1999).

The simulation model treats the road as five continuous zones (labeled A through E), each 0.31 mi in length (Figure 28.2). For example, Zone A begins immediately after the entrance station and goes for 0.31 miles, where Zone A then ends and Zone B starts. Each zone represents a length of road four times that shown in the photos in Figure 28.1 (i.e., 0.078 mi). This length was chosen because it produces zones that corresponded well with the visitor attractions and related infrastructure on Ocean Drive, and it provides the greatest detail in the analysis of social carrying capacity (input data quality was reduced in preliminary trials with shorter zone lengths). Larger vehicles (e.g., recreational vehicles or buses) were not modeled since their numbers on Ocean Drive are quite low.

Figure 28.1. A series of photos evaluated by Ocean Drive users to obtain standards of quality for congestion on the road.

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



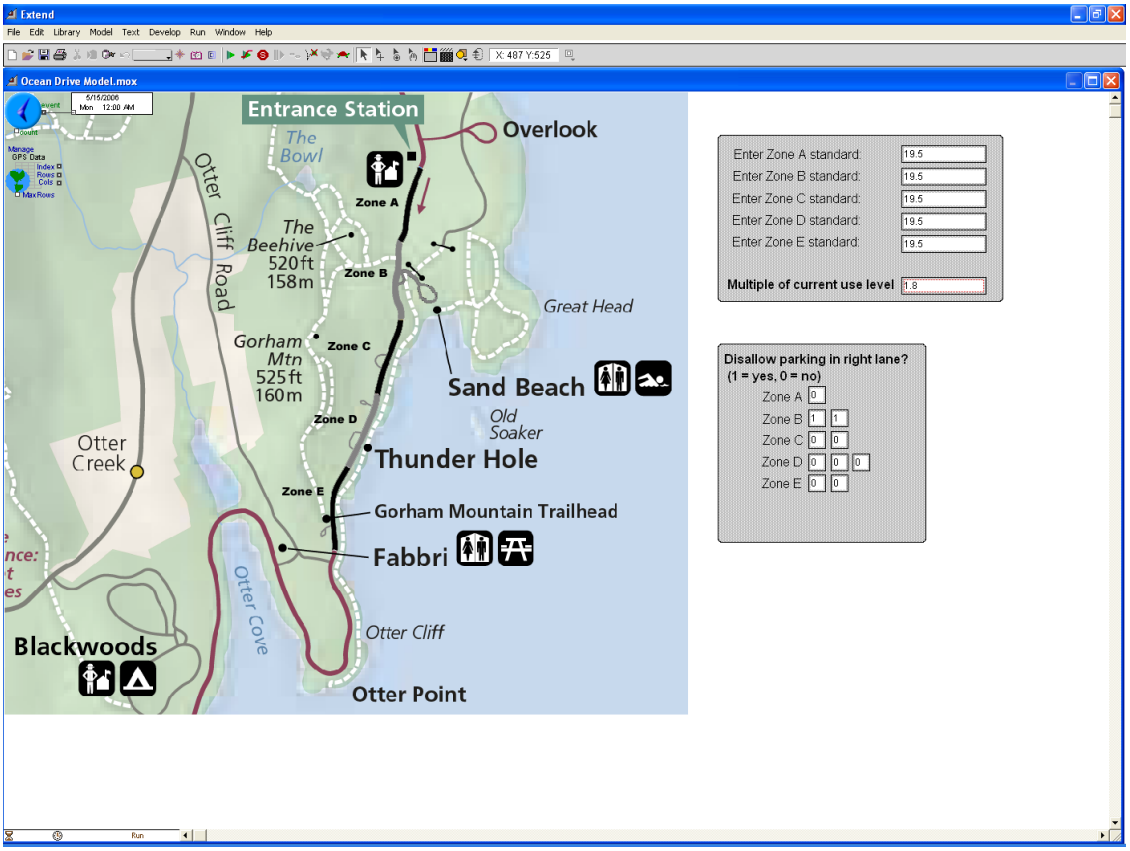
Photo 5



Photo 6



Figure 28.2. User interface of the Ocean Drive simulation model.



Simulated vehicles enter the Ocean Drive model at a frequency generated from a decaying exponential distribution varying around a mean value. Interarrival times (average time between vehicles arriving at the park entrance station) calculated from empirical headway counts were used as the mean of this exponential distribution. This approach provides a degree of stochasticity to when vehicles enter the Ocean Drive model. An exponential distribution has been used to model random or highly variable interarrival times in other contexts (Banks and Carson, 1984; Wang and Manning, 1999).

As a simulated vehicle is released into the model, it is randomly assigned the attributes of a travel route taken by an actual Ocean Drive visitor. These travel routes were collected using GPS units as described above. Route attributes consist of travel times (delays) for vehicles in

each of the five road zones and the parking areas within them. The amount of time a simulated vehicle spends in each zone or parking area is determined by the attributes assigned to it.

In each road zone, a series of blocks test if the simulated use level violates a standard for congestion. Standards used in these blocks were collected from the visitor survey as described above. Every minute of simulated time, the number of vehicles within a zone is compared against the standard, and the amount of time the standard is violated is recorded in the model. The model then reports to a spreadsheet the percentage of time that each zone is out of standard for each half-hour period between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

A management alternative of disallowing parking in the right lane near Sand Beach was built into the simulation model. This was done by defining a minimum average travel speed of 6.3 mph (75% below the posted speed limit of 25 mph) that must be maintained by simulated vehicles. This rule for travel behavior was developed based on input from NPS staff at Acadia. The simulation model may be run either with or without this management alternative applied.

The model simulates vehicle use on Ocean Drive for a day (from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.). The model is not "primed" with vehicles when it begins; instead, the model starts as if Ocean drive opens when the simulation begins (9 a.m.). Likewise, the generation of vehicles ceases at 4 p.m., which is the latest time that data were collected.

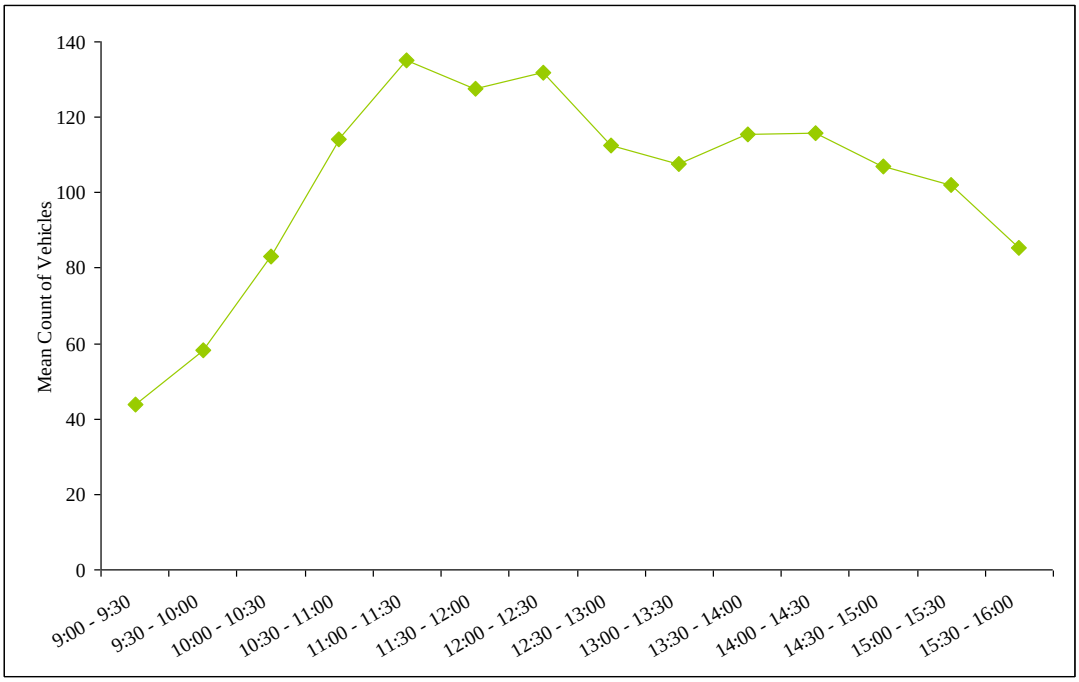
The user interface of the simulation model shows a map of the park road and user input fields (Figure 28.2). These fields allow both the congestion standards for each zone and the use level (as a multiplier of current use levels) to be adjusted by the model operator. The model was run for several potential standards at the current Ocean Drive use level, and from 80% to 200% of the current use level. This procedure was repeated with the management alternative of "no

parking in the right lane near Sand Beach" applied to simulated vehicles. Fifty model runs, each representing one simulated day, were conducted for each standard and for each use level.

Data Inputs to the Simulation Model

Interarrival times calculated from headway counts were used as the mean of an exponential distribution determining the frequency that simulated vehicles were generated in the simulation model. Headway counts conducted for the simulation model showed an average of 1,440 vehicles per day (s = 262.1) enter Ocean Drive. Vehicle use was lowest from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m., when an average of 43.8 vehicles (s = 20.3) entered the road. This corresponds to an interarrival time of 0.68 minutes per vehicle. Peak vehicle use occurred from 11:00 to 11:30 p.m. During this period an average of 135.0 vehicles (s = 20.2) entered Ocean Drive. The interarrival time for this period is 0.22 minutes per vehicle, which means that approximately 4 vehicles enter Ocean Drive per minute. Figure 3 shows the average headway counts for each half-hour period throughout the day.

Figure 28.3. Graph of the mean headway count per half-hour on Ocean Drive.



GPS Routes

A total of 249 Ocean Drive vehicle users were asked to participate in the study by carrying a GPS unit. Of this number, 208 agreed, representing a response rate of 83.5%. When the travel routes were downloaded and reviewed for use in the simulation model, 201 were determined to be usable. The information below summarizes these data; however, the travel times for each route were used in the simulation model.

The period of time vehicles took to travel through each of the five road zones varied considerably (Table 28.1). This variability is likely due to the option that visitors have to park their vehicles on the road. The amount of time a vehicle is parked on the road was included in their travel time for a particular road zone, but any time spent in a parking lot was not. Road Zone B includes Sand Beach and the trailhead for the Beehive Trail. Both are attractions that visitors may spend a relatively long time experiencing. Travel times for this road zone were the longest, averaging 11.1 minutes (s = 23.6). Zone E provides access to the Gorham Mountain trailhead and may provide parking on the road for some visitors to Thunder Hole. The mean travel time for Zone E is 5.2 min (s = 21.8). A substantial amount of time is required to hike the Gorham Mountain Trail, but only a few minutes are necessary for visitors to see Thunder Hole. Most visitors who park on the road to access Thunder Hole would more likely be in Zone D. The travel time for this zone averaged 4.8 min (s = 7.1). The mean travel times for Zones A ($\bar{x}$ = 0.8 min, s = 1.1) and C ($\bar{x}$ = 1.9 min, s = 6.6) were the shortest. These zones do not contain major attraction sites where visitors are likely to stop.

Table 28.1. Summary of travel times in minutes for each Ocean Drive road zone. Data was collected using GPS.

Road zone	Average travel time	Minimum travel time	Maximum travel time	Standard deviation of travel times
A	0.8	0.5	15.6	1.1
B	11.1	0.6	186.7	23.6
C	1.9	0.5	83.5	6.6
D	4.8	0.6	44.5	7.1
E	5.2	0.6	277.3	21.8

The travel times for the entire road were also collected from the GPS route data. The average time taken to travel Ocean Drive was 23.8 min (s = 33.3). The longest time that anyone in the sample took to travel the length of Ocean Drive was 280.9 min. The GPS route that this was associated with showed that the vehicle was stopped on the road near the Gorham Mountain Trail in Zone E for several hours. The shortest time that was taken to travel Ocean Drive was 3.0 min, meaning that the vehicle moved at an average speed of 31.5 mph.

GPS data also indicated what parking lots were used along Ocean Drive and for what lengths of time. Five parking lots were used by vehicle drivers in the GPS sample (Table 28.2). These lots are shown in Figure 28.2. The Sand Beach parking lot (consisting of two parking loops) in Zone A was used by 64.4% of the vehicle drivers for an average of 51.8 min (s = 71.7). The Thunder Hole parking lot was used by 46.0% of vehicle drivers for average time of 24.3 min (s = 24.6). A parking lot located in Zone C was used by 6.9% of vehicles for an average of 12.7 min (s = 15.3), and a lot in Zone D was used by 2.0% of vehicles for an average of 31.4 min (s = 45.2). These latter two parking lots are relatively small and are not located near any major visitation sites. The Gorham Mountain Trailhead lot received use by 5.0% of vehicles for an average of 98.2 min (s = 106.5).

Table 28.2. Summary of Ocean Drive parking lot usage. Data was collected using GPS.

Parking lot	Percent of vehicles using the parking area	Average parking time (min)	Standard deviation of parking times (min)
Sand Beach	64.4	51.8	71.7
Small lot in Zone C	6.9	12.7	15.3
Small lot in Zone D	2.0	31.4	45.2
Thunder Hole	46.0	24.3	24.6
Gorham Mountain Trailhead	5.0	98.2	106.5

Congestion Standards

A total of 186 vehicle drivers were asked to complete a study questionnaire. Of this number, 142 (76.3%) agreed to participate. Respondents reported that on average they would prefer to see no more than 4.9 vehicles in the study photo ("preference"). Survey responses suggested that on average 11.3 vehicles in the study photo was the maximum acceptable number ("acceptability"). Respondents indicated that that the NPS should allow no more than 12.5 vehicles in the study photo before use is restricted on Ocean Drive ("management action"). At a use level of 16.0 vehicles in the study photo, respondents reported that they would no longer use Ocean Drive ("displacement"). Responses to these four evaluative dimensions represent a range of potential congestion standards to guide evaluation of Ocean Drive's social carrying capacity.

Simulation Model Results

Use Levels

Runs of the simulation model at the existing Ocean Drive use level (1,440 vehicles/day) show the percentage of time that each of the congestion-related standards was violated for each road zone and for the entire road (Table 28.3). Current vehicle use levels violated the "preference"-based standard 0.6%, 79.3%, 0.0%, 23.0%, and 19.3 % of the time between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. for Zones A, B, C, D, and E, respectively. This standard was violated 24.4% of the

time for the entire road. Current vehicle use levels violated the less restrictive "acceptability" and "management action" standards in Zone B 13.0% and 2.4% of the time. These standards were violated 2.6% and 0.5% of the time for the entire road. The least restrictive "displacement" standard was not violated for any portion of time at current use levels.

Model runs at 80% to 200% of the current average use level produced similar trends in results (Table 28.3). Zone B is the area of Ocean Drive where standards were most often violated. Standards based on all four evaluative dimensions were violated in Zone B at use levels from 120% to 200% of the current level. Conversely, Zones A and C were the areas where standards were violated the least. In these zones, only the "preference" standard was ever violated. This occurred in Zone A at a use level 80% of current use, and in Zone C it occurred when use is 140% of current use. Zones D and E violated the "preference" standard at all use levels tested. However, these zones did not violate the "acceptability" standard until use increases to 160% of current use. Likewise, the "management action" standard was not violated for Zones D and E until use increases to 180% of current use. The "displacement" standard was not violated in Zones D and E at any of the use levels tested.

When the entire road is considered, both "preference" and "acceptability" standards were violated for some portion of time at all use levels tested. However, the "management action" standard was not violated for the entire road if use drops to 80% of current use. The "displacement" standard was not violated for any portion of time until use levels increase to 120% of current use. Table 28.3 shows the complete results from runs of the simulation model at varying use levels.

Table 28.3. Results from the simulation model showing the percentage of time that portions of Ocean Drive violate standards for congestion at varying use levels.

	Percent of current use level	Percent of time standard is violated					
		Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Entire Road
Preference	80	0.5%	74.4%	0.0%	6.6%	6.1%	17.5%
	100	0.6%	79.3%	0.0%	23.0%	19.3%	24.4%
	120	3.1%	82.0%	0.0%	45.2%	41.1%	34.3%
	140	11.7%	85.2%	0.1%	61.8%	57.4%	43.2%
	160	21.7%	87.2%	0.3%	71.9%	65.4%	49.3%
	180	34.3%	88.5%	0.8%	76.2%	69.8%	53.9%
	200	42.2%	90.2%	2.7%	79.5%	72.4%	57.4%
Acceptability	80	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
	100	0.0%	13.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%
	120	0.0%	38.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%
	140	0.0%	59.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.8%
	160	0.0%	70.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	14.1%
	180	0.0%	73.9%	0.0%	1.0%	0.7%	15.1%
	200	0.0%	75.9%	0.0%	4.2%	3.6%	16.7%
Management Action	80	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	100	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%
	120	0.0%	20.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.1%
	140	0.0%	47.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%
	160	0.0%	64.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.8%
	180	0.0%	70.4%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	14.1%
	200	0.0%	74.2%	0.0%	0.6%	0.4%	15.0%
Displacement	80	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	100	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	120	0.0%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
	140	0.0%	7.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%
	160	0.0%	25.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.2%
	180	0.0%	45.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.2%
	200	0.0%	63.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.6%

Applying a management alternative of "no parking in the right lane near Sand Beach" in the model resulted in a substantial decrease in the percent of time congestion standards were violated in Zone B (which includes Sand Beach) and for the entire road. The "preference" standard was violated 0.1% of the time in Zone B at the current use level, compared to 79.3% of the time without the management alternative applied. Both "acceptability" and "management

action" standards were not violated for the entire road until use increases to 160% and 180% of the current level, respectively. The "displacement" standard was not violated at any use level tested. Table 28.4 shows the complete results from runs of the simulation model with the management alternative applied.

Table28. 4. Results from the simulation model test of a management alternative of "no parking in the right lane near Sand Beach.

	Percent of current use level	Percent of time standard is violated					
		Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D	Zone E	Entire Road
Preference	80	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.2%	6.1%	2.7%
	100	1.6%	0.1%	0.0%	25.2%	22.9%	10.0%
	120	3.5%	0.4%	0.1%	48.2%	40.7%	18.6%
	140	12.1%	1.7%	0.1%	64.4%	59.2%	27.5%
	160	20.5%	4.9%	0.5%	73.4%	67.4%	33.3%
	180	37.4%	11.1%	1.6%	77.6%	71.9%	39.9%
	200	42.5%	20.8%	3.9%	80.2%	74.2%	44.3%
Acceptability	80	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	100	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	120	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	140	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	160	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%
	180	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	1.0%	0.4%
	200	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.8%	3.0%	1.6%
Management Action	80	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	100	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	120	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	140	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	160	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	180	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
	200	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%	0.3%	0.2%
Displacement	80	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	100	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	120	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	140	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	160	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	180	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	200	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Social Carrying Capacity

Alternative social carrying capacities were derived for Ocean Drive based on the four standards ("preference", "acceptability", "management action", and "displacement") used in the simulation model. Social carrying capacity was operationally defined in the analysis of simulation results in two ways: (1) the number of vehicles that could use Ocean Drive without violating any zone's congestion-related standard more than 10% of the time, and (2) the number of vehicles that could use the road without violating a congestion-related standard for the entire road more than 10% of the time. These definitions allow for infrequent instances (10% of the time) when use levels are above average. Extreme peaking of use during holidays is a possible cause of such an instance.

Alternative social carrying capacities were calculated from model results based on the first definition stated above. Model results suggest that 194 vehicles could use Ocean Drive per day (between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.) according to the "preference" standard (Table 28.5). Ocean Drive has a daily social carrying capacity of 1,371 vehicles based on an "acceptability" standard and a social carrying capacity of 1,562 vehicles based on a "management action" standard. Lastly, 2,057 vehicles could use Ocean Drive per day according to the "displacement" standard. Zone B is the area of Ocean Drive where these standards are violated more than 10% of the time at these social carrying capacities.

Table 28.5. Social carrying capacity values for Ocean Drive based on four different congestion-related standards. Values shown indicate use levels that would cause the most limiting road zone to be out of standard more than 10% of the time.

Evaluative dimension	With parking in right lane near Sand Beach		No parking in right lane near Sand Beach	
	Limiting zone	Number of vehicles	Limiting Zone	Number of vehicles
Preference	B	194	D	1,197
Acceptability	B	1,371	D*	> 2,880
Management action	B	1,562	D*	> 2,880
Displacement	B	2,057	D*	> 2,880

Limiting zones marked with an asterisk are based on the zone with the greatest time violating standards at twice the current use level.

Alternative social carrying capacities were also calculated based on the second definition stated above (based on congestion standards for the entire road.) (Table 28.6). Model results suggest that 823 vehicles could use Ocean Drive per day according to the "preference" standard. Ocean Drive has a social carrying capacity of 1,889 vehicles based on an "acceptability" standard and a social carrying capacity of 2,060 based on a "management action" standard. The "displacement" standard is violated 10% of the time for the entire road once use levels reach 2,660 vehicles per day.

Table 28.6. Social carrying capacity values for Ocean Drive based on four different congestion-related standards. Values shown indicate use levels when the entire road would be out of standard more than 10% of the time.

Evaluative dimension	With parking in right lane near Sand Beach	No parking in right lane near Sand Beach
Preference	823	1,440
Acceptability	1,889	> 2,880
Management Action	2,060	> 2,880
Displacement	2,660	> 2,880

Social carrying capacity values for Ocean Drive are increased when the management alternative of no parking in the right lane is applied (Tables 28.5 and 28.6). Based on the "preference" standard, 1,197 vehicles per day could use the road without use levels in Zone D violating standards more than 10% of the time, and 1,440 vehicles could use the road without

violating standards for the entire road more than 10% of the time. With the management alternative applied, more than twice the current use level could be accommodated on Ocean Drive before a social carrying capacity is reached based on "acceptability", "management action", or "displacement" standards.

Model Validation

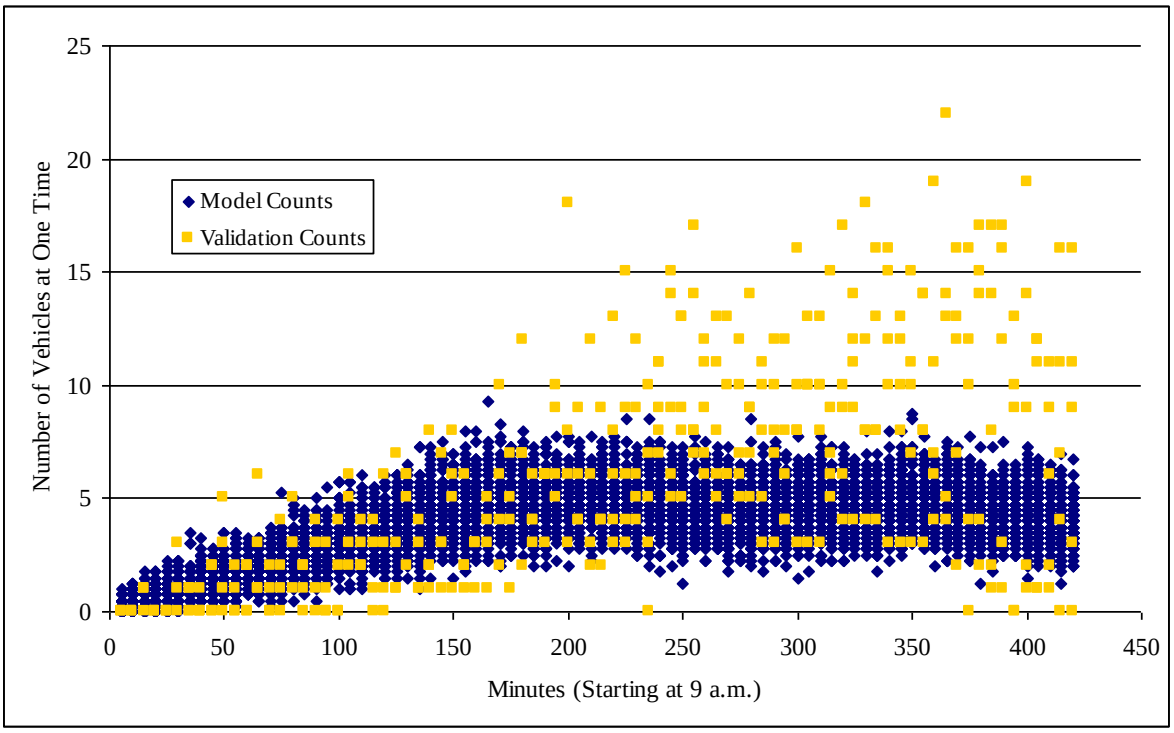
Figure 4 shows that empirical and model-derived validation counts (of vehicles at one time in the study photo area) correspond to each other very well before 12 p.m.. There is less agreement among counts later in the sampling day. This figure also shows that there was substantially more variation in the validation counts than in the model counts, particularly later in the day. Examination of forms use by field staff for the empirical counts showed that there was some confusion about the counting procedures. It is uncertain what influence this had on the empirical validation counts.

The simulation model measured an average of 3.8 simulated vehicles at any one time ($s = 0.17$) in the area of the study photo. Validation counts conducted in 2005 showed an average daily count of 6.0 ($s = 2.7$) vehicles at one time in the area of the study photo. Results of a t-test (for unequal variances) found no difference between these mean daily counts ($p = 0.11$).

Discussion

Results from model runs suggest that the current level of vehicle use on Ocean Drive is often higher than levels that visitors reported as being preferred, and occasionally is higher (in Zone B only) than visitors find acceptable or at a point when management action should be taken to limit use. However, use levels are not at a point that vehicle users would be displaced from any sections of the road due to congestion.

Figure 28.4. Graph comparing the number of vehicles at one time in the study photo area from manual validation counts and from the simulation model.



Simulation model results also provide estimates regarding the degree to which visitor-reported standards would be violated if the vehicle use level on Ocean Drive were to increase. It is reasonable to think that use level on Ocean Drive might increase (perhaps substantially) since in past years visitation to Acadia has been reported to be more than 200% higher than in 2004 (NPS, 2006). If the Ocean Drive use level were to increase by only 20%, the simulation model estimates that visitors to Acadia (on average) would begin to be displaced from Ocean Drive due to congestion. Furthermore, a 40% increase in the use level on Ocean Drive would cause standards for "preference", "acceptability", and "management action" to be violated for nearly half of the day or more in Zone B.

The simulation model also estimated the number of vehicles that could use Ocean Drive without appreciably violating standards. However, several considerations need to be addressed

before applying one of these social carrying capacities. First, should the objective of managing Ocean Drive be to maintain use levels within standards for the entire road or for segments of the road? Model runs testing the management alternative showed that use patterns near Sand Beach and the current policy of allowing parking in the right lane are the primary causes of standards being violated. When parking is disallowed on the road and vehicles are kept moving near Sand Beach, preference-based standards are only marginally violated at the current use level. Similarly, with the management alternative applied, the road could accommodate substantially increased use without violating standards based on the other evaluative dimensions. This suggests that by managing congestion near Sand Beach, a high-quality transportation experience is created for visitors on the entire road.

A second consideration is the choice of a standard based on the range of evaluative dimensions measured in this study. Social carrying capacities resulting from the model provide a range of vehicle numbers that suggest what use levels should be (according to visitors) on Ocean Drive. However, results do not indicate which social carrying capacity is most appropriate for Ocean Drive. A conceptual model has been explored that suggests that acceptability or management action-based standards may be more appropriate when high demand for use and the quality of the visitor experience are in competition (Hallo, 2007). Research to test the validity of this conceptual model with NPS mangers and park visitors on Ocean Drive may be an important next step.

Other considerations in applying a social carrying capacity to Ocean Drive are the potential secondary consequences of management actions taken to reduce congestion. Simulation model results showed that by prohibiting parking on Ocean Drive near Sand Beach, current issues of congestion are greatly reduced. However, what will Ocean Drive vehicle users

do if they cannot park on the road near Sand Beach and nearby parking lots are full? How will this change the quality of their experience?

Some vehicle users might react to reduced parking opportunities near Sand Beach by using Acadia's visitor shuttle bus system, the Island Explorer. The Island Explorer provides access to all sites on Ocean Drive, but relatively few visitors to Acadia utilize it (Daigle and Zimmerman, 2004). Also, undesirable secondary consequences may potentially be seen if the management alternative of disallowing parking on Ocean Drive near Sand Beach is implemented. For example, visitors might choose to park farther away and walk to Sand Beach or park illegally, which will likely lead to increased frustration and a decrease in experiential quality.

Simulation modeling also has some potential limitations. Simulation models are often expensive, time consuming, and technically difficult to construct. Also, simulation models, by definition, require using simplifications of processes based on a set of assumptions. Finally, simulation models often rely on static data that may not remain accurate in the context of real world operations. These limitations hold true for the simulation model reported here. For example, one limitation of the Ocean Drive simulation model is that travel attributes (e.g., speed of travel) are assumed to remain unchanged as vehicle use level on the road increase.

The Ocean Drive simulation model assumes that no vehicles are present on the road when the simulation begins. This assumption may produce results that slightly underestimate the amount of time standards are violated. Second, visitor behaviors are based on a set of GPS routes collected during 2004. The pattern of use by Ocean Drive visitors may not have remained constant in subsequent years. Also, comparison of model output with validation counts suggests a difference in use patterns later in the day. However, it cannot be determined if the validation

counts or the model input data are the cause of this difference. Collection of additional GPS routes or validation data may be needed to more conclusively address this issue. Lastly, the simulation model (and standards used in it) only considers private vehicle use on Ocean Drive. Hikers, bikers, commercial buses, and the Island Explorer buses all use the road, though to a much lesser extent. In particular, the Island Explorer buses may have substantial potential to mitigate crowding/congestion on the road if visitors opt to leave their personal vehicle to experience the park. A more complete representation of Ocean Drive would be obtained by integrating the Island Explorer buses and other non-vehicular road users into the model.

Perhaps the greatest challenge in constructing and using a model is knowing when it is "good enough". Real-world systems contain many (often innumerable) variables that can be included in a simulation model. A simulation modeler may get trapped in a process of trying to build into the model every aspect of a system. By definition, a model is a simplified representation of reality, not reality itself. Models only need to be "good enough" to accurately meet the objectives it was built for. The Ocean Drive model has shown (even if reasonable latitude is given for variability in results) that (1) current use levels are (on average) higher than visitors would prefer, (2) crowding/congestion around Sand Beach is the cause of standards being violated, and (3) crowding/congestion could be improved by prohibiting parking on Ocean Drive near Sand Beach.

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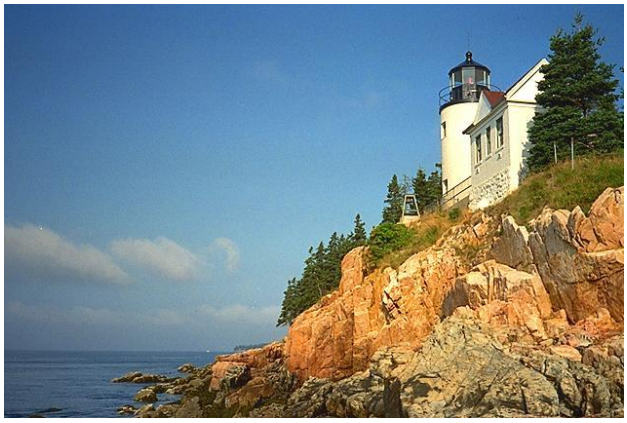
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Appendix A. 2004 Study Photos and Surveys

OMB Number: 1024-0224 (NPS #04-040)

Expiration Date: 03/31/2005

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

1. Family
2. Friends
3. Family and friends
4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

_____
_____
_____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
2. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas)	1	2	3	DK
3. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
4. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded did you feel at Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you stay at Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse today?

Length of stay: _____

6. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (If yes, skip to question 8.)
2. No

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 9.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3

f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 11.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

12a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return it to the surveyor.

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:
16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name is requested for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus the permanent data will be anonymous. Data collected through visitor surveys may be disclosed to the Department of Justice when relevant to litigation or anticipated litigation, or to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating or prosecuting a violation of law. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.
BURDEN ESTIMATE STATEMENT: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 10 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administration Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

OMB Number:

Expiration Date: 03/31/2006

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Cadillac Mountain

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Cadillac Mountain -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

   Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

   1. Family
   2. Friends
   3. Family and friends
   4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
   5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

   1. Yes
   2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Cadillac Mountain. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

   _____
   _____
   _____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are on Cadillac Mountain? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Too many cars on the summit road	1	2	3	DK
2. Too many large vehicles (e.g., busses, campers) on the summit road	1	2	3	DK
3. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
4. Too many large vehicles (e.g., busses, campers) in the parking lot	1	2	3	DK
5. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas)	1	2	3	DK
6. Too many people walking on the road and parking area	1	2	3	DK
7. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
8. Too many people on the paved Cadillac Summit Trail	1	2	3	DK
9. Too many people in my view	1	2	3	DK
10. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by people walking off trail	1	2	3	DK
11. Too much trash (e.g., litter, cigarette butts) in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
12. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK
13. Communication antennas	1	2	3	DK

interfere with enjoyment of scenery				
14. Fenced exclosures interfere with enjoyment of scenery	1	2	3	DK
15. Too much noise (e.g., busses running their engines)	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded did you feel on Cadillac Mountain today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you stay on Cadillac Mountain today?

Length of stay: _____

6. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to <u>Acadia National Park as a whole</u>. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (If yes, skip to question 8.)
2. No

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 9.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3

f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

6. Very dissatisfied
7. Dissatisfied
8. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
9. Satisfied
10. Very satisfied

10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 11.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

12a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

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OMB Number: 1024-0224 (NPS #04-040)

Expiration Date: 03/31/2005

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Echo Lake Beach

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Echo Lake Beach -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

   Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

   1. Family
   2. Friends
   3. Family and friends
   4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
   5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

   1. Yes
   2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Echo Lake Beach. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

   _____
   _____
   _____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Echo Lake Beach? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
2. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas)	1	2	3	DK
3. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
4. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK

4. We would like to know how many people you think could use the beach at Echo Lake without you feeling too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different numbers of people on the beach. Please look at the photographs on the accompanying poster.

a. Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable							Very Acceptable	
Photo 1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 6	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would <u>prefer</u> to see?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? (If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? (If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area.

OR

❑ Visitor use should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

Photo number: _____

5. How crowded did you feel at Echo Lake Beach today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

6. Approximately how long did you stay at Echo Lake Beach today?

Length of stay: _____

7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (If yes, skip to question 9.)
2. No

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 10.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3

f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

11. Very dissatisfied
12. Dissatisfied
13. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
14. Satisfied
15. Very satisfied

11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 12.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

13a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return it to the surveyor.

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:
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Parque Nacional Cerro Azul
Copán, Honduras

OMB Number: 1024-0224 (NPS #04-040)

Expiration Date: 03/31/2005

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Jordan Pond House Area

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Jordan Pond House Area -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

   Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

   1. Family
   2. Friends
   3. Family and friends
   4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
   5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

   1. Yes
   2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting the Jordan Pond House area. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

   _____
   _____
   _____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are in the Jordan Pond House area? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
2. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" area)	1	2	3	DK
3. Difficulty finding my way around this area	1	2	3	DK
4. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
5. The type of services at the Jordan Pond House restaurant and gift shop	1	2	3	DK
6. The availability of services at the Jordan Pond House restaurant and gift shop	1	2	3	DK
7. Waiting time to use the restroom	1	2	3	DK
8. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK
9. Not enough bicycle parking	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded did you feel in the Jordan Pond House area today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you stay in the Jordan Pond House area today?

Length of stay: _____

6. Which of the following activities did you participate in today in the Jordan Pond House area? (Circle all numbers that apply.)

    1. Eating at the Jordan Pond House
    2. Walking on the carriage roads
    3. Biking on the carriage roads
    4. Hiking on park trails
    5. Shopping at the Jordan Pond Gift Shop
    6. Boating on Jordan Pond
    7. Other (Please specify: _____)

7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

    1. Yes (If yes, skip to question 9.)
    2. No

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 10.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3

f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

16. Very dissatisfied
17. Dissatisfied
18. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
19. Satisfied
20. Very satisfied

11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 12.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

13a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

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OMB Number: 1024-0224 (NPS #04-040)

Expiration Date: 03/31/2005

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Park Loop Road from Fabbri Picnic Area to Wildwood Stables

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Park Loop Road from Fabbri Picnic Area to Wildwood Stables -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

   Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

   1. Family
   2. Friends
   3. Family and friends
   4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
   5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

   1. Yes
   2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are driving the section of the Park Loop Road that goes from the Fabbri Picnic Area to Wildwood Stables. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

   _____
   _____
   _____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are on the Park Loop Road from Fabbri Picnic Area to Wildwood Stables? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Too many cars on the road	1	2	3	DK
2. Too many large vehicles (e.g., busses, campers) on the road	1	2	3	DK
3. Too many bicycles on the road	1	2	3	DK
4. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
5. Use of right lane for (legal) parking	1	2	3	DK
6. Too many vehicles (legally) parked in the right lane	1	2	3	DK
7. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas)	1	2	3	DK
8. Vehicles stopping in the left (travel) lane	1	2	3	DK
9. Too many people walking on and around the road	1	2	3	DK
10. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
11. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by visitors walking off trail	1	2	3	DK
12. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK

4. We would like to know how many vehicles you think could use this section of the Park Loop Road (from the Fabbri Picnic Area to Wildwood Stables) without you feeling too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different numbers of vehicles on the road. Please look at the photographs on the accompanying poster.

a. Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of vehicles shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of vehicles is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of vehicles is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 6	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would <u>prefer</u> to see?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is <u>so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area</u>? (If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that <u>the National Park Service should allow</u>? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? (If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area.

OR

❑ Visitor use should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the number of vehicles you typically saw in this area today?

Photo number: _____

5. How crowded did you feel on this section of the Park Loop Road (the section from Fabbri Picnic Area to Wildwood Stables) today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

6. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (If yes, skip to question 8.)
2. No

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 9.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3

f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

21. Very dissatisfied
22. Dissatisfied
23. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
24. Satisfied
25. Very satisfied

10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 11.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

12a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return it to the surveyor.

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OMB Number: 1024-0224 (NPS #04-040)

Expiration Date: 03/31/2005

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Ocean Drive
(Entrance Station to Otter Cliffs Road)

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Ocean Drive (Entrance Station to Otter Cliffs Road) -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

   Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

   1. Family
   2. Friends
   3. Family and friends
   4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
   5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

   1. Yes
   2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road (from the Entrance Station to Otter Cliffs Road). Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

   _____
   _____
   _____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are on the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Too many cars on the road	1	2	3	DK
2. Too many large vehicles (e.g., busses, campers) on the road	1	2	3	DK
3. Too many bicycles on the road	1	2	3	DK
4. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
5. Too many vehicles (legally) parked in the right lane	1	2	3	DK
6. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas)	1	2	3	DK
7. Vehicles stopping in the left (travel) lane	1	2	3	DK
8. Too many people walking on and around the road	1	2	3	DK
9. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
10. Too many people at places like Sand Beach and Thunder Hole	1	2	3	DK
11. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by visitors walking off trails	1	2	3	DK
12. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK

4. We would like to know how many vehicles you think could use the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road without you feeling too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different numbers of vehicles on the road. Please look at the photographs on the accompanying poster.

a. Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of vehicles shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of vehicles is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of vehicles is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable							Very Acceptable	
Photo 1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 6	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would <u>prefer</u> to see?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is <u>so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area</u>? (If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? (If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area.

OR

❑ Visitor use should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the number of vehicles you typically saw in this area today?

Photo number: _____

5. How crowded did you feel on the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

6. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (If yes, skip to question 8.)
2. No

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 9.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle one number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3

f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

26. Very dissatisfied
27. Dissatisfied
28. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
29. Satisfied
30. Very satisfied

10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 11.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

12a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

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OMB Number: 1024-0224 (NPS #04-040)

Expiration Date: 03/31/2005

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Precipice Trail

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Precipice Trail -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

   Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

   1. Family
   2. Friends
   3. Family and friends
   4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
   5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

   1. Yes
   2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you hiked the Precipice Trail. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this trail.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your hike on this trail?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your hike on this trail?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this trail, what would you ask them to do?

   _____
   _____
   _____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are on the Precipice Trail? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
2. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
3. Too many people on the Champlain Mountain summit	1	2	3	DK
4. Having to wait while climbing or descending the trail because of visitor congestion	1	2	3	DK
5. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded did you feel on the Precipice Trail today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you hike on the Precipice Trail today?

   Length of hike (time): _____

6. Approximately how many other hikers did you see on this trail today?

   Number of other hikers: _____

7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (If yes, skip to question 9.)
2. No

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 10.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3

f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

31. Very dissatisfied
32. Dissatisfied
33. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
34. Satisfied
35. Very satisfied

11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 12.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

13a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return it to the surveyor.

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OMB Number: 1024-0224 (NPS #04-040)

Expiration Date: 03/31/2005

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Sand Beach

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Sand Beach -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

   Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

   1. Family
   2. Friends
   3. Family and friends
   4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
   5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

   1. Yes
   2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Sand Beach. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

   _____
   _____
   _____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Sand Beach? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
2. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
3. Too many people on the beach	1	2	3	DK
4. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK

4. We would like to know how many people you think could use Sand Beach without you feeling too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different numbers of people on the beach. Please look at the photographs on the accompanying poster.

a. Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 6	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would <u>prefer</u> to see?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? (If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? (If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area.

OR

❑ Visitor use should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

Photo number: _____

5. How crowded did you feel at Sand Beach today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

6. Approximately how long did you stay at Sand Beach today?

Length of stay: _____

7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (If yes, skip to question 9.)
2. No

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 10.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3

f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

36. Very dissatisfied
37. Dissatisfied
38. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
39. Satisfied
40. Very satisfied

11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 12.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

13a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

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OMB Number: 1024-0224 (NPS #04-040)

Expiration Date: 03/31/2005

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Sand Beach
(Version A)

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Sand Beach (Version A) -

1. We would like to know how many people you think could use Sand Beach without you feeling too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different numbers of people on the beach. Please look at the photographs on the accompanying poster.

a. Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would <u>prefer</u> to see?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is <u>so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area</u>? (If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? (If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area.

OR

❑ Visitor use should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

Photo number: _____

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return it to the surveyor.

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:
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OMB Number: 1024-0224 (NPS #04-040)

Expiration Date: 03/31/2005

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Sand Beach
(Version B)

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Sand Beach (Version B) -

1. We would like to know how many people you think could use Sand Beach without you feeling too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different numbers of people on the beach. Please look at the photographs on the accompanying poster.

a. Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would <u>prefer</u> to see?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is <u>so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area</u>? (If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? (If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area.

OR

❑ Visitor use should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

Photo number: _____

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return it to the surveyor.

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OMB Number: 1024-0224 (NPS #04-040)

Expiration Date: 03/31/2005

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Sieur de Monts

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Sieur de Monts -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

1. Family
2. Friends
3. Family and friends
4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting the Sieur de Monts area. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

1.

_____

2. _____

3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

_____
_____
_____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Sieur de Monts? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
2. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas)	1	2	3	DK
3. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
4. Difficulty finding my way around the area	1	2	3	DK
5. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded did you feel at the Sieur de Monts area today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you stay at the Sieur de Monts area today?

Length of stay: _____

6. Which of the following places did you visit at the Sieur de Monts area today? (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. Acadia Wild Gardens
2. Abbe Museum
3. Nature Center
4. Trails
5. Other (Please specify: _____)

7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (If yes, skip to question 9.)
2. No

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 10.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3

f. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

41. Very dissatisfied
42. Dissatisfied
43. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
44. Satisfied
45. Very satisfied

11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 12.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

13a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return it to the surveyor.

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OMB Number: 1024-0224 (NPS #04-040)

Expiration Date: 03/31/2005

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Thunder Hole

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Thunder Hole -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

   Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

   1. Family
   2. Friends
   3. Family and friends
   4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
   5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

   1. Yes
   2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Thunder Hole. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

   _____
   _____
   _____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Thunder Hole? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Too many cars on the road	1	2	3	DK
2. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
3. Difficulty crossing the road safely	1	2	3	DK
4. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
5. Thunder Hole viewing area too crowded	1	2	3	DK
6. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK

4. We would like to know how many people you think could use Thunder Hole without you feeling too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different numbers of people at this area. Please look at the photographs on the accompanying poster.

a. Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 6	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would <u>prefer</u> to see?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? (If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? (If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area.

OR

❑ Visitor use should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

Photo number: _____

5. How crowded did you feel in the Thunder Hole area today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

6. Approximately how long did you stay at Thunder Hole today?

Length of stay: _____

7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (If yes, skip to question 9.)
2. No

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 10.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3

g. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 12.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

13a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

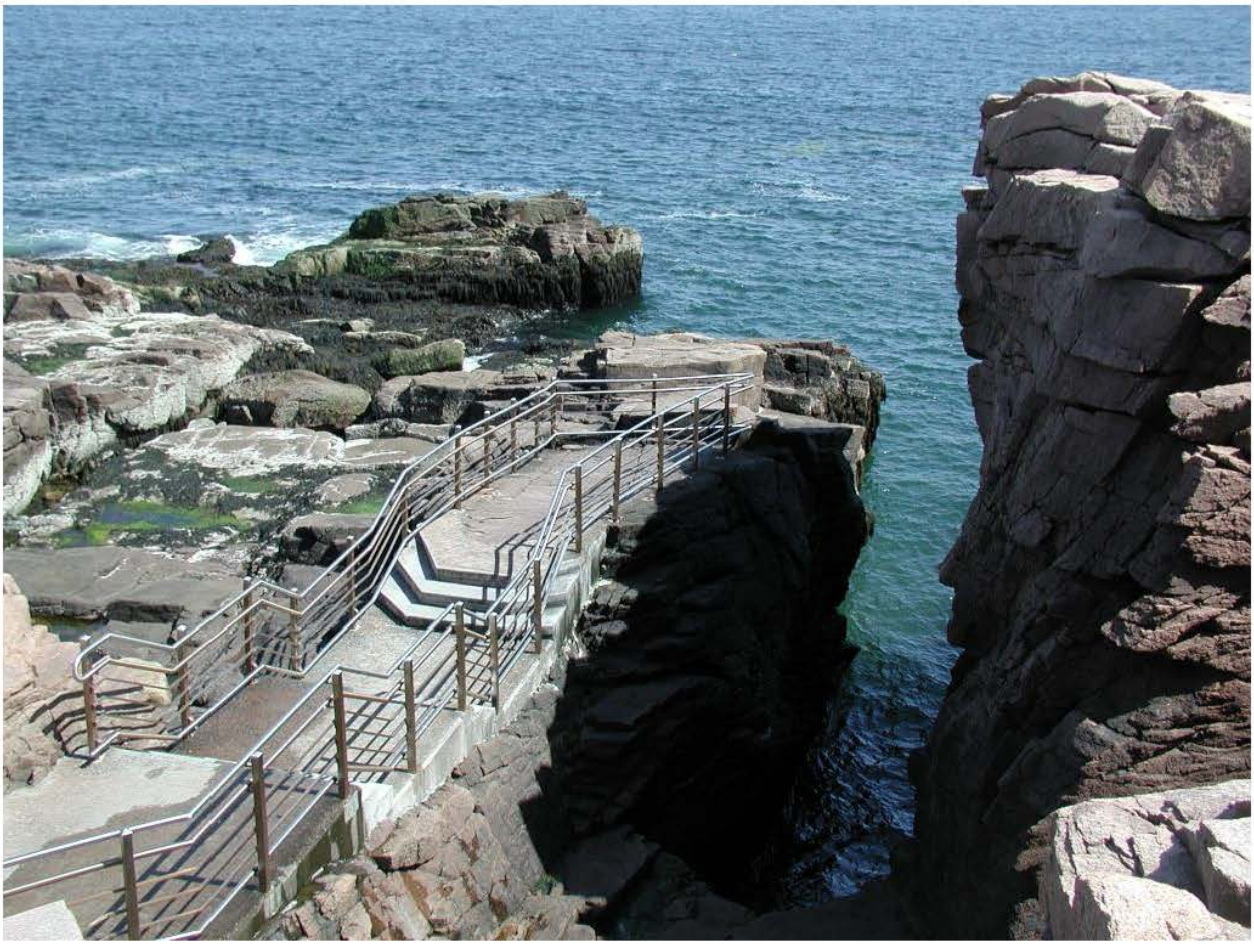
1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return it to the surveyor.

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OMB Number: 1024-0224 (NPS #04-040)

Expiration Date: 03/31/2005

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Hiking Trails

ID_____ Date _____

Trail/Area _____

Acadia National Park

- Hiking Trails -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

   Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

   1. Family
   2. Friends
   3. Family and friends
   4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
   5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

   1. Yes
   2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are hiking on park trails. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to the trails you are hiking.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about hiking these trails?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about hiking these trails?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage these trails, what would you ask them to do?

   _____
   _____
   _____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are on the hiking trails at Acadia National Park? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Difficulty finding a parking place at the trailhead	1	2	3	DK
2. Too many people on these trails	1	2	3	DK
3. Too many large groups on these trails	1	2	3	DK
4. Too many people on mountain summits and other destinations	1	2	3	DK
5. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by hikers walking off trails	1	2	3	DK
6. Dogs off leash	1	2	3	DK
7. Lack of trail maintenance	1	2	3	DK
8. Lack of information/orientation at trailheads	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded did you feel on these trails today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you hike on these trails today?

Length of hike (time): _____

6. Approximately how many other hikers did you see along these trails today?

Number of hikers seen: _____

7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (If yes, skip to question 9.)
2. No

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 10.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

11a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3

h. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 12.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

13a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return it to the surveyor.

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:
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BURDEN ESTIMATE STATEMENT: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 10 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administration Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

OMB Number: 1024-0224 (NPS #04-040)

Expiration Date: 03/31/2005

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2004



Wildwood Stables

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Wildwood Stables -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

   Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

   1. Family
   2. Friends
   3. Family and friends
   4. Organized group/club/ school/educational group
   5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

   1. Yes
   2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Wildwood Stables. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

   _____
   _____
   _____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Wildwood Stables? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
2. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
3. The type of services at the stables	1	2	3	DK
4. The availability of services at the stables	1	2	3	DK
5. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded did you feel at Wildwood Stables today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you stay at Wildwood Stables today?

Length of stay: _____

6. In which of the following activities did you participate at the Wildwood Stables area today? (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. Carriage ride
2. Trailered and used your own horse and/or carriage
3. Camped
4. Other (Please specify: _____)

7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (If yes, skip to question 9.)
2. No

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 10.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass (National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass)
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3

i. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 12.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

13a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return it to the surveyor.

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Appendix B. 2005 Study Photos and Surveys

OMB Approval Number: 1024-0224, NPS #05-049
Expiration Date: 02/28/2006

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2005



Acadia Mountain

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Acadia Mountain -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

1. Family
2. Friends
3. Family and friends
4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Acadia Mountain. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you have enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

b. What are the three things you have enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

_____
_____
_____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Acadia Mountain? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
17. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
18. Too many people on this trail	1	2	3	DK
19. Too many large groups on this trail	1	2	3	DK
20. Too many people on mountain summits and other destinations	1	2	3	DK
21. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by hikers walking off trail	1	2	3	DK
22. Dogs off leash	1	2	3	DK
23. Lack of trail maintenance	1	2	3	DK
24. Lack of information/orientation at trailhead	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded do you feel at Acadia Mountain today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you stay at Acadia Mountain today?

Length of stay: _____

6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes, likely (If yes, skip to question 8.)
2. No, unlikely
3. Not applicable -- I live on Mt. Desert Island. (If you live on Mt. Desert Island, skip to question 8.)

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 9.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. We are interested in your perceptions of changes in visitor use of Acadia National Park over the past several years. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
11. The number of visitors to Acadia has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
12. The number of visitors to Acadia from off Mt. Desert Island has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
13. The number of visitors to Acadia from on Mt. Desert Island has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
14. There is more conflict among different types of visitors to Acadia.	1	2	3	4	5

d. We are interested in knowing if your use of Acadia National Park has changed over the past several years. Please respond to each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Yes	No
23. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years….	1	2
24. I visit Acadia more now than I used to….	1	2
25. I visit Acadia less often because of changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
26. I visit Acadia more in the off-season to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
27. I visit Acadia more on the weekdays rather than the weekends to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
28. I visit Acadia during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
29. I visit different areas of Acadia to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
30. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but I am not as satisfied with my experience in the park because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
31. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but the type of experience provided by the park has changed because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
32. I rarely visit Acadia anymore because I don't like the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2

e. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

f. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

g. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass [National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass]
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3
e. $50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year)	1	2	3

j. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 11.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

12a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return this completed questionnaire to the surveyor.

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OMB Approval Number: 1024-0224, NPS #05-049
Expiration Date: 02/28/2006

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2005

Compass Harbor

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Compass Harbor -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

1. Family
2. Friends
3. Family and friends
4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Compass Harbor. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you have enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

b. What are the three things you have enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

_____
_____
_____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Compass Harbor? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
25. Difficulty finding a parking place.	1	2	3	DK
26. Too many people on this trail.	1	2	3	DK
27. Too many large groups on this trail	1	2	3	DK
28. Too many people on mountain summits and other destinations	1	2	3	DK
29. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by hikers walking off trail	1	2	3	DK
30. Dogs off leash	1	2	3	DK
31. Lack of trail maintenance	1	2	3	DK
32. Lack of information/orientation at trailhead	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded do you feel at Compass Harbor today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you stay at Compass Harbor today?

Length of stay: _____

6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
e. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
f. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
g. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
h. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

4. Yes, likely (If yes, skip to question 8.)
5. No, unlikely
6. Not applicable -- I live on Mt. Desert Island. (If you live on Mt. Desert Island, skip to question 8.)

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 9.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. We are interested in your perceptions of changes in visitor use of Acadia National Park over the past several years. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
15. The number of visitors to Acadia has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
16. The number of visitors to Acadia from <u>off</u> Mt. Desert Island has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
17. The number of visitors to Acadia from <u>on</u> Mt. Desert Island has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
18. There is more conflict among different types of visitors to Acadia.	1	2	3	4	5

d. We are interested in knowing if your use of Acadia National Park has changed over the past several years. Please respond to each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Yes	No
33. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years….	1	2
34. I visit Acadia more now than I used to….	1	2
35. I visit Acadia less often because of changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
36. I visit Acadia more in the off-season to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
37. I visit Acadia more on the weekdays rather than the weekends to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
38. I visit Acadia during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
39. I visit different areas of Acadia to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
40. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but I am not as satisfied with my experience in the park because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
41. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but the type of experience provided by the park has changed because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
42. I rarely visit Acadia anymore because I don't like the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2

e. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

f. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

g. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass [National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass]
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3
e. $50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year)	1	2	3

k. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 11.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

12a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return this completed questionnaire to the surveyor.

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OMB Approval Number: 1024-0224, NPS #05-049
Expiration Date: 02/28/2006

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2005

Hunters Beach

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Hunters Beach -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

1. Family
2. Friends
3. Family and friends
4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Hunters Beach. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you have enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

b. What are the three things you have enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

_____
_____
_____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Hunters Beach? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
33. Difficulty finding a parking place.	1	2	3	DK
34. Too many people in this area of the park.	1	2	3	DK
35. Damage to soil and vegetation.	1	2	3	DK
36. Visitors taking beach cobbles (rocks).	1	2	3	DK
37. Visitors building objects with rocks.	1	2	3	DK
38. Too much trash or marine debris in this area of the park.	1	2	3	DK
39. Dogs off leash.	1	2	3	DK
40. Too much noise in this area of the park.	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded do you feel at Hunters Beach today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you stay at Hunters Beach today?

Length of stay: _____

6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
i. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
j. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
k. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
l. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

7. Yes, likely (If yes, skip to question 8.)
8. No, unlikely
9. Not applicable -- I live on Mt. Desert Island. (If you live on Mt. Desert Island, skip to question 8.)

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 9.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

e. We are interested in your perceptions of changes in visitor use of Acadia National Park over the past several years. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
19. The number of visitors to Acadia has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
20. The number of visitors to Acadia from off Mt. Desert Island has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
21. The number of visitors to Acadia from on Mt. Desert Island has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
22. There is more conflict among different types of visitors to Acadia.	1	2	3	4	5

c. We are interested in knowing if your use of Acadia National Park has changed over the past several years. Please respond to each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Yes	No
43. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years….	1	2
44. I visit Acadia more now than I used to….	1	2
45. I visit Acadia less often because of changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
46. I visit Acadia more in the off-season to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
47. I visit Acadia more on the weekdays rather than the weekends to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
48. I visit Acadia during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
49. I visit different areas of Acadia to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
50. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but I am not as satisfied with my experience in the park because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
51. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but the type of experience provided by the park has changed because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
52. I rarely visit Acadia anymore because I don't like the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2

e. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

f. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

g. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass [National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass]
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3
e. $50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year)	1	2	3

l. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 11.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

12a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

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OMB Approval Number: 1024-0224, NPS #05-049
Expiration Date: 02/28/2006

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2005

Little Hunters Beach

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Little Hunters Beach -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

1. Family
2. Friends
3. Family and friends
4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Little Hunters Beach. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you have enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

b. What are the three things you have enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

1.

_____

2. _____

3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

_____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Little Hunters Beach? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
41. Difficulty finding a parking place.	1	2	3	DK
42. Too many people in this area of the park.	1	2	3	DK
43. Damage to soil and vegetation.	1	2	3	DK
44. Visitors taking beach cobbles (rocks)	1	2	3	DK
45. Visitors building objects with rocks.	1	2	3	DK
46. Too much trash or marine debris in this area of the park.	1	2	3	DK
47. Dogs off leash.	1	2	3	DK
48. Too much noise in this area of the park.	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded do you feel at Little Hunters Beach today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you stay at Little Hunters Beach today?

Length of stay: _____

6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
m. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
n. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
o. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
p. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

10. Yes, likely (If yes, skip to question 8.)
11. No, unlikely
12. Not applicable -- I live on Mt. Desert Island. (If you live on Mt. Desert Island, skip to question 8.)

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 9.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

f. We are interested in your perceptions of changes in visitor use of Acadia National Park over the past several years. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
23. The number of visitors to Acadia has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
24. The number of visitors to Acadia from off Mt. Desert Island has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
25. The number of visitors to Acadia from on Mt. Desert Island has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
26. There is more conflict among different types of visitors to Acadia.	1	2	3	4	5

g. We are interested in knowing if your use of Acadia National Park has changed over the past several years. Please respond to each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Yes	No
53. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years….	1	2
54. I visit Acadia more now than I used to….	1	2
55. I visit Acadia less often because of changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
56. I visit Acadia more in the off-season to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
57. I visit Acadia more on the weekdays rather than the weekends to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
58. I visit Acadia during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
59. I visit different areas of Acadia to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
60. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but I am not as satisfied with my experience in the park because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
61. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but the type of experience provided by the park has changed because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
62. I rarely visit Acadia anymore because I don't like the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2

e. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

f. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

g. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass [National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass]
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3
e. $50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year)	1	2	3

m. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 11.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

12a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

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Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2005

Seawall

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Seawall -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

1. Family
2. Friends
3. Family and friends
4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Seawall. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you have enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

b. What are the three things you have enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

1.

_____

2. _____

3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

_____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Seawall? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
49. Difficulty finding a parking place.	1	2	3	DK
50. Too many people in this area of the park.	1	2	3	DK
51. Too many people in my view.	1	2	3	DK
52. Damage to soil and vegetation.	1	2	3	DK
53. Dogs off leash.	1	2	3	DK
54. Too much trash or marine debris in the area.	1	2	3	DK
55. Visitors taking beach cobbles (rocks)	1	2	3	DK
56. Visitors building objects with rocks.	1	2	3	DK
57. Visitors feeding wildlife.	1	2	3	DK
58. Visitors damaging intertidal organisms.	1	2	3	DK
59. Difficulty crossing road safely.	1	2	3	DK
60. Too much noise in this area of the park.	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded do you feel at Seawall today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you stay at Seawall today?

Length of stay: _____

6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
q. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
r. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
s. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
t. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

13. Yes, likely (If yes, skip to question 8.)
14. No, unlikely
15. Not applicable -- I live on Mt. Desert Island. (If you live on Mt. Desert Island, skip to question 8.)

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 9.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

h. We are interested in your perceptions of changes in visitor use of Acadia National Park over the past several years. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
27. The number of visitors to Acadia has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
28. The number of visitors to Acadia from off Mt. Desert Island has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
29. The number of visitors to Acadia from on Mt. Desert Island has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
30. There is more conflict among different types of visitors to Acadia.	1	2	3	4	5

i. We are interested in knowing if your use of Acadia National Park has changed over the past several years. Please respond to each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Yes	No
63. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years….	1	2
64. I visit Acadia more now than I used to….	1	2
65. I visit Acadia less often because of changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
66. I visit Acadia more in the off-season to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
67. I visit Acadia more on the weekdays rather than the weekends to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
68. I visit Acadia during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
69. I visit different areas of Acadia to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
70. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but I am not as satisfied with my experience in the park because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
71. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but the type of experience provided by the park has changed because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
72. I rarely visit Acadia anymore because I don't like the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2

e. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

f. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

g. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass [National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass]
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3
e. $50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year)	1	2	3

n. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 11.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

12a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

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OMB Approval Number: 1024-0224, NPS #05-049
Expiration Date: 02/28/2006

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2005

Valley Cove

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Valley Cove -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

1. Family
2. Friends
3. Family and friends
4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Valley Cove. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you have enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

b. What are the three things you have enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

_____
_____
_____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Valley Cove? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
61. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
62. Too many people on this trail	1	2	3	DK
63. Too many large groups on this trail	1	2	3	DK
64. Too many people on mountain summits and other destinations	1	2	3	DK
65. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by hikers walking off trail	1	2	3	DK
66. Dogs off leash	1	2	3	DK
67. Lack of trail maintenance	1	2	3	DK
68. Lack of information/orientation at trailhead	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded do you feel at Valley Cove today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you stay at Valley Cove today?

Length of stay: _____

6. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
u. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
v. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
w. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
x. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

16. Yes, likely (If yes, skip to question 8.)
17. No, unlikely
18. Not applicable -- I live on Mt. Desert Island. (If you live on Mt. Desert Island, skip to question 8.)

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 9.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

j. We are interested in your perceptions of changes in visitor use of Acadia National Park over the past several years. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
31. The number of visitors to Acadia has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
32. The number of visitors to Acadia from off Mt. Desert Island has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
33. The number of visitors to Acadia from on Mt. Desert Island has increased.	1	2	3	4	5
34. There is more conflict among different types of visitors to Acadia.	1	2	3	4	5

k. We are interested in knowing if your use of Acadia National Park has changed over the past several years. Please respond to each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Yes	No
73. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years….	1	2
74. I visit Acadia more now than I used to….	1	2
75. I visit Acadia less often because of changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
76. I visit Acadia more in the off-season to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
77. I visit Acadia more on the weekdays rather than the weekends to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
78. I visit Acadia during the early and/or later times of the day to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
79. I visit different areas of Acadia to avoid the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
80. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but I am not as satisfied with my experience in the park because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
81. My visits to Acadia have not changed much over the years, but the type of experience provided by the park has changed because of the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2
82. I rarely visit Acadia anymore because I don't like the changes in use that have occurred in the park….	1	2

e. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

f. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

g. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass [National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass]
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3
e. $50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year)	1	2	3

o. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 11.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system on another day during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

12a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return this completed questionnaire to the surveyor.

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OMB Approval Number: 1024-0224, NPS #05-051
Expiration Date: 01/31/2006

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2005



Cadillac Mountain

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Cadillac Mountain -

1. How many people (including you) are in your group today?

   Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your group? (Circle one number.)

   1. Family
   2. Friends
   3. Family and friends
   4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
   5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

   1. Yes
   2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Cadillac Mountain. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

   _____
   _____
   _____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are on Cadillac Mountain? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Too many cars on the summit road	1	2	3	DK
2. Too many large vehicles (e.g., busses, campers) on the summit road	1	2	3	DK
3. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
4. Too many large vehicles (e.g., busses, campers) in the parking lot	1	2	3	DK
5. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas)	1	2	3	DK
6. Too many people walking on the road and parking area	1	2	3	DK
7. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
8. Too many people on the paved Cadillac Summit Trail	1	2	3	DK
9. Too many people in my view	1	2	3	DK
10. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by people walking off trail	1	2	3	DK
11. Too much trash (e.g., litter, cigarette butts) in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
12. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK
13. Communication antennas interfere with enjoyment of scenery	1	2	3	DK

14. Fenced exclosures interfere with enjoyment of scenery	1	2	3	DK
15. Too much noise (e.g., busses running their engines)	1	2	3	DK

4. How crowded did you feel on Cadillac Mountain today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

5. Approximately how long did you stay on Cadillac Mountain today?

Length of stay: _____

6. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to <u>Acadia National Park as a whole</u>. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes, likely (If yes, skip to question 8.)
2. No, unlikely

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 9.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass [National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass]
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3
e. $50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year)	1	2	3

p. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 11.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know

12a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

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OMB Approval Number: 1024-0224, NPS #05-051
Expiration Date: 01/31/2006

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2005



Ocean Drive
(Entrance Station to Otter Cliffs Road)

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Ocean Drive (Entrance Station to Otter Cliffs Road) -

1. How many people (including you) are in your group today?

   Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your group? (Circle one number.)

   1. Family
   2. Friends
   3. Family and friends
   4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
   5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

   1. Yes
   2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting the Ocean Drive section of the park loop road. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

   _____
   _____
   _____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are on the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Too many cars on the road	1	2	3	DK
2. Too many large vehicles (e.g., busses, campers) on the road	1	2	3	DK
3. Too many bicycles on the road	1	2	3	DK
4. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
5. Too many vehicles parked in the right lane	1	2	3	DK
6. Cars parked illegally (on road shoulders, in "no parking" areas)	1	2	3	DK
7. Vehicles stopping in the left (travel) lane	1	2	3	DK
8. Too many people walking on and around the road	1	2	3	DK
9. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
10. Too many people at places like Sand Beach and Thunder Hole	1	2	3	DK
11. Damage to soil and vegetation caused by visitors walking off trails	1	2	3	DK
12. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK

4. We would like to know how many vehicles you think could use the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road without you feeling too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different numbers of vehicles on the road. Please look at the photographs on Poster 1.

a. Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of vehicles shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of vehicles is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of vehicles is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 6	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 7	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 8	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 9	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 10	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would prefer to see?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? (If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? (If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area.

OR

❑ Visitor use should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the number of vehicles you typically saw in this area today?

Photo number: _____

5. How crowded did you feel on the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

6. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

7a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes, likely (If yes, skip to question 8.)
2. No, unlikely

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

8a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 9.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

9a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass [National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass]
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3
e. $50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year)	1	2	3

q. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

10a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 11.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

11a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know

12a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey!

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:
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OMB Approval Number: 1024-0224, NPS #05-051
Expiration Date: 01/31/2006

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2005



Sand Beach

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Sand Beach -

1. How many people (including you) are in your group today?

Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your group? (Circle one number.)

1. Family
2. Friends
3. Family and friends
4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Sand Beach. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

_____
_____
_____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Sand Beach? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
2. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
3. Too many people on the beach	1	2	3	DK
4. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK

4. We would like to know how many people you think could use Sand Beach without you feeling too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different numbers of people on the beach. Please look at the photographs on Poster 1.

a. Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 6	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would <u>prefer</u> to see?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? (If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? (If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area.

OR

❑ Visitor use should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

Photo number: _____

5. How crowded did you feel at Sand Beach today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

6. Approximately how long did you stay at Sand Beach today?

Length of stay: _____

7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes, likely (If yes, skip to question 9.)
2. No, unlikely

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 10.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass [National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass]
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3
e. $50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year)	1	2	3

r. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question ___.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes

2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know

13a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey!

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OMB Approval Number: 1024-0224, NPS #05-051
Expiration Date: 01/31/2006

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2005



Thunder Hole

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Thunder Hole -

1. How many people (including you) are in your group today?

   Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your group? (Circle one number.)

   1. Family
   2. Friends
   3. Family and friends
   4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
   5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

   1. Yes
   2. No

3. We have asked you to participate in this study because you are visiting Thunder Hole. Please answer this question as it applies specifically to this area.

a. What are the three things you enjoyed most about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

b. What are the three things you enjoyed least about your visit to this area?

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

c. If you could ask the National Park Service to change some things about the way they manage this area, what would you ask them to do?

   _____
   _____
   _____

d. How much of a problem do you think the following issues are at Thunder Hole? (Circle one number for each item.)

	Not a Problem	Small Problem	Big Problem	Don't Know
1. Too many cars on the road	1	2	3	DK
2. Difficulty finding a parking place	1	2	3	DK
3. Difficulty crossing the road safely	1	2	3	DK
4. Too many people in this area of the park	1	2	3	DK
5. Thunder Hole viewing area too crowded	1	2	3	DK
6. Not enough restrooms	1	2	3	DK

4. We would like to know how many people you think could use Thunder Hole without you feeling too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different numbers of people at this area. Please look at the photographs on Poster 1.

a. Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 6	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. Which photograph shows the level of use you would <u>prefer</u> to see?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the level of use that is so unacceptable that you would no longer use this area? (If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer use this area.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of use that the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should visitors be restricted from using this area? (If use should not be restricted at any point represented by the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.)

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs show a high enough level of use to restrict visitors from using this area.

OR

❑ Visitor use should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw in this area today?

Photo number: _____

5. How crowded did you feel in the Thunder Hole area today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

6. Approximately how long did you stay at Thunder Hole today?

Length of stay: _____

7. The following questions ask your opinions about issues that apply to Acadia National Park as a whole. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I generally found Acadia National Park to be too crowded	1	2	3	4	5
b. There should be a limit on the number of people allowed to use Acadia National Park at any one time	1	2	3	4	5
c. Road and traffic conditions in Acadia National Park create a safety hazard	1	2	3	4	5
d. The number of people using Acadia National Park is about right	1	2	3	4	5

8a. Do you expect to return to Mt. Desert Island on other trips in the next year or two? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes, likely (If yes, skip to question 9.)
2. No, unlikely

b. If you do not expect to return to Mt. Desert Island in the next year or two, please explain why not.

_____

9a. Have you visited Acadia National Park before? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (If no, skip to question 10.)

b. Approximately how many times have you visited Acadia National Park before this trip?

Number of previous visits: ____

c. How have your feelings of crowding in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. I feel more crowded than I used to
2. I feel less crowded than I used to
3. My feelings of crowding have not changed much

d. How have your feelings about congestion of vehicles while driving park roads changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. Park roads are more congested with vehicles today than before
2. Park roads are less congested with vehicles today than before
3. Congestion of vehicles on park roads has not changed much

e. How have your feelings about the availability of parking space in Acadia National Park changed over the years? (Circle one number.)

1. It is much harder to find a parking space today than before
2. It is less hard to find a parking space today than before
3. Finding a parking space today is about the same as before

10a. On this visit to Acadia National Park, what kind of entrance fee did you and your group pay to enter the park? (Circle <u>one</u> number.)

1. Did not pay a fee or use a park pass to enter the park
2. 7-day entrance fee ($20/vehicle or $5/individual)
3. Pass [National Parks/Golden Eagle Pass, Acadia Annual Pass, Golden Age Pass (62 years of age or older), Golden Access Pass]
4. Fee included in tour package
5. Don't know
6. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Were you aware that Acadia National Park entrance fees are used to upgrade visitor facilities and services, including operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to upgrade visitor facilities and services? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

d. Do you support the use of park entrance fees to support operation of the Island Explorer bus system? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

e. Knowing that entrance fees are used as described above, please evaluate current entrance fees for Acadia National Park. (Circle one number for each type of entrance fee.)

	Too Low	About Right	Too High
a. $20 per vehicle per week	1	2	3
b. $40 Annual Acadia Pass	1	2	3
c. $5 per individual (on foot or bike) per week	1	2	3
d. $10 Golden Age Pass (for all national parks for life)	1	2	3
e. $50 National Parks Pass (for all national parks for one year)	1	2	3

s. How satisfied were you with the value for the fee you paid on this trip? (Circle one number.)

1. Very dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Neither dissatisfied nor satisfied
4. Satisfied
5. Very satisfied

11a. Did/will you or any member of your group participate in freshwater fishing on this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question ___.)

b. If yes, where did/will you fish?

_____

12a. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

b. Have you ridden the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

c. Do you plan to ride the Island Explorer bus system during this visit to Acadia National Park? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't Know

13a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey!

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OMB Approval #1024-0224 (NPS #05-050)
Expiration Date: 03/31/2006

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2005



Cadillac Mountain

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Cadillac Mountain -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

1. Family
2. Friends
3. Family and friends
4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

3. a. When people walk off the trails on the summit of Cadillac Mountain, they can cause impacts to soil and vegetation (e.g. trails may widen, vegetation may get trampled). We would like to know how much impact you think is acceptable to see on the summit of Cadillac Mountain. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different levels of impact to this area. **(Please look at the photographs in Panel A.)** Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you find it based on the amount of impact shown. A rating of "-4" means the amount of impact is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the amount of impact is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 2…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 3…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 4…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 5…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4

b. Which photograph shows the amount of environmental impact you would <u>prefer</u> to see on the summit of Cadillac Mountain?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the amount of environmental impact that is so unacceptable that you would no longer visit the summit of Cadillac Mountain? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.

Photo number: _____

OR

□ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer visit the summit of Cadillac Mountain.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of environmental impact that you think the National Park Service should allow on the summit of Cadillac Mountain? In other words, at what point do you think people should be restricted from visiting this area? If you think visitor use should not be restricted at any point represented in the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

Photo number: _____

OR

□ None of the photographs show a high enough level of environmental impact to restrict people from visiting Cadillac Mountain.

OR

□ The number of people visiting Cadillac Mountain should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the amount of environmental impact you typically saw today on the summit of Cadillac Mountain?

Photo number: _____

4. One of the ways the National Park Service can manage the impacts of visitor use on the summit of Cadillac Mountain is to try to encourage visitors to stay on the trails (not wander off maintained trails). This could be done through several management practices, and we have a series of photographs that show some of those practices. **(Please look at the photographs in Panel B.)** Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you find it based on the management practice shown. A rating of "-4" means the management practice is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the management practice is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 2…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 3…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 4…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 5…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4

5. How crowded did you feel on Cadillac Mountain today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

6. Approximately how long did you stay on Cadillac Mountain today?

Length of stay: _____

7a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return this completed questionnaire to the surveyor.

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OMB Approval Number: 1024-0224, NPS #05-053
Expiration Date: 02/28/2006

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2005



Ocean Drive

ID_____ Date _____

Vehicle Type_____

1. We would like to know how many and what types of vehicles you think could use the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road without you feeling too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different numbers and types of vehicles on the road. Please look at the following photographs.

   Please rate each photo by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number and type of vehicles shown. A rating of "-4" means the photo is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the photo is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photo.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 6	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 7	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 8	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 9	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 10	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 11	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 12	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

2. Now we would like to show you some short video clips of vehicle traffic on the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road. These video clips show different numbers of vehicles. We would like to know how many vehicles you think could use this road without you feeling too crowded. Please rate each video clip by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the number of vehicles shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of vehicles is very unacceptable and a rating of "+4" means the number of vehicles is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each video clip.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Video Clip 1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Video Clip 2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Video Clip 3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Video Clip 4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Video Clip 5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

3. Next, we would like to show you a few more short video clips of vehicle traffic on the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road. As you probably know, vehicles are allowed to park in the right-hand lane of the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road. These video clips show different numbers of vehicles driving and parked in the right-hand lane. Please rate each video clip by indicating how acceptable you think it is based on the vehicles shown. A rating of "-4" means the video clip is very unacceptable and a rating of "+4" means the video clip is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each video clip.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Video Clip 1	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Video Clip 2	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Video Clip 3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Video Clip 4	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Video Clip 5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

4. As you probably know, vehicles are allowed to park in the right-hand lane of the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road. Several parking lots are also provided.

    a. Where did you park along the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road today? (Circle all numbers that apply.)

        1. I parked in the Sand Beach parking lot.
        2. I parked in the Thunder Hole (gift shop) parking lot.
        3. I parked in the Gorham Mountain Trail parking lot.
        4. I parked in one of the three other parking lots between Sand Beach and this survey location.
        5. I parked in the right-hand lane of Ocean Drive to visit Sand Beach.
        6. I parked in the right-hand lane of Ocean Drive to visit Thunder Hole.
        7. I parked in the right-hand lane of Ocean Park to hike Gorham Mountain Trail.
        8. I parked in the right-hand lane of Ocean Drive to visit other areas along Ocean Drive.
        9. I did not park at all along Ocean Drive.

b. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
9. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road is a safety hazard for drivers.	1	2	3	4	5
10. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road is a safety hazard for pedestrians.	1	2	3	4	5
11. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road is a safety hazard for bicyclists.	1	2	3	4	5
12. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road is a convenience for visitors.	1	2	3	4	5
13. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road contributes to traffic congestion.	1	2	3	4	5
14. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road contributed to the my enjoyment of the park.	1	2	3	4	5
15. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road interfered with my enjoyment of the park.	1	2	3	4	5
16. Parking in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road interfered with my ability to enjoy the park scenery.	1	2	3	4	5

c. Do you support or oppose the policy of allowing vehicles to park in the right-hand lane of the Park Loop Road? (Circle one number.)

1. Support
2. Oppose
3. Neither support nor oppose/don't know

5. A "national park scenic road**"** is often the major roadway that most visitors use to see and experience a national park. Roadways of this type typically have two lanes going in different directions or are one way. These roads generally have relatively low speed limits (25-45 mph), have few if any traffic signals, and may carry relatively large volumes of traffic. An example of a national park scenic road is Ocean Drive at Acadia National Park, which you just drove on today.

a. Please read the following list of features found on many national park scenic roads.
b. Place a check in the first column next to the 10 most important features to you as a driver on this type of road.
c. In the 2nd column, rank the top five features of those you checked that you consider to be the most important on this type of road, with 1 being the most important.

Features	Check the 10 Most Important Features	Rank the Top 5 of those Checked
A divided roadway (with a center median or barrier)		
Signalized intersections (or number of signals)		
Timing of traffic signals (length of red/green for each movement)		
Visibility of signs and/or traffic signals		
Left-turn only lanes at intersections		
Right-turn only lanes at intersections		
Sidewalks		
Trees		
Rate of traffic flow (smoothness, pace, continuity, etc.)		
Traffic volume (amount of traffic on roadway)		
Overall travel time to destination		
Consistency/reliability of travel time to destination		
Spacing of moving vehicles (density of traffic)		
Roadway width (overall roadway width)		
Two-way center left-turn lane		
Pavement quality		
Frequency of unsignalized cross-streets and driveway entrances		
Aggressive drivers		
Consistency of speed		
Interaction between vehicles		
Number of lanes on roadway		
Speed limit		
Ability to maneuver vehicle (change lanes, merge into traffic, etc.)		
Frequency of merging traffic		
Scenery		
Access to important park sites and attractions		
Opportunities to drive for pleasure		
Pedestrians or bicyclists		
Truck and/or bus traffic		
Other (please write in):_____		

6. Using the definition of a "national park scenic road" from question 5, please list up to four traffic and roadway conditions that together comprise your "ideal" national park scenic road.

   1)_____

   2)_____

   3)_____

   4)_____

7. Using the definition of a "national park scenic road" from question 5, please list up to four traffic and roadway conditions that together comprise your (hypothetical) "least favorite" national park scenic road.

   1)_____

   2)_____

   3)_____

   4)_____

8. These questions ask for your opinion about management of large vehicles (tour buses, school busses, recreational vehicles) on the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
e. Large vehicles should not be allowed to use Ocean Drive.	-2	-1	0	1	2
f. The number of large vehicles allowed to use Ocean Drive should be limited.	-2	-1	0	1	2
g. The number of large vehicles allowed to park at one time at Thunder Hole or other locations should be limited.	-2	-1	0	1	2
h. Use of Ocean Drive by large vehicles should not be limited.	-2	-1	0	1	2

9. These questions ask for your opinion about management of private vehicles (e.g., cars driven by park visitors)using the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
f. Private vehicles should not be allowed to use Ocean Drive during the peak season (all use should be via Island Explorer busses, commercial tour busses, or other public transit.	-2	-1	0	1	2
g. The number of private vehicles allowed to use Ocean Drive during the peak season should be limited.	-2	-1	0	1	2
h. The number of private vehicles allowed to use Ocean Drive during the peak season should not be limited.	-2	-1	0	1	2
i. Private vehicles should not be allowed to park in the right-hand lane of Ocean Drive during the peak season (but busses and other forms of public transportation could park in the right-hand lane.	-2	-1	0	1	2
j. Parking regulations along Ocean Drive should be strictly enforced.	-2	-1	0	1	2

Thanks for your help with this survey.

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OMB Number: #1024-0224 (NPS #06-008)

Expiration Date: 10/1/2007

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2007



Hiking Trails

ID_____ Date _____

Trail/Area _____

Acadia National Park

- Hiking Trails -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

1. Family
2. Friends
3. Family and friends
4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

3a. When people hike trails, they can cause impacts to soil and vegetation (e.g., the trails may widen, vegetation may get trampled). We would like to know how much impact you think is acceptable to see on the trails you hiked today. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different levels of impact to trails. **(Please look at the photographs in Set A.)** Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you find it based on the amount of impact shown. A rating of "-4" means the amount of impact is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the amount of impact is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 2…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 3…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 4…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 5…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4

b. Which photograph shows the amount of environmental impact you would <u>prefer</u> to see on the trails you hiked today?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the amount of environmental impact that is so unacceptable that you would no longer hike on the trails you hiked today? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer hike on the trails I hiked today.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of environmental impact that you think the National Park Service should allow on the trails you hiked today? In other words, at what point do you think people should be restricted from using these trails? If you think visitor use should not be restricted at any point represented in the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs show a high enough level of environmental impact to restrict people from hiking on these trails.

OR

❑ The number of people hiking on these trails should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the amount of environmental impact you typically saw on the trails you hiked today?

Photo number: _____

4. One of the ways the National Park Service can manage the environmental impacts of hiking is to try to encourage visitors to stay on the trails (not wander off maintained trails). This could be done through several management practices, and we have a series of photographs that show some of those practices. **(Please look at the photographs in Set B.)** Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you find it based on the management practice shown. A rating of "-4" means the management practice is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the management practice is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 2…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 3…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 4…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 5…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 6…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 7…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 8…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4

5a. We would like to know how many other hikers you think it is acceptable to see without the trails you hiked today being too crowded. Please rate the acceptability of each of the following numbers of other hikers met per day on the trails you hiked today. A rating of "-4" means the number of other hikers seen is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of other hikers seen is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each of the numbers of other hikers seen.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
No other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
10 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
20 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
30 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
40 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
50 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
60 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
70 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
80 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
90 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
100 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
More than 100 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. What is the number of other hikers per day that you would <u>prefer</u> to see along the trails you hiked today?

Preferred number of other hikers seen per day: _____

c. What is the maximum number of hikers per day that you think you could see before you would no longer hike the trails you hiked today? If you would continue to hike these trails regardless of the number of other hikers seen, you may indicate that.

Maximum number of other hikers seen per day before you would no longer hike these trails: _____

OR

❑ I would continue to hike these trails regardless of the number of other hikers seen.

d. What is the maximum number of other hikers seen per day that you think the National Park Service should allow on the trails you hiked today? In other words, at what point do you think visitors should be restricted from hiking on these trails? If you think the number of hikers should not be restricted, you may indicate that.

Maximum number of hikers seen per day that should be allowed: _____

OR

❑ The number of hikers on these trails should not be restricted.

e. What is the approximate number of other hikers you saw today while hiking these trails?

Approximate number of other hikers seen: _____

f. Approximately how long did you spend hiking on these trails today?

Length of hike (time): _____

g. How crowded did you feel along these trails today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Somewhat Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

6a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

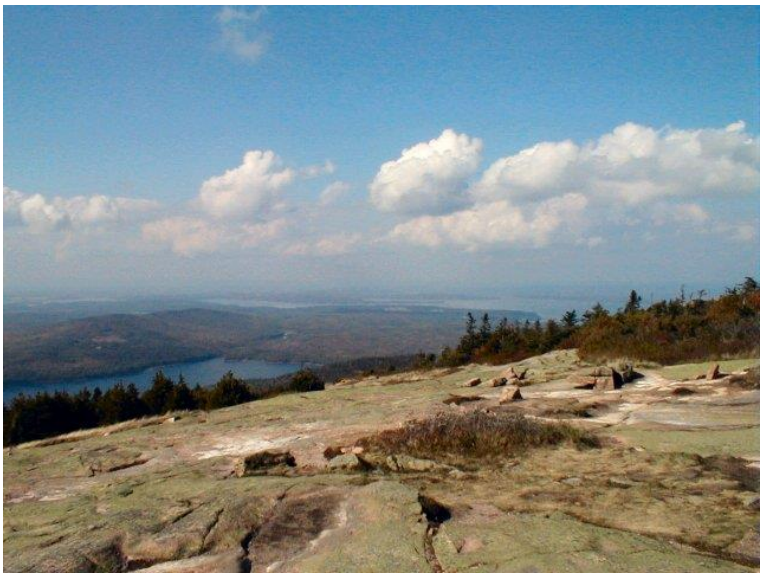
1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return this completed questionnaire to the surveyor.

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OMB Number: 1024-0224 NPS: 05408

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2005



Cadillac Mountain
Summit Loop Trail

ID_____ Date _____

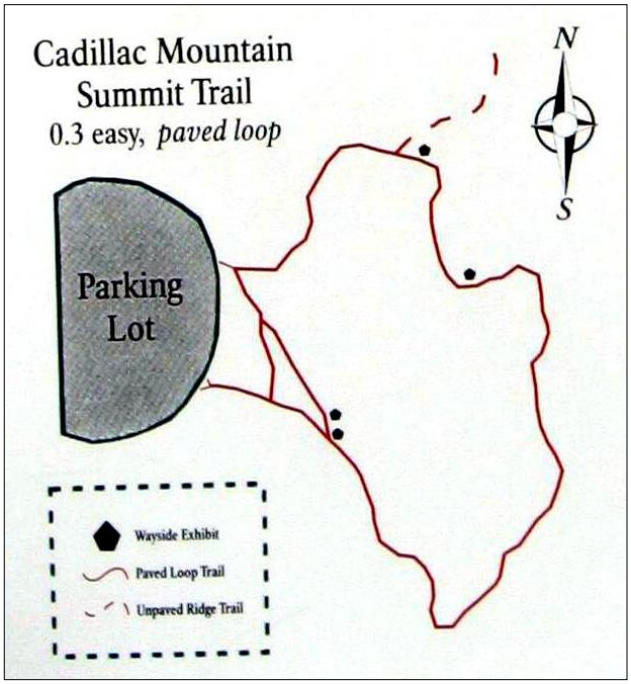
EM_____

Acadia National Park

- Cadillac Mountain Summit Loop Trail-

1. a. Did you know that the paved trail on the summit of Cadillac Mountain is a loop trail (i.e., it starts at the end of the parking lot and returns there)? (Circle one number.)

    1. Yes
    2. No (Skip to question 2.)



    b. Did you walk the whole paved summit loop trail? (Circle one number.)

    1. Yes
    2. No

2. a. Did you walk off the paved summit loop trail today? (Circle one number.)

    1. Yes
    2. No (Skip to question 3a.)

    b. Why did you walk off the paved summit loop trail? (Circle all numbers that apply.)

    1. To get a better view
    2. To take a picture
    3. To pick blueberries
    4. To move past others on the trail
    5. To get away from crowds on the trail
    6. To explore
    7. To picnic
    8. Other (Please specify:_____)

2. c. Once you stepped off the paved trail, what surfaces did you walk on? (Circle all numbers that apply.)

    1. bare rock
    2. soil
    3. gravel
    4. plants

5. Other (Please specify: _____)

d. The following list suggests other kinds of reasons why you might have chosen to walk off the paved summit loop trail. Please indicate if any of these reasons apply to you. (Circle one number for each reason.)

	Applies to me	Doesn't apply to me
1. I needed to walk off the paved summit loop trail (e.g., I had to get around other visitors)	1	2
2. I didn't know that walking off the paved summit loop trail might damage soils and vegetation	1	2
3. I didn't know that I was supposed to stay on the paved summit loop trail	1	2
4. I didn't mean to walk off the paved summit loop trail (i.e., I walked off the paved summit loop trail accidentally)	1	2
5. I feel visitors should be allowed to walk off the paved summit loop trail	1	2

[Please skip to question 4.]

3. a. Why didn't you walk off the paved summit loop trail? (Circle <u>all</u> numbers that apply.)

1. Visitors are encouraged to stay on the paved summit loop trail
2. Visitors are required to stay on the paved summit loop trail
3. I had no reason to walk off the paved summit loop trail
4. I had no desire to walk off the paved summit loop trail
5. Because of my physical ability, I felt it would be unsafe for me
6. Other (Please specify:_____)

3. b. The following list suggests other kinds of reasons why you might have chosen not to walk off the paved summit loop trail. Please indicate if any of these reasons apply to you. (Circle one number for each reason.)

	Applies to me	Doesn't apply to me
1. I was afraid I would be reprimanded or fined	1	2
2. I was afraid that other members of my group would think poorly of me	1	2
3. I was afraid that other visitors in general would think poorly of me	1	2
4. It is not fair for me to walk off the paved summit loop trail when many other visitors don't	1	2
5. I feel better about myself by not walking off the paved summit loop trail	1	2

4. a. Did you notice any signs at the beginning of the paved summit loop trail on the summit of Cadillac Mountain? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 5a.)

b. Briefly, what were the major messages presented by the signs?

_____
_____
_____

5. a. Did you notice any signs along the paved summit loop trail? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 6a.)

b. Briefly, what were the major messages presented by the signs?

_____
_____
_____

6. a. Did you notice any damage to soils and/or vegetation on the summit of Cadillac Mountain due to people walking off the paved trails? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No (Skip to question 7.)

6. b. How would you describe the damage you saw at the summit today? (Circle one number.)

    1. Minor
    2. Moderate
    3. Severe

7. The National Park Service has developed some guidelines and/or rules for visitors on the summit of Cadillac Mountain. Which of the following guidelines/rules apply to this area? (Circle all numbers that apply.)

    1. Visitors are asked to stay on the paved summit loop trail
    2. Visitors are asked to stay on the paved summit loop trail or bare rock surfaces
    3. Visitors are required to stay on the paved summit loop trail
    4. Visitors are required to stay on the paved summit loop trail or bare rock surfaces
    5. Visitors are asked to not cross fenced boundaries
    6. Visitors are required to not cross fenced boundaries
    7. Visitors are not allowed to pick blueberries
    8. Visitors are not allowed to picnic

8. If damage to soils and vegetation on the summit of Cadillac Mountain became excessive, the National Park Service could do a number of things to help prevent this damage.

For each of the following management practices, please indicate:

1) if you experienced this management practice on the summit of Cadillac Mountain today
2) if you did (or would) find this management practice acceptable.

(Circle one number in each column for each of the following management practices.)

		Did you experience this today?		Did (or would) you find this acceptable?	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
a.	Pave the summit loop trail	1	2	1	2
b.	Educational signs about the damage that can be caused by walking on soils and vegetation	1	2	1	2
c.	Signs asking visitors to stay on the paved summit loop trail or bare rock surfaces	1	2	1	2
d.	Signs asking visitors to stay on the paved summit loop trail	1	2	1	2
e.	Require visitors to stay on the paved summit loop trail or bare rock surfaces	1	2	1	2
f.	Require visitors to stay on the paved summit loop trail	1	2	1	2
g.	Require visitors to not cross fenced boundaries	1	2	1	2
h.	Prohibit picking blueberries (to discourage visitors from walking off the paved summit loop trail)	1	2	1	2
i.	Prohibit picnicking (to discourage visitors from walking off the paved summit loop trail)	1	2	1	2
j.	Station rangers on the summit to keep visitors on the paved summit loop trail	1	2	1	2
k.	Fine visitors for walking off the paved summit loop trail	1	2	1	2
l.	Allow walking on the summit only in ranger-led groups	1	2	1	2
m.	Require visitors to travel to the summit in busses on which visitors would be told the importance of staying on the paved summit loop trail	1	2	1	2
n.	Limit the number of visitors to the summit	1	2	1	2
o.	Prohibit all visitors from walking anywhere on the summit (but allow visitors to drive to the summit)	1	2	1	2
p.	Completely prohibit all visitor access to the summit	1	2	1	2

9. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Circle one number for each statement.)

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a.	Measures taken by the National Park Service to protect soils and vegetation on the summit of Cadillac Mountain are insufficient	1	2	3	4
b.	The soils and plants on the summit of Cadillac Mountain should be protected	1	2	3	4
c.	Visitors should be allowed into all areas on the summit of Cadillac Mountain	1	2	3	4
d.	Soil erosion on the summit of Cadillac Mountain is not a big problem	1	2	3	4
e.	It is permissible to pick blueberries on the summit of Cadillac Mountain	1	2	3	4
f.	If I accidentally step on blueberry bushes while I pick berries, it is not a problem	1	2	3	4
g.	It is acceptable to walk off paved trails if visitors stay on the bare rock surfaces	1	2	3	4
h.	Measures taken by the National Park Service to protect soils and vegetation on the summit of Cadillac Mountain are excessive	1	2	3	4
i.	I would like the freedom to walk anywhere on the summit of Cadillac Mountain	1	2	3	4
j.	Plants on the summit are very hardy and not easily damaged	1	2	3	4
k.	I am willing to stay on paved trails at the summit of Cadillac Mountain to minimize damage to soils and vegetation	1	2	3	4
l.	I support measures taken by the National Park Service to protect soils and vegetation on the summit of Cadillac Mountain	1	2	3	4
m.	It is acceptable to walk off the paved trails if visitors stay on the "informal" trails that have been created by other visitors	1	2	3	4
n.	The soils and plants on the summit of Cadillac Mountain are fragile	1	2	3	4

10. a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

10. c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. In what ethnicity and race would you place yourself?

Ethnicity: (Circle one number.)

1. Hispanic or Latino
2. Not Hispanic or Latino

Race: (Circle all numbers that apply.)

1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return it to the surveyor.

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:
16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name is requested for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus the permanent data will be anonymous. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.
BURDEN ESTIMATE STATEMENT: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 10 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to Information Collection Clearance Officer, WASO Administration Program Center, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Appendix C. 2007 Study Photos and Surveys

OMB Number: #1024-0224 (NPS #06-008)

Expiration Date:10/1/2007

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2007



Hiking Trails

ID_____ Date _____

Trail/Area _____

Acadia National Park

- Hiking Trails -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

Number of people: _____

2a. How would you describe your personal group? (Circle one number.)

1. Family
2. Friends
3. Family and friends
4. Organized group/club/school/educational group
5. Other (Please specify: _____)

b. Is your personal group part of a commercial tour in the park today? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes
2. No

3a. When people hike trails, they can cause impacts to soil and vegetation (e.g., the trails may widen, vegetation may get trampled). We would like to know how much impact you think is acceptable to see on the trails you hiked today. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different levels of impact to trails. **(Please look at the photographs in Set A.)** Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you find it based on the amount of impact shown. A rating of "-4" means the amount of impact is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the amount of impact is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 2…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 3…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 4…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 5…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4

b. Which photograph shows the amount of environmental impact you would <u>prefer</u> to see on the trails you hiked today?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the amount of environmental impact that is so unacceptable that you would no longer hike on the trails you hiked today? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer hike on the trails I hiked today.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of environmental impact that you think the National Park Service should allow on the trails you hiked today? In other words, at what point do you think people should be restricted from using these trails? If you think visitor use should not be restricted at any point represented in the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs show a high enough level of environmental impact to restrict people from hiking on these trails.

OR

❑ The number of people hiking on these trails should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the amount of environmental impact you typically saw on the trails you hiked today?

Photo number: _____

4. One of the ways the National Park Service can manage the environmental impacts of hiking is to try to encourage visitors to stay on the trails (not wander off maintained trails). This could be done through several management practices, and we have a series of photographs that show some of those practices. **(Please look at the photographs in Set B.)** Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you find it based on the management practice shown. A rating of "-4" means the management practice is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the management practice is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 2…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 3…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 4…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 5…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 6…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 7…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 8…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4

5a. We would like to know how many other hikers you think it is acceptable to see without the trails you hiked today being too crowded. Please rate the acceptability of each of the following numbers of other hikers met per day on the trails you hiked today. A rating of "-4" means the number of other hikers seen is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of other hikers seen is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each of the numbers of other hikers seen.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
No other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
10 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
20 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
30 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
40 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
50 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
60 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
70 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
80 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
90 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
100 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
More than 100 other hikers	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. What is the number of other hikers per day that you would <u>prefer</u> to see along the trails you hiked today?

Preferred number of other hikers seen per day: _____

c. What is the maximum number of hikers per day that you think you could see before you would no longer hike the trails you hiked today? If you would continue to hike these trails regardless of the number of other hikers seen, you may indicate that.

Maximum number of other hikers seen per day before you would no longer hike these trails: _____

OR

❑ I would continue to hike these trails regardless of the number of other hikers seen.

d. What is the maximum number of other hikers seen per day that you think the National Park Service should allow on the trails you hiked today? In other words, at what point do you think visitors should be restricted from hiking on these trails? If you think the number of hikers should not be restricted, you may indicate that.

Maximum number of hikers seen per day that should be allowed: _____

OR

❑ The number of hikers on these trails should not be restricted.

e. What is the approximate number of other hikers you have seen today while hiking these trails?

Approximate number of other hikers seen: _____

f. Approximately how long have you spent hiking on these trails today?

Length of hike (time): _____

g. How crowded have you felt along these trails today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Somewhat Crowded		Moderately Crowded			Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

6a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: _____

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return this completed questionnaire to the surveyor.

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Charles Jacobi
Acadia National Park
P.O. Box 177
Bar Harbor, ME 04609
charlie_jacobi@nps.gov


















PLEASE
Stay on
the
Trail








PLEASE
DO NOT WALK HERE

Appendix D. 2009 Study Photos and Surveys

OMB # 1024-0224 (NPS #09-007)

Expiration Date: 01/31/2010

Acadia National Park
Visitor Survey
2009



Cadillac Mountain

ID_____ Date _____

Acadia National Park

- Cadillac Mountain -

1. How many people (including you) are in your personal group today?

Number of people: _____

2a. What kind of personal group (not guided tour/school group) were you with? (Circle one.)
1. Alone
2. Friends
3. Family
4. Family and friends
5. Other (Please specify:_____)

b. Were you and your personal group with the following type of groups? (Circle one answer for each group type.)

Guided tour group	Yes	No
School/educational group	Yes	No
Other organized group (such as business group, scout group, etc.)	Yes	No

3a. When people walk around the summit of Cadillac Mountain, they can cause impacts to soil and vegetation (e.g., trails may widen, vegetation may get trampled). We would like to know how much impact you think is acceptable to see on the summit of Cadillac Mountain. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that show different levels of impact to this area. **(Please look at the photographs in Panel A.)** Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you find it based on the amount of impact shown. A rating of "-4" means the amount of impact is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the amount of impact is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 2…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 3…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 4…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 5…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4

b. Which photograph shows the amount of environmental impact you would <u>prefer</u> to see on the summit of Cadillac Mountain?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the amount of environmental impact that is so unacceptable that you would no longer visit the summit of Cadillac Mountain? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer visit the summit of Cadillac Mountain.

d. Which photograph shows the highest level of environmental impact that you think the National Park Service should allow on the summit of Cadillac Mountain? In other words, at what point do you think people should be restricted from visiting this area? If you think visitor use should not be restricted at any point represented in the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

Photo number: _____

OR

❑ None of the photographs show a high enough level of environmental impact to restrict people from visiting the summit of Cadillac Mountain.

OR

❑ The number of people visiting the summit of Cadillac Mountain should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the amount of environmental impact you typically saw today on the summit of Cadillac Mountain?

Photo number: _____

4. One of the ways the National Park Service can manage the impacts of visitor use on the summit of Cadillac Mountain is to try to encourage visitors to stay on the trails (not wander off maintained trails). This could be done through several management practices, and we have a series of photographs that show some of those practices. **(Please look at the photographs in Panel B.)** Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you find it based on the management practice shown. A rating of "-4" means the management practice is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the management practice is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 2…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 3…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4
Photo 4…	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4

5a. We would like to know how many people you think could visit the summit of Cadillac Mountain without this area being too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that shows different numbers of people at this area. **(Please look at the photographs in Panel C.)** Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you find it based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1…..	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 2…..	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 3…..	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 4…..	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 5…..	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 6…..	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. Which photograph shows the number of people you would prefer to see?

Photo number:_____

c. Which photograph shows the number of people that would be so unacceptable that you would no longer visit the summit of Cadillac Mountain? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.

Photo number: _____

OR

□ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer visit the summit of Cadillac Mountain.

d. Which photograph shows the highest number of people you think the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should people be restricted from visiting the summit of Cadillac Mountain? If you think use should not be restricted at any point represented in the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

Photo number: _____

OR

□ None of the photographs show a high enough number of people to restrict people from visiting the summit of Cadillac Mountain.

OR

□ The number of people visiting the summit of Cadillac Mountain should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw today on the summit of Cadillac Mountain?

Photo number:_____

6a. Another way to judge the maximum acceptable number of visitors to the summit of Cadillac Mountain is the number of people on the trails on the summit. We would like to know how many people you think could walk on the summit loop trail without this area being too crowded. To help judge this, we have a series of photographs that shows different numbers of people on a section of the summit loop trail. **(Please look at the photographs in Panel D.)** Please rate each photograph by indicating how acceptable you find it based on the number of people shown. A rating of "-4" means the number of people is very unacceptable, and a rating of "+4" means the number of people is very acceptable. (Circle one number for each photograph.)

	Very Unacceptable								Very Acceptable
Photo 1…..	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 2…..	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 3…..	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 4…..	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 5…..	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4
Photo 6…..	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	+1	+2	+3	+4

b. Which photograph shows the number of people you would prefer to see on the summit loop trail?

Photo number: _____

c. Which photograph shows the number of people that would be so unacceptable that you would no longer walk on the summit loop trail? If none of the photographs represent this condition, you may indicate that.

Photo number: _____

OR

□ None of the photographs are so unacceptable that I would no longer walk on the summit loop trail.

d. Which photograph shows the highest number of people you think the National Park Service should allow? In other words, at what point should people be restricted from walking on the summit loop trail? If you think use should not be restricted at any point represented in the photographs, or not restricted at all, you may indicate that.

Photo number:_____

OR

□ None of the photographs show a high enough number of people to restrict people from walking on the summit loop trail.

OR

□ The number of people walking on the summit loop trail should not be restricted.

e. Which photograph looks most like the number of people you typically saw today walking on the summit loop trail?

Photo number:_____

7. How crowded did you feel on Cadillac Mountain today? (Circle one number.)

Not at all Crowded		Slightly Crowded			Moderately Crowded		Extremely Crowded	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

8. Approximately how long did you stay on Cadillac Mountain today?

Length of stay: _____ minutes.

9a. Do you live in the United States? (Circle one number.)

1. Yes (What is your zip code? _____)
2. No (What country do you live in? _____)

b. In what year where you born?

Year born: 19 ___

c. What is your gender? (Circle one number.)

1. Male
2. Female

d. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed? (Circle one number.)

1. Less than high school
2. High school graduate
3. Vocational/trade school certificate
4. Some college
5. Two-year college degree
6. Four-year college degree
7. Graduate degree

e. Are you Hispanic or Latino? (Circle one number.)
1. Yes
2. No

What is your race? (Select one or more.)
1. American Indian or Alaska Native
2. Asian
3. Black or African American
4. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
5. White

Thank you for your help with this survey! Please return this completed questionnaire to the surveyor.

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