



2025 Socioeconomic Research of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

Report on 2025 Data Collection



Lone Rock Beach at Lake Powell.

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Contents

Contents	iii
Figures.....	v
Tables	vii
Abstract	viii
Introduction.....	1
Methods.....	2
Study Area	2
Sampling Period and Procedure.....	3
Intercept Survey	3
Post-trip Survey	5
Non-Response Bias Analysis	5
Results.....	8
Intercept Survey Results	8
Question 1: Previous Visits to Glen Canyon	8
Question 2: Previous Visits to Other NPS Units.....	9
Questions 3-4: Visitor Residency	9
Question 5: Trip Purpose	10
Question 6-8: Length of Stay	11
Question 9: Overnight Visitors	12
Questions 12-14: Party Characteristics	16
Questions 17-18: Local Communities.....	18
Questions 19-23: Park Use Characteristics	20
Question 24-25: Transportation	22
Question 26: Entrance Fee	25
Post-trip Survey Results.....	25
Questions 1–2: Information about Glen Canyon	26
Questions 7-9: Trip Characteristics.....	27
Questions 10-11: Reasons to Visit	29
Questions 12-13: Programs, Services, and Learning	30
Questions 14-15: Use of Devices.....	31

Question 16: Physical Difficulties	33
Questions 19-21: Visitor Experience	34
Questions 22-28: Background/Demographics	36
Literature Cited	39
Appendix A: Accessible Tables	40

Figures

Figure 1. Glen Canyon local area map.....	3
Figure 2. Previous visits to Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 11.....	8
Figure 3. Visits made to other NPS sites within the past year. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 12.	9
Figure 4. Respondent residency status and geographic origin of domestic visitors surveyed at Glen Canyon.....	10
Figure 5. Role of Glen Canyon in overall trip purpose.....	11
Figure 6. Time spent in the local area around Glen Canyon.....	12
Figure 7. Accommodation types used by overnight visitors within Glen Canyon and in the local area surrounding it.	13
Figure 8. Campground use within Glen Canyon.....	14
Figure 9. Number of nights spent within Glen Canyon and in the local area surrounding it, by accommodation type. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 13.	15
Figure 10. Number of adults and children in respondent’s personal group, and total group size, while visiting Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 14.	17
Figure 11. Age distribution of all members of respondent’s personal group while visiting Glen Canyon.....	18
Figure 12. Communities visited outside Glen Canyon while in the local area.	19
Figure 13. Length of time spent within Glen Canyon on this trip.	20
Figure 14. Most recent entrance used to enter Glen Canyon.	21
Figure 15. Park locations visited during the most recent trip to Glen Canyon.	22
Figure 16. Forms of transportation used to travel from home to Glen Canyon on the recent trip.....	23
Figure 17. Form of transportation used to enter Glen Canyon on the day of the survey.....	24
Figure 18. Number of people in or on respondent’s vehicle when entering Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 15.....	24
Figure 19. Entrance fee paid to enter Glen Canyon on the most recent trip.....	25
Figure 20. Sources used to obtain information about Glen Canyon prior to the trip.....	26
Figure 21. NPS sites visited on trip away from home.	27
Figure 22. Participation in activities at Glen Canyon.	28
Figure 23. Reasons or motivations to visit Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 16.	29
Figure 24. Participation in programs at Glen Canyon.	30
Figure 25. Learning outcomes while visiting Glen Canyon.	31
Figure 26. Use of personal electronic devices while visiting Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 17.....	31
Figure 27. The importance of the use of personal electronic devices while visiting Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 18.....	32
Figure 28. Quality of service for personal electronic devices while visiting Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 19.....	33

Figure 29. Physical difficulties while visiting Glen Canyon.	33
Figure 30. Rating Glen Canyon experience. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 20.	34
Figure 31. Rating the quality of specific Glen Canyon facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 21.....	35
Figure 32. Rating overall quality of Glen Canyon facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities.	36
Figure 33. Respondent demographics: age and level of education.	36
Figure 34. Respondent demographics: race and/or ethnicity.	37
Figure 35. Household demographics: annual household income and household size. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 22.....	38

Tables

Table 1. Intercept surveys conducted within Glen Canyon.	3
Table 2. Response outcomes — Glen Canyon intercept survey.	4
Table 3. Response outcomes — Glen Canyon post-trip survey.	5
Table 4. Intercept survey non-response bias question: “Are you a permanent or seasonal/second home resident of the local area around Glen Canyon?”. Note: p-value = 0.825.....	6
Table 5. Intercept survey non-response bias question: “Was visiting Glen Canyon the primary purpose for your overall trip away from home?”. Note: p-value = <0.001.	6
Table 6. Intercept survey non-response bias question: “On this trip away from home, will you [and your personal group] stay overnight away from your permanent residence either in Glen Canyon and/or within the local area?”. Note: p-value = <0.001.	6
Table 7. Post-trip survey non-response bias question: “Are you a permanent or seasonal/second home resident of the local area around Glen Canyon?”. Note: p-value = 0.325.	7
Table 8. Post-trip survey non-response bias question: “Do you currently live in the United States?”. Note: p-value = 0.029.	7
Table 9. Post-trip survey non-response bias question: “On this trip away from home, will you [and your personal group] stay overnight away from your permanent residence either in Glen Canyon and/or within the local area?”. Note: p-value = <0.001.	7
Table 10. Length of time spent within Glen Canyon on this trip.....	20
Table 11. Data from Figure 2. Previous visits to Glen Canyon.	40
Table 12. Data from Figure 3. Visits made to other NPS sites within the past year.....	40
Table 13. Data from Figure 9. Number of nights spent in the local area around Glen Canyon, by accommodation type.	40
Table 14. Data from Figure 10. Number of adults and children in respondent’s personal group, and total group size, while visiting Glen Canyon.....	40
Table 15. Data from Figure 18. Number of people in respondent’s vehicle when entering Glen Canyon.	40
Table 16. Data from Figure 23. Reasons or motivations to visit Glen Canyon.	41
Table 17. Data from Figure 26. Use of personal electronic devices while visiting Glen Canyon.	41
Table 18. Data from Figure 27. The importance of the use of personal electronic devices while visiting Glen Canyon.	41
Table 19. Data from Figure 28. Quality of service for personal electronic devices while visiting Glen Canyon.	41
Table 20. Data from Figure 30. Rating Glen Canyon experience.....	42
Table 21. Data from Figure 31. Rating the quality of Glen Canyon facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities.....	42
Table 22. Data from Figure 35. Household demographics: annual household income and household size.	42

Abstract

A strong mandate and need for socioeconomic monitoring have been expressed in the National Park Service (NPS) strategic goals for science, in statements by NPS leadership, and in various official reports. Since such monitoring began in 2022, the NPS has typically conducted visitor surveys at 24 parks per year across the United States and associated territories. However, the 2025/2026 SEM Visitor Survey study period was impacted by unexpected timing constraints that reduced the total sample from 24 to 21 parks. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Glen Canyon) was selected as one of these units for 2025 implementation. This socioeconomic monitoring at Glen Canyon uses a two-step survey methodology to capture a representative sample of park visitors during the off-peak season of this park unit. This process includes (1) an on-site intercept survey conducted via tablet, and (2) a post-trip survey (completed either by mail-back or online) for more in-depth trip details. The types of data collected include visitor demographics, trip characteristics/planning, and experience evaluations. Results are organized by these two survey instruments and are aimed at assisting park managers in understanding current utilization and perception of park resources, assessing operations and potential issues, and facilitating communication and decision-making processes within the park and between the park and its local partners and stakeholders.

Introduction

Social science research has become increasingly recognized as a crucial component of park planning, amplifying its significance for the National Park Service (NPS). With the ever-changing landscape of visitation and a desire to provide transformative visitor experiences, understanding the needs and expectations of the visiting public has become more important than ever. The agency seeks to provide the highest quality visitor experience while also protecting the important natural and cultural resources that make these sites special.

A pilot visitor study was conducted in 2015/2016 across selected park units throughout the United States. Building upon the insights gleaned from the pilot study, the Socioeconomic Monitoring Program (SEM) Visitor Survey has been carried out each year starting in 2022 at 24 NPS units across the country per year. The total sample of parks surveyed in the 2025/2026 sampling period was reduced from 24 to 21 to accommodate unexpected time constraints. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Glen Canyon) was selected as one of the 21 units studied in the 2025 sampling period. The study aims to deepen understanding of visitor demographics and characteristics at Glen Canyon.

This report contains the data and findings collected from the Glen Canyon SEM Visitor Survey in winter 2025. The study gathers data at a comprehensive agency level, addressing the informational needs of park managers throughout the National Park System. The data collected during the 2025 SEM Visitor Survey sampling period are intended to provide park managers with data-supported insights into their visitors while enabling data analysis at the agency level and beyond for future applications.

This study collects information about visitor use, aids in finding effective management solutions, and offers insights into the visitors who experience NPS sites. The findings empower NPS managers to better comprehend visitor behaviors, inform park operations, and identify areas for enhancing the visitor experience. Moreover, these results are intended to facilitate communication and foster informed decision-making processes, both within the NPS unit and in collaboration with local partners and stakeholders. Unique to the 2025/2026 SEM Visitor Survey study period, 11 of NPS units were surveyed during their peak season, with another 10 NPS units surveyed during their off-peak season. Glen Canyon was surveyed during its off-peak season to more fully understand visitation patterns at Glen Canyon throughout the year, with results representing the visitors that were surveyed at that time.

This report does not include spending data, despite it being collected as part of the study. For information regarding visitor spending at GLCA, please visit <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>.

The research was carried out by a team including Otak, Inc., RRC Associates, Inc., the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at the University of Montana, and GAIA Environmental Consulting.

Methods

The SEM Visitor Survey methodology is designed to capture a representative sample of visitor information, characteristics, and behavior at each sampled park unit through:

- An onsite intercept survey conducted via tablet, and

- A post-trip follow-up survey (mail-back or online) for full trip details.

This comprehensive approach provides the necessary information to make on-the-ground decisions in park units using the intercept survey to capture visitor responses on higher priority information, while also capturing key in-depth information on visitor spending and trip characteristics for long-term planning from the post-trip survey. Additionally, the intercept survey is designed to be brief so as not to fundamentally affect visitors' experiences. The methods also permit a larger sample to be collected on key questions of interest by asking these high priority questions during the intercept survey.

Study Area

The Glen Canyon local area map is shown in Figure 1. The local area around Glen Canyon consists of the following municipalities in the state of Utah: Grand, Wayne, San Juan, Kane, and Garfield; and the following counties in the state of Arizona: Coconino and Navajo. Within Glen Canyon, the study area was comprised of seven locations. Table 1 lists those sites and the number of onsite intercept surveys completed at each. The distribution of surveyor effort across sites was determined based on historical visitor volumes and spatial distribution across the park's key areas. Where available, Visitor Use Statistics estimates for monthly visitation at each site were used to assign surveyors proportionally to reflect visitor use patterns. Park staff were consulted prior to the study launch to confirm that these metrics accurately captured visitor flows, ensuring that sampling efforts were focused on the most popular and representative locations.

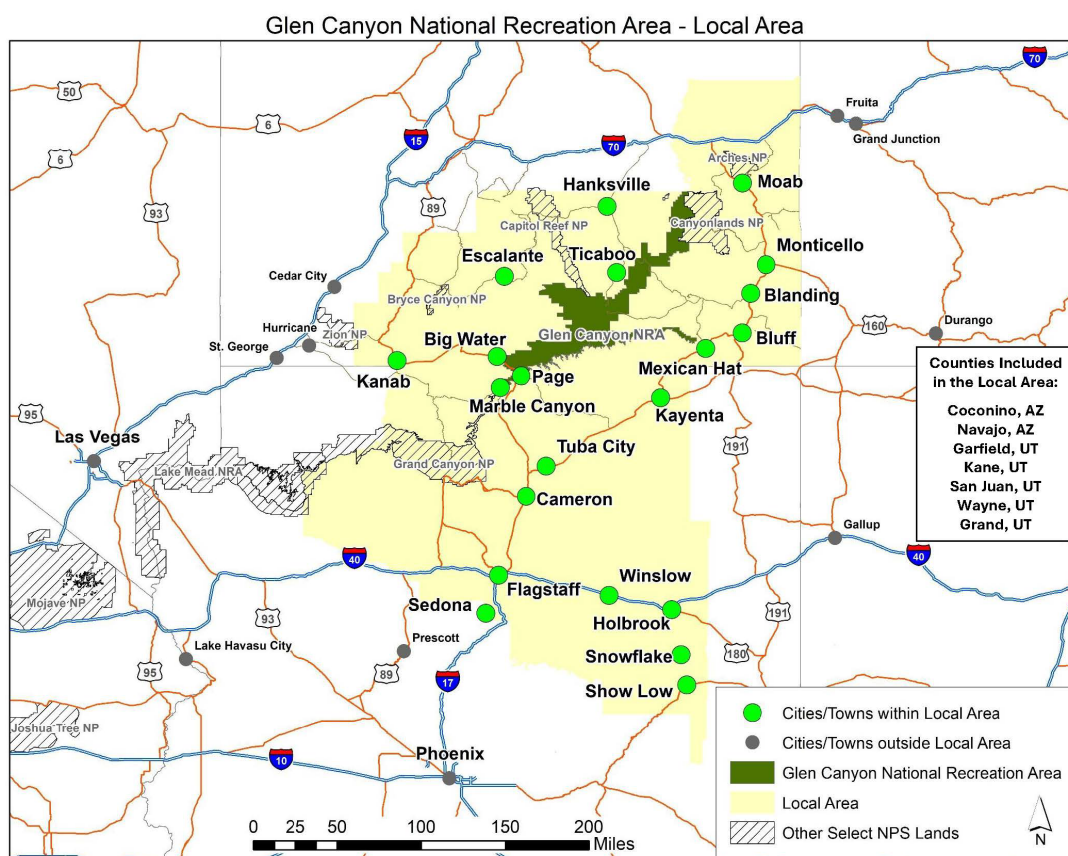


Figure 1. Glen Canyon local area map.

Table 1. Intercept surveys conducted within Glen Canyon.

Intercept Site	Completed Intercept Surveys	
	Number of Surveys	Percent of Surveys
Horseshoe Bend	570	59.3%
Carl Hayden Visitor Center	245	25.5%
Wahweap	94	9.8%
Lees Ferry	24	2.5%
Antelope Point	18	1.9%
Lone Rock Beach	10	1.0%

Sampling Period and Procedure

Intercept Survey

The on-site intercept survey is designed to rapidly collect visitor information as tablet-based responses, reaching the largest possible sample for the highest priority visitor information. The intercept sampling was conducted during the period of December 5 through 16, 2025. A sample of

visitors were intercepted while visiting Glen Canyon across the designated locations listed in Table 1, above. The majority of respondents were visitors on foot at these locations.

Surveyors approached potential respondent groups at the site to introduce the purpose of the study and ask them to participate in a short 5–7-minute survey about their experience in Glen Canyon (NPS 2025). Within the group, the adult with the next upcoming birthday was asked to participate. If the visitor was eligible (at least 18 years of age, not a Glen Canyon employee, and had not previously taken the survey) and agreed to participate in the study, the surveyor verbally administered the survey questions and recorded the responses on a handheld tablet device. If the visitor did not agree, surveyors asked if they would be willing to answer three non-response bias questions (see the Non-Response Bias Analysis section, below). Upon complete or partial refusal, the surveyor would thank the visitor for their time, log the non-response, and approach the next visitor group.

At the end of the intercept survey, respondents were invited to participate in a post-trip survey by mail-back or online response. Those who agreed to participate were given an envelope containing a printed copy of the post-trip survey with a postage-paid envelope for mailing it back, as well as a hyperlink and instructions for accessing it online. As part of the intercept protocol, surveyors logged a unique identifier (four-digit code) from the envelope into the tablet for future connection to the post-trip survey.

Therefore, four potential outcomes were possible when intercepting visitors (see Table 2):

1. Complete refusal, refused to answer any questions, including non-response bias questions;
2. Partial refusal, answered non-response bias questions but nothing further;
3. Completed intercept, but refused to take post-trip survey; or
4. Completed intercept and took post-trip survey.

During the sampling period, four surveyors were stationed simultaneously at different sampling sites. Start times varied day-to-day and by location to capture a diverse sample of visitors across Glen Canyon. Each surveyor worked 10 seven-hour days (approximately six hours of data collection and a one-hour lunch break) and rotated among several sites. Each surveyor had two days off during the 12-day sampling window.

Table 2. Response outcomes — Glen Canyon intercept survey.

Outcome	Total
Eligible visitors contacted	1,344
Complete refusals	223
Partial refusals (non-response bias questions completed)	160
Intercept surveys completed	961
Post-trip surveys distributed	850
Intercept response rate	71.5%
Post-trip acceptance rate	88.4%

Post-trip Survey

The post-trip survey was distributed to participating respondents who completed the intercept survey and then agreed to take a follow-up survey after completing their trip to the NPS unit. This method extended data collection and asked participants to complete the survey after their visit, either through a provided postage-paid envelope, or online via a provided survey link. The post-trip survey covers visitor spending details, travel patterns, and perceptions of their recent visit (NPS 2025). Both the intercept survey and the post-trip survey were tagged with a unique identifier (four-digit code) for each respondent so their onsite intercept responses could be paired with their post-trip responses. Numbers were assigned at random to the individual. The use of this code allows the data to be joined, while keeping all surveys confidential and removing respondents' identifying information. Joining the two datasets provides a more complete picture of in-park experiences and post-visit perceptions.

At the end of the intercept survey, respondents were asked for their physical mailing address or email address. This allowed for a reminder postcard or email to be sent to all respondents who provided contact information about a week following the end of each onsite data collection period. This postcard or email thanked respondents for their original participation and encouraged them to complete the post-trip survey if they had not already done so.

Three weeks after postcard mailing, a second contact (with the same unique IDs) was delivered to all outstanding addresses/emails, noting that the individual's completed questionnaire had yet to be received. The mailed survey packets included replacement surveys and postage-paid, self-addressed return envelopes. A final contact was mailed/emailed to all remaining non-respondents four weeks after sending the second contact (i.e., first full replacement survey). Table 3 shows response rates for the post-trip survey.

Table 3. Response outcomes — Glen Canyon post-trip survey.

Outcome	Total
Post-trip surveys distributed	850
Valid post-trip surveys completed	186
Response rate	21.9%

Non-Response Bias Analysis

To account for potential biases between respondents and non-respondents, three questions were asked of eligible visitors contacted who did not wish to participate in the survey. The responses to these three questions can then be compared to both the larger group of respondents who completed the intercept survey, and the smaller group who completed both the intercept and post-trip surveys.

The Office of Management and Budget recommends testing for non-response bias when a response rate is less than 80%. Since the response rate for the intercept survey (71.5%) did not meet this threshold, bias testing was conducted to evaluate differences between the set of visitors who

participated in the onsite intercept survey (intercept respondents) and those eligible visitors who declined to participate (intercept non-respondents).

A chi-square test for homogeneity was performed for each of the three questions to evaluate differences between the groups. The chi-square test for homogeneity is a statistical test used to determine whether there is a significant association between categorical variables. It compares observed data with expected frequencies to assess if any deviations are due to chance. A p-value of 0.05 is used as the indicated threshold of this significance; p-values of 0.05 or lower indicate significant difference between groups.

The distribution of responses among intercept survey respondents and non-respondents differed significantly for two questions: 1) purpose of visit, and 2) overnight visitation. Therefore, respondents with the primary purpose of visiting Glen Canyon (28.2%) and overnight visitors (64.7%) are not as well represented in the intercept survey sample as desired, when compared to their proportion among intercept non-respondents (53.1% and 81.9%, respectively).

Results of the bias testing for the intercept survey are shown in Table 4 through Table 6.

Table 4. Intercept survey non-response bias question: “Are you a permanent or seasonal/second home resident of the local area around Glen Canyon?”. Note: p-value = 0.825.

Response	Intercept Survey Respondents		Intercept Survey Non-Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes	50	5.2%	9	5.6%
No	911	94.8%	151	94.4%

Table 5. Intercept survey non-response bias question: “Was visiting Glen Canyon the primary purpose for your overall trip away from home?”. Note: p-value = <0.001.

Response	Intercept Survey Respondents		Intercept Survey Non-Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes	271	28.2%	85	53.1%
No	690	71.8%	75	46.9%

Table 6. Intercept survey non-response bias question: “On this trip away from home, will you [and your personal group] stay overnight away from your permanent residence either in Glen Canyon and/or within the local area?”. Note: p-value = <0.001.

Response	Intercept Survey Respondents		Intercept Survey Non-Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes	622	64.7%	131	81.9%
No	339	35.3%	29	18.1%

Additionally, because the post-trip survey response rate (21.9%) also did not meet the minimum threshold, bias testing was conducted to evaluate differences between those respondents who

completed the full survey (both intercept and post-trip), and those who only completed the intercept portion.

Again, for each of the three questions, a chi-square test for homogeneity was performed to evaluate differences between the groups.

The distribution of responses among full survey respondents and intercept-only respondents differed significantly for two questions: 1) country of residence, and 2) overnight visitation. Therefore, international visitors (10.8%) and day visitors (24.2%) are not as well represented in the full survey sample as desired, when compared to their proportion among respondents that only completed the intercept survey (17.3% and 37.9%, respectively).

Results of the bias testing for the post-trip survey are shown in Table 7 through Table 9.

Table 7. Post-trip survey non-response bias question: “Are you a permanent or seasonal/second home resident of the local area around Glen Canyon?”. Note: p-value = 0.325.

Response	Full Survey Respondents		Intercept-Only Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes	7	3.8%	43	5.5%
No	179	96.2%	732	94.5%

Table 8. Post-trip survey non-response bias question: “Do you currently live in the United States?”. Note: p-value = 0.029.

Response	Full Survey Respondents		Intercept-Only Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes	166	89.2%	641	82.7%
No	20	10.8%	134	17.3%

Table 9. Post-trip survey non-response bias question: “On this trip away from home, will you [and your personal group] stay overnight away from your permanent residence either in Glen Canyon and/or within the local area?”. Note: p-value = <0.001.

Response	Full Survey Respondents		Intercept-Only Respondents	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes	141	75.8%	481	62.1%
No	45	24.2%	294	37.9%

Results

Results are presented separately for both the intercept and post-trip surveys throughout the following section. To preserve the data for additional analyses, outliers for open-ended numeric questions (e.g., nights spent, days in local area, etc.) have not been removed. Given these outliers, medians are shown instead of means throughout the report, to better represent the central tendency.

Intercept Survey Results

The following section provides results of the 961 visitor intercept surveys conducted in Glen Canyon from December 5 through 16, 2025. All results are presented in this report, regardless of sample size, which varies by question. Caution is recommended in the interpretation of figures with sample size lower than n=30. Categories on some questions may not sum to 100% due to rounding differences and/or the opportunity to select more than one response option. Some questions were omitted because they were not applicable to this report.

Question 1: Previous Visits to Glen Canyon

First, respondents were asked if they were first time visitors to Glen Canyon. Repeat visitors were then asked how many visits they have made to Glen Canyon in the last 12 months and the last five years (Figure 2).

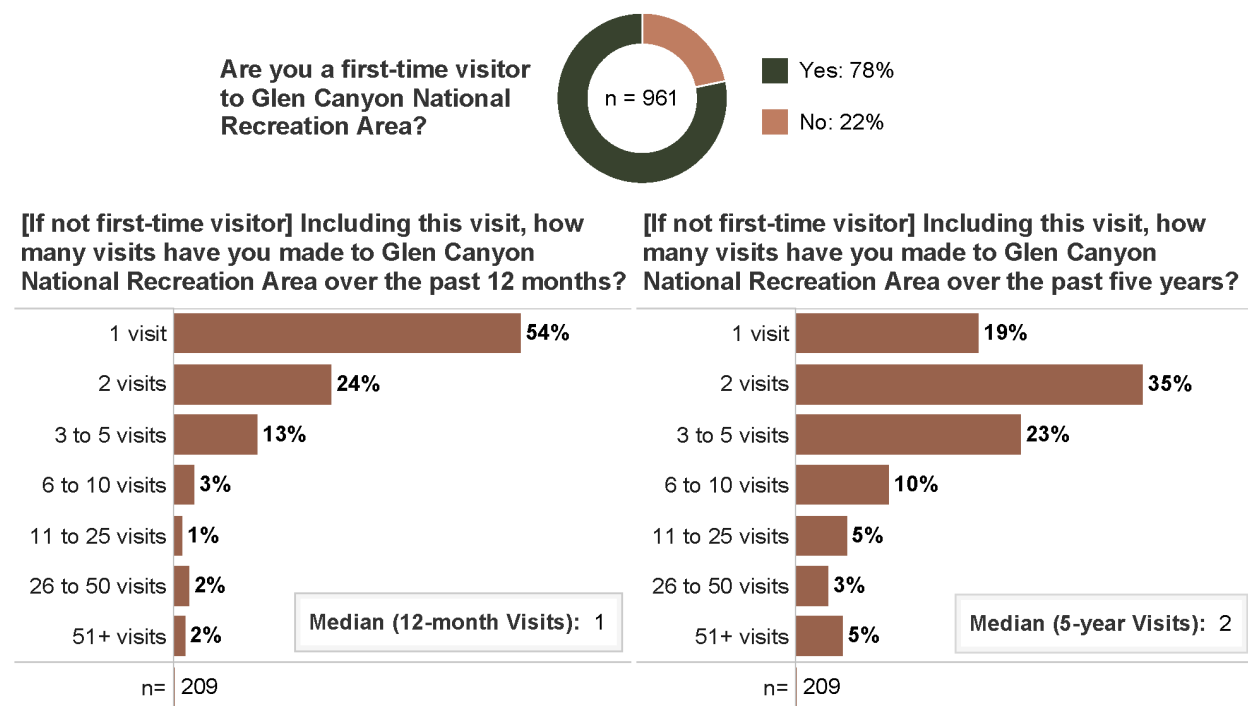


Figure 2. Previous visits to Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 11.

- Just over three-quarters of respondents (78%) were on their first ever trip to Glen Canyon.

- Among the 22% of respondents who were repeat visitors, the majority (54%) were on their first visit in the past 12 months (i.e., had last visited more than a year ago).
- However, most repeat visitors (81%) visited at least one prior time in the past five years.
- The median number of visits made in the past five years was two, including the current trip; 13% of repeat visitors had made more than 10 visits in the past five years.

Question 2: Previous Visits to Other NPS Units

Respondents were then asked how many visits they made to other NPS sites over the past 12 months (Figure 3).

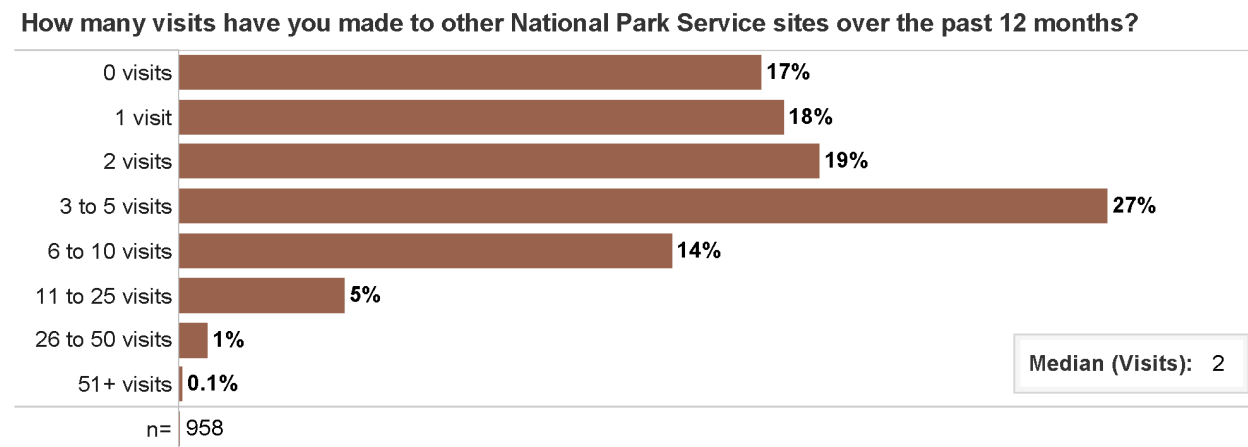


Figure 3. Visits made to other NPS sites within the past year. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 12.

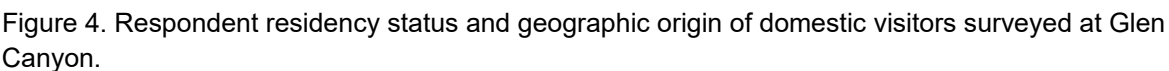
- Most respondents (83%) made at least one visit to other NPS site(s) in the past year.
- The median number of visits made to other NPS site(s) in the past 12 months was two, though a combined 47.1% had made three or more visits in the past year.

Questions 3-4: Visitor Residency

Respondents were asked to indicate if they were permanent or seasonal residents of the local area around Glen Canyon. Permanent and seasonal residents were then asked for their ZIP code within the local area. Respondents who do not reside permanently or seasonally in the local area were asked if they currently live in the U.S., and if so, for their ZIP code. Figure 4 depicts responses to this group of questions.

Response	Percentage
Yes, I am a permanent resident	5%
Yes, I am a seasonal/second home resident	0.3%
No	95%
n=	961

Yes	84%
No	16%
n=	961



- ### Question 5: Trip Purpose

10

[If not local/seasonal resident] Was visiting Glen Canyon National Recreation Area...?



[If local/seasonal resident] Was visiting Glen Canyon National Recreation Area...?

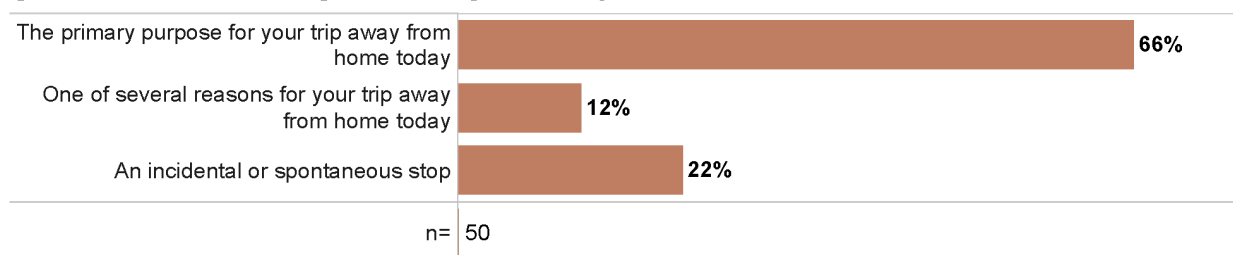


Figure 5. Role of Glen Canyon in overall trip purpose.

- Less than half (44%) of respondents who resided outside the local area (i.e., Glen Canyon National Recreation Area local area, as depicted in Figure 1) stated that their visit to Glen Canyon was one of two or more equally important reasons that brought them to the area.
- For about a quarter (28%) of non-local respondents, visiting Glen Canyon was the primary reason for their trip to the area.
- The remaining respondents (28%) indicated their visit to Glen Canyon was an incidental or spontaneous stop while they were already in the area.
- Among permanent or seasonal local resident respondents, two-thirds (66%) indicated that visiting Glen Canyon was the primary reason for their trip to the area.
- Nearly a quarter of respondents (22%) stated their visit was incidental or spontaneous.
- The remaining 12% of permanent or seasonal local residents indicated their visit was one of several reasons for their trip away from home.

Question 6-8: Length of Stay

Respondents who are not permanent or seasonal residents of the local area around Glen Canyon were also asked how many total days they would be spending away from their home on this trip, and then how many days they planned to spend within that local area, including days spent in the park. All respondents, regardless of residency, were asked whether they would be staying overnight away from their permanent residence within the local area. Responses to both of these questions are depicted in Figure 6.

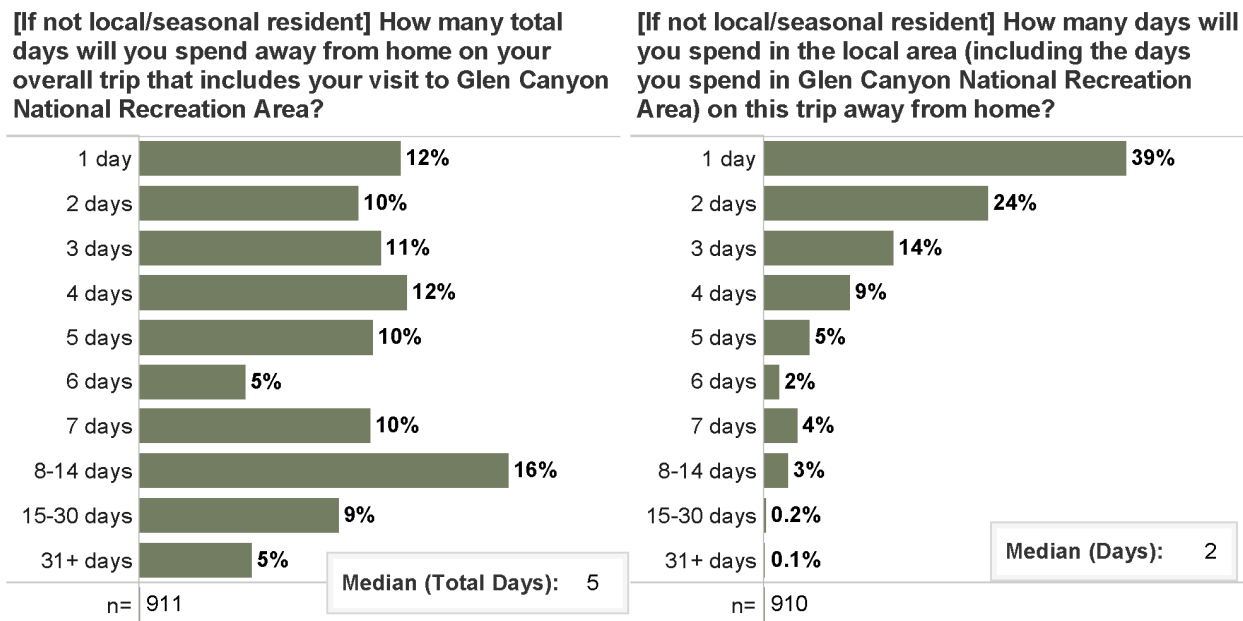


Figure 6. Time spent in the local area around Glen Canyon.

- About a tenth of non-local respondents (12%) spent one day overall on their trip away from home, while 10% spent two days, and 11% spent three days. The median days spent away from home was five days.
- About two-fifths of non-local respondents (39%) spent one day in the local area, while 24% spent two days, and 14% spent three days. The median length of stay in the local area was two days.
- Additionally, about two-thirds of all respondents (65%; including permanent/seasonal residents) stayed or planned to stay overnight away from their permanent residence in the park and/or in the local area.

Question 9: Overnight Visitors

If respondents indicated that they stayed overnight in the local area, they were asked about the type(s) of accommodation they used or planned to use while there (Figure 7).

[If staying overnight in local area] On this trip, what type of accommodations will you use while in the local area? Please mark all that apply

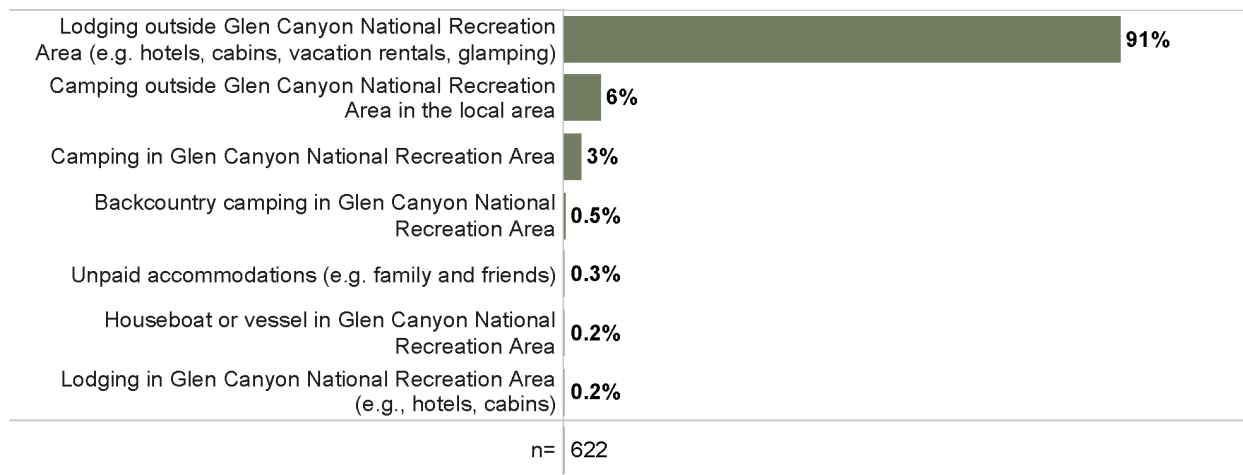


Figure 7. Accommodation types used by overnight visitors within Glen Canyon and in the local area surrounding it.

- The overwhelming majority of overnight respondents (91%) utilized lodging outside Glen Canyon.
- This was followed in prevalence by camping outside Glen Canyon (6%) and camping in Glen Canyon (3%).

Respondents who stayed overnight in Glen Canyon were asked in which campground(s) and lodging facility type(s) they had stayed or planned to stay (Figure 8).

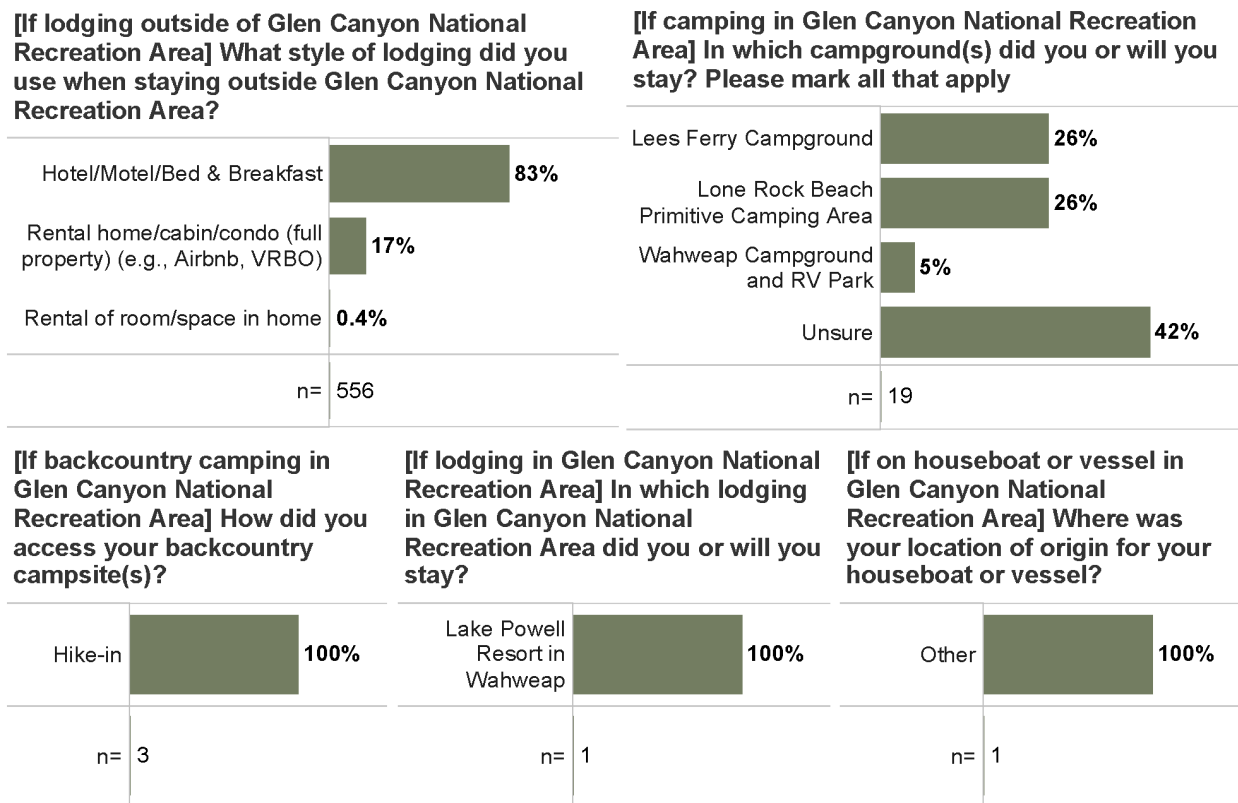


Figure 8. Campground use within Glen Canyon.

- Most respondents using lodging outside of Glen canyon (83%) indicated using hotels, motels, or bed and breakfasts. A further 17% of respondents rented a home, cabin, or condo.
- The Lees Ferry Campground was utilized evenly with the Lone Rock Beach Primitive Camping Area (26% of respondents, each reported using these facilities) by those camping within the park. An additional 5% used Wahweap Campground and RV Park.
- Nearly half (42%) of respondents who camped in Glen Canyon were unsure about which campground they utilized.
- The three respondents who camped in the backcountry in Glen Canyon all hiked to their campsites
- The lone respondent who reported lodging in Glen Canyon stayed at the Lake Powell Resort in Wahweap.
- The single respondent who stayed on an houseboat or vessel in Glen Canyon originated at a location not listed in the survey.

Respondents were then asked to indicate the number of nights they spent or would spend in each accommodation type (Figure 9).

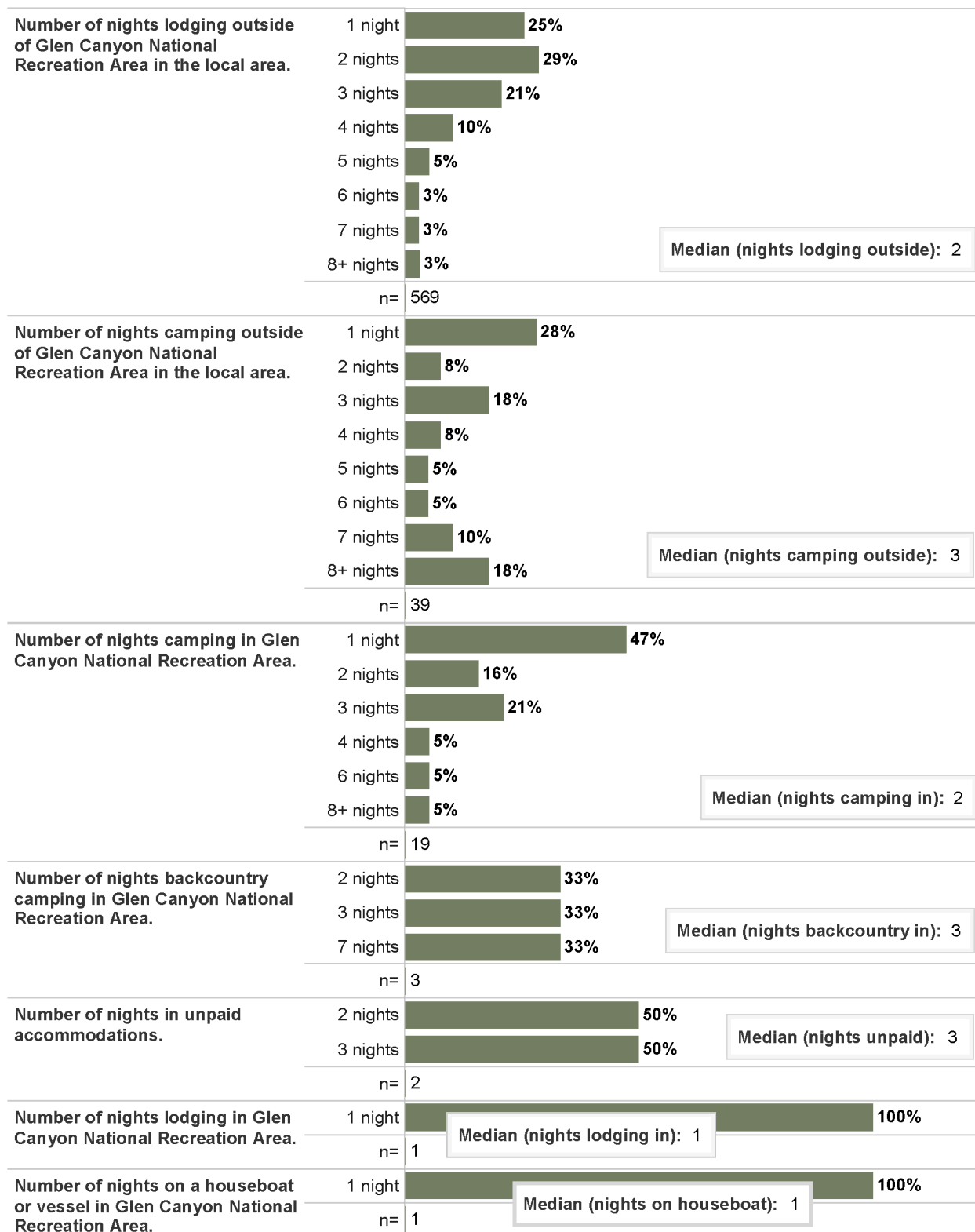


Figure 9. Number of nights spent within Glen Canyon and in the local area surrounding it, by accommodation type. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 13.

- Among the 91% of overnight respondents who lodged outside of Glen Canyon in the local area (per Figure 7), the median length of stay was two nights. Slightly over half (a combined 54%) lodged two nights or fewer in the local area this trip; 75% spent three nights or fewer.
- Among the 6% of overnight respondents who camped outside of Glen Canyon (per Figure 7), the median length of stay was three nights, though about a quarter (28%) stayed just one night.
- Among the 3% of overnight respondents who camped in Glen Canyon (per Figure 7), the median length of stay was two nights. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of campers spent two nights or fewer camping in the park this trip; 84% spent three nights or fewer.
- Among the 0.5% of overnight respondents who utilized backcountry camping, the median length of stay was three nights. Three total respondents indicated utilizing backcountry camping with one respondent each respectively staying for two, three, and seven nights.
- Among the 0.3% of overnight respondents who utilized unpaid accommodations, one respondent reported staying for two nights with the other staying for three nights. The median number of nights stayed was three.
- The only respondent who utilized lodging within Glen Canyon stayed one night.
- The only respondent who utilized a houseboat stayed one night.

Questions 12-14: Party Characteristics

Respondents were asked to indicate how many adults (18 or older) and children (under 18) were in their personal group during their visit to Glen Canyon (Figure 10). A personal group was defined as the visitor and companions with whom they visited the park, such as a spouse, family, and/or friends, but respondents were informed not to account for the larger group with whom they may have traveled, such as a school, church, scout, or tour group.

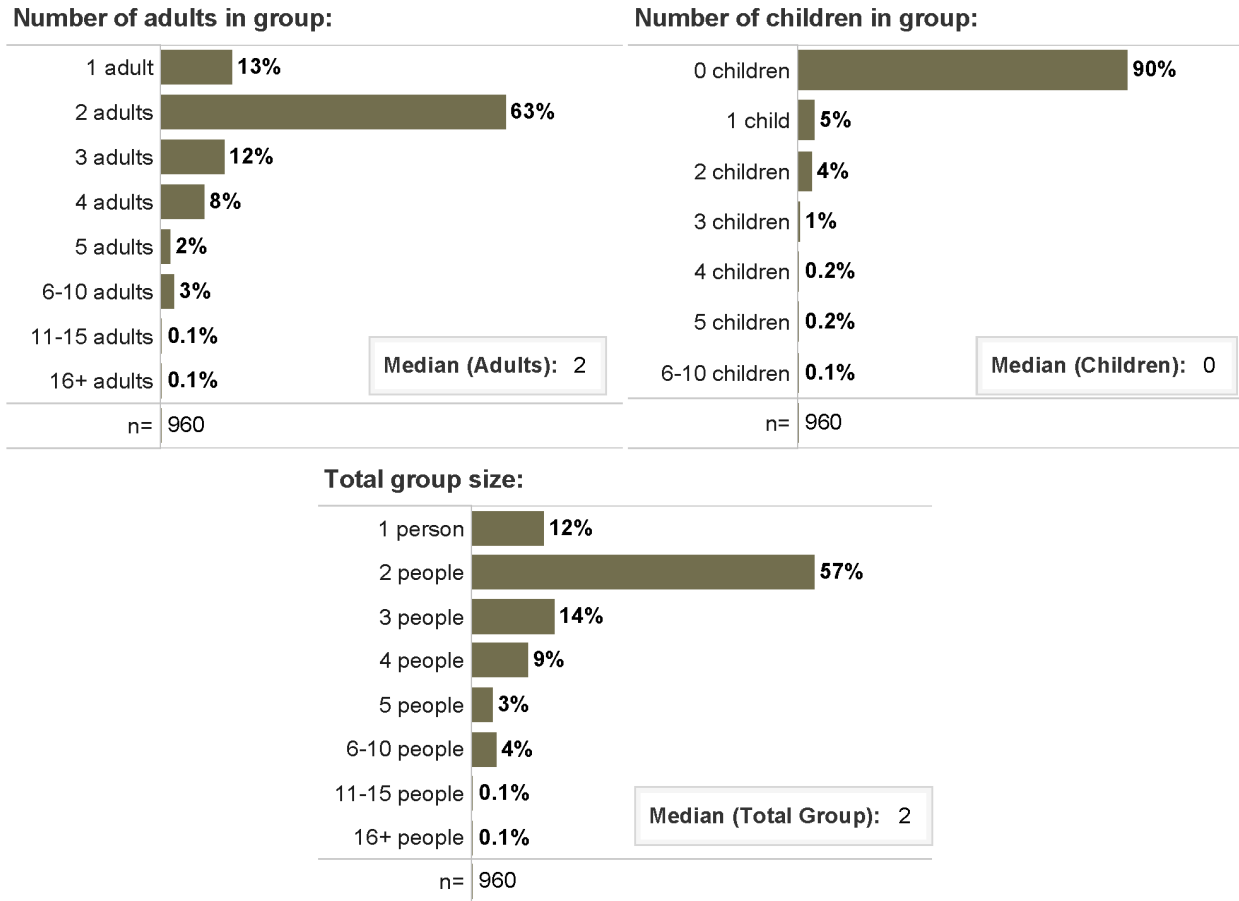


Figure 10. Number of adults and children in respondent's personal group, and total group size, while visiting Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 14.

- The median number of adults per group was two. Most groups (63%) included two adults.
- Most groups (90%) did not include any children.
- The median total number of people (adults and children) per group was two.

Respondents were then asked to provide the age of each member of their group (Figure 11). These data show the true age distribution of respondent groups sampled at Glen Canyon.

What are the ages of each of the adults and children in your group?

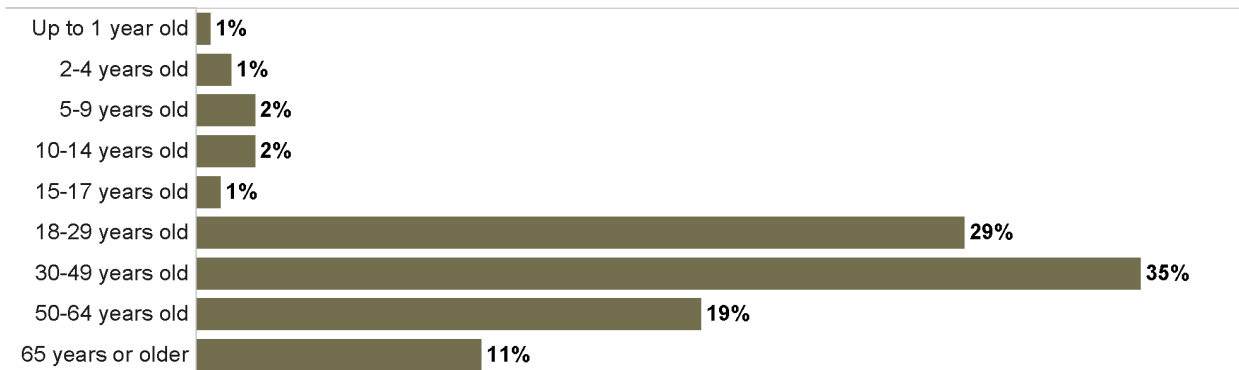


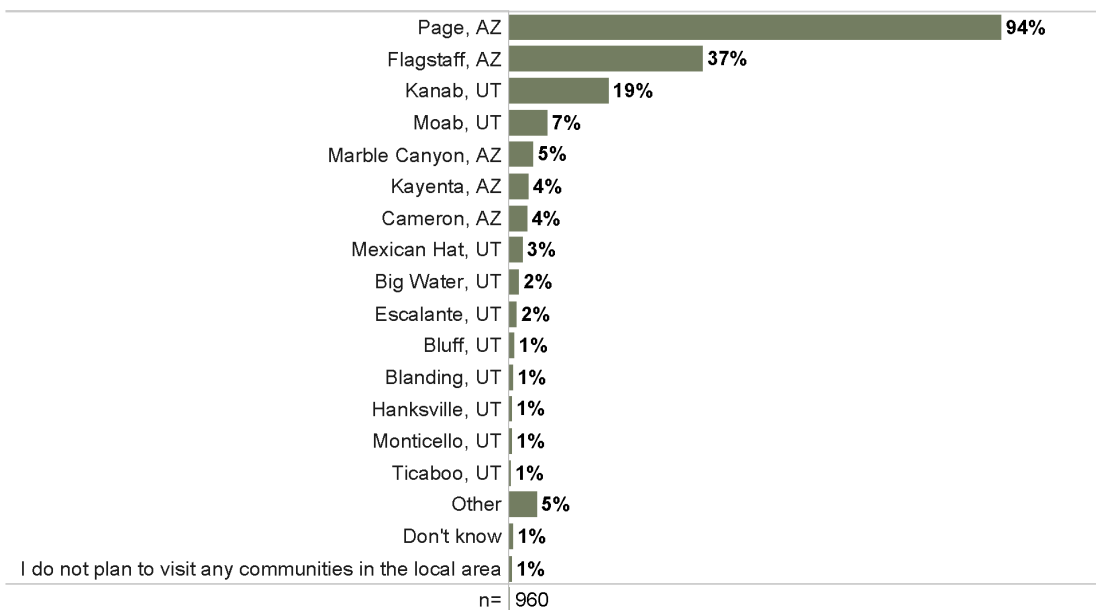
Figure 11. Age distribution of all members of respondent's personal group while visiting Glen Canyon.

- The most common age of the adults and children in a personal group was 30-49 years old (35%), followed by 18-29 years old (29%), and 50-64 years old (19%).
- Children (i.e., visitors under 18 years old) accounted for a combined total of just 7% of group members.

Questions 17-18: Local Communities

To build a more detailed understanding of the impact of Glen Canyon on the surrounding local area, respondents were given a list of nearby communities and asked which one(s), if any, they had already visited or planned to visit during their trip. Visiting a community was defined as stopping to do or buy anything, such as purchasing gas or groceries or dining. Those respondents who had previously indicated that they were staying overnight in the local area outside Glen Canyon (i.e., paid lodging outside the park, camping outside the park, or staying in unpaid accommodation outside the park) were then asked which local community (or communities) from that list was (or were) closest to their accommodations. Responses to both questions are shown in Figure 12, below.

Which communities will you visit outside Glen Canyon National Recreation Area while in the local area on this trip away from home? Please mark all that apply.



[If will visit] What communities are closest to your accommodation(s) outside Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the local area? Please mark all that apply.

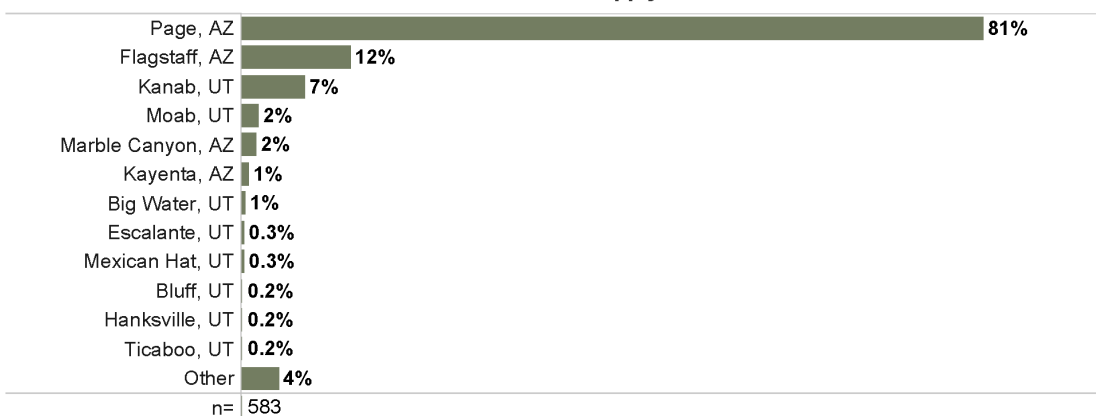


Figure 12. Communities visited outside Glen Canyon while in the local area.

- Most (94%) respondents reported they had visited or planned to visit Page while visiting the Glen Canyon Local Area on their trip away from home.
- The next most visited community was Flagstaff, visited by 37% of respondents, followed in prevalence by Kanab (7% of respondents).
- The rank order of the top three communities was the same when considering which community was closest to where respondents stayed during their visit: the majority of respondents reported staying in Page (81%), followed by Flagstaff (12%), and Kanab (7%).

Questions 19-23: Park Use Characteristics

Then, respondents were asked to indicate if they planned to visit Glen Canyon for more than one day, and then a series of follow-up questions about the length of time they might spend in the park (Figure 13 and Table 10).

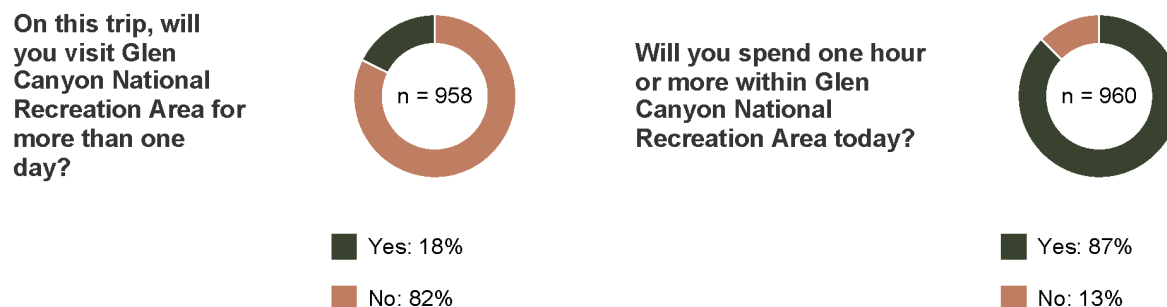


Figure 13. Length of time spent within Glen Canyon on this trip.

Table 10. Length of time spent within Glen Canyon on this trip.

Question	Sample Size (n)	Median
[If not planning to spend one hour or more] How many minutes do you plan to spend within Glen Canyon today?	121	30
[If planning to spend one hour or more] How many hours do you plan to spend within Glen Canyon today?	835	2
[If planning to visit more than one day] How many days do you plan to spend within Glen Canyon on this trip?	169	2
[If planning to visit more than one day] On how many different days do you expect to enter the park?	169	2

- A majority of respondents (87%) planned to spend one hour or more within Glen Canyon on the day they were surveyed. Among these visitors, the median length of time spent in the park “today” was two hours.
- Among the 13% of respondents who planned to spend less than an hour within the park on the day they were surveyed, the median length of anticipated visit was 30 minutes.
- Additionally, most respondents (82%) were planning to spend just a single day in Glen Canyon on their trip. Among the 18% of respondents who planned to visit for more than one day, the median length of visit was two days.
- Those respondents who spent more than one day in the park were also asked on how many different days they expected to enter the park; the median answer was two days.

Next, respondents were asked to indicate the most recent entrance they used to enter Glen Canyon (Figure 14).

Which was the most recent entrance you used to enter Glen Canyon National Recreation Area?

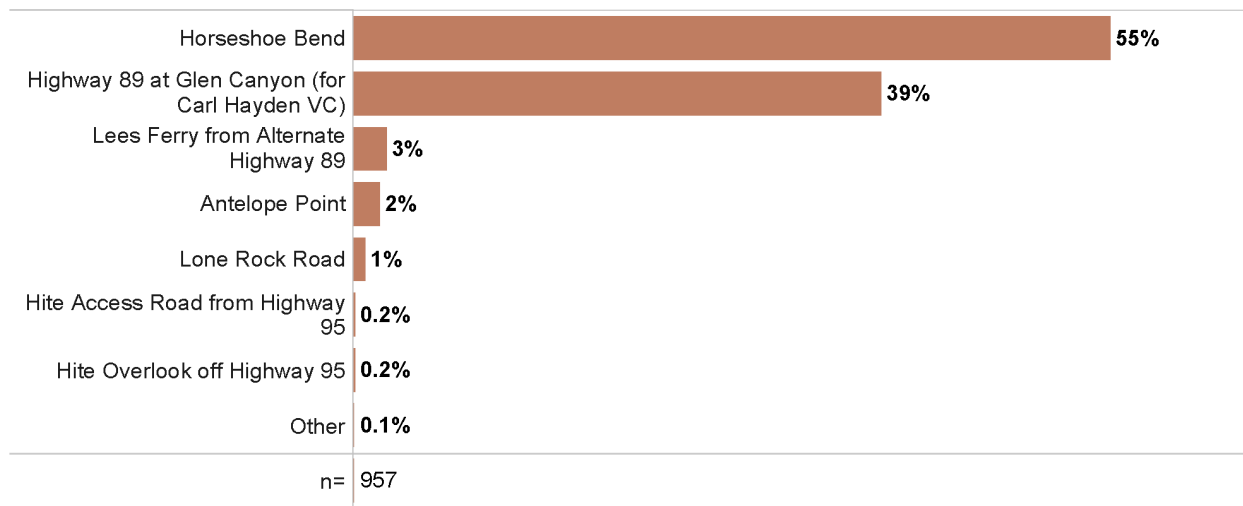


Figure 14. Most recent entrance used to enter Glen Canyon.

- Among respondents, Horseshoe Bend was the most commonly used entrance to Glen Canyon (55%).
- Highway 89 at Glen Canyon (entrance for Carl Hayden Visitor Center) was used by about two-fifths of respondents (39%).
- Due to park geography and proximity of intercept sites to entrances, the results for most recent entrance used were impacted by the volume of visitors intercepted at various sites.

Respondents were also presented with a list of locations within Glen Canyon and asked to indicate if they had been to, or planned to visit them, that day (Figure 15).

Considering your visit today, will you visit any of the following locations within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area? Please mark all that apply

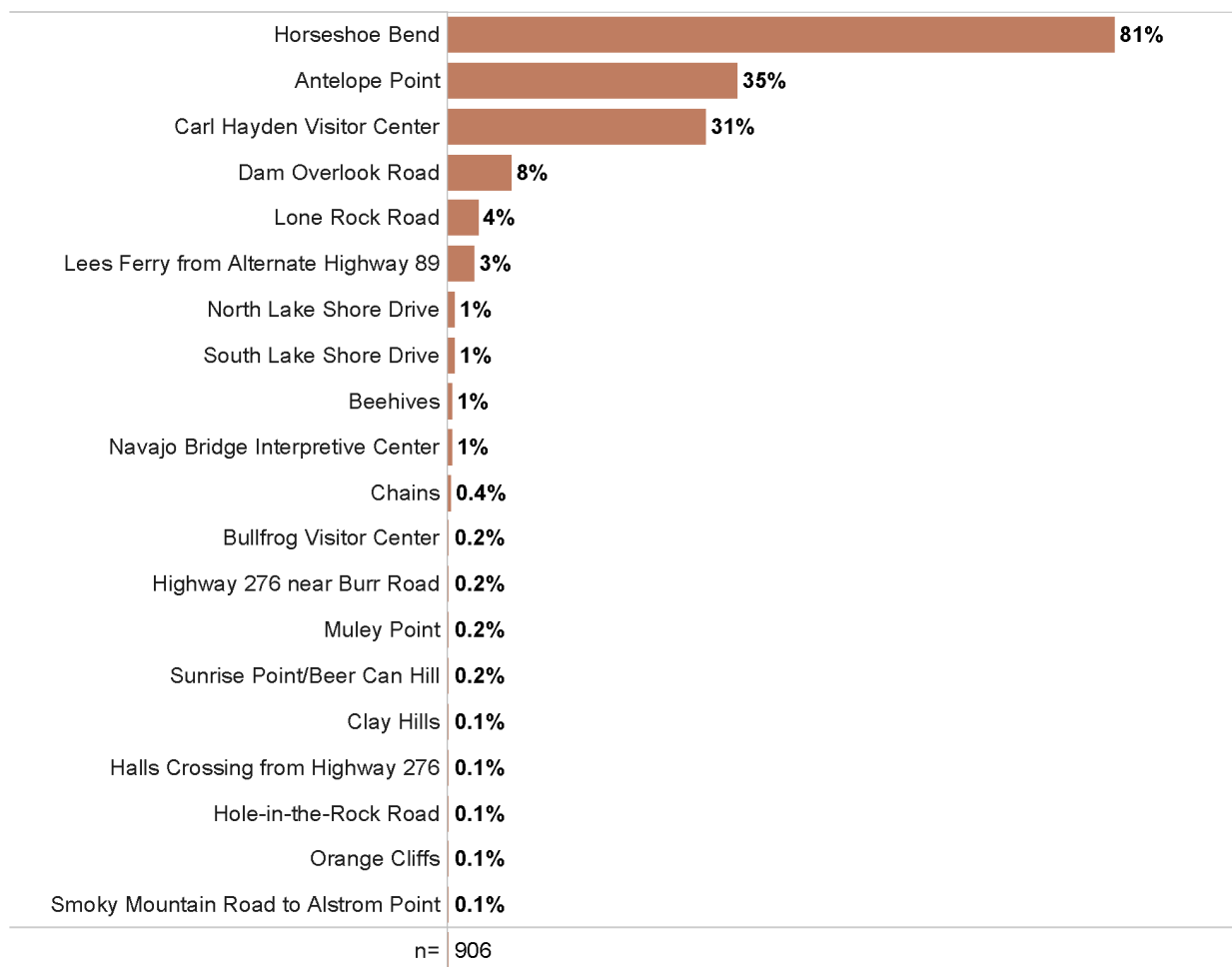


Figure 15. Park locations visited during the most recent trip to Glen Canyon.

- The most commonly visited location in Glen Canyon was Horseshoe Bend (81% of respondents had either been there or planned to visit it on their trip), followed by Antelope Point (35%) and Carl Hayden Visitor Center (31%).
- Smoky Mountain Road to Alstrom Point was the least-visited location from the list provided, with only 0.1% of respondents reporting having visited or planning to visit.

Question 24-25: Transportation

Respondents were first asked to indicate all the forms of transportation they personally used to travel from their home to Glen Canyon on their trip (Figure 16).

From the list below, select all forms of transportation you personally used to travel from your home to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area on this trip. Please mark all that apply.

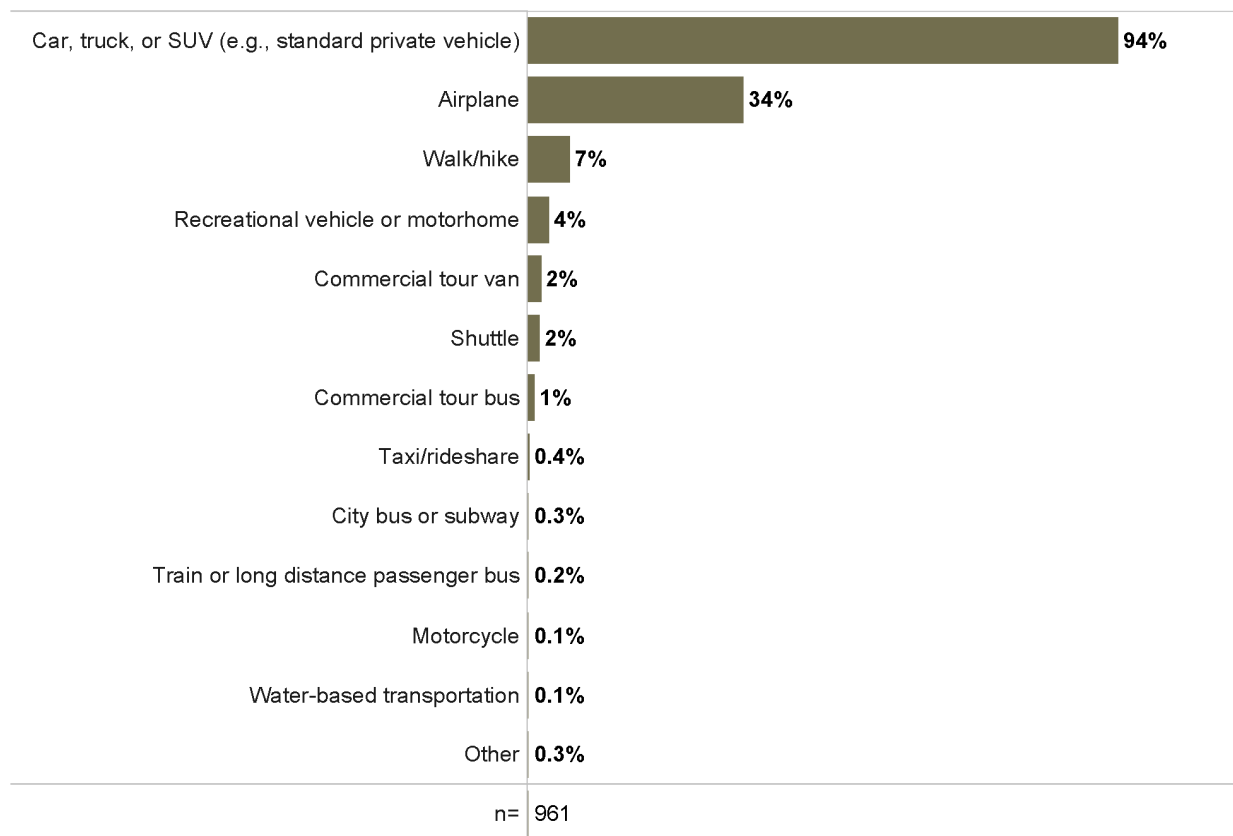


Figure 16. Forms of transportation used to travel from home to Glen Canyon on the recent trip.

- Nearly all respondents (94%) used a personal vehicle, such as a car, truck, or SUV, at some point during their trip from home to Glen Canyon.
- The second most common mode of travel was an airplane (34%), followed by walking or hiking (7%).

Respondents were then asked a follow-up question about the single form of transportation they used to enter Glen Canyon on the day they were surveyed (Figure 17).

[If used at all during trip] Which form of transportation did you personally use to enter Glen Canyon National Recreation Area today?

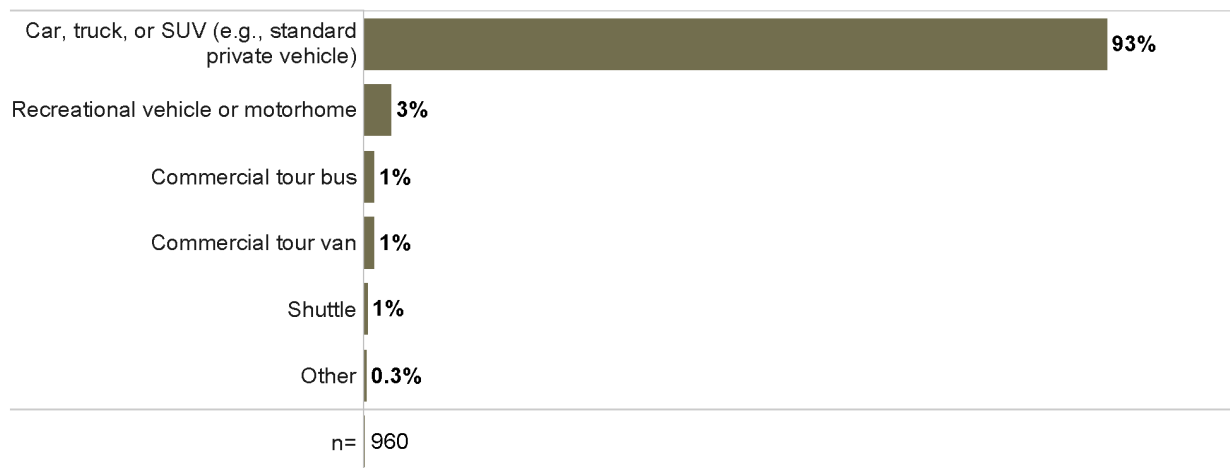


Figure 17. Form of transportation used to enter Glen Canyon on the day of the survey.

- Most respondents (93%) reported that they used their car, truck, or SUV to enter Glen Canyon on the day of the survey.
- This was followed distantly by use of a recreational vehicle or motorhome (3%), commercial tour buses (1%), commercial tour van (1%), and shuttle (1%).

If respondents entered the park using a multi-passenger private vehicle (i.e., car, truck or SUV, recreational vehicle or motorhome, or motorcycle), they were asked to indicate how many people were traveling in or on that vehicle (Figure 18).

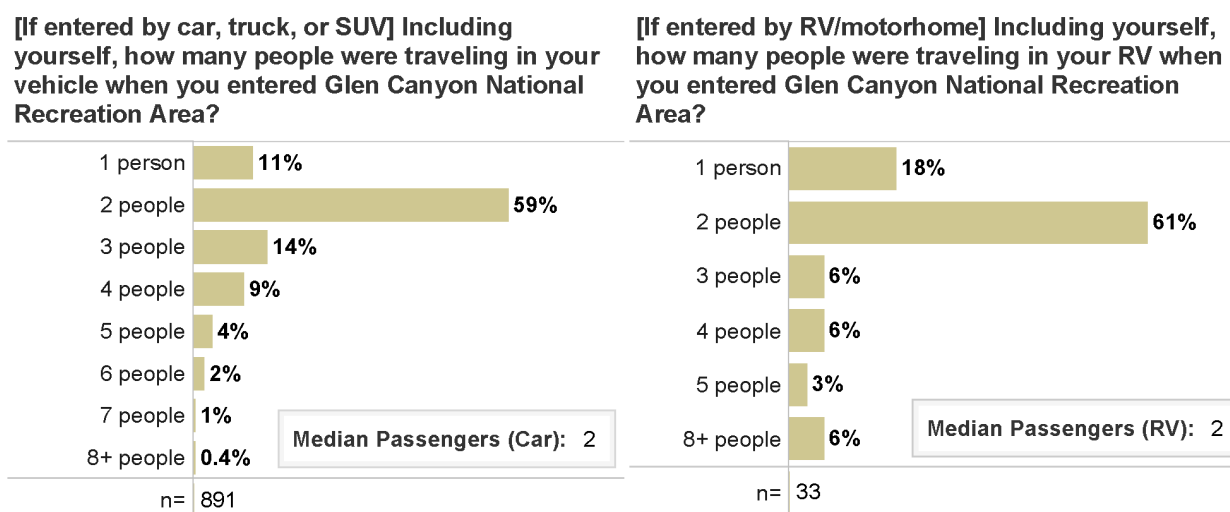


Figure 18. Number of people in or on respondents' vehicle when entering Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 15.

- The majority (59%) of respondents traveling by car reported two people. The next most common group size was three people (14%), followed by one person (11%).
- Most (61%) respondents entering Glen Canyon by RV/motorhome reported traveling in a group of two people (61%), followed by one person (18%), three people (6%), or four people (6%).

Question 26: Entrance Fee

Respondents were asked to indicate which type of entrance fee applied to them personally on their most recent trip to Glen Canyon (Figure 19).

On this trip to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, which one of the following entrance fees applied to you personally?

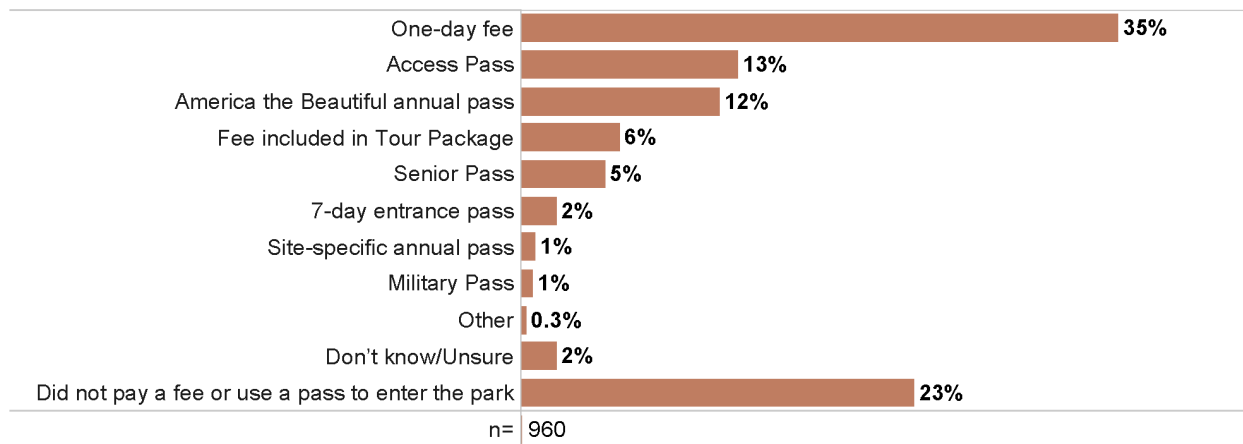


Figure 19. Entrance fee paid to enter Glen Canyon on the most recent trip.

- About a tenth of respondents (12%) reported using an America the Beautiful annual pass, and another combined 19% entered using a Senior Pass, Access Pass, or Military Pass.
- In contrast, 38% of respondents entered using a Glen Canyon-specific pass or fee (i.e., annual pass, 7-day, or single-day entrance fee).

Post-trip Survey Results

The following section provides results of the 186 post-trip visitor surveys received by mail-back or online following fieldwork conducted in Glen Canyon in winter 2025. Again, caution is recommended in the interpretation of figures with sample size lower than n=30, and categories on some questions may not sum to 100% due to rounding differences and/or the opportunity to select more than one response option. Some questions were omitted because they were not applicable to this report.

Questions 1–2: Information about Glen Canyon

First, respondents were asked what sources they used to obtain information about Glen Canyon prior to their trip, and whether they had the information they needed on their trip (Figure 20).

Prior to this trip, how did you obtain information about Glen Canyon National Recreation Area? Please mark all that apply

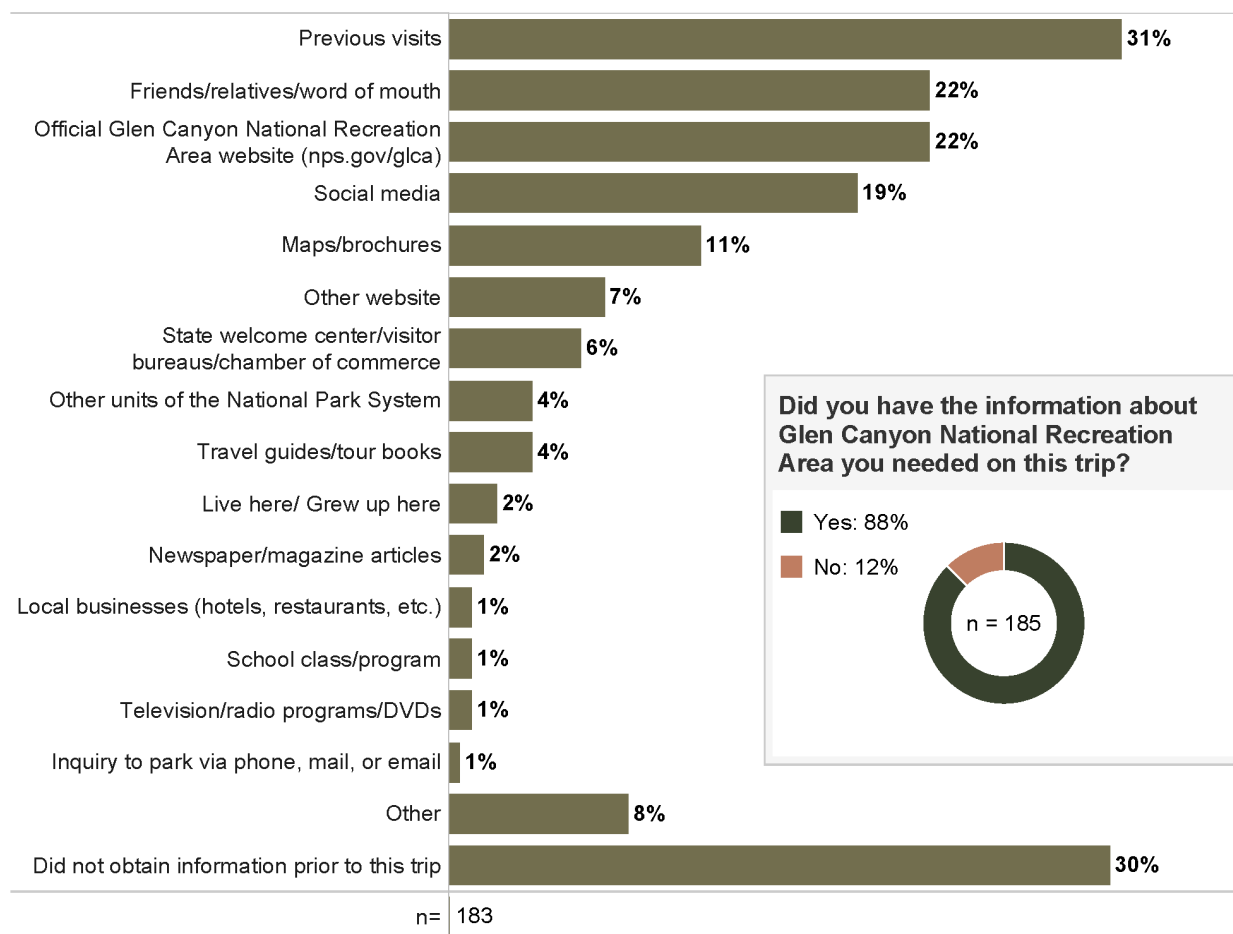


Figure 20. Sources used to obtain information about Glen Canyon prior to the trip.

- The most used resource was information from previous visits, with 31% of respondents reportedly using it. The second most common source was information from friends, relatives or word of mouth (22%), followed by the official Glen Canyon website (22%), social media (19%), and maps or brochures (11%).
- In a follow-up question, 88% of respondents said that they had the information about Glen Canyon that they needed on their trip, while 12% indicated that there was information that they needed but did not have.
- About a third (30%) of respondents stated they did not obtain information prior to their trip to Glen Canyon.

- In an open-ended follow-up question, those who did not have the information they needed on this trip were asked to elaborate.

Questions 7-9: Trip Characteristics

Respondents were asked if they visited other National Park Service sites on their trip away from home (Figure 21).

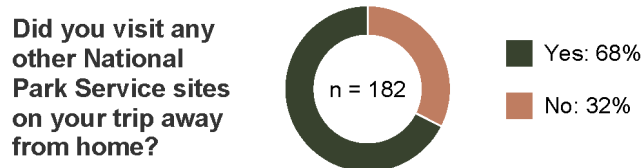
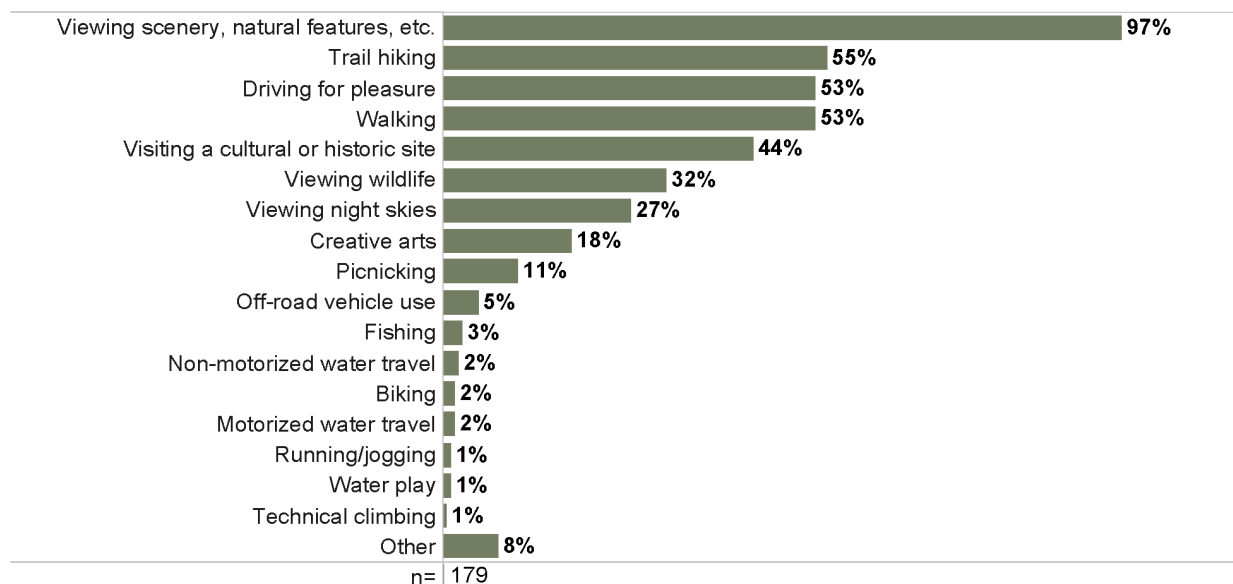


Figure 21. NPS sites visited on trip away from home.

- About two-thirds (68%) of all respondents visited other NPS sites on their trip, while 32% identified Glen Canyon as the only NPS site they visited while away from home.
- In an open-ended follow-up question, those who had visited other NPS sites on their trip were asked to list which one(s).

Survey respondents were then asked to identify all activities that they participated in while visiting Glen Canyon, and which of those was their primary activity (Figure 22).

On this trip, in which of the following activities did you personally participate within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area? Please mark all that apply



And which was your primary activity within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area during your visit (on the day you were contacted for this survey)?

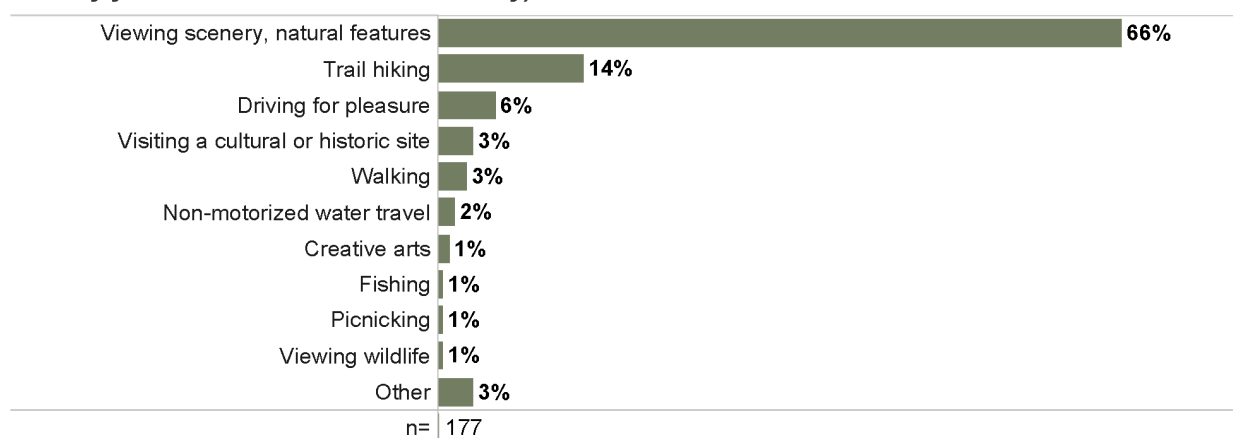


Figure 22. Participation in activities at Glen Canyon.

- Almost all respondents reported viewing scenery and natural features (97%), while a majority of respondents reported trail hiking (55%), driving for pleasure (55%), and walking (53%).
- Technical climbing, water play, running or jogging, motorized water travel, biking, nonmotorized water travel, fishing, and off-road vehicle use were all uncommon activities (reported by 5% or fewer respondents).
- The majority of respondents (66%) reported viewing scenery and natural features as their primary activity, followed by trail hiking (14%).

Questions 10-11: Reasons to Visit

Survey respondents were asked to rate the importance of various reasons to visit Glen Canyon on their trip and were then asked which of those was the most important reason for them to visit Glen Canyon (Figure 23).

How important to you were each of the following reasons or motivations for visiting Glen Canyon National Recreation Area on this trip?

Rating Category	n=	Percent Responding				
		1 - Not at all important	2 - Slightly important	3 - Moderately important	4 - Very important	5 - Extremely important
To view wildlife or natural scenery	177	4%	1%	10%	31%	54%
To spend time with family/friends	173	12%	5%	14%	29%	39%
To relax	169	7%	7%	17%	38%	31%
To learn more about American history and culture	174	7%	11%	26%	27%	29%
To visit a National Park Service site	175	13%	9%	25%	26%	27%
To get physical exercise	174	9%	12%	24%	29%	26%
To learn more about nature	175	7%	11%	28%	30%	23%
To hear the sounds of nature/quiet	175	12%	17%	23%	28%	21%
To experience solitude	174	22%	17%	21%	22%	18%
Other (if specified)	22	14%	5%	14%	9%	59%

And which was the most important reason for you to visit Glen Canyon National Recreation Area on this trip?

To view wildlife or natural scenery	39%
To spend time with family/friends	15%
To visit a National Park Service site	15%
To learn more about American history and culture	9%
To learn more about nature	5%
To relax	4%
To experience solitude	2%
To get physical exercise	2%
To hear sounds of nature/quiet	1%
Other	7%
n=	169

Figure 23. Reasons or motivations to visit Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 16.

- Most respondents chose viewing wildlife or natural scenery (54%) and spending time with family and friends (39%) as extremely important reasons for their trip to Glen Canyon.
- Other important reasons for visiting were relaxing and learning more about American history and culture (31% and 29% of respondents, respectively, rated them as extremely important).

- The least important reasons for visiting were experiencing solitude and hearing the sounds of nature and quiet (only 18% and 21% of respondents, respectively, reported them as extremely important, and 22% and 12% of respondents, respectively, rated them as not at all important).
- The most common response about the most important reason for visiting Glen Canyon was viewing wildlife or natural scenery (39%), followed by spending time with family or friends (15%) and visiting a National Park Service site (15%).

Questions 12-13: Programs, Services, and Learning

Respondents were asked to identify all programs and services in which they personally participated in Glen Canyon during their trip (Figure 24).

On this trip, in which of the following programs and services did you personally participate within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area? Please mark all that apply

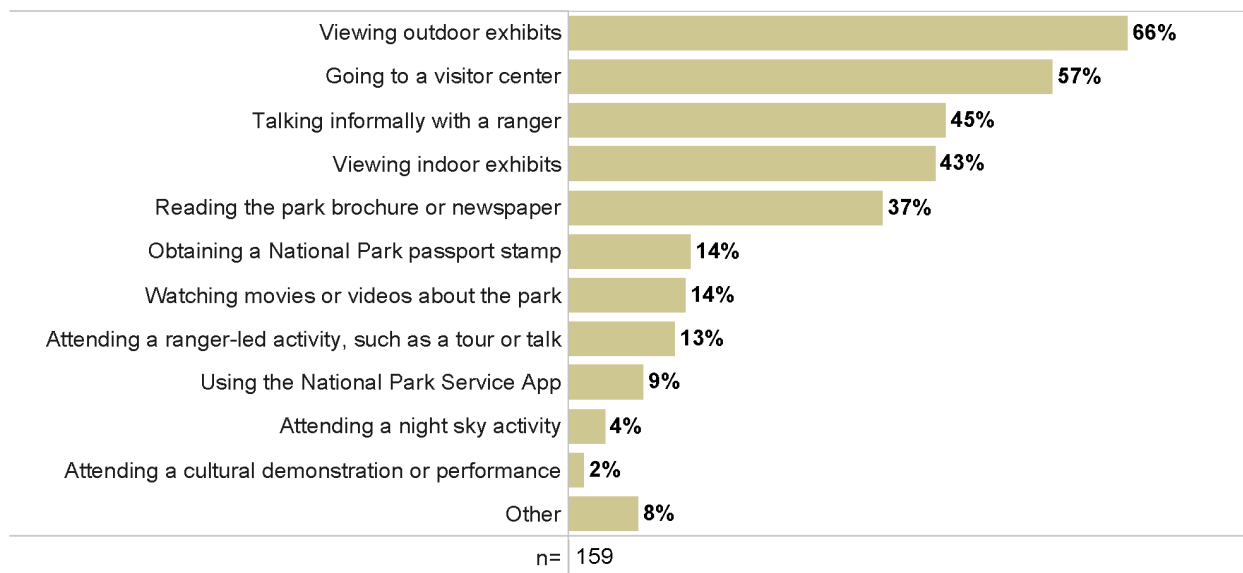


Figure 24. Participation in programs at Glen Canyon.

- The two most-used programs were viewing outdoor exhibits and going to a visitor center, with more than half of respondents (68% and 57% respectively) reporting participating in each of them.

Two follow-up questions asked if respondents learned anything from park staff, programs, and/or exhibits about American history, nature, and/or culture, and what specific subjects they would like to learn about in the future (Figure 25).

If you were to visit Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in the future, are there specific subjects you would like to learn about?

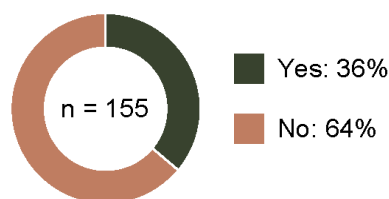


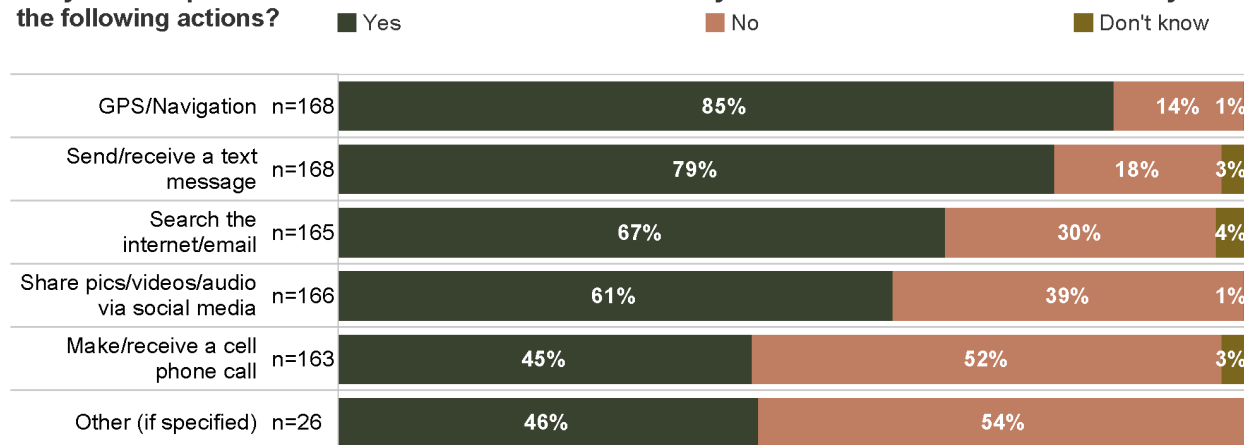
Figure 25. Learning outcomes while visiting Glen Canyon.

- Over one-third of respondents (36%) reported that if they were to visit Glen Canyon in the future, there are specific subjects they would like to learn about.
- Respondents who said yes to this question were asked to elaborate.

Questions 14-15: Use of Devices

Two survey questions were focused on the use of electronic devices, their importance, and the quality of service provided. First, respondents were asked which personal electronic devices they used while in Glen Canyon (Figure 26).

Did you use a personal electronic device while in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to do any of the following actions?



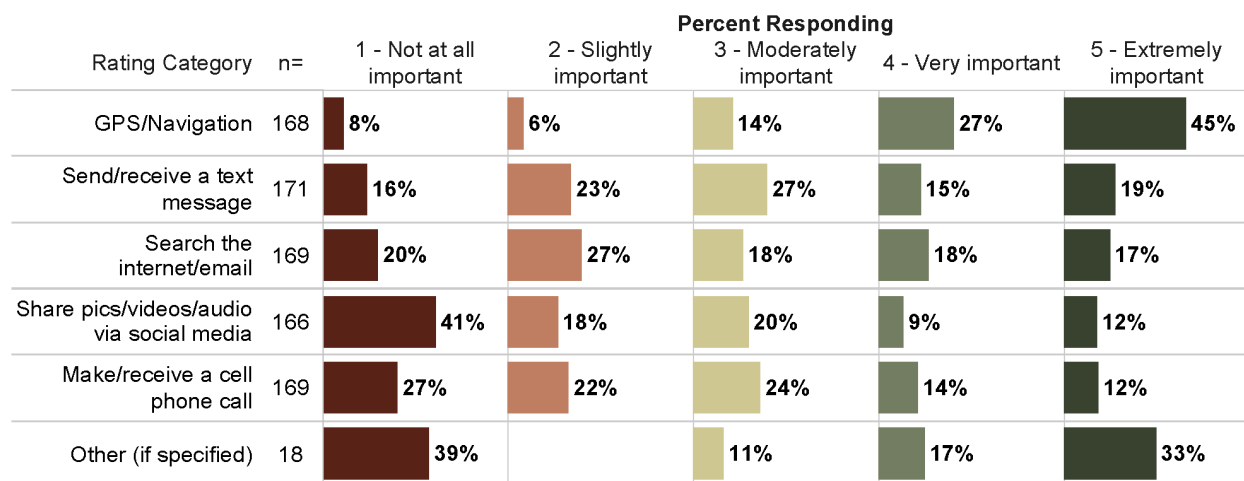
Labels <1% are not shown

Figure 26. Use of personal electronic devices while visiting Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 17.

- Most respondents (85%) reported using GPS and navigation, while another 79% of respondents reported sending or receiving text messages, 67% reported searching the internet or using email, and 61% shared pictures, videos, or audio on social media.
- Conversely, only 45% of respondents made or received cell phone calls.

Then, respondents were asked to rate both the importance of each of these electronic device uses (Figure 27), and the quality of their service (Figure 28).

How important to you was it during your visit to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area to use personal electronic devices to do each of the following?



Categories sorted in descending order by percent answering "Yes" to "Did you use a personal electronic device while in the park to do any of the following actions?" (With "Other" anchored at bottom)

Figure 27. The importance of the use of personal electronic devices while visiting Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 18.

- The most important device uses were GPS and navigation and sending receiving text messages (45% and 19% of respondents, respectively, rated them as extremely important).
- Sharing pictures, videos, or audio on social media was rated as extremely important by only 12% of respondents, and not at all important by 41% of respondents, while making or receiving cell phone calls was rated as extremely important only by 12% of respondents, and not at all important by 27% of respondents.

How would you rate the quality of service to do each of the following?

Rating Category	n=	Percent Responding				
		1 - No service	2 - Poor	3 - Average	4 - Good	5 - Very good
GPS/Navigation	136		4%	16%	29%	51%
Send/receive a text message	130	2%	5%	19%	32%	42%
Search the internet/email	124	2%	6%	27%	31%	34%
Share pics/videos/audio via social media	107	4%	7%	21%	32%	36%
Make/receive a cell phone call	104	2%	7%	22%	38%	32%
Other (if specified)	16			19%	38%	44%

Categories sorted in descending order by percent answering "Yes" to "Did you use a personal electronic device while in the park to do any of the following actions?" (With "Other" anchored at bottom)

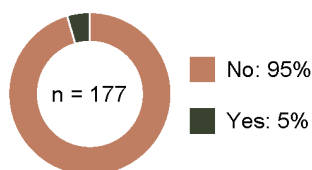
Figure 28. Quality of service for personal electronic devices while visiting Glen Canyon. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 19.

- GPS and navigation was rated as very good or good by 51% and 29% of respondents, respectively. No respondents reported that they had no service for this.
- Very few respondents (ranged from 2% to 4%, depending on the service) reported that they also had no service to sending or receiving text messages, searching the internet, making or receiving phone calls, and sharing photos, videos, or audio on social media.

Question 16: Physical Difficulties

Respondents were asked if anyone in their personal group had a physical condition that made it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services during their visit to Glen Canyon. If such a condition was identified, respondents were asked to specify the type of difficulty (Figure 29).

Did anyone in your personal group have difficulties accessing or participating in park activities or services within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area during your trip? Please mark one.



[If yes] Which specific difficulties did the person(s) have? Please mark all that apply.

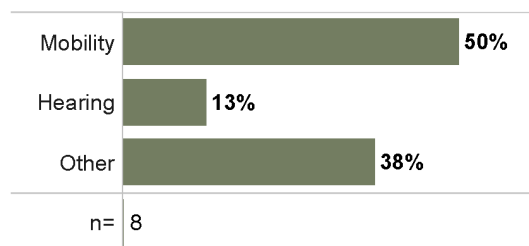


Figure 29. Physical difficulties while visiting Glen Canyon.

- Nearly all respondents (95%) reported that nobody in their personal group had a physical condition that made it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services during their visit to Glen Canyon.

- Among the 5% of respondents who identified at least one difficulty, 50% reported mobility issues in their group, with an additional 38% of respondents reported having some other difficulty, and 13% reporting hearing and/or visual difficulties.

Questions 19-21: Visitor Experience

Respondents were then given several statements about Glen Canyon and asked to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement with each given statement (Figure 30).

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

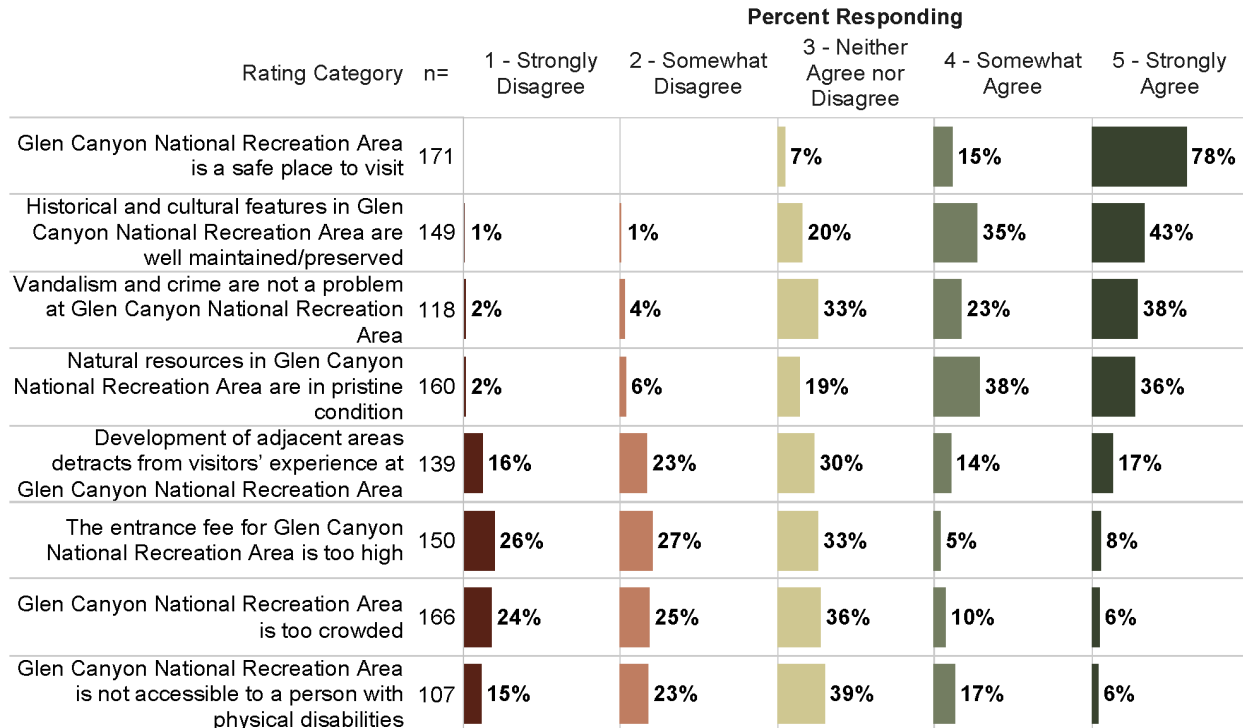


Figure 30. Rating Glen Canyon experience. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 20.

- From all the statements listed, “Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is a safe place to visit” received the most consensus with a combined 93% of respondents saying they either strongly or somewhat agree with it. That was followed by “Historical and cultural features in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area are well maintained/preserved” and “Vandalism and crime are not a problem at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area” (43% and 38% of respondents, respectively, strongly agreed with these statements).
- Conversely, “Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is not accessible to a person with physical disabilities” and “Glen Canyon National Recreation Area is too crowded” received the least support, with 6% of respondents strongly agreeing with these statements, and 15% and 24% of respondents, respectively, strongly disagreeing with each of them.

Next, respondents were asked to rate the quality of park facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities in Glen Canyon (Figure 31).

How would you rate the quality of the park facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area?

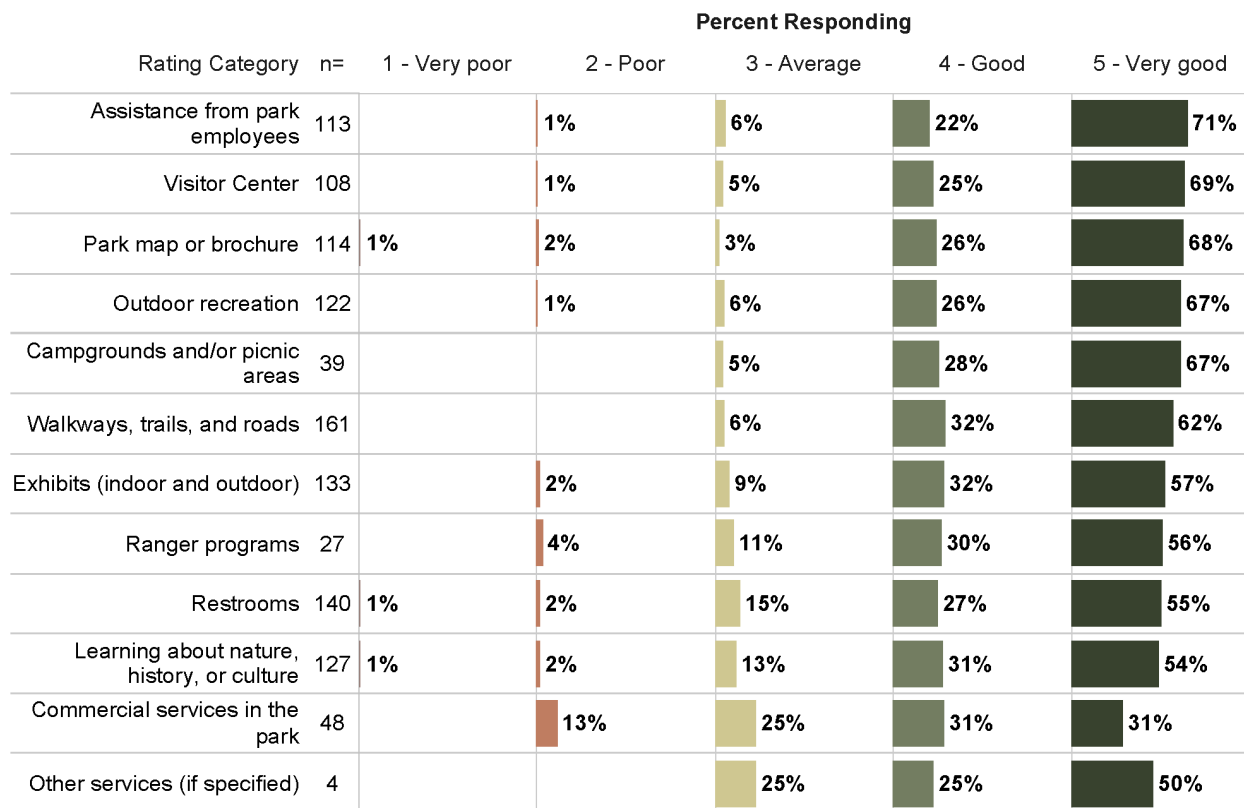


Figure 31. Rating the quality of specific Glen Canyon facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 21.

- Nearly all park facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities were rated by over half of residents (at least 54%) as very good.
- The only park facility not rated as very good by over half of respondents was commercial services in the park with only 31% of respondents grading this as very good.

Finally, respondents were asked to rate overall quality of the park facilities, visitor services, and recreation opportunities (Figure 32).

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the park facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area?

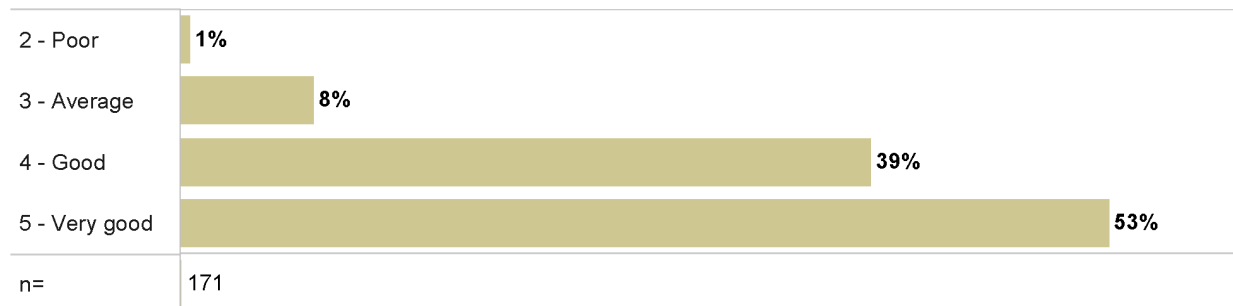


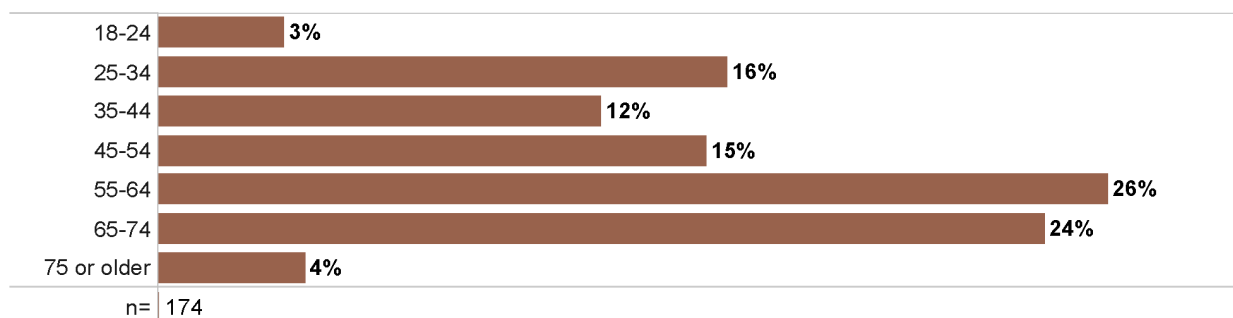
Figure 32. Rating overall quality of Glen Canyon facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities.

- In general, about half of respondents (53%) rated the quality of the park facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities in Glen Canyon as very good, and another 39% rated them as good.
- Less than a tenth (9%) of respondents rated the overall quality as average or below.

Questions 22-28: Background/Demographics

In the final section of the post-trip survey, respondents were asked various questions about their personal and household demographics. Figure 33 depicts descriptive statistics for respondent age and education.

What is your age?



What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

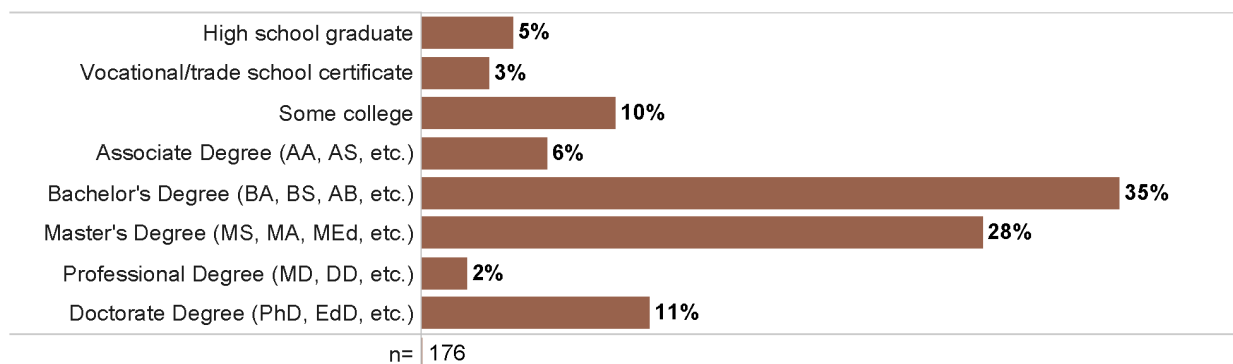


Figure 33. Respondent demographics: age and level of education.

- The most common age categories were 55-64 years old (26%), 65-74 years old (24%), and 25-34 years old (16%). The least represented age group were 18-24 years old (only 3% of the participants surveyed).
- Most survey respondents reported obtaining higher education, with a combined 82% having attained some college degree, and a plurality (41%) holding a master's degree or higher.

Respondents were also asked to identify their race(s) and if they were of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin (Figure 34).

What is your race and/or ethnicity? Mark all that apply.

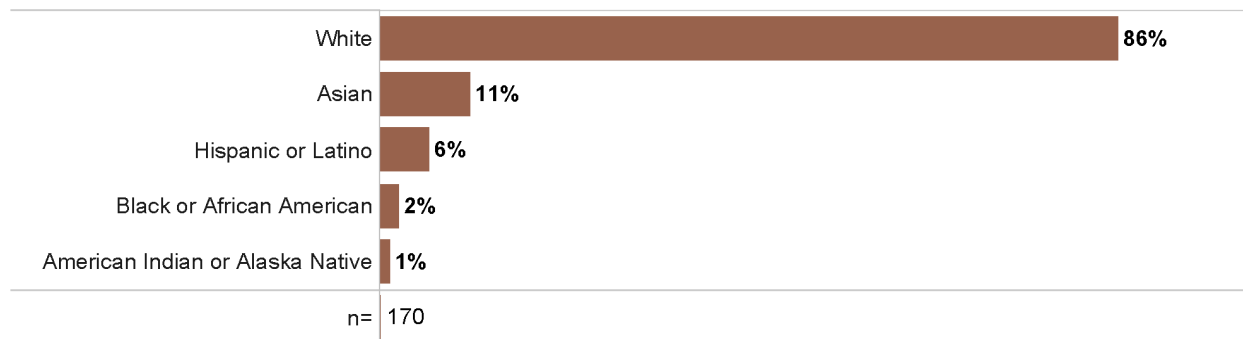


Figure 34. Respondent demographics: race and/or ethnicity.

- The majority of respondents (86%) were White, while 11% were Asian.

Finally, at a household level, respondents were asked to report annual income and number of contributors, as well as how many people (adults and children) live in their household (Figure 35).

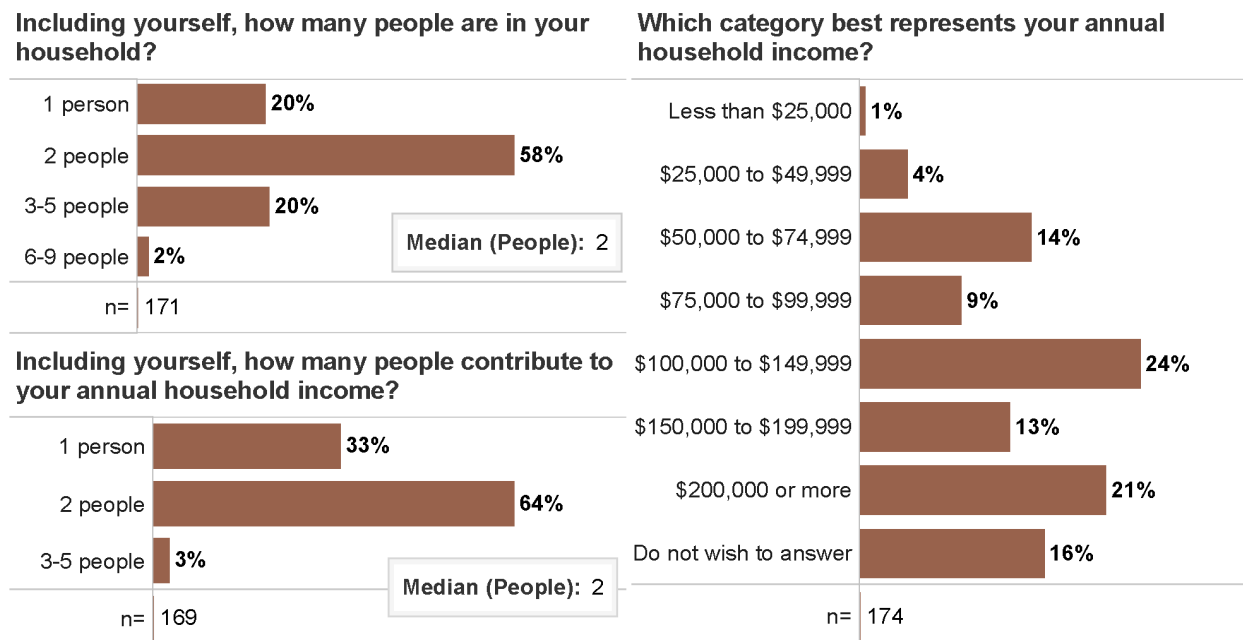


Figure 35. Household demographics: annual household income and household size. Tabular data shown in this figure are presented in Appendix A, Table 22.

- The majority of respondents (58%) had two people in their household, followed by one person and three to five people (another 20% each).
- In addition to obtaining higher education, visitors surveyed at Glen Canyon also reported relatively high income levels. About a quarter of respondents (24%) reported that their annual household income was between \$100,000 and \$149,999, and another 21% earned \$200,000 or more.
- Most respondents (64%) came from a dual-income household.

Literature Cited

National Park Service (NPS). 2025. 2025 Socioeconomic Monitoring of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area: Visitor intercept and post-trip surveys.
<https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Reference/Profile/2318484>

Appendix A: Accessible Tables

Table 11 through Table 22 contain tabular data from figures found in the body of the report.

Table 11. Data from Figure 2. Previous visits to Glen Canyon.

Question	Sample Size (n)	Median
[If not first-time visitor] Including this visit, how many visits have you made to Glen Canyon over the past 12 months?	209	1
[If not first-time visitor] Including this visit, how many visits have you made to Glen Canyon over the past five years?	209	2

Table 12. Data from Figure 3. Visits made to other NPS sites within the past year.

Question	Sample Size (n)	Median
How many visits have you made to other NPS sites over the past 12 months?	958	2

Table 13. Data from Figure 9. Number of nights spent in the local area around Glen Canyon, by accommodation type.

Accommodation Type	Sample Size (n)	Median
[If backcountry camping in Glen Canyon] Number of nights	3	3
[If camping in Glen Canyon] Number of nights	19	2
[If camping outside of Glen Canyon in the local area] Number of nights	39	3
[If lodging in Glen Canyon] Number of nights	1	1
[If lodging outside Glen Canyon in local area] Number of nights	569	2
[If staying in unpaid accommodations] Number of nights	2	3

Table 14. Data from Figure 10. Number of adults and children in respondent's personal group, and total group size, while visiting Glen Canyon.

Group Composition	Sample Size (n)	Median
Adults	960	2
Children	960	0
Total group size	960	2

Table 15. Data from Figure 18. Number of people in respondent's vehicle when entering Glen Canyon.

Question	Sample Size (n)	Median
[If entered by car, truck, or SUV] Including yourself, how many people were traveling in your vehicle when you entered Glen Canyon?	891	2
[If entered by RV/motorhome] Including yourself, how many people were traveling in your RV when you entered Glen Canyon?	33	2

Table 16. Data from Figure 23. Reasons or motivations to visit Glen Canyon.

Rating Category	Sample Size (n)
To visit a National Park Service site	175
To experience solitude	174
To hear the sounds of nature/quiet	175
To learn more about nature	175
To learn more about American history and culture	174
To spend time with family/friends	173
To get physical exercise	174
To view wildlife or natural scenery	177
To relax	169
Other (if specified)	22

Table 17. Data from Figure 26. Use of personal electronic devices while visiting Glen Canyon.

Device Use	Sample Size (n)
Make/receive a cell phone call	163
Send/receive a text message	168
Search the internet/email	165
GPS/Navigation	168
Share pics/videos/audio via social media	166
Other (if specified)	26

Table 18. Data from Figure 27. The importance of the use of personal electronic devices while visiting Glen Canyon.

Device Use	Sample Size (n)
Make/receive a cell phone call	169
Send/receive a text message	171
Search the internet/email	169
GPS/Navigation	168
Share pics/videos/audio via social media	166
Other (if specified)	18

Table 19. Data from Figure 28. Quality of service for personal electronic devices while visiting Glen Canyon.

Device Use	Sample Size (n)
Make/receive a cell phone call	104
Send/receive a text message	130
Search the internet/email	124
GPS/Navigation	136
Share pics/videos/audio via social media	107
Other (if specified)	16

Table 20. Data from Figure 30. Rating Glen Canyon experience.

Rating Category	Sample Size (n)
Glen Canyon is a safe place to visit	171
Glen Canyon is too crowded	166
Natural resources in Glen Canyon are in pristine condition	160
The entrance fee for Glen Canyon is too high	150
Vandalism and crime are not a problem at Glen Canyon	118
Glen Canyon is not accessible to a person with physical disabilities	107
Historical and cultural features in Glen Canyon are well maintained/preserved	149
Development of adjacent areas detracts from visitors' experience at Glen Canyon	139

Table 21. Data from Figure 31. Rating the quality of Glen Canyon facilities, visitor services, and recreational opportunities.

Rating Category	Sample Size (n)
Visitor Center	108
Exhibits (indoor and outdoor)	133
Restrooms	140
Walkways, trails, and roads	161
Campgrounds and/or picnic areas	39
Assistance from park employees	113
Park map or brochure	114
Ranger programs	27
Commercial services in the park (food, lodging, gifts, rental, etc.)	48
Other services (if specified)	4
Learning about nature, history, or culture	127
Outdoor recreation (sightseeing, camping, bicycling, boating, hiking, etc.)	122

Table 22. Data from Figure 35. Household demographics: annual household income and household size.

Question	Sample Size (n)	Median
Including yourself, how many people are in your household?	171	2
Including yourself, how many people contribute to your annual household income?	169	2