

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

VISITOR USE REPORTING AND COUNTING INSTRUCTIONS

Following are detailed instructions for collecting data and estimating visitor use statistics for **Yellowstone National Park**. These instructions are effective the date of issuance and will continue in effect unless changed by agreement between the NPS Social Science Program and the Park Superintendent.

Recreation Visits

North Gate

1. An inductive loop traffic counter is located on the entrance lane at the North Gate. The traffic count is reduced for buses, the number of non-recreation vehicles, and non-reportable vehicles. The reduced traffic count is multiplied by the persons-per-vehicle (PPV) multiplier in Table 1.
2. The number of visitors arriving by bus.
3. The number of visitors arriving by bicycle, foot, or cross-country skis.

West Gate

1. An inductive loop traffic counter is located on the entrance lane at the West Gate. The traffic count is reduced for buses, the number of non-recreation vehicles, and non-reportable vehicles. The reduced traffic count is multiplied by the PPV multiplier in Table 1.
2. The number of visitors arriving by bus.
3. The number of visitors arriving by bicycle, foot, or cross-country skis.
4. The number of visitors arriving by snowmobile.
5. The number of visitors arriving by snow coach.

South Gate

1. An inductive loop traffic counter is located on the entrance lane at the South Gate. The traffic count is reduced for buses, the number of non-recreation vehicles, and non-reportable vehicles. The reduced traffic count is multiplied by the PPV multiplier in Table 1.
2. The number of visitors arriving by bus.
3. The number of visitors arriving by bicycle, foot, or cross-country skis.
4. The number of visitors arriving by snowmobile.
5. The number of visitors arriving by snow coach.

East Gate

1. An inductive loop traffic counter is located on the entrance lane at the East Gate. The traffic count is reduced for buses, the number of non-recreation vehicles, and non-reportable vehicles. The reduced traffic count is multiplied by the PPV multiplier in Table 1.
2. The number of visitors arriving by bus.
3. The number of visitors arriving by bicycle, foot, or cross-country skis.
4. The number of visitors arriving by snowmobile.
5. The number of visitors arriving by snow coach.

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Northeast Gate

1. An inductive loop traffic counter is located on the entrance lane at the Northeast Gate. The traffic count is reduced for buses, the number of non-recreation vehicles, and non-reportable vehicles. The reduced traffic count is multiplied by the PPV multiplier in Table 1.
2. The number of visitors arriving by bus.
3. The number of visitors arriving by bicycle, foot, or cross-country skis.

Table 1
Persons-Per-Vehicle Multipliers by Month and Location

| MONTH | NORTH GATE | WEST GATE | SOUTH GATE | EAST GATE | NORTHEAST GATE |
|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| JANUARY | 2.8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| FEBRUARY | 2.8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| MARCH | 2.4 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| APRIL | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| MAY | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| JUNE | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.3 |
| JULY | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.3 |
| AUGUST | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.3 |
| SEPTEMBER | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.3 |
| OCTOBER | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| NOVEMBER | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.3 | N/A |
| DECEMBER | 2.3 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Non-Recreation Visits

1. The number of non-recreation vehicles entering the park from the North, South, East, West, and Northeast entrances is multiplied by the non-recreation PPV multiplier of 1.2.
2. The traffic count on Highway 191 is multiplied by 0.93 to estimate the number of non-recreation vehicles entering the park. The vehicle count is multiplied by the PPV multiplier of 1.2.

Recreation Visitor Hours

1. Recreation visits are multiplied by 12 hours per visit.
2. Overnight stays are multiplied by 24 hours per night stayed.

Non-recreation Visitor Hours

1. Non-recreation visits recorded at the entrance stations are multiplied by 4 hours.
2. Non-recreation visits on Highway 191 are multiplied by 0.5 hours.

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Overnight Stays

Concessioner Lodging - Old Faithful Inn, Old Faithful Lodge, Old Faithful Snowlodge, Grant Village Lodge, Lake Hotel, Lake Lodge, Canyon Lodge, Roosevelt Lodge, and Mammoth Hotel

The number of overnight stays at concessioner managed lodges.

Concessioner Campgrounds - Fishing Bridge RV Park, Bay Bridge, Canyon, Grant Village, and Madison

The number of overnight stays at concessioner managed campground.

NPS Campgrounds - Mammoth, Norris, Pebble Creek, Indian Creek, Slough Creek, Lewis Lake, and Tower Fall

The number of tent or RV overnight stays from reservations.

The number of tent or RV sites occupied from walk-ins is multiplied by the persons-per-site multiplier of 3.2.

NPS Backcountry - Miscellaneous backcountry sites.

The number of backcountry overnight stays as determined by permits issued.

NPS Miscellaneous - Bridge Bay and Grant Village

The number of overnight stays at group camping areas.

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