

Boundary Waters Canoe Area
Wilderness

Visitor Study

BWCAW PICTURE

2007 Summer Season
Overnight Visits

SPONSOR/CONTACT INFORMATION

4. Please estimate the following for your wilderness visit: (Enter a number in all three columns for each item)

	<u>Least in a Single Day</u>	<u>Most in a Single Day</u>	<u>Total For Trip</u>
a. the number of nonmotorized groups you saw	_____	_____	_____
b. the number of motorized groups you saw	_____	_____	_____
c. the number of groups that camped within sight or sound of your campsite	_____	_____	_____
d. the number of groups that paddled or motored within sight or sound of your campsite	_____	_____	_____

5. How did the following compare with what you expected to see in the Boundary Waters? (Circle one scale response for each statement)

	<u>Far Fewer</u>	<u>Fewer</u>	<u>About What I Expected</u>	<u>More</u>	<u>Far More</u>	<u>Had no Expect- tation</u>
a. the number of nonmotorized groups you saw	FF	F	E	M	FM	X
b. the number of motorized groups you saw	FF	F	E	M	FM	X
c. the number of groups that camped within sight or sound of your campsite	FF	F	E	M	FM	X
d. the number of groups that paddled/motored within sight or sound of your campsite	FF	F	E	M	FM	X

6. How did the following compare with what you preferred to see in the Boundary Waters? (Circle one scale response for each statement)

	Far Fewer	Fewer than Preferred	About What I Preferred	More than Preferred	Far More	Had no Preference
a. the number of nonmotorized groups you saw	FF	F	P	M	FM	X
b. the number of motorized groups you saw	FF	F	P	M	FM	X
c. the number of groups that camped within sight or sound of your campsite	FF	F	P	M	FM	X
d. the number of groups that paddled/motored within sight or sound of your campsite	FF	F	P	M	FM	X

EVALUATION OF WILDERNESS CONDITIONS

7. This set of items concerns problems you may have run into on your visits to the Boundary Waters. Please indicate two things for each item. First, tell us whether you felt the item was a problem during the visit. Second, whether you currently feel the item is a problem or not, indicate whether you feel the situation has become better or worse over the years you have been coming to the Boundary Waters. If this was your first trip, or if you really don't know the trend, indicate by circling the X for 'Don't Know.'

	First, is it:		Second, is it:		
	Not a Problem	A Problem	Getting Better	Getting Worse	Don't Know
a. Portages poorly maintained	N	Y	+	-	X
b. Opportunities to see wildlife	N	Y	+	-	X
c. Destruction of vegetation at or around campsites	N	Y	+	-	X
d. Lack of suitable campsites	N	Y	+	-	X
e. Not enough privacy in campsites	N	Y	+	-	X
f. Litter	N	Y	+	-	X
g. Inadequate disposal of human body waste	N	Y	+	-	X
h. Large groups of people	N	Y	+	-	X
i. Too many people in area you visited	N	Y	+	-	X
j. Area rules and regulations not adequately publicized	N	Y	+	-	X
k. Not enough information on where other users are likely to be	N	Y	+	-	X
l. The wilderness permit requirement is not well advertised	N	Y	+	-	X

m. The process of obtaining available permits is too difficult	N	Y	+	-	X
n. Not enough parking spaces at wilderness entry points	N	Y	+	-	X
o. Not enough firewood	N	Y	+	-	X
p. Campfire restrictions	N	Y	+	-	X
q. Areas closed due to fire	N	Y	+	-	X
r. Fire hazard from downed trees	N	Y	+	-	X

7. Continued...

	<u>First, is it:</u>		<u>Second, is it:</u>		
	<u>Not a Problem</u>	<u>A Problem</u>	<u>Getting Better</u>	<u>Getting Worse</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
s. Improper disposal of fish entrails	N	Y	+	-	X
t. Low flying aircraft	N	Y	+	-	X
u. Too many rules and regulations	N	Y	+	-	X
v. People making noise	N	Y	+	-	X
w. Natural condition of fish habitat	N	Y	+	-	X
x. Fire grates full of charcoal and ashes	N	Y	+	-	X
y. Fire grates full of trash	N	Y	+	-	X
z. Nuisance bears	N	Y	+	-	X
aa. Smoke from wildland fires	N	Y	+	-	X
ab. Aircraft activity for fire management	N	Y	+	-	X

ac. Amount of burned area	N	Y		+	-	X
ad. Finding an unoccupied campsite	N	Y		+	-	X

If it was a problem, why:

ae. Use of inappropriate technology	N	Y		+	-	X
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If use of technology was a problem, please list examples:

8. Did you feel that the Boundary Waters was too crowded? (Circle one)

1. NO, IT DIDN'T APPEAR OVERCROWDED TO ME
2. YES, BUT ONLY IN A FEW AREAS
3. YES, IT WAS OVERCROWDED IN MOST PLACES
4. I DIDN'T NOTICE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER

9. If you felt that the Boundary Waters was overcrowded, did it bother you? (Circle one)

1. NO, NOT AT ALL
2. ONLY A LITTLE
3. A MODERATE AMOUNT
4. IT BOTHERED ME A LOT

10. If you felt that the Boundary Waters was crowded, did you in any way change the route of your trip or the length of your stay? (Circle one)

1. NO
2. LENGTH OF TRIP
3. ROUTE OF TRIP
4. BOTH

11. How did you feel about the condition of the Boundary Waters in terms of wear and tear from use (erosion and loss of vegetation) and in terms of littering? (Circle one response in each column)

	WEAR AND TEAR	LITTERING	
VERY GOOD	VG	VG	If you felt there were poor conditions, where did you observe these? _____ _____ _____
GOOD	G	G	
FAIR	F	F	
POOR	P	P	
VERY POOR	VP	VP	
DO NOT REMEMBER	X	X	

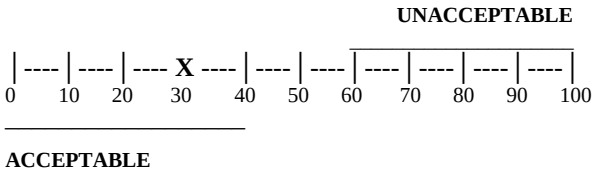
12. Different people desire different things from wilderness and managers need to know what things you find acceptable and what things you find unacceptable.

For each characteristic below, we ask that you make three types of judgments

- i. Is there a range of values along the scale provided that is **completely unacceptable**? If so, please indicate the unacceptable range by drawing a line above it.
- ii. Is there a range of values that would be **acceptable**? If so, please indicate with a line below the scale.
- iii. Is there a point on this scale that is most **preferred**? If so, please indicate by placing an x on that point.

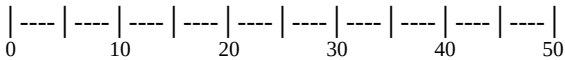
PLEASE REMEMBER: NOT DRAWING A LINE OR PLACING AN X IS OKAY, BUT THIS MEANS YOU ARE EITHER UNCERTAIN OR DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT ITEM.

Example: The percent of time other canoeists or boaters are in sight during my visit.

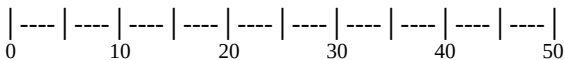


This person **prefers** other visitors in sight about 30% of the time, but 0 – 40% is **acceptable**; more than 60% of the time is **unacceptable**; this person is uncertain about the acceptability of values between 40 and 60%.

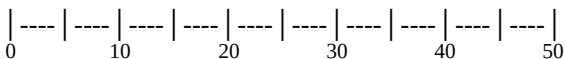
- a. The number of nonmotorized groups I see each day while traveling in the area.



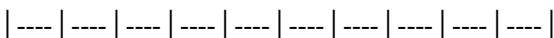
- b. The number of motorized groups I see each day while traveling in the area.



- c. The number of groups camped within sight or sound of my campsite each night.



- d. The number of groups who paddle or motor within sight or sound of my campsite each day.



0

10

20

30

40

50

13. Please tell us how you feel about the following aspects of the permit system at the Boundary Waters.

RESERVING A PERMIT:

a. How did you reserve your permit: (Circle one response)

- 1. Phone
- 2. Internet
- 3. Mail / FAX
- 4. I didn't reserve a permit, someone else in my group did [Skip to Q. 13e.]
- 5. Our group didn't reserve a permit [Skip to Q. 13e.]

b. Did you apply to the lottery (before January 15) to reserve your permit? (Circle one response)

- 1. No
- 2. Yes

If Yes, how difficult was this: (Mark an X on the scale)

Difficult |----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----| Easy
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Suggestions for improving the lottery?

c. Did you reserve your permit (after January 20) via the online National Recreation Reservation Service (ReserveUSA)? (Circle one response)

- 1. No
- 2. Yes

If Yes, how difficult was this: (Mark an X on the scale)

Difficult |----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----| Easy
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Suggestions for improving the online service?

d. Did you receive a confirmation of your reservation? (Circle one response)

- 1. No
- 2. Yes

Suggestions for improving the confirmation?

PICKING UP YOUR PERMIT:

e. Did you pick up your permit at: (Circle on response)

- 1. Service Station Forest
- 2. Permit Station Cooperator
(eg. Lodge or outfitter)

f. The location you picked up your permit was convenient (Circle one response)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	No Opinion
	SD	D	A	SA	NO

If you disagree, do you have suggestions for improving the location?

g. The hours of operation at the permit station were convenient (Circle one response)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	No Opinion
	SD	D	A	SA	NO

If you disagree, do you have suggestions for improving the hours of operation?

14. Please tell us how you feel about these aspects of the fee program at the Boundary Waters: (Circle one scale response each for questions a through h)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	No Opinion
a. The use fee deposit (refundable up to two days before the trip) (\$20) was an appropriate amount.	SD	D	A	SA	NO

If you disagree, what do you suggest? _____

b. The reservation fee (nonrefundable) (\$12) was an appropriate amount.	SD	D	A	SA	NO
--	----	---	---	----	----

If you disagree, what do you suggest? _____

c. The overnight use fee (per person per trip) was an appropriate amount.	SD	D	A	SA	NO
---	----	---	---	----	----

If you disagree, what do you suggest? _____

d. The issuing fee (paid to non-Forest Service vendors) of \$2 per overnight permit was an appropriate amount.	SD	D	A	SA	NO
--	----	---	---	----	----

If you disagree, what do you suggest? _____

e. The information about the fees was adequate.	SD	D	A	SA	NO
---	----	---	---	----	----

If you disagree, how could the information be improved?

f. The process of paying the fees was easy.	SD	D	A	SA	NO
---	----	---	---	----	----

If you disagree, how could the process be improved?

g. You are better off due to these fees?	SD	D	A	SA	NO
--	----	---	---	----	----

h. The Boundary Waters is better off due to these fees.	SD	D	A	SA	NO
---	----	---	---	----	----

RECENT EVENTS IN THE BOUNDARY WATERS

15. Are you aware of the extensive storm blowdown that occurred in the Boundary Waters in 1999? (Circle one response)

1. Yes
2. No → Go to question 18

16. Did the blowdown affect your plans to visit the Boundary Waters in past years (1999-2006)? (Circle one response)

1. No → Go to question 17
2. Yes → If Yes, then how did the blowdown affect your plans?

17. Did the blowdown affect your plans to visit the Boundary Waters this year (2007)? (Circle one response)

1. No → Go to question 18
2. Yes → If Yes, then how did the blowdown affect your plans?

18. Are you aware of the management-ignited fires (planned burns) that have been occurring in the Boundary Waters? (Circle one response)

1. Yes
2. No → Go to question 21

19. Did the management-ignited fires affect your plans to visit the Boundary Waters in past years (2000-2006)? (Circle one response)

1. No → Go to question 20
2. Yes → If Yes, then how did the management-ignited fires affect your plans?

20. Did the management-ignited fires affect your plans to visit the Boundary Waters this year (2007)? (Circle one response)

1. No → Go to question 21
2. Yes → If Yes, then how did the management-ignited fires affect your plans?

21. Are you aware of the lightning-ignited fires (Turtle Lake Fire and Cavity Lake Fire) that occurred in the Boundary Waters last year? (Circle one response)

1. Yes
2. No → Go to question 24

22. Did the lightning-ignited fires affect your plans to visit the Bounday Waters last year (2006)? (Circle one response)

1. No → Go to question 23
2. Yes → If Yes, then how did the lightning-ignited fires affect your plans?

23. Did the lightning-ignited fires affect your plans to visit the Boundary Waters this year (2007)? (Circle one response)

1. No → Go to question 24
2. Yes → If Yes, then how did the lightning-ignited fires affect your plans?

24. During this visit to the Boundary Waters

- a. Did you go into an area affected by the 1999 Blowdown?
 1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Unsure

- b. Did you go into an area affected by the management-ignited fires?
 1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Unsure

- c. Did you go into an area affected by the 2006 lightning-ignited fires?
 1. Yes
 2. No
 3. Unsure

25. How important were each of the following factors in choosing a specific area to visit this year?

	Not Important	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Natural place, lack of human evidence	1	2	3
Remoteness, solitude	1	2	3
Scenic beauty	1	2	3
Quality hunting	1	2	3
Quality fishing	1	2	3
1999 Blowdown	1	2	3
Occurrence of management-ignited fires	1	2	3
Occurrence of lightning-ignited fires	1	2	3
Test outdoor skills	1	2	3
Familiarity, been there before	1	2	3
A new area, variety	1	2	3
A friend or family member suggested it	1	2	3

26. As you think about any wilderness, not just the Boundary Waters, how desirable or undesirable do you think each of the following things is? (Circle one scale response for each question)

	Very	Neutral, neither		Very	
	Undesirable	Undesirable	Desirable nor Undesirable	Desirable	
a. Absence of human-made features, except trails and portages	VU	U	N	D	VD
b. Lakes behind small man-made dams	VU	U	N	D	VD
c. Leaving some areas without easy access	VU	U	N	D	VD
d. Bridges over creeks where you would otherwise get wet feet when portaging or hiking	VU	U	N	D	VD
e. Designated campsites with permanent fire grates and pit toilets	VU	U	N	D	VD
f. Suppress fires that are started by lightning	VU	U	N	D	VD
g. Prohibiting wood fires where dead wood is scarce (requiring use of gas stoves)	VU	U	N	D	VD
h. Restricting the number of visitors to an area if it is being used beyond capacity	VU	U	N	D	VD
i. Accurate information on how you can travel and camp in the wilderness to reduce your impacts	VU	U	N	D	VD
j. Use of chain saws by the administrators to clear trails and portages of trees	VU	U	N	D	VD
k. Packing unburnable garbage back out of the wilderness	VU	U	N	D	VD

26. Continued....

	Very	Neutral, neither		Desirable	Very
	Undesirable	Undesirable	Desirable nor Undesirable		Desirable
l. Evidence of natural disturbance (e.g., fire, blowdown, flooding, etc.)	VU	U	N	D	VD
m. Visitors using electronic GPS units for navigation	VU	U	N	D	VD
n. Visitors carrying cell or satellite phones	VU	U	N	D	VD
o. Use of management ignited fires to reduce the risk of escaped wildfires	VU	U	N	D	VD
p. Use of management ignited fires to restore the natural role of fire	VU	U	N	D	VD

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

27. Your previous wilderness use:

a. How many times have you visited the Boundary Waters before this trip? _____ PREVIOUS VISITS

b. What year did you first visit the Boundary Waters? _____ YEAR

c. How many other federal wilderness areas have you visited, besides Boundary Waters? _____ THIS IS THE ONLY ONE
_____ 1 – 2 OTHER AREAS
_____ 3 – 5 OTHER AREAS
_____ 6 – 10 OTHER AREAS
_____ 11 – 20 OTHER AREAS
_____ OVER 20 OTHER AREAS

d. What year did you first visit another federal wilderness area, besides the Boundary Waters? _____ YEAR

e. Including this visit, how many times did you visit a wilderness in the past 12 months? _____ VISITS

Is this number more or less than for previous years?

1. MORE 2. LESS

WHY? _____

f. How many total days did you spend in wilderness on all visits in the past 12 months _____ DAYS

Is this number more or less than for previous years?

1. MORE 2. LESS

WHY? _____

28. Since you first visited a wilderness area, about how often have you gone on wilderness trips? (Circle one number)

1. THIS WAS MY FIRST TRIP
2. TYPICALLY GO INTO WILDERNESS LESS THAN ONCE EVERY 2 YEARS
3. ABOUT 1 TRIP EVERY 2 YEARS
4. ABOUT 1 TRIP PER YEAR
5. 2 TO 10 TRIPS PER YEAR
6. MORE THAN 10 TRIPS PER YEAR

29. How often did your parents take you on the following kinds of camping trips (overnight trips)? (Circle one response for each kind of trip)

	<u>Never</u>	Occa- <u>sionally</u>	<u>Often</u>	Don't <u>know</u>
a. On hiking or canoe trips	0	1	2	DK
b. In auto campgrounds	0	1	2	DK

30. Do you belong to any environmental or outdoor recreation organizations? (Circle one response) 1. Yes 2. No

If yes, please list them: _____

31. In what type of community did you mostly **grow up** in before age 18, and in what type of community do you **now live**? (Circle one number in each column that best represents your past and current residences)

	<u>Childhood Residence</u>	<u>Current Residence</u>
• On an agricultural farm or ranch	1	1
• Rural nonagricultural	2	2
• Small town or village (under 1,000)	3	3
• Town, large village (1,000 to 5,000 population)	4	4
• Small city (5,000 to 50,000 people)	5	5
• Medium city (50,000 to 1 million population)	6	6
• Major city or metropolitan area (over 1 million)	7	7

32. What best describes your current residence? (Circle one number)

1. Urban
2. Suburban
3. Rural

33. What is the highest level of education you have attained? (Circle one number that best represents your education)

- 1. Less than a high school diploma
- 2. High school graduate or GED
- 3. Trade or professional school
- 4. Some college
- 5. Undergraduate college degree (*BS, BA, etc.*)
- 6. Some graduate school
- 7. Graduate degree (*MS, PhD, MD, JD, etc.*)

34. Are you presently: (Check all that apply)

- Unemployed
- Retired
- Student

35. If you are a student, are you: (Circle one response)

- 1. Full Time
- 2. Part Time

36. If you are employed, what is your occupation? (If retired, show occupation before retirement)

TITLE: _____

KIND OF WORK: _____

KIND OF COMPANY OR BUSINESS: _____

37. What was your annual household income in the year 2006, before taxes? (Circle one number that best represents your income)

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Less than \$20,000 | 7. \$120,000 to \$139,999 |
| 2. \$20,000 to \$39,999 | 8. \$140,000 to \$159,999 |
| 3. \$40,000 to \$59,999 | 9. \$160,000 to \$179,999 |
| 4. \$60,000 to \$79,999 | 10. \$180,000 to \$199,999 |
| 5. \$80,000 to \$99,999 | 11. \$200,000 or more |
| 6. \$100,000 to \$119,999 | |

38. How many people were supported by this household income in the year 2006?

_____ PEOPLE

39. How many weeks of paid vacation do you receive each year? _____ WEEKS

40. How many weeks of paid vacation do you take each year? _____ WEEKS

41. Are you: (Circle one)

- 1. Female

2. Male

42. What was your age on your last birthday?

_____ YEARS

43. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino ethnic origin? (Circle one response)

1. Yes

2. No

44. Select one or more of the following categories that best describe your race.
(Please mark one or more)

White

American Indian/Alaska Native

Asian

Black/ African American

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

PLEASE USE THE REMAINING SPACE TO MAKE ANY FURTHER COMMENTS.

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