Visitor Services Project — Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Introductory script used in contacting visitors:

Hello! The National Park Service is conducting a visitor survey at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to gather your opinions about the park's programs and services. Participation is voluntary. If you decide to participate we would like to have the survey mailed back. The mail-back questionnaire takes about 20 minutes to complete during or after your visit. Would you like to participate?

IF NO: Thank you. **IF YES**: Thank you. I have a few quick questions for you. Who in your group (at least 16 years old) has the next birthday?

Questions 1-4: Topic area 2—Trip/visit characteristics Question 5: Topic area 1—Individual Characteristics

- 1) What type of group are you traveling with today?
- 2) (If with an organized group-tours, school, etc.) How many people are in your group?
- 3) How many adults, 18 years and older, are in your personal group?
- 4) How many children, 17 years and younger, are in your personal group?
- 5) How old is the person who will complete the questionnaire?

So we can thank you and remind you to mail back the questionnaire, please write your name, address, and email address/phone number. Thank you. Be sure to mail the questionnaire—your opinions are important!

Training for interviewers: each interviewer receives 1-1/2 hours of training on how to conduct interviews. This training goes over every aspect of interviewing, including conducting the interviews using a sampling interval, avoiding sampling bias, and how to handle all types of interviewing situations, including safety of the visitor and the interviewer. Quality control is ensured by monitoring interviewers in the field, and by checking their paperwork at the end of each day of surveying.

1st follow-up printed on a scenic park postcard (sent to all participants 11 working days after completion of survey)

Dear Visitor:

Thank you for participating in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore visitor study. We look forward to hearing from you.

A select number of people were contacted for this study, so your opinions are very important!

If you have already returned your questionnaire, thank you. If not, please mail it today.

After eight months, look for the survey results at: www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp.reports.htm.

Dusty Shultz, Superintendent

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

2nd follow-up note and letter with replacement questionnaire (sent to non-respondents 21 working days after completion of survey)



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore 9922 Front St. Empire, MI 49630

IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 26, 2009

Dear Visitor:

The National Park Service would like to thank you for participating in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore visitor study. Only a select number of visitors were contacted, therefore each visitor's opinions are very important.

If you have already returned your questionnaire, thank you. If you have not returned your questionnaire, please mail it today. Unless your questionnaire was mailed in the last few days, we would appreciate you completing the enclosed replacement questionnaire since we have not received yours as of today.

In approximately eight months, the results of the visitor survey will be posted on the Visitor Services Project website at www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp.reports.htm.

If you have any questions regarding your questionnaire, please contact Margaret Littlejohn, National Park Service Visitor Services Project Director by phone 208-885-7863 or email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

Thank you for sharing your opinions with us.

Sincerely.

Dusty Shultz, Superintendent

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

3rd follow-up letter with replacement questionnaire (sent to non-respondents 35 working days after completion of survey)



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Visitor Services Project
PSU, College of Natural Resources
University of Idaho
P.O. Box 441139
Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139

September 16, 2009

I am writing about the visitor study at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, in which you agreed to participate. As of today, we have not received your completed questionnaire.

The waiting period for incoming questionnaires is almost over and we have not yet received yours. I would appreciate you completing another one unless you mailed it within the past few days.

The staff of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is anxiously awaiting the survey results. They want to use your ideas and opinions in making decisions about what services and programs to provide for visitors in the future.

I urge you to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it by September 30. Your contribution to the success of this study is greatly appreciated.

In approximately eight months, the results of the visitor survey will be posted on the Visitor Services Project website at www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp.reports.htm.

If you have questions regarding your questionnaire, please contact me by phone: (208)-885-7863 or email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

Sincerely,

Margaret Littlejohn

Director, Visitor Services Project



Social Science Program National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Visitor Services Project

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Visitor Study





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore 9922 Front St. Empire, MI 49630

IN REPLY REFER TO:

July 2009

Dear Visitor:

Thank you for participating in this important study. Our goal is to learn about the expectations, opinions, and interests of visitors to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. This information will assist us in our efforts to better manage this park and to serve you, our visitor.

This questionnaire is only being given to a select number of visitors, so your participation is very important! It should only take about 20 minutes after your visit to complete.

When your visit is over, please complete this questionnaire. Seal it with the stickers provided on the last page and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Littlejohn, NPS VSP Coordinator, Park Studies Unit, College of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 441139, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139, phone: 208-885-7863, email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

We appreciate your help.

Just Shult

Sincerely,

Dusty Shultz Superintendent

DIRECTIONS

At the end of your visit:

- 1) Please have the selected individual complete this questionnaire.
- 2) Answer the questions carefully since each question is different.
- 3) For questions that use circles (O), please mark your answer by filling in the circle with black or blue ink, or a pencil with dark (e.g. #2) lead.

Like this: (



Not like this: (







- 4) Seal it with the stickers provided.
- 5) Drop it in a U.S. mailbox.

Thank you!

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:

16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name is requested for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus the permanent data will be anonymous. Please do not put your name or that of any member of your personal group on the questionnaire. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Burden estimate statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 20 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to Margaret Littlejohn, NPS Visitor Services Project, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho, P.O. Box 441139, Moscow, ID, 83844-1139; email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

Your Visit To Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

NOTE: In this questionnaire, your **personal group** is defined as anyone that you are visiting the park with, such as spouse, family, friends, etc. This does not include the larger group that you might be traveling with, such as school, church, scouts, or tour group.

- a) Prior to your visit, how did you and your personal group obtain information about Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (NL)? Please mark (●) all that apply in column (a). [2.TPLAN11]
 - b) If you were to visit Sleeping Bear Dunes NL in the future, how would you and your personal group prefer to obtain information about the park? Please mark (●) all that apply in column (b).

a) Pric	or to this visit? (●)	b) On a future visit? (●)
0	Obtained no information prior to visit -	Go to part b of this question
0	Previous visits	Ο
0	Friends/relatives/word of mouth	Ο
0	Travel guides/tour books (such as AAA, e	etc.)
0	Maps/brochures	Ο
0	Newspaper/magazine articles	Ο
0	E-mail/telephone/written inquiry to park	Ο
0	Television/radio programs/videos/DVDs	Ο
0	Sleeping Bear Dunes NL website: www.n	ps.gov/slbe O
0	Other (Please specify below)	Ο
This v	risit Future v	risit
c)	From the sources marked above, did you ar type of information about the park that you r	
	O No O Yes → Go to	Question 2
d)	If NO, what type of park information did you was not available? Please be specific. [2.TP	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,

Sleeping Bear	Dunes	National	Lakeshore	Visitor	Stud	/

2. a			visit , were a unit of N					up aware th)W2]	at Sleepi	ng Bear
	0	Yes		Ο	No		0	Not sure		
b	provide	e oppo	rtunities fo	or solitu	ude and r	ecreat	ion. Pr	ar Dunes Ni ior to this derness are	visit , wer	
	0	Yes		Ο	No		0	Not sure		
3. a	facilitie	es vary Ial gro	according up aware d	j to sea	ason. Pri o	or to t	his vis	ough availa i t , were yo park during	น and you	ır
	0	Yes		0	No					
b) If YES, h	nave yo	u and your g	roup vis	ited the parl	k during	ja seaso	on other than	summer?	
	Ο	No		0	Yes →	c) If Y	ES, wł	nich seasor	n(s)?	
C								our persor mmer? Plea		
	0	Likel	у	Ο	Unsure		0	Not likely		
4.	regula	ations a	s visit, we at Sleepino nn (a).	re you g Bear	and your Dunes N	group L? Ple	aware ase m	e of the follo ark (●) one	owing rule answer f	es/ For each
	public	ations	, signs, tal	King to	park stat	ff, etc.) about	nd your gro these rule nn b. [3.LE	s/regulation	
•	Aware p	•		Dulas	./				b) Lea	visit?
Ye	:S IN	10		Rules	/regulati	ons			Yes	No_
C) (O	An entrai		•		recreat	e within	0	0
C) (O	Pets are must be		ermitted in led on a 6				0	Ο
C) (C	Glass co	ntainer	s are not	allow	ed on b	eaches	0	0
C) (O	It is illega quarantir		nsport fir as in Mic		d from		0	Ο
O Bicycles are not allowed on trails						0				

								√isitor Study
1	They provi funding. F	/ide suppo	rt to the paceiving th	ark throu iis quest	gh education :ionnaire, \	onaİ progr	ams, awareı	ear Dunes NL ness, and rsonal group
	Friends	of Sleepin	g Bear Du	ınes	0	Yes	0	No
	Manitou	Islands M	lemorial S	ociety	0	Yes	0	No
	Preserv	e Historic	Sleeping E	Bear	0	Yes	0	No
6.	Sleep you a	oing Bear I	Dunes NL	via the Ir	nternet or te	elephone.	ed campgro Prior to this ion system?	
	Ο	Yes	0	No				
		ou and yo LAN15]	ur group n	nake cam	npground re	eservation	s prior to yo	ur visit?
	0	Did not	camp on t	his visit	→ Go to (Question	7	
	0	Yes, ma	ade reserv	ation	Ο	No, did no	ot make rese	ervation
7.		-	•	•	camped on in the table		which cam	pground did
							led you felt. [5.CROWD	
					ds that you n part c. [6		ersonal grou RV21]	p used, c) What quality? 1=Very poor 2=Poor
۵۱	Compar	auad		b) How crow	/ded?		_ 3=Average
a) 	Campgro (Please s		Not at all crowded	A little crowded	Moderately crowded	Very crowded	Extremely crowded	4=Good 5=Very good
			Ο	0	Ο	0	0	
			0	0	0	0	0	
Q.	8: Topic aı	rea 7 — Inc	lividual opi	nions on	park manage	ement		
8.					Bear Dunes er? Please		future visit, v one.	which of
	0	Won't ca	mp on a f	uture visi	t			
	0	All camp	sites are f	irst-come	e, first-serve	ed		
	0	Advance	reservation	on for all	campsites			
	0	Advance	reservation	ons for so	ome and fire	st-come, f	irst-served fo	or others

		ar Dunes Natio								
9. C	n this t ame to	rip, what was the the Sleeping B	ne prim ear Dur	nary re nes NL	ason th area?	at you and Please ma	d your personal group ark (●) one . [3TRIPC1]			
	Ο	Resident of th on page 12 for		•		drive fron	n park boundary; use map			
	0	Visit Sleeping	Bear D	unes l	NL					
	0	Visit other area attractions								
	0	Visit friends/re	latives	in the	area					
	Ο	Business								
	0	Other (Please	specify	/)						
10.a)	perma surrou	anent residend	e and thin 1-h	<u>within</u> our dri	Sleepin	g Bear Du	vernight away from your ines NL, or in the ndary, use map on page 12			
	0	Yes	0	No →	Go to	Question	11			
b)	in Sle		nes NL	and/or	in the s		ır personal group stayed ng area (within 1-hour			
		_ Number of ni	ghts ins	side S	leeping	Bear Dun	es NL			
		_ Number of ni	ghts in	the su	rroundi	ng area	outside the park			
c)	In wha	t type of lodging mark (●) all th	g did yo	ou and	your pe IPC151	rsonal gro	oup spend the night(s)?			
Lo	odging	() 15		, .	_	In park	Outside park in surrounding area			
Lo	•	notels, motels, ved & breakfast,		n renta	als,	Ο	Ο			
R'	V/trailer	camping in de	veloped	d camp	oground	Ο	Ο			
Te	ent cam	ping in develop	ed can	npgrou	ınd	Ο	Ο			
Ва	ackcour	ntry campsite				Ο	Ο			
Pe	ersonal	seasonal resid	ence			Ο	Ο			
Re	esidend	e of friends or i	relative	S		Ο	Ο			
O	ther (Pl	ease specify be	elow)			0	Ο			
In	park: _				Outside	park:				

Sleeping Bea	<u>ar Dunes Nat</u>	tional Lake	eshore '	Visitor	Study
our trip, what	activities did	you and	your pe	rsonal	group

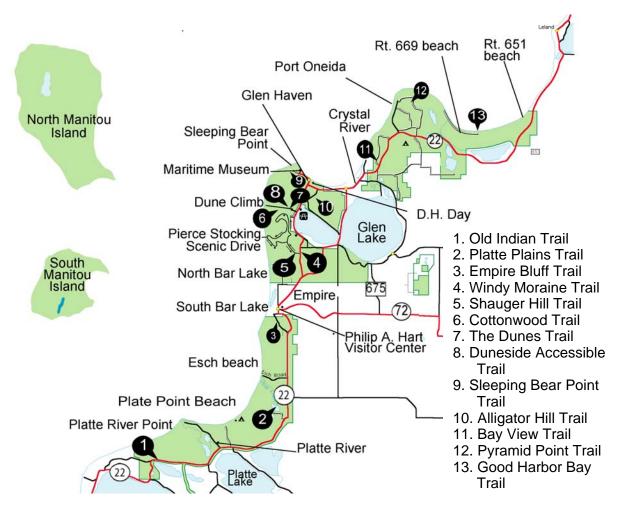
colur	cipate in at Sleeping Bear Dunes NL? Please mark (●) all mn b.	шас арргу
a) Acti	ivities expected (●) b) Activities of	<u>on this vis</u>
0	Attending ranger-led talks/programs	Ο
0	Attending special events	0
Ο	Backpacking/camping in backcountry campsites	Ο
Ο	Beach going (e.g., swim, tan, walk)	Ο
0	Boating/kayaking/canoeing/tubing	0
0	Camping in developed campgrounds	0
0	Creative arts (photography/drawing/painting/writing)	Ο
0	Enjoying solitude/quiet	0
0	Fishing/hunting	0
0	General sightseeing	0
0	Nature study (birdwatching, wildlife viewing, stargazing)	Ο
0	Visiting historic sites	0
0	Walking/hiking/dune climbing	Ο
0	Other (Please specify below)	0
Expected:	Did:	
	th one activity that you or your group participated in was your for visiting Sleeping Bear Dunes NL on this visit? [3.AC	

	Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Study b) If NO, why not? Please mark (●) all that apply. [3.ACT9]									
·	O Not interested in talks/programs									
	O Did not have time for this	Did not have time for this activity								
	O Not aware of any ranger	-led talks/p	orograms	offered at p	ark					
	O Not enough programs of	fered								
	O Schedule of programs w	as inconve	enient							
	O Other (Please specify) _									
	 13. a) For this trip, please mark all the park locations that you and your group visited in Sleeping Bear NL? Please mark (●) all that apply in column (a); use the map on the next page to help you locate the sites. [3.ITIN1] b) For the place that you and your group visited, please rate how crowded you felt Please mark (●) one answer for each location you visited. [5.CROWD1] 									
	b) How crowded?									
a) L	ocation	Not at all crowded	A little crowded	Moderately crowded	Very crowded	Extremely crowded				
0	Crystal River	0	Ο	Ο	0	0				
Ο	Platte River	0	0	0	0	0				
Ο	Dune Climb	0	0	0	0	0				
0	North Bar Lake	0	0	0	0	0				
Ο	Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive	0	0	0	0	0				
Ο	Port Oneida Rural Historic District	Ο	0	0	0	0				
Ο	Visitor Center (in Empire)	0	0	0	0	0				
Ο	North Manitou Island	0	0	0	0	0				
Ο	South Manitou Island	0	0	0	0	0				
Ο	Glen Haven/Maritime Museum	0	0	0	0	0				
	Beach (specify)									

0 0 0

Other (specify)

	use	d , please rate	meir importar	ice to yo	our visit ire	om 1-5.		
	,	ally, for only thed, please rate			,	, ,	erson	al group
3) '	Visitor	· services/faci	ilitine usad?		b) If used, how important? 1=Not important 2=Somewhat important 3=Moderately important			If used, at quality? Very poor Poor Average
-	rk (●)	Sei Vices/iaci	inites useu :		4=Very im		4=0	Good Very good
	0	Park brochure	e/map		_			
	0	Assistance from	om park staff		_			
	0	Indoor exhibit	s/museums		_			
	0	Outdoor exhib	oits		_			
	0	Park orientation	on slideshow		_			
	0	Ranger-led pr	rograms		_			
	0	Ferry service	to Manitou Isl	ands	_			
	0	Picnic areas						
	0	Restrooms						
	0	Junior Range	r program					
	0	Park website: used befo	www.nps.gov		_			
	Ο	Bookstore sal (selection,	es items price, etc.)		_			
15.	recrea	ll, how would y itional opportu (●) one . [6.EV	nities at Sleep	uality of oing Bea	the faciliti r Dunes N	es, services, IL during this	and s visit?	Please
	Ver	y poor	Poor	Averag	е	Good \	very g	jood
	()	0	0		0	0	



- 16. a) On this visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, which trails did you and your group hike/walk on? Please use the list above and specify in column (a).
 - O Did not hike/walk any trail → Go to Question 17
 - b) For the trails that you and your group hiked/walked, please rate how crowded you felt. Please mark (●) **one** answer for each trail you used. [5.Crowd2]
 - c) Finally, for only the trail that you or your personal group **used**, please rate their quality from 1-5 in column (c) [6.EVALSERV21] c) What quality?

		b) How crow	1=Very poor 2=Poor 3=Average		
a) Trail (specify)	Not at all crowded	Slightly crowded	Moderately crowded	Very crowded	Extremely crowded	4=Good 5=Very good
	_ O	Ο	0	0	Ο	
	_ O	0	0	0	0	
	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	\circ	

pers gas	hich communities, w sonal group purchase recreational equipm es NL? Please mark	e support sei ent rentals,	rvices (such etc.) specifi	as hotels, r cally for this	estaurants	, groc
0	None → Go to Q	uestion 18				
Ο	Empire	O Tra	verse City	0	Leland	
Ο	Glen Arbor	O Fra	nkfort	0	Beulah	/Benz
0	Other (Please spe	cify)				
park [6.C	hese. How important to you? Please mar PMGMT4] ce/attribute	k (●) one ar Not important	Somewhat important	Moderately important	e/attribute. Very important	Extre
Scenic v		0	0	0	0	(
Natural	areas	0	0	0	0	C
Native w	vildlife	0	0	O	0	C
Native p	lants	0	0	0	0	C
Natural	quiet/sounds of natu	re O	0	0	0	(
Clean ai	r (visibility)	0	0	0	0	(
Clean w	ater	0	0	0	0	(
Recreat	ional opportunities	0	0	0	0	(
Education	onal opportunities	0	Ο	0	0	(
Historic	sites and buildings	0	0	0	0	(
	ght sky	0	0	0	0	(
Clear ni						

	O	O	O	O	O		
On this visit to Sleeping Be- group spend visiting the pa			•	, ,			
Number of hours if less than 24 hours, OR							
Number of days if	24 hours	or more					

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Study												
20.	. On this visit, were you and your personal group part of the following types of organized groups? [1.GR6]											
	a) C	om	mercial	guided	tour	group		0	Yes	Ο	No	
	b) S	b) School/educational group)		0	Yes	0	No		
	c) C		er organi couts, w	_	•	etc.)		0	Yes	0	No	
21.	On this visit, with what kind of personal group (not guided tour/school/other organized group) were you? [1.GR5]						er					
	0	,	Alone					0	Frien	ds		
	0	O Family				0	Family and friends					
	0	(Other (P	lease s	pecif	y)						
22.	 a) On this visit, how many people were in your personal group, including yourself? [1.GR3] 											
	Number of people											
	 b) On this visit, how many vehicles did you and your personal group use to arrive at the park? [1.GR4] 							to				
	Number of vehicles											
23.	For you and your personal group on this visit, please provide the following. (If you do not know the answer, leave blank). [1.AGE3]							. (If				
	c & d) Number of visits to											
	b) U.S. ZIP code or name of country Sleeping Bear Dunes (including this visit)											
				a) Curre	ent ag	ge	other th			st 12 month	ns lifet	time
	You	ırse	elf						_			
	Mer	mbe	er #2						_			
	Mer	mbe	er #3						_			
	Mer	mbe	er #4						_			
	Mer	mbe	er #5						_			
	Mer	mbe	er #6						_			
	Mer	mbe	er #7						_			
24.	,		•	•	•		• .		•	condition t		de it
)	Yes			0	No '	→ Go	on to	Question	25	

Sleening Rea	ar Dunes Nationa	I Lakeshore Visitor Stu					
b) If YES, what services or activities we							
c) What specific problems did the perso	n have?						
listed below for this visit to Sleeping Bea (within a 1-hour drive from any entrance	For you and your personal group, please report all expenditures for the items listed below for this visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL and the surrounding area (within a 1-hour drive from any entrance point). Please write "0" if no money was spent in a particular category. [3.TRIPC26]						
a) Please list your group's total expendit	tures inside Slee	ping Bear Dunes NL.					
b) Please list your group's total expendit park (within a 1-hour drive from park		ounding area outside t					
NOTE: Surrounding area residents should were just for this trip to Sleeping		enditures that					
Expenditures	a) Inside park	b) Outside park in surrounding area					
Lodges, hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc.	n/a	\$					
Camping fees and charges	\$	\$					
Guide fees and charges	\$	\$					
Restaurants and bars	\$	\$					
Groceries and takeout food	\$	\$					
Boat/canoe/kayak rentals	\$	\$					
Gas and oil (auto, RV, boat, etc.)	\$	\$					
Other transportation expenses (rental cars, taxis, auto repairs, but NOT airfare)	\$	\$					
Admission, recreation, entertainment fees	\$	\$					
All other purchases (souvenirs, books,	\$	\$					

c) How many people do the above expenses cover?

_____ Adults (18 years or over) _____ Children (under 18 years)

Please write 0 if no children were covered by the expenditures.

Donations

		ear Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Stud						
26.	26. On a future visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, how would you and your personal group prefer to learn about cultural and natural history/features of Sleeping Bear Dunes NL? Please mark (●) all that apply. [3.FVIS3]							
	0	Not interested in learning about the park	→ Go to Question 27					
	0	Indoor exhibits	0	Outdoor exhibits				
	0	Park website: www.nps.gov/slbe	О	Self-guided tours				
	0	Volunteer opportunities	О	Special events				
	Ο	Ranger-led interpretive programs						
	0	Electronic media/devices available to visit podcasts, interactive computer progra	vailable to visitors (downloadable digital files, mputer programs/tours, etc.)					
	0	Audiovisual programs (DVD, video, or audio)						
	0	Printed materials (brochures, books, maps, etc.)						
	0	Other (Please specify)						
27.	27. a) What did you and your personal group like most about your visit to Sle Bear Dunes NL? [6.EVALSERV25]							
	b) What did you and your personal group like least about your visit to Sear Dunes NL? [6.EVALSERV24]							
28.	. Is there anything else you and your personal group would like to tell us about your visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL? [6.OPMGMT7]							

Thank you for your help! Please seal the questionnaire with the stickers provided and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.

Printed on recycled paper

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Visitor Services Project
Park Studies Unit
College of Natural Resources
University of Idaho
P.O. Box 441139
Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139