

RECREATIONAL USER EXPERIENCE Prince William Sound

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this trip report! The Chugach National Forest and the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Trustee Council is gathering information about recreation use in Prince William Sound (PWS). In 1989, the Exxon Valdez oil spill released over 11 million gallons of crude oil into parts of PWS. One of the effects due to the oil spill was a decrease in recreation and tourism to PWS. This study is part of a research project investigating if recreation has recovered in the area, how people travel through this unique, remote landscape, and any potential conflict with other users.

This form contains several questions that we would like you to answer during your trip, and a map of PWS. Please record your trip on the map on the inside fold of this survey. Try to fill out the map completely and answer all of the questions. The quality of the project depends on your completed trip report.

Please return this Trip Report in the self-addressed, stamped envelope when completed, or drop it off at the Glacier Ranger Station in Girdwood or Cordova Ranger Station in Cordova. Thank you for your participation! Your participation is voluntary and your responses will be held strictly confidential.

1. Are you a resident of Alaska? Yes No
2. What was the start date _____ and end date _____ of this trip in PWS? Number of people in party _____
3. How frequently do you visit PWS?
 Never before Once a year
 Once every few years Two or more times a year
4. On average, how many days during one trip do you spend in PWS?
 1 day 2-3 days 4-5 days 6+ days
5. What was your point of entry into PWS on this trip?
 Whittier Valdez
 Cordova Other (please specify) _____

6. What is your primary mode of recreation travel in PWS on this trip?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Float plane/helicopter | <input type="checkbox"/> Smaller motorized boat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kayak | <input type="checkbox"/> Inflatable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cruise ship | <input type="checkbox"/> Tour boat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sailboat | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor yacht |

7. Did you use a transporter for your recreational activity? (Boat shuttle or airplane?)

- Yes Name of transport service _____
 No

8. Did you use the services of an outfitter/guide?

- Yes Name of outfitter/guide service _____
 No

What was your primary recreational activity in PWS? Please also identify activities that you participated in during your trip

- | Primary Activity
(√ one) | Participated
(√ all that apply) |
|-----------------------------|---|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sightseeing |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> General boating |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Overnight mooring/anchorage |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Kayaking |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Primitive camping |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting / Subsistence hunting (Please underline which) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing / Subsistence fishing (Please underline which) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/backpacking |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Overnight stay in cabin |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking / family gathering / berry picking |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting historic or prehistoric sites |

10. To enjoy your primary recreational activity, where was your **planned ultimate destination**?

Please describe the characteristics of this *planned* ultimate destination that made it appealing to you (e.g. good fishing/hunting, solitude, good wildlife viewing, etc)

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Enjoy natural beauty	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Spend time with family and friends	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
See cultural sites	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

12. If you never arrived at or were displaced from your planned ultimate destination of choice, please check the reason(s) why.

- Distance was too great from start or from previous destination
- Weather was too severe
- Too many other visitors: Please underline which type of user displaced you
Shore-User, Water-User, Air-User, Unknown.
- Too much noise
- Other _____

13. If you did not go to your planned ultimate destination, please state the area you did go: _____

14. Please indicate what choice the alternate destination was:

- First choice Second choice Third choice (or less)
- Just happened to arrive at this place Had no choice
- Other _____

15. Please rate the following elements for the type of experience(s) you sought in the area visited

Experience	How important was this objective?					How well were you able to attain it?				
	Not Important		Very Important			Not at All		Completely		
	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Experience solitude	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Observe wildlife	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Fish	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Hunt	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Experience something new	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Experience challenge and adventure	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Be in a wild undeveloped place	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

16. If you did not obtain the desired experiences, why? (Amenities are defined as "site qualities" e.g. freshwater source, hiking opportunities, wildlife viewing, etc.)(Check as many as apply)

- Not enough time Lack of amenities
- Weather No available campsites
- Noise Too many boats
- Too many people Too many planes
- Other _____

17. Overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with this trip? (Circle one)

Much less than expected	As expected			Much better than expected
1	2	3	4	5

18. Would you go to the actual area you visited again? Yes No
If not, why? _____

19. If you were adversely impacted by encounters with **other users**, how did it affect you?

- I was somewhat impacted, but it will not affect my future decisions.
- Next time I will visit this area when less likely to encounter others.
- I will no longer visit this area within PWS.

20. Please explain or clarify any type of negative encounter you experienced due to **other users** (e.g. group too noisy, camped/anchored too close, etc)

21. Were there any *other* factors that adversely impacted your experience in PWS? Please describe (e.g. conditions of campsites, trash, inadequate sites, etc).

22. Are there any management actions you would suggest to improve your future visits to this area? (e.g. hardened campsites, number of visitors limited in certain areas, etc)

23. In 1989, the Exxon Valdez oil spill released over 11 million gallons of crude oil into parts of PWS. On areas that you went ashore, if you noticed any lingering oil on the shoreline surface, or in areas of shallow diggings, did it affect your decision to stay at the location? Yes _____ No _____

For the following questions, please answer based on your outdoor experiences in general

24. If you typically arrive at a preferred destination and you find it more crowded than you like, you would: Please also
check if you
did so on **this** trip

- _____ Do nothing and stay in this location anyway
- _____ Relocate to another location
- _____ Leave and return to your point of origin
- _____ Other (list) _____

25. If you typically choose to relocate, you would select a place that:
(Amenities are defined as “site qualities” e.g. freshwater source, hiking opportunities, etc.)
(Check all that apply)

- _____ Is the next available location
- _____ Has more amenities than the site you relocated from
- _____ Has less amenities than the site you relocated from
- _____ Is within a reasonable distance to travel to
- _____ Can accommodate your group size
- _____ Has similar qualities as your favorite place
- _____ Other (list) _____

If you typically opt to relocate to a site that has similar qualities as your favorite place, please identify what those qualities are. (Check all that apply)

- _____ Easy access to the shoreline
- _____ Quiet and serene
- _____ Surrounded by trees
- _____ Scenic view
- _____ Secluded area

- _____ Water source nearby
- _____ Flat ground for a tent
- _____ Good anchorage
- _____ Fishing/hunting nearby
- _____ Other (list) _____

Additional Comments regarding your trip (may be continued on back):

Again, thank you for your participation. Your efforts will help improve the management of Prince William Sound.

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