**USFS Region 2 – Leave No Trace Assessment Survey**

**Consent script:**

Thank you for participating in this survey. It is intended for land managers and key stakeholders who are interested in developing and implementing locally-tailored and modern Leave No Trace programming to address current and emerging outdoor recreation-related impacts (e.g. campfire impacts, wildlife impacts, pollution of water sources, etc.) found on public lands in USDA Forest Service Region 2.

***NOTE:*** *For the purposes of this survey, the USDA Forest Service “Region 2” refers to the national forests and grasslands in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Kansas, and Nebraska.*

The data will help gain a broader understanding of outdoor recreation-related resource impacts throughout the region, the effectiveness of outdoor user ethics education efforts, and opportunities for engaging visitors. Specifically, this assessment will provide baseline perceptions of recreation resource conditions, perceptions of impacts, and potential solutions. It will also asses and analyze emerging education opportunities throughout the region.

The data from this assessment will not be disseminated to the general public, nor will it be used for the purposes of substantially informing influential policy decisions.

Your participation is voluntary and your responses are confidential. You can stop taking the survey at any time, and there are no risks or benefits for participation. This survey will take approximately 9 minutes to complete.

For information or questions about this survey, please contact Ben Lawhon, Director of Education and Research, Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics Ben@LNT.org or Chad Schneckenburger, R2 Regional Trails and Dispersed Recreation Program Manager Chad.Schneckenburger@usda.gov

**Burden Statement**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.  The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-0226.  The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 9 minutes per response, including the time for initial contact, reviewing instructions, and completing this survey.

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**1) Please select what you believe are the five most popular outdoor recreational uses in Region 2**

 ATV/OHV use (including jeeps, motorcycles, 4-wheelers, XSX, etc.)

 Backcountry skiing/snowboarding

 Backpacking

 Birding

 Bouldering

 Camping in developed sites (designated campgrounds)

 Cross-country skiing

 Downhill skiing/snowboarding

 Driving for pleasure/sightseeing

 Dispersed camping (not in developed campgrounds)

 Equestrian/stock use

 Flatwater canoeing

 Flatwater kayaking

 Forest bathing

 Freshwater angling

 Gathering food/forest products

 Gathering traditional medicine

 Geocaching

 Hammock use

 Hiking/walking

 Hunting

 Motorized boating

 Mountain biking

 Nature center activities

 Nature photography

 Nature study

 Outdoor games (bocce, frisbee, etc.)

 Picnicking

 Resort use

 Road cycling

 Rock climbing

 Running (road)

 Running (trail)

 RV camping in developed sites (designated campgrounds)

 RV camping with toy hauler(s) in developed sites

 RV dispersed camping (not in developed campgrounds)

 RV dispersed camping with toy hauler(s)

 Shed/antler hunting

 Shooting sports

 Slacklining

 Sledding

 Snowmobiling

 Snowshoeing

 Stand up paddle boarding

 Swimming

 Visiting historic or cultural sites

 Waterskiing

 Wakeboarding

 Whitewater paddling (kayaking, rafting, canoeing)

 Wildlife watching

 Other:

**2) Rate your perception of the level of impact of following outdoor recreation-related impacts in Region 2:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **No Impact** | **Slight Impact** | **Moderate Impact** | **Extensive Impact** | **Severe Impact** | **Unsure** |
| Damage to vegetation |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Trash |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Visitor conflicts |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Inappropriate use of technology (GPS, drones, etc.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Invasive species |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Improper disposal of human waste |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Public safety issues |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **No Impact** | **Slight Impact** | **Moderate Impact** | **Extensive Impact** | **Severe Impact** | **Unsure** |
| Pet waste/ management |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pollution of water sources |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Damage to cultural or historical features |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Campfire impacts |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Impacts to wildlife |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Trail impacts (erosion, cut switchbacks, trail widening, etc.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ATV/OHV impacts |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jeep/4x4 impacts |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Motorized dirt bikes impacts |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Off trail travel damage |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **No Impact** | **Slight Impact** | **Moderate Impact** | **Extensive Impact** | **Severe Impact** | **Unsure** |
| Mountain bike impacts |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Stock (horse, mule, llama, etc.) impacts |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dispersed camping |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dispersed shooting  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Increased visitation due to social media |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Parking issues at recreation sites |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### 3) Are there other outdoor recreation-related impacts of concern in Region 2 not listed above? [write-in]

**4) Does your agency, organization, or business work to address outdoor recreation-related impacts in Region 2?**

**If YES, question #5 & #6 appear.**

**If NO, skip to question #7.**

**DISPLAY LOGIC:**

**5) How does your agency, organization, or business work to address outdoor recreation-related impacts in Region 2?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Currently in use** | **Used in the past** | **Never used** |
| Interpretive programs |  |  |  |
| Law enforcement |  |  |  |
| Leave No Trace information |  |  |  |
| Limiting access |  |  |  |
| Permit system |  |  |  |
| Printed educational materials |  |  |  |
| Provide information via website(s)  |  |  |  |
| Signage/kiosks |  |  |  |
| Staff training |  |  |  |
| Issuing citations |  |  |  |
| Visitor/traveler education |  |  |  |
| Volunteer programs |  |  |  |
| Youth education |  |  |  |
| Area closures |  |  |  |
|  | **Currently in use** | **Used in the past** | **Never used** |
| Public outreach |  |  |  |
| Provide information via social media |   |   |   |
| Other (write-in) |   |   |   |

**6) Please rate how effective you think each outreach mechanism is for addressing outdoor recreation-related impacts in Region 2.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Not at all effective** | **Slightly effective** | **Moderately effective** | **Very effective** | **Extremely effective**  | **Unsure** |
| Interpretive programs |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Law enforcement |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Leave No Trace information |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Limiting access |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Permit system |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Printed educational materials |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Not at all effective** | **Slightly effective** | **Moderately effective** | **Very effective** | **Extremely effective**  | **Unsure** |
| Provide information via website  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Signage/kiosks |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Staff training |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Issuing citations |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Visitor/traveler education |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Volunteer programs |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Youth education |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Area closures |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Public outreach |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Provide information via social media |   |   |   |  |  |  |

**7) To what extent is Leave No Trace information currently utilized to address outdoor recreation-related impacts in Region 2?**

 Never used

 Almost never used

 Used occasionally

 Used most of the time

 Used extensively

 I don't know

**8) How familiar are you with the typical Region 2 *out-of-state* visitor (**visitors from states outside of the 5 states in Region 2) **to Forest Service lands?**

 Not at all familiar

 Slightly familiar

 Somewhat familiar

 Moderately familiar

 Extremely familiar

 Other - Write In:

**9) How familiar are you with the typical Region 2 *in-state* visitor** (visitors from the five states that make up Region 2) **to Forest Service lands?**

 Not at all familiar

 Slightly familiar

 Somewhat familiar

 Moderately familiar

 Extremely familiar

 Other - Write In:

**10) How would you describe your current knowledge of “Leave No Trace” practices?**

* No knowledge
* Limited
* Average
* Extensive
* Expert

**If “Limited” or greater knowledge, questions #11 - 14 appear.**

**If “No knowledge,” skip to question #15.**

**DISPLAY LOGIC:**

We’re interested in your views on practicing “Leave No Trace.”

**11) Sometimes it is too difficult to practice “Leave No Trace.”**

* Strongly disagree
* Disagree
* Neither agree or disagree
* Agree
* Strongly agree

**12) Practicing “Leave No Trace” effectively protects the environment for future generations to enjoy.**

* Strongly disagree
* Disagree
* Neither agree or disagree
* Agree
* Strongly agree

**13) It is important that all visitors to/in Region 2 practice “Leave No Trace.”**

* Strongly disagree
* Disagree
* Neither agree or disagree
* Agree
* Strongly agree

**14) It is important that public land regulations require all visitors to practice “Leave No Trace.”**

* Strongly disagree
* Disagree
* Neither agree or disagree
* Agree
* Strongly agree

**15) What should be the goals for developing a regionally-tailored Leave No Trace program in Region 2?**[write-in]

**16) Does your agency, organization, or business currently have staff trained in Leave No Trace?**

 Yes

 No

 Not sure

 Other - Write In:

**If YES, question #17 appears.**

**If NO, skip to question #18.**

**DISPLAY LOGIC:**

**17) What is the level of staff Leave No Trace training? Check all that apply.**

 Master Educator

 Trainer

 Awareness

 Not sure

**18) How would you envision Leave No Trace information being disseminated to Region 2 visitors/travelers? Check all that apply.**

 Social media

 Print media

 Website

 Chambers of Commerce

 Local user groups (e.g. hiking club)

 Local merchants

 Volunteers

 Signage

 Maps

 Guidebooks

 Other printed materials

 Agency staff

 Volunteers

 Non-governmental organization

 Destination marketing organizations

 State Dept. of Transportation digital road signage

 Public Service Announcements (radio, print, etc.)

 Outdoor brands

 Hospitality staff

 Visitor Centers

 Other - Write In:

**19) What type of agency, organization or business do you work or volunteer for?**

* State agency
* Federal agency
* Non-governmental organization
* Municipal government
* Business
* Tourism entity/provider
* Trail organization or club
* College or university
* Destination marketing organization
* Hospitality business
* Other - Write In:

**20) What state in Region 2 do you work or volunteer in most often?**

* Colorado
* Kansas
* Nebraska
* South Dakota
* Wyoming

**21) What are 3-5 current outdoor recreation-related opportunities in Region 2 for improved visitor education/information?** [write-in]

Opportunity:

Opportunity:

Opportunity:

Opportunity:

Opportunity:

**22) Are their specific outdoor recreation-related impacts on national forests in your state that present an immediate opportunity for visitor education/information?**

* Yes
* No
* Not sure

**If YES, question #23 appears.**

**If NO, skip to question #24.**

**DISPLAY LOGIC:**

**23) Please list the specific outdoor recreation-related impacts on national forests in your state that present an immediate opportunity for visitor education/information.** [write-in]

**24) Please list any additional comments or feedback regarding Leave No Trace visitor education efforts in Region 2.**